



# AFMS NEWS

Autumn 2017

Issue number 82

Charity Number 327706

## AFMS Conference - Lille.



The AFMS conference this year took place in Lille, Northern France from the 20th to the 23rd of September.

A comprehensive scientific programme began with Prof. Charlotte CORDONNIER who gave a lively lecture on the immediate treatment of ischaemic stroke and the great benefits of early intervention. There are about 4 million residents in Northern France and a yearly incidence of 15,500 new strokes, the majority (80%) ischaemic. The local incidence is the highest in France, possibly for historic and environmental reasons. There are great savings to be made by using best rapid treatment in stroke care, in stroke units. Handicap, dementia and death are all reduced.

Outlying hospitals are connected by telemedicine with trained paramedical staff who can perform the required tests and transfer patients rapidly to the better-equipped hospitals. Some SAMU vehicles now have portable MRI scanners so patient assessment can be effectively at the house. The intention is to offer the same level of care to all, no matter how isolated they are within Nord-Pas de Calais.

John ALTRIP continued his interesting series on the technical improvements that are becoming possible in respiratory care. Domiciliary capnometry with immediate transfer of data to the care-giver is becoming possible. The new chips are allowing real-time measurement of tidal breathing CO<sub>2</sub>, and there are now accurate graphs to demonstrate exacerbations of COPD ahead of symptoms, allowing very early intervention.

The next step will possibly be intelligent inhalers with intrinsic chips, tailoring therapy to individual patterns of disease.

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## AFMS Website

Please visit us at

[www.](http://www.anglofrenchmedical.com)

[anglofrenchmedical.com](http://www.anglofrenchmedical.com)

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## Meetings and Events

### February 2018

AFMS Winter meeting In Chamonix.  
February 1st to  
February 4th 2018

### April 2018

AFMS Medical French weekend in Lille.  
13th of April to the  
15th of April 2018.

### September 2018

Scientific Conference Cardiff, UK  
26th September to the  
29th September 2018.

## Future Newsletters

Please note that to save on our postage costs, the AFMS will be sending newsletters to members by email. Please can you send your email address to Tony Ridge if you have not done so already.

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**Mr Michael KELLY, Dr Patrice METAYER presented more comparative descriptions of the medico-legal differences between U.K. and France. This time the theme was consent.**

**Mike talked about the Bolam test of reasonableness that has been important for 60 years, and the recent changes following the Montgomery case in Scotland where the Supreme Court held that Bolam does not cover consent to treatment, only the actual care. There is now the concept of the reasonable patient, modified by, for example, the profession of the patient.**

**There is now the concept of the reasonable patient, modified by, for example, the profession of the patient. Patrice showed us that the French systems remain complex and opaque in many ways. Since 2002 there is a legal obligation to explain risks in detail, and there are four different routes that can be taken in cases where care is considered sub-optimal. There has been a broad-based national discussion to reassess the position: “la Democratie Sanitaire”. All stake-holders were involved and as in U.K. the terminology has changed with care givers and usagers instead of doctors and patients. The Kouchner case was the defining moment, empowering patients and moving from the traditional paternalistic system.**

**Dr Leila LATROUS gave a study on positional plagiocephaly and its prevention. The risks are environmental, mainly posture in cot or car seat, and male sex, first child, prematurity etc. Apparently French mothers are advised to seek help from osteopaths to treat this condition, but require a letter of support from a GP or paediatrician if the osteopath is to manipulate head and neck under 6 months of age.**

**For the James Tudor Lecture, Prof Masméjean gave a most important talk on the experiences in Paris on the night of the Bataclan and related attacks. He is an expert on war weapon injury, working at the George Pompidou Hospital at Descartes. There are two main services, spine/orthopaedic and hand and nerve surgery with 15 surgeons plus juniors.**

**He explained that most weapon trauma is fairly simple, with hand gun and blade injuries relatively easily treated, but war weapon and blast trauma cause massive tissue damage, requiring much more surgical expertise, with tissue loss and nerve damage.**

