### What Do We Owe the Elderly?

#### Allocating Social and Health Care Resources

The Institute for Bioethics, Maastricht, The Netherlands, and The Hastings Center, Briarcliff Manor, New York, USA, will co-sponsor a conference on the allocation of (health)care resources to the elderly on September 16-17, 1994. The conference will be held in Maastricht at the Maastricht Exposition and Congress Center (MECC). The conference will be organized in cooperation with the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) of the World Health Organization in Geneva.

This conference represents the culmination of a two-years research project carried out by the two institutions. The participants in the project came from eight countries in Europe and North America, and focused their work on five major themes:

- 1) The meaning and significance of old age in contemporary society
- 2) The goals of medicine and health care for the elderly
- 3) Balancing the needs of the young and the old: intergenerational obligations
- 4) Resource allocation and social priorities
- 5) Families, society and long-term care.

Over the two years of the project an intense investigation of these issues was carried out, drawing on the knowledge and resources of the project participants but also on other experts drawn into particular meetings. The research group itself was a mixture of geriatricians and gerontologists, ethicists, philosophers, demographers and sociologists.

The planned conference in Maastricht will be focused around five themes cited above and, at the core of the conference, will be papers prepared by the research project participants. In addition, however, other people not part of the project will be asked to make presentations as well, as a result of call for papers. By virtue of additional participants from developing regions of the world, the conference will extend the scope of the original research to look at resource allocation for the old as a growing world-wide problem.

Please write to the Hastings Center for further information and registration: International Aging Conference, The Hastings Center, 255 Elm Road, Briarcliff Manor, New York, NY 10510, USA

or phone: 1-914-762-8500 fax: 1-914-762-2124

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Vol. 12 no.2 Summer/été 1993

Special Issue Editor: VERENA HALDEMANN

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