

Travels Abroad

Dr Grant Gillett writes:

"One aspect of my leave in late 1992 was work in neurosurgery -visiting units using computer assisted techniques to deal with deep brain lesions, and some lecturing.

The second aspect of my leave was in Medical Ethics and the Philosophy of Medicine, and was not so much learning as discussing current research with various audiences throughout Britain and Northern Europe. Each lecture or presentation was accompanied by questions and discussion and I was able to shape a fairly interesting academic and research programme to occupy myself for the next two to three years.

Engagements included a Sheffield Conference on "Psychiatry's presumptions: European issues in Psychiatry", the German Association of Neurology and Psychiatry, and the inaugural meeting of the International Association of Bioethics. I also lectured at Bristol University, to the Royal College of Psychiatrists in London, to the Royal Society of Edinburgh at Oxford University, at the University of Kent, Frenchay Hospital, and the British Psychological Society.

In Oxford I also participated in a series of seminars on topics in medical ethics in association with Professor Tom Murray from Cleveland, Ohio and Dr Roger Crisp of St Ann's College, Oxford. The tangible results of these various engagements were three requests for book manuscripts and the publication of a number of papers.

All-in-all the focus of the various requests I received in Britain was on Philosophy of Medicine rather than what has been traditionally regarded as core subjects in Medical Ethics. This in part reflects my own developing research interests but also seems to be a trend worldwide to relate ideas in the Philosophy of Science to the theoretical issues in medicine in general and psychiatry in particular. The time in Oxford was valuable for personal reasons as well as academic ones in that a number of informal contacts with valued colleagues were able to be renewed and knowledge of our developing research here in Otago passed on. My family have enjoyed Oxford greatly, especially renewing contacts with their many friends. From my point of view the leave has been fruitful, if short, and will, I am sure, serve to further enhance the reputation of the University of Otago and the Bioethics Centre in Europe and America."

Research and Publications

The Commissioned report on Persistent Vegetative State (PVS) is now before the Medical Council, and should be released soon for public discussion. Briefing papers for the Core Health and Disability Services Committee were submitted in 1992, and we hope they too will soon be available to the public.

The research being undertaken by Victor Chen (as part of his B. Med Sci. study with the Centre) is now complete. He investigated Dilemmas in Neonatal Treatment. A summary of his results is available from the Centre.

Recent staff publications include:
Alastair Campbell

with Max Charlesworth "Bioethics in Australia and New Zealand" in *Regional Developments in Bioethics 1989-1991* (ed Lustig, Brody, Englehardt and McCullough) Kluwer Academic Publishers 1992; "Ethical and Legal Issues" in *Epidemiology and Control of Neural Tube Defects* (ed Elwood, Little and Elwood) Oxford University Press 1992.

Grant Gillett

Representation, Meaning and Thought, Clarendon Press, Oxford 1992; "Reactive and Objective attitudes in Psychiatry" in *Philosophy and Health Care* (ed Matthews and Menlowe), 1992.

Bioethics Research Centre

Post of Lecturer/Assistant to the Director

Applications are invited for the position of Lecturer/Assistant to Director in the Bioethics Research Centre, Otago Medical School. The Centre is involved in teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level across the whole range of subjects in Medical Ethics and in the wider field of Bioethics. Students are drawn from all Faculties in the University. The Centre is also extensively involved in research and publication in the field and is committed to raising public awareness through lectures, conferences and the publication of a newsletter. Advice and consultancy is provided to numerous voluntary and professional organisations and to government agencies.

The person appointed will be required to assist the Director in the Centre's work, both in its academic and its administrative aspects, and to undertake research and publication which will further promote the Centre's aims. Applicants should possess qualifications relevant to Bioethics (Law, Social Science, Philosophy, Theology or a Health Professional degree or qualification) and should either already possess a doctorate in Bioethics (or equivalent field) or show evidence of near completion of a degree at that level. Although any area of specialisation will be considered, the Centre has an interest in developing new areas of research, eg in literary

historical, environmental, or gender issues associated with Bioethics.

Initial appointment will be at an appropriate step on the lecturers salary scale \$NZ37,440-\$NZ45,448 per annum, according to qualifications and experience.

Specific inquiries may be directed to Professor A.V. Campbell, Director, Bioethics Research Centre, PO Box 913, Dunedin, New Zealand. (Fax (64) (3) 474 7601).