

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to the second issue of the *New Zealand Bioethics Journal*. In this issue we are delighted to publish an article by Nicola Peart and David Holdaway, which contains the guidelines recently developed by the authors for use in research involving children. In this article the authors make a number of criticisms of the National Standard for Ethics Committees 1996 (New Zealand's principal guideline for ethical review of health research). This grouped children with other vulnerable groups and was also unclear in certain respects. The authors have suggested changes to the National Standard that will ensure that children as a group will be represented and their unique needs in research met. The Paediatric Society of New Zealand has endorsed the new guidelines. The publication of this article is in line with our policy of informing both the national and international audience of developments in Bioethics within New Zealand.

We continue our goal of publishing outstanding papers from the Bioethics Centre's Summer Seminar held in Dunedin earlier this year. In this issue we publish Associate Professor Hilde Lindemann Nelson's article 'Stories Within the Moral Life'. Hilde along with her husband James Lindemann Nelson were two of the keynote speakers at the Summer Seminar. James Lindemann Nelson's keynote address was published in the June issue of the *New Zealand Bioethics Journal*. The couple have just taken new positions at Michigan State University.

There has been extensive debate internationally regarding the privacy of genetic material and in New Zealand the Independent Biotechnology Advisory Council (IBAC) has made it a focus of their work for the coming year. In their paper 'Guthrie Cards: Legal and Ethical Issues', Katie Elkin and Gareth Jones discuss concerns raised by the routine newborn heel-prick blood screen. Issues such as informed consent, reporting back to parents of results, storage, and the access to and use of samples for other than their intended use are all explored in this article and arguments are made by the authors for greater regulation of this area.

This issue also sees the introduction of a new section related to clinical ethics, In That Case. In this section a case will be presented and selected commentaries will be published that examine the ethical issues implicit in the case. In our first case we present invited commentaries from interested individuals to demonstrate how we envisage this section might work. We also present the next case about provision of services to a young man suffering an intellectual disability and invite interested readers to submit commentaries for possible publication. Responses should be kept to approximately 700 words in length. The editorial board will select the responses to be published in the February 2001 issue of the *New Zealand Bioethics Journal*.

This issue, Volume 1, Number 2, will be the last issue for 2000. The next issue will be Volume 2, Number 1 (February 2001). There will be three numbers in Volume 2, and thereafter. Volumes will then coincide with calendar years.

**Lynley Anderson**  
Editor