

At the Centre

1995 has been another year of growth and development for the Bioethics Research Centre. The Centre has strengthened and extended its network of involvement with the community and further developed its work in the University.

The Bioethics Centre is planning new courses in bioethics, and will be helped in this work by a grant from the Medical Education Trust to develop inservice training opportunities in ethics. Alex Lautensach has been appointed Teaching Fellow and will be working with the Centre staff on this new initiative. Alex has spent the last 11 years in Canada and has a background in molecular biology and tertiary education.

The international network of the Centre has grown with the travels of *Alastair Campbell* and *Grant Gillett*.

Alastair returned from sabbatical leave as Tuohy professor in John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio at the end of July. The lectures he delivered there will be published next March under the title, *Health as Liberation*. For some of his observations of America see this issue's *Editorial*.

Grant Gillett was asked to journey to Bellagio, Italy to join a group investigating international policy for patients in persistent vegetative states. He has also been invited to be a keynote speaker at a conference in Hungary in early October. The title of his paper is "Beyond the orthodox: heresy and social science".



The Centre's Journal Club has run a series of discussions that have stimulated thought on a number of topics. Recent presentations included Maria McCarty on the "Sterilisation of the Handicapped" and Bruce Hamill on "The Theologian and the Ethicist". The diverse interests of journal club participants emphasise the interdisciplinary nature of the Centre.

The Centre continues to offer consultancy services in the community, and earlier this year by the Southern Regional Health Authority invited the Centre to comment on the present trial of "Budget Holding" for general practitioners. Full copies of a Report, written by Barbara Nicholas and Grant Gillett, can be obtained from Christine Crane, SRHA, PO Box 5849, Dunedin. The major points of this report are summarised in this issue of the *Report*.

The Centre will be welcoming a William Evans Fellow next year. Professor Roger Higgs is Professor of General Practice Studies at King's College Hospital Medical School, London and Case Conference Editor of the *Journal of Medical Ethics*. He will be visiting the Centre from 8-28 April 1995. The next issue of the *Report* will give details of his lectures.

Professor Campbell in the neo-natal intensive care unit

Study Opportunities for 1995

The Centre is offering a wide range of study opportunities for 1995, including a new degree, Master in Bioethics and Health Law.

The purpose of this course is to assist students intending to practice in law or medicine to develop their expertise in this area.

The degree will be of one or two years study and postgraduate students with relevant degrees are invited to apply. (For more information contact the Centre). The degree involves course work and a research dissertation.

The Centre continues to offer its other courses. Master in Health Sciences has proved to be very popular, especially considering it has been offered for the first time this year. Applications are still being accepted for PhD, MMedSc, BMedSc and DipGrad degrees.

BITC 301, the undergraduate paper *Introduction to Bioethics* has proved to be a success, with students continuing to contribute enthusiastically in the second semester seminars.

Planning is well underway for the Centre to teach BITC 401 at Christchurch Medical School in 1995. It is envisaged that Christchurch students for MHealSc will be able to include this paper in their degree. This course complements the other more established papers offered at 4th year level.

Any enquiries about study can be made to Professor A.V. Campbell, or Barbara Nicolas
PO Box 913, Dunedin.
Tel: (03) 474 7977
Fax: (03) 474 7601