



AFMS NEWS

Spring 2017

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AFMS Conference

Lille September 20th to 23rd 2017

Lille (Rijsel in Flemish) may be France's most underrated major city. In recent decades this once-grimy industrial metropolis, its economy based on declining industries, has transformed itself into a glittering and self-confident cultural and commercial hub. Highlights for the visitor include an attractive old town with a strong Flemish accent, three renowned art museums, stylish shopping, some excellent dining options and a cutting-edge, student-driven nightlife scene.

We plan to visit Lille old town ; paved with stone and lined with steeply gabled houses, handsome in brick and golden sandstone, its 17th- and 18th-century buildings – now elegant shops – hint at its Flemish roots. The city only became French when Louis XIV captured it in 1667.

We also plan to visit one of Lille's most interesting sights: L'Hospice Comtesse, a 13th-century charitable hospital with its beautiful Flemish interiors. followed by the 17th-century Vieille Bourse (former stock exchange), a Flemish Renaissance flourish of caryatids, garlands and gargoyles. Today, money changes hands over second-hand books, vintage postcards and vintage records at stalls that crowd the internal courtyard.

The Palais des Beaux-Arts emulates the Louvre, holding France's second-largest arts collection with works ranging from medieval artists to the Impressionists, plus a sculpture hall, porcelain gallery and, in the catacomb-like basements, rooms of antiquities (cont)

AFMS Website

Please visit us at

www.anglofrenchmedical.com

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September 2017

Scientific Conference
Lille, France
20th September to the 23rd September 2017.

April 2018

Plans for a second
Medical Weekend Lille,
France

IMPORTANT

Future Newsletters

Please note that to save on our postage costs, the AFMS will be sending future 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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as well as 4th-century BC Egyptian mummified cat.

Lille is also Charles de Gaulle's birthplace. The future President was born here in 1890. In the centre of the town we plan to visit the Citadelle, the impressive, star-shaped fortress designed by Vauban in 1667 to help protect northern France's borders.

Our gala dinner will take place at La Piscine Roubaix. After Paris turned one of its train stations, the D'Orsay into a world class museum, Lille followed suit by transforming an art deco municipal swimming pool into a temple of the arts. Built in 1927 this is an architectural masterpiece showcasing fine arts, paintings sculptures and drawings in an unique environment.



Getting there

Eurostar (eurostar.com) has up to nine daily services to Lille from London St Pancras from £72 return. The centre is a 10-minute walk from the station. The hotel is 6 km from the station by taxi. There are trains from Paris to Lille again on Eurostar.

Did you know?

Lille is the capital of Nord-Pas-de-Calais, a region in the north of France near the border with Flanders.

The city was long part of Flanders - it was only annexed to France in the 17th century.

Lille opened the world's first driverless metro transport system in 1983.

Charles De Gaulle was voted France's greatest ever person in 2015 and his grandson represents France in the European Parliament.

The social and scientific programmes are yet to be finalised. If you would like attend the conference please can you complete the booking form and send it to the address on the form. There is a 5% discount on the cost if you pay the total cost before the end of June. If you would like to give a presentation at the conference please contact Tony Ridge as soon as possible.

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Lille Medical Weekend

21-23 April 2017, Faculté de Médecine, Université Catholique de Lille



The 25th Medical French Weekend Course was held in Lille this year to mark the silver anniversary and what a shining event it was. We got straight to work on Friday evening with the first session. Delegates split into their small groups to meet with a tutor and plunge into the language, introducing themselves and getting to know each other. We proceeded on foot to dinner in Basilic Café restaurant in central old Lille where French continued to flow and the food and service did us proud.

Saturday morning saw an early start with teaching sessions running throughout the day. The tutors dealt with a speciality topic or a system and each had an individual teaching style with emphasis on getting the delegates talking and using the language through games, role-play, reflection and interaction.

Saturday teaching ended with a two talks: Dr Alex Hirst spoke of her experience registering as a doctor in France and of her experience as a GP locum in the Paris area. Dr Olivier Dianda spoke very movingly of his experience as a French-speaking doctor suddenly relocated to the UK due to political unrest in his native Congo. Both talks were inspiring and motivating. Tutors continued to network and impart their experiences as we proceeded back to the hotel.

The gala dinner took place on Saturday evening, in the prestigious restaurant La Terrasse des Remparts, a short walk from the hotel. An aperitif was followed by a delicious 3 course meal. Tutors were thanked and presented with a souvenir tee-shirt and Professor Gareth Williams gracefully accepted a bottle of champagne as a token of gratitude for founding the course in 1992. Sunday teaching playfully self-policed the entièrement en français 'rule' with the Medical French hat making its way around anyone found speaking English. Teaching on Sunday ended with a choice of workshops covering working as a GP, being on call in hospital, working with asylum seekers, les urgencies, the junior doctor/medical student experience and student directed research projects. Thanks to Dr Mireille Sweeney we were fortunate to be joined by a French GP and a French hospital doctor from the Faculté of Lille.

The course concluded with a final delicious buffet lunch, and a fascinating walking tour of old Lille. Feedback was very positive and we hope to offer the course again in Lille in 2018. Come and join us! Details on the website.

Dr Zara Bieler – Course Organiser medicalfrenchcourse@anglofrenchmedical.com



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AFMS Chamonix 2017

February 2nd 2017 saw the gathering of some familiar faces at the wonderful L'Aiguille du Midi in Les Bossons for the AFMS winter meeting.

After a day of blue skies and sun the snow arrived. This provided the skiers amongst us with the opportunity to explore, at least some, of the many ski areas in the Chamonix Valley. Snow shoeing was also popular, with Helen leading the way.

We enjoyed four lively talks on the Friday evening. Andrew Farrall enlightened us on the development and clinical use of carotid ultrasound. From Aristotle in 400BC, via experiments studying the speed of sound in water in Lake Geneva in 1822, to the first carotid Doppler in 1991. I gave a quick update on stroke, an area of medicine that has changed dramatically over the last 20 years. Since the introduction of stroke units mortality has halved in the UK.

Additional treatments have become available in recent years – including thrombolysis and thrombectomy, which can have life changing implications for some patients. At last stroke is rightly being recognised as a medical emergency. Colin Mumford reminded us of the potential perils when medicine and the legal system collide with a thought provoking presentation that resonated with all of us in clinical practice. Finally Andrew Hassan gave us a fascinating insight into medical migration, illustrated by his father's journey from Egypt to practising as a GP in the UK. This journey was by no means straightforward as demonstrated by the documents Andrew brought along with him, including his father's passport. However, he started work as a GP in 1947 and worked until retirement at 72.

Once again the winter meeting was a great success and I would like to thank the organising committee, the wonderful hotel staff and all the delegates for playing their part in that. I look forward to Chamonix 2018 and hopefully meeting more new faces from both sides of the channel.

Dr Ingrid Kane

Committee

Committee

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Dr Colin Mumford

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Dr Carol Barton

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Dr David Bell

Dr Nick Mc Carthy

Dr James Mc Donald

Dr Clara Farque

Own a British or French passport?

A British passport is one of the best documents to have in the world (at least, while we still have freedom of movement in the EU).

It's ranked joint first by the World Tourism Organisation, with Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and Singapore.

British passport holders can visit 173 countries visa free whilst French passport holders can visit 170.