At the Centre

The most significant change over the last few months has been the developments resulting from having a new director. Donald's arrival was timely, as a number of new educational initiatives are starting this year. As mentioned in previous issues of the Report, the new Patient Doctor and Society module began in 1997. It is a two-year programme for second and third-year medical students incorporating contributions from Preventive and Social Medicine, Behavioural Science and Bioethics. 1998 sees the beginning of the third-year component of the new module and the continuation of the second-year components developed last year. Planning for the new clinical curriculum (Years four, five and six of the medical programme) is underway.

Donald Evans and his successor at Swansea, Dr Martyn Evans, have written a book entitled A Decent Proposal. A limited number of books offer the detail necessary to be a useful guide to research ethics. The detail and accessibility of A Decent Proposal means that it is an ideal resource for students studying research ethics, for research ethics committee members, as well as for researchers. It is published by John Wiley Publishers. It is not yet available in New Zealand book stores and will probably be quite expensive to purchase here. For readers interested in having a copy of this publication, the best way to obtain it would be through one of the Internet book stores. We are planning to publish a review of this book in the next issue of the Otago Bioethics Report.

Jenny Conder and Maggie Oakley have had official confirmation of their Master of Health Science degrees. Jenny's thesis was about moral decision-making and paediatric decision-making, while Maggie wrote her thesis on women's experience of ultrasound screening. Everybody at the Centre congratulates Jenny and Maggie on their success and wishes them the best for the future. Bachelor of Medical Sciences student Neil Price has finished his thesis and returned to the fourth year of his medical programme. Neil's thesis concerned quality and the doctor-patient relationship. We are looking forward to seeing Neil again in the ethics sessions of the clinical course.

Bibliography
Declaration of Helsinki, 'Medical Research combined with professional care', 1983.