

core liberal idea that the state and its agents (including New Zealand ethics committees) must as far as possible not adopt any view about which particular activities and ways of life are valuable and which are not. Second, as before, one needs to ask here whether pay for researchers also pitches us down this slippery slope. Third, most individuals and societies sustain a mix of high-minded and pecuniary motives in a great many activities, so why not also in research participation? Fourth, the diversity of health research carves many large

footholds into this allegedly slippery slope to the death of a volunteer ethos. Participation is sometimes on the invitation of multi-national corporates maximising the profitability of their pharmaceutical products; but other participations involve some students in the thesis projects of others, or people previously given life-saving treatment now invited by their clinician-researcher to assist future similarly placed patients, or individuals opting into inquiries they are simply curious about, or groups of people on research registers who

develop a substantial social life together over many years of participation. And so on. It is rather implausible that if we let the smell of money in amongst these diverse, powerful, and generally non-financial motivations to participate, we will make philistines of health research participants.

Since there are good reasons to allow participant pay, and no good reasons to disallow it, ethics committees have some bad habits to change.

At the Centre

By the time readers get this issue of the Report the Centre's Summer Seminar will have been and gone. We are planning to produce Proceedings of the Summer Seminar, so any readers that could not make it here for the Seminar will be able to be up to date. For more information about the Seminar see Barbara Nicholas' Report in this issue.

Over the Summer the Centre was fortunate to have two exceptional summer studentships completed. One was completed by fourth year medical student Marie Van Wyk who researched for the Health Research Council information about the make up of ethics committees. Sarah Gordon spent the summer working on workshop materials for community education about Euthanasia. All those interested in these workshop materials see the notice in this issue.

Professor Campbell was at the East Asian Bioethics Conference in China during late October (for some of his observations

see the interview with him in this issue). One result of the networks that he created while there was contact with the people producing the Chinese Bioethics Newsletter. As readers will be aware Bioethics is relatively new in China, so the developments that are reported are important and interesting. Those interested in medical ethics in China, or making donations to this developing organisation can contact its chief editor Dr Ip Po-Keung at the

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During 1995 the Centre initiated discussion across departments in the university about teaching and research in environmental ethics and informal networking is continuing. Two students are beginning Bioethics doctoral study in this area. One

candidate is Alex Lautensach. Alex has completed his time with the Bioethics Research Centre as a Teaching Fellow. He is now working for the Otago Polytechnic, but also beginning his doctorate in education in environmental ethics. The Centre also welcomes new doctoral candidate Kent Palmer. Kent is researching issues in environmental ethics.

While a Master of Medical Sciences student at the Bioethics Research Centre Dr Scott Hollingsworth submitted an essay to the UK Forum Essay Competition. We are pleased to announce that Scott's essay won second prize in that competition.

BITC 401, theories of biomedical ethics is being distance taught at Christchurch School of Medicine this year. Christchurch participants will travel to Dunedin for a combined block course with Dunedin participants during the first week of the semester.

Events to watch for

The new Code for Health and Disability services

The implementation of the new immunisation and vaccination policy

Changes in the patient Advocacy services?

Visitors to the Centre

Professor Robert Veatch, Director of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University visited the Centre from early January until February 8. While here Professor Veatch researched Otago Medical School records for the oaths that have been taken by medical students here and for the influences on the design of the medical curriculum. We will be publishing some of Professor Veatch's findings in the next issue of the Report.