



AFMS NEWS

Spring 2011

AFMS
www.anglofrenchmedical.org

Issue number 64
Charity Number 327706

French GPS' visit to Reading

A party of about 25 GPs from Toulouse came to visit Reading, Berkshire, on 16 February 2011. The G.P.s were in England for a week to study English. This was part of their C.P.D. (*formation médicale continue*). The party was led by Dr Michel Bismuth, *médecin généraliste et Maître de Conférences Associé des Universités*. Also with the group was their teacher, Andrea, a lecturer from their Toulouse University. Some of the G.P.s were inspired to improve their English by going to an international conference and finding that their knowledge of the language was less than ideal.

Dr. Carol Barton (A.F.M.S.) arranged a very interesting tour for us all at The Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading. The hospital opened in 1839. We assembled in the historic library, a well-preserved Victorian room, lined with dark, carved wood and old medical books and journals. The librarian, Dr. Marshall Barr, a retired anaesthetist, arranged a display of French medical books for our visitors. One of these books, for example, was written by Laennec, on auscultation. From the library we went to the 1880s hospital chapel, which has impressive stained glass windows.

The highlight of the tour was visiting the hospital medical museum. Dr. Marshall Barr, who created the museum, Dr. Carol Barton and Betty Messer, both museum volunteer helpers, showed us round. The museum contains some fascinating and unusual exhibits. One of these is a genuine 'iron lung', complete with a video showing how to nurse a patient needing this type of assisted respiration. The visitors did a quiz which contained questions about the 'French connections' of the collection, such as the Ombrédanne respirator. There are posters in the museum about the history of medicine. One describes the brilliant physicist and mathematician Harold Hopkins, who held the chair of applied optics at Reading University.



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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 \(at \) yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tonyridge72@yahoo.co.uk)

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• September 2011

Scientific Conference
21st to 24th September;
Marseilles, France.

• November 2011

Advanced French course at Wedgewood Memorial College, Stoke.

• Jan / Feb 2012

Chamonix Winter conference. Dates to be confirmed.

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Professor Hopkins invented the zoom lens, which revolutionized T.V. broadcasting, and he also found ways to use glass fibre, which greatly improved endoscopes. Before Hopkins, endoscopes were rigid and of limited use, but his advances eventually led to the development of keyhole surgery. Hopkins was twice nominated for a Nobel prize. The visitors could see an endoscope and the light cable.

We encouraged the French to join the Association Médicale Franco-Britannique and we hope that we shall all meet again at the AFMS-AMFB scientific meeting in Marseilles, 21-24 Sept. 2011. The French party then went to see the 'six nations' England-France rugby match at Twickenham. As France lost the match, some of our visitors may remember their time in Reading with more pleasure!

Dr Flavia Leslie

Anatomy on the Move

Dr Peter Abrahams tells the AFMS about new technologies in medical training;

Anatomy and basic sciences in general have become the Cinderella of medical education as the caring touchy feely sociologists have taken over much of the basic hard science teaching time in most UK medical schools since the 1990s "Tomorrows Doctors".

Thank heavens this is now being realised for what this results in- and there is a definite swing back towards the sciences especially those like clinical anatomy that can be integrated with clinical studies. As someone with nearly 40 years experience as both an inner city GP and as a Prof of Clinical Anatomy, now at Warwick post grad medical school - I have recently been involved with adapting new technologies and integrating anatomy teaching with 3D radiology etc into small bite-sized 3-7 minutes video tutorials.

These have proved so popular in Warwick that the university have laid out £15,000 to make an Apple Apps of my work "Aspects of Anatomy by Abrahams"- a which is now available on itunes apps store- see link in attached university web site.

Thinking also of the foreigners who wish to study medical terminology, I have personally edited all 40 films using overlay word texts on every anatomical structure that I teach on the prosections in the West Midlands Surgical Teaching Centre. Therefore, an overseas student can now see the structures in HD video ; hear me describe them often in a clinical context and at the same time see how they are written and spelt in English.

Following our York Weekend discussing teaching medical English to French students and doctors I think these simple films not only are useful for learning clinical anatomy but also how to pronounce and read the structures in clear "Queens English."

Some of the films- under clinical videos are aimed not only at medical personnel but at the intelligent lay audience, especially for explaining to patients topics such as Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, Coronary Angiology, Colles fracture and Breast Disease.

I welcome any feedback and should point out that not only does one get 2 hours of solid study with "spotter tests" and MCQs but this is for £4.99 - all profits are going into anatomical /surgical post graduate education.

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http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/med/newsfront/anatomy_app

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/med/about/facilities/stc>

<http://www.channel4.com/news/how-printing-in-3-d-could-save-lives>

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King's College London

EU Study on the Migration of Skilled Health Professionals

Calling all interested Anglo-French Medical Society Members

Have you moved from another European country to work in the UK at any time in the last 10 years? If so, researchers at King's College London would like to hear about your experiences and opinions concerning medical migration. We are especially interested in movement between France and the UK (but not excluding wider EU movement) and would like to hear both from specialists and general practitioners.

Our study is part of a bigger, cross-European research project (called **PROMeTHEUS**) focused on the professional and personal reasons for individual health professionals (including doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, and physiotherapists) to move or not move within Europe. The study is led by the **WHO European Observatory on Health Systems & Policies