

## **Background to the Interdisciplinary Conference on Communication, Medicine and Ethics (COMET)**

Communication, Medicine and Ethics (COMET) evolved in 2003 at Cardiff (UK) to bring together communication researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds, ranging from healthcare specialities to the human and social sciences. Following the overwhelming success of the first conference (attended by more than 200 participants from 20 countries), which was hosted by the Health Communication Research Centre at Cardiff University, COMET has now established itself as an annual interdisciplinary, international event. Grounded in a problem-oriented approach, COMET places special emphasis on the dissemination of high quality research in discourse/communication and practical ethics which is directly relevant to healthcare practitioners. COMET is now closely linked with the new journal *Communication & Medicine* (Equinox, London), with a view to bringing seminal research to a wider readership.

Since the launch of COMET in Cardiff, the conference has been hosted by Linköping University, Sweden, in 2004; jointly by Macquarie University and University of Sydney in 2005, returning to Cardiff in its 4<sup>th</sup> year (2006), by University of Lugano, Switzerland, in 2007. The venue for the 6<sup>th</sup> COMET conference was Cape Town, organised through the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. The 7<sup>th</sup> COMET conference is hosted by the Health Communication Research Centre, Cardiff University (25 - 27 June 2009). The 8<sup>th</sup> COMET conference takes place in Boston.

**Further details can be accessed at:**

**<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/encap/hcrc>**