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March 1992

Newsletter

Bioethics Research Centre

BIOETHICS RESEARCH CENTRE SUMMER SCHOOL

The first Bioethics Research Centre Summer School was a great success. Held at Knox College from February 10 - 15, it attracted more than 90 participants from throughout the country. Nurses, doctors, academics, lawyers, patient advocates, and lay members of ethics committees came together in workshops, lectures and panel discussions.

The conference combined a number of learning methods. As well as lectures and panel discussions, participants opted for specialised workshops, which focused and extended the learning opportunities available. Three sets of workshops were available - Research Ethics Appraisal, Teaching Practice, and Clinical Decision Making. Participants in the whole conference were able to choose two sets of workshops, each comprising four one-and-a-half sessions.

Individual tutorials were offered on completion of workshops. This provided the opportunity for individuals to pursue particular questions, to assess what they had learned, and explore continuing options for their learning in ethics. Responses to this style of learning were positive. Appreciation was expressed for the chance to work in smaller groups, to tease out the issues and to learn from the wealth of experience available through the tutors and other participants.

The lectures were also well received. Dr Tom Murray from Case Western Reserve University, spoke on the Human Genome Project, and Genetic Engineering, while Dr Paul McNeill, from the school of Community Medicine at the University of New South Wales, introduced the topics of Research Ethics, Clinical Ethics Committees, and emerging issues in Human Experimentation. Dr Helga Kuhse of Monash University stimulated discussion with her lecture on the Ethics of Voluntary Euthanasia, and participated in a panel discussion with doctor, nurse and patient about safeguarding people's autonomy in terminal care. Issues raised by the New Birth Technologies were explored by Dr Barbara Brookes, and Dr Jan Crosthwaite.

Participants also made use of the social occasions and unstructured time - contacts were made with people involved with ethics in different parts of the country, and information and ideas were exchanged.

By the end of the conference many of the participants were asking about future events, and were obviously very keen to extend their opportunities for learning in Bioethics. The conference was a major national initiative for the centre, and involved a great deal of hard work. But encouraged by the positive evaluations completed by participants, we are already turning our thoughts toward the future.

Tapes of the lectures and panel discussions at the Bioethics Summer School can be ordered from the Bioethics Research Centre.

Summer School Audio tapes

- 1 *Human Genome Project* - Dr Tom Murray
- 2 *Research Ethics and Clinical Ethics Committees* - Dr Paul McNeill
- 3 *Genetic Engineering: Possibilities and Safeguards* - Dr Tom Murray
- 4 *Terminal Care: How do we safeguard People's Autonomy?* - Dr Helga Kuhse, Dr David Perez, Mrs Susan Hunter, and Paul Wallace
- 5 *The Ethics of Voluntary Euthanasia* - Dr Helga Kuhse.
- 6 *New Birth Technologies: Women's Perspectives* - Dr Jan Crosthwaite and Dr Barbara Brookes.
- 7 *Ethics of Human Experimentation* - Dr Paul McNeill.
- 8 *Theory and Method in Bioethics Teaching* - Dr Paul McNeill, Dr Tom Murray and Dr Chris Parkin.
- 9 *Bioethics: Where are we heading next?* - Dr Tom Murray

Costs are:

Whole set [9 tapes] \$60 + 5.95 p & p
 One segment: tapes 1-5,
 or tapes 5-9 \$35 + 3.95 p & p
 Individual tape \$7.50 + \$3.40 p & p

Please enclose payment with your order, and forward to:

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 Dunedin Fax: (03) 474-7601.