



AFMS NEWS

Autumn 2009

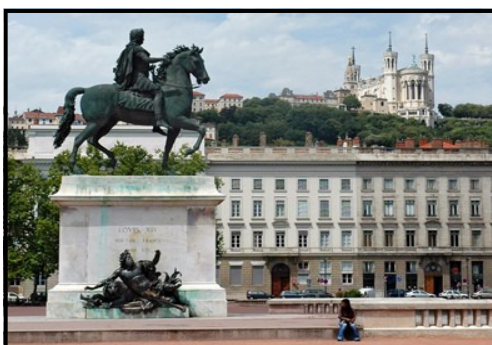
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Lyon Conference September 23rd to the 26th 2009

The AFMS / AFMB have just completed their 26th meeting in Lyon. Delegates enjoyed a superb social and scientific programme.

Thursday 24th September ; Prof. Mornex opened the meeting with a fascinating study of bronchioalveolar cancer in humans and the possible relationship with other tumour types in animals. The aetiology of this rare lung cancer is not clear; it is not related to smoking but perhaps to exposure to sheep and goats who themselves are predisposed to certain types of viral-induced tumours of the respiratory tract. Dr. Belinda Johnston followed this up with a presentation on screening for large bowel cancer in England; she highlighted the professional hurdles that are required to be met in order to become a screening centre. We learnt that 25% of endoscopists "fail" their endoscopy assessments and have to re-sit!...probably a good and reassuring statistic on balance....initial results are encouraging and a lively debate followed. Prof. Laurent Guyot delivered a *tour de force* on nasal re-construction across the ages. The origin of nasal surgery was in India and their practice forms the basis of modern techniques, which of course, even includes facial transplants in some cases. French surgery took off in WWI whereas in the UK it was in WW2. The second morning session was started by the Medical Director of *Fondation Merieux* which has played, and continues to play, a pivotal role in the development of vaccines and prevention of infectious diseases in the developing world. This family-led foundation is led now by Alain Merieux and recent developments include new offices and research centres in China. Laos, Haiti and Cambodia in co-operation with WHO and CDC in the USA. Mr Didier Carnet appraised us of the motives of French doctors working in the UK. There were many reasons for emigration to the UK, and some were "head hunted" by the NHS after Tony Blair's initiative to grow the NHS to the average level in the EU. Only 32 % of sent questionnaires were returned, but nevertheless it is likely that the better remuneration for doctors in the UK compared with France will have



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Welcome to the latest edition of the AFMS news!!! If there is anything you would wish to have included in future editions, please send an email to the administrative secretary at tonyridge72@yahoo.co.uk

In This Issue.

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Did You Know?

• Meeting and Events

- **October 2009**
Medical French Course; Kings College London.
Date Oct 09 to Mar 10.
- **January 2010**
Medical French Course-
Burton Manor. Date 22nd to 24th January 2010.
- **February 2010**
AFMS Winter Conference
Chamonix. Date 4th to 7th
February 2010.
- **May 2010**
Manchester meeting. Date
TBC.
- **September 2010**
AFMS conference. Liverpool
29th Sep to Oct 2nd
2010.



Back Page Notes

Chamonix Conference 4th to 7th February 2010

The 12th AFMS Winter meeting is scheduled to take place in Chamonix, Haute Savoie, France at the Hotel de l'Aiguille du Midi from the 4th to the 7th February 2010. The hotel offers a wonderful setting in the heart of the Alps, close to the centre of Chamonix. It has 40 comfortable rooms and a restaurant, offering a traditional quality cuisine, a wide variety of dishes and Savoy specialities. To get to Chamonix is easy. The nearest airport is Geneva and there is a door to door transfer from a company at www.api.line.com, (the cost reduces the more people there are). Scientific meetings take place in the hotel. A booking form is enclosed in this newsletter.



AFMS Course in Medical French Burton Manor College Hotel, The Wirral; 22nd to 24th January 2010.

