

## case for next issue

### Call for Responses

The case outlined below will be the basis for the In That Case section for the next issue of the *New Zealand Bioethics Journal*. We invite interested readers to provide commentaries for possible publication. Responses should be kept to approximately 500-700 words in length. The editorial board will select the responses to be published in the June 2002

issue of the *New Zealand Bioethics Journal*. We also reserve the right to edit contributions, to avoid repetition of points for example. All editorial changes will be cleared with the authors before going to press. Contributions can be sent by email or by posting a copy to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number with your response.

A multi-national pharmaceutical company wishes to recruit some of your patients to a pharmacogenetic study. In the first instance, the company wishes to match asthma sufferers with medications. You will be required to recruit asthmatic patients who respond well to a specified inhaled medication and others who respond poorly to the same medication. The objective will be to discover whether there is a genetic basis for the variation in the drug response as measured by lung function tests. The frequency of a functionally relevant genetic marker will be compared between the two groups. The study will involve a minimally invasive collection of tissue samples which will be subjected to DNA analysis. The company also requests that they be allowed to store the tissues for future research. Should you agree to assist in this enterprise and, if so, on what conditions?