**Bataclan and the other attacks led to 129 immediate deaths and 302 other injured requiring treatment. There were 2 orthopaedic surgeons and 2 plastic surgeons on duty, but the response to the attack by staff was rapid, largely driven by social media contacts. Four theatres worked for 48 hours, with treatment commencing in a range of 12 minutes after arrival to 7 hours 45 minutes. Some cases were deferred but for a maximum of 24 hours. There are 3 lessons to remember. Each patient was treated as though he or she was unique; staff and patients received psychological support; all Parisian hospitals were involved and cooperated.**

**Professor Patrick BERCHE gave a most interesting lecture on the history of Pasteur, from his origins as a chemist (thesis presented 1847 on distinguishing organic from non-organic crystals by their differences on exposure to polarised light); through his work on fermentation which eventually confirmed the existence of ‘particles’ from the air causing the fermentation, in particular bad batches in the brewing industry; to work on silkworm diseases; and eventually to the development of effective vaccines.**

## AFMS NEWS

The student presentations were as usual of the highest quality. There were four presenters; Lauren QUINN, Camille GODET, Maymouna MOUROUVAYE PAYET and the eventual winner of the James Tudor main prize Kinda AL-HOURANI, who presented on primary care for refugees, and then described a buddy system for (mainly Syrian) refugee minors in Oxford, largely run by students.

Ms Helen MACKAY talked about James Barry, an 18C Irish military doctor, born a woman in Cork. He became an anatomist in London, taking the name of his uncle to do so. He performed the very first Caesarean section in South Africa with both mother and baby surviving. Not all his career was positive and he was demoted whilst in St Helena for bad practice. He was exposed after death as being a woman, although an attempt was made to cover this up by declaring him to be an underdeveloped male.

Carol BARTON told the story of a Berkshire family through the First World War. Carol and John spotted a grave in Macedonia with a very unusual surname (Sweetzer), which was shared by a former patient of Carol's. They were able to trace several members of the family, six boys having been involved in war service, largely as train related workers, the family having mainly worked for GWR before the war. Three sons died in uniform, as did 10% of all GWR staff who enlisted.

Dr Corinne MATUSSIÈRE completed an excellent meeting with a very impressive and impassioned presentation on how to manage the immediate response to a major incident.

Dr David Bell

### Social Programme

Accompagnantes enjoyed a visit to Le Palais Des Beaux Arts and saw a prestigious collection of art from the 15th to the 20th centuries. In the afternoon all delegates ambled around the old town of Lille with its beautiful architecture and charming medieval side streets. Most interesting was the former hospital, founded in 1237 by Countess Jeanne de Flandre. On Friday morning, delegates were treated to a fascinating tour of Lille's architecture of the 19th century. Of particular interest was the Maison Coillot and its Art nouveau design. After lunch one of the highlights of the trip saw everyone visit Le Louvre Lens, one of the best museums in France.

The gala dinner took place in La Piscine at Roubaix. A gentle drive out of the town took us to the spa town of Roubaix and we were amazed by the transformation of a swimming pool into a museum. A truly wonderful night.

After lunch on Saturday, those remaining took a fascinating canal boat tour from Lille to Wambrechies and visited its gin distillery.

The AFMS would like to thank our French colleagues for their hard work in organising a fantastic conference.

Please visit our Facebook page for photographs of the meeting.

**Anglo-French Medical Society  
26<sup>th</sup> Medical French  
Residential Weekend Course  
13th to 15th of April 2018  
Lille, France.**

**A unique opportunity to experience Medical French in France. Teaching in partnership with the Medical Faculty of Université Catholique de Lille**

**Extensive course handbook provided**

**All levels of French-speaking accommodated Early booking advised, details on**

**[www.anglofrenchmedical.com](http://www.anglofrenchmedical.com)**

**Contact: Christine Greenwood on 0151 529 5885 or email**

**[c.greenwood@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:c.greenwood@liverpool.ac.uk)**

**Price includes 2 nights hotel accommodation, all meals including a gala dinner and a guided tour of historic Lille. Students attending the Medical French Course will have an opportunity to win a fully funded place at the AFMS Annual Conference in Cardiff in September 2018.**

**Doctors £580 - FY1/2 £480 - Students £310 (or £280, twin room). Early discount available for doctors and FY1/2 who book and pay prior to January 31st 2018.**