This established course, now in its 18th year, provides an invaluable background for doctors and medical students intending to work or study in French-speaking countries. Teaching is in small groups, by native French speakers, including doctors. All grades of linguistic ability accommodated. Feedback from the last course was very positive: the teaching, handbook, enjoyment and value for money were all rated as excellent/very good. Residential fees: £275 for doctors (£225 if within 5 years of qualification); £135 for students. Non-residential: £225 for doctors (£175 if within 5 years of qualification); £105 for students. There are places for 50 doctors and 30 students. Previous courses were highly successful, great fun and heavily over-subscribed; early application is advised. Contact: Christine Greenwood, School of Clinical Sciences, Clinical Sciences Centre, University Hospital Aintree, Longmoor Lane, Liverpool L9 7AL. (Tel: 0151 529 5885; Fax: 0151 529 5888). C.Greenwood@liverpool.ac.uk.



AFMS Conference 2010

The AFMS is pleased to announce that Liverpool will be the venue for its next conference from the 29th September to the 2nd October 2010. Liverpool was voted the European Capital City of Culture in 2008 so there will be lots to enjoy in the city. A booking form and further details will be available in early 2010.



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Did you know?

England are the reigning Olympic cricket champions only narrowly defeating France in the Olympics of 1901 (the last time it was held). France has now thrown down a challenge to England to defend its title at the 2012 games in London!

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Please send details of any change of address, incorrect addresses, subscriptions and changes in email to

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Acupuncture in General Practice was the title of Sean Bennett's talk. He explained the differences between Western and Traditional Chinese approaches and where this complementary therapy may have a role in patient management.

Before lunch, Dr Alain Jean spoke of the effectiveness (or not) of M. Chirac during his term as President...*mais il était une blague, il parle d'un autre!* Dr Chirac was a famous French doctor of the late 17th and early 18th centuries who came to attention during the war of succession as he helped treat many maladies in the French army; he later became keeper and manager of the King's Gardens and joined together the specialities of chemistry, botany and pharmacy – as well as surgery and anatomy. He was appointed as personal physician to Louis XV at the age of 80.

Friday 25th September; The second day kicked off with a fascinating overview of the ethical, surgical and practical issues around disorders of sexual development given by Prof. Pierre Mouriquand from Lyon. The role of the MDT is vital involving sensitive management of all the issues surrounding personal, social and behavioural sex orientation. There is a slight disagreement between Europe and USA. Prof. Peter Smith described "Edwards Sapiens" and "Corevalves"; both new transcatheter aortic valve replacements. The use of these technologies enables high risk patients to be operated upon, such as those with chronic renal disease and other co-morbidities. It was pointed out that, statistically, probably 2 members of the conference attendees will be future beneficiaries! After this the James Tudor competition took place (see the report on the next page.) After the James Tudor competition Clarie Vaudreuil, final year medical student from Paris, who spent an elective in London, continued the student theme and gave an excellent talk on the life of British Medical students from the viewpoint of a French student.

Saturday 26th September; Prof. Vincent des Portes (Lyon) discussed Fragile X Syndrome which is responsible for a significant amount of mental handicap; it would appear that the transmission is not strictly Mendelian, but there is a pre-mutation which is activated in females who subsequently transmit an active mutation to their children. Whereas one would expect only male children to be affected it is possible for some females (the carriers) to suffer due to inappropriate activation of the abnormal X chromosome in the majority of their cells. Moreover, the grandfathers with the pre-mutation often suffer from a severe form of Parkinsonism in late life. Like most rare syndromes, it can only be diagnosed after being considered in the differential diagnosis. There are, luckily, several possible therapeutic avenues that are being explored. Dr Hervé Testard let us know of his experiences in Paediatrics in the UK and compared the two countries' systems. The main challenges would appear to be financial, both in terms of recruitment and service provision. Despite this both France and the UK would appear to have good functioning systems. Dr Nicola Strickland examined the uses of CT and MRI. CT remains very useful for bone and lung imaging whereas MRI is better for soft tissue and highlighting invasion of cancers, as well of course for cartilage in knees. Penny Fraser explained that Switzerland is not only chocolate and cuckoo clocks! There is a new Anglo-Swiss Medical Society any AFMS members who may wish to join this group as well are directed to www.angloswissmedical.com. The Gala Dinner presentation was by Professor Mornex, former Doyen of the medical School in Lyon, now retired from the practice of endocrinology, but remaining very active. His account of the history of Medicine in Lyon was enlightening. A family connection was revealed in that our conference had been opened by our first lecturer, his son, now a professor in Lyon. The Conference Dinner took place in Le Grand Réfectoire, in the Hôtel-Dieu (original hospital in Lyon, still a working hospital today).

