

of care as such. Do we understand the meaning of care better by looking separately at the ethics of research or at the ethical dilemmas in the practice of health care delivery? Do we come to a better understanding of the significance of care to the people of a society by looking at the way the interests of different cultural groups are being respected and provided for? It may be part of the exercise but it may just not be enough. During the conference I became more aware of the need to relate our endeavours to the concept of care that sits in the back of our minds. Speaking about care is

talking about how the public, how health care officials from the government, from the hospitals, how the professionals themselves, how the patient, but also how representatives from the sciences and industry, interact and relate to each other. What we are basically talking about in health care ethics are the ethics of all sorts of transactions and relationships in health care. In my experience the Dunedin Summer Seminar was a real eye-opener in this respect and one might wonder whether in time this will need a follow up. In addition I would also like to raise

the question in what kind of cultural context we perform all these care activities. I come back to my initial question how is care perceived in society and how it should function? As long as we take that particular aspect for granted attending to different ethical issues in health care on a one to one basis will leave us behind with these slight feelings of frustration. Perhaps we solved the problem at hand but we may have neglected the more fundamental issues at stake. What is care all about?

Utrecht, April 1996.

## At the Centre

The major event at the Centre to report in this issue (as those of you who have read our guest editorial will realise) is the departure of Professor Alastair Campbell at the middle of July. Alastair's appointment to an inaugural chair of the ethics in medicine at Bristol Medical School is recognition of his status as one of the leading international figures in his field. While everybody at the Centre is very pleased for Alastair we are all in a period of denial about his imminent departure.

Centre staff are busy working on the ethics components of the new "Patient Doctor and Society" module of the second and third medical years. The new module is an exciting event for our ethics teaching. In recognition of the increased awareness of young physicians having sufficient training for their relationships with patients, their role as physicians and wider societal issues this module has been made a major part of medical students preclinical years. One of the hopes of this new module is that the ethics components are fully integrated with the other subjects they study and they are thereby able to have more opportunity to consolidate their ethical skills.

The Proceedings from the Summer Seminar should be out within a month or so. Reading over the articles in the Proceedings I realised how fortunate we were to have input from such informed people through out New Zealand. The Proceedings are a good record of the bioethical issues topical at this time. They are being produced by the University of Otago Press and will be an attractive volume. We haven't finalised what price they will be. However all those who are interested in getting copy of the Proceedings should contact John McMillan at the Centre.

Barbara Nicholas and Sara Gordon have been hard at work on the euthanasia resources for community discussion. The resource package has grown out of Sara's HRC funded Summer Studentship. It is a resource for community groups who wish to organise their own events to discuss euthanasia. Material is provided for workshops of 2 or 3 hours, or 3 x 2 hour sessions. The resource package is now available at a cost of \$25 by prepayment. This price includes postage and packaging within New Zealand.

The Centre has again been treated to visits from a number of prominent bioethicists. Professor Robin Gill, Advisor on ethics to the Archbishop of Canterbury, visited in early May. While here he gave two presentations, both of which were well attended and received. He spoke on "Euthanasia After Tony Bland" at a public lecture and "Post-Modernism, Church Leaders and Bioethics" at a Centre Seminar.

Professor Max Charlesworth, Emeritus Professor Deakin University, visited here during May. He spoke on "The Rights of the Terminally Ill: Recent Developments in Australia". Professor Charlesworth is co-author, along with Professors Campbell, Gillett and Jones, of the new edition of *Practical Medical Ethics* (forthcoming).

Raanan Gillon is a name that people with any familiarity with the Bioethics literature will know. Professor Gillon, editor of the *Journal of Medical Ethics*, was here during May and spoke on "The Ethics of Rationing High Cost Pharmaceuticals".



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