## Student Update- Clara Farque

**What an exciting first year it has been for AFMS Students! We now have over 120 students across the UK who actively follow the AFMS Student activities and receive regular updates over social media. Since announcing ourselves to medical schools throughout the UK, we have received a great deal of correspondence from groups (including one in Egypt!) that wish to set up their own branches as well as individuals excited by the prospect of a placement in a French speaking country.**

**Students in Cardiff and Leeds have already started setting up their own AFMS Student branches. Based on the model initiated at Warwick Medical School, the new branches will be running sessions focussing on approaching systems in French, in a manner that allows for all levels of language ability. Along with pneumologie, cardiologie and psychiatrie, the students are exposed to fine French cheeses and bread!**

**Throughout the year, we have been busy with a good deal of interest from students who seek to organise placements or electives abroad. This has led us to begin the process of collating an “electives guide”, which we hope will provide a solid base for students to start planning their French speaking placements. Combined with the student reports already available via the AFMS website, this should offer a comprehensive resource for Francophile medical students.**

**Looking forward, we aim to start nurturing cross-Channel relations and making the most of our French counterparts. We would like to put our English students in touch with like-minded French students so that they can share their experiences and knowledge with one another. Not only would this be a fantastic opportunity to practise each other’s language. It’s also an opportunity to get first hand hints and tips in preparation for placements abroad.**

**If you think you would like to be involved in helping us set up any of the above, we would be delighted to hear from you! The more stories, experiences and, dare we say it, warnings - the better (no matter how historical)!**

<https://www.facebook.com/AngloFrenchMedicalStudentSociety/>

Clara.farque2@uhcw.nhs.uk

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## Future Meetings

**The next scientific meeting will take place in Cardiff from the 26th to the 29th of September 2018. Cardiff is the capital of Wales and home to the Welsh national Opera.**

**Its waterfront at Cardiff Bay has been revitalized and hosts a vast array of shops and museums.**

**More information and a booking form will be available in the new year.**





## Back Page Notes



### Chamonix Winter Conference February 1st to February 4th 2018

The 19th AFMS Winter meeting will take place in Chamonix, Haute Savoie, France at the Hotel l'Aiguille du Midi from the 1st of February to the 4th of February 2018.

This family run hotel with a truly warm ambience, is Michelin recommended for value and comfort and is 3km from 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.

Travelling to Chamonix is very easy. Geneva is the closest airport and various companies offer transfers with a drop off and collection to and from the hotel. One company, called Chamexpress, offers 30 departures a day. ( [www.chamexpress.com](http://www.chamexpress.com)).

If anyone would like to give a presentation at the meeting, please let the admin secretary know when returning the booking form, enclosed.

### Members Requests

Piero Baglioni is a consultant physician and lives in Wales. He is currently working in France but wants to register with the Ordre de Medecine. If you can help Piero his details are;  
[mpbaglioni@gmail.com](mailto:mpbaglioni@gmail.com)

Sam Bailey is a medical student at London University. He is keen to meet a native French speaker to develop his French skills and in return help with English. Please contact Sam on  
[samjbailey@hotmail.com](mailto:samjbailey@hotmail.com)

### Committee

#### Committee

Dr Andrew Hassan  
( President )  
Dr Martin Punter  
( Treasurer )  
Dr John Altrip  
( Hon Secretary )  
Dr Helen Sykes  
( Membership Secretary )  
Dr Zara Bieler  
( Webmaster )  
Dr Mark Cottrill  
( Co-opted Member )  
Dr Colin Mumford  
Dr Rex Melville  
Dr Carol Barton  
Dr Paul Ward  
Dr David Bell  
Dr Nick Mc Carthy  
Dr James Mc Donald  
Dr Clara Farque  
( Student Network  
Co-ordinator )

### Did you know?

Men could be fined for wolf whistling women on French streets. Marlene Schiappa has proposed legislation for men to be handed on the spot fines for catcalling or lecherous behaviour in public. Protestors say there is a very fine line between harassment and flirtation. Ms Schiappa reinforced the view that street harassment is not defined in law.