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Once again we were treated to a sumptuous location for the conference dinner, with a 17th century hall as the venue. The James Tudor prize was presented to the winners by the AFMS president Andrew Hassan and the AFMB President Michel Dubuisson. After Dinner, the meeting also had the great pleasure to welcome the son of Jacques Foray, founding president of the AFMB, who presented the first ever Prix Jacques Foray to Claire Vaudreuil, and Roger Celestin then paid tribute to his old friend Jacques. And Finally we all enjoyed being serenaded by Rex Melville in his inimitable style! Overall it was felt by all that the conference was a great success especially as there were several new younger delegates and some returning after a few years. One delegate entertained us (and put some of us in touch with our maternal and paternal sides) with a beautiful, and well behaved, little baby girl. The social and accompagnantes' programmes were very well received, although made a little more difficult by a transport strike. The hotels were comfortable and the food and wine plentiful! The post conference trip to the mediaeval village of Oingt and the vineyard in such good weather, was definitely one of the highlights. If you wish to see over 200 photographs from the conference email girgis7@aol.com. A blank email with subject "AFMS Lyon" will guarantee you a personalised invitation from Jo Girgis to view his pictures on the Kodak gallery website. You can see even more photos from our French colleagues via <http://picasaweb.google.fr/gascon01/Lyon> Dr Mark Savage



The James Tudor Prize

Alice Brunker (Manchester: Obstetrics & Gynaecology in Nantes) discussed a case of Twin Transfusion Syndrome and its treatment and risks of that treatment. Abigail Frank (now FYI trainee Wrexham, Pays de Galles graduate from Cardiff): Robotic Surgery, Geneva) presented the pros and cons of robot-assisted surgery. Despite the cost Swiss Insurance companies are now recommending robot-assisted prostatic surgery because of such good results. Lona Jawaheer (Manchester, Plastic Surgery, Brussels) presented a detailed case of abdomino-plasty and one of ear-lobe reconstruction using Z-plasty. David-Ian McGregor (French student studying in London) gave an over-view of medical education in the UK highlighting differing approaches between traditional universities and newer establishments. The Working Time Directive of course gives us all many problems; particularly in surgery. Delegates voted on all the presentation: as last year the voting was extremely close and final results were: 1st Prize, Lona Jawaheer; 2nd Prize, David-Ian McGregor and 3rd Prize, Abigail Frank. However, as the results of voting were so close and the delegates so impressed by the standard of the presentations that it was subsequently decided by the French arm of the meeting to award a one-off prize to Alice Brunker.



Are you planning to travel to France or any French speaking country such as in Africa, and work in the medical field? If so, The King's College London, Modern Language Centre course on French for Medics is a must for you. This course will teach you how to take a medical history, write medical reports, and communicate confidently with your peers and patients in French. It will also provide you with a socio-cultural understanding of the French healthcare system and Doctors' approach to medicine generally. Ideal for anybody wishing to do for instance an internship in a French hospital or work with an NGO. It will be running from the 8th of October to the 25th of March 2010, over 20 weeks - 1 session per week of 2 hours each (Thursdays 4-6pm or 6-8pm). The French for Medics course Prerequisites: doctors, medical students, or health professionals (nurses, midwives, pharmacists, physiotherapists...). Accreditation: The course will prepare students for the Diplôme Professionnel de Français Médical B2 delivered by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Paris. Fees: Full fee: £507 / University of London alumni and staff: £370 / University of London degree students: £320. There will also be a fee for the Diplôme de Français Médical exam. For more details about the course, please consult the link below: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/humanities/depts/mlc/undergrad/modules/french/frm5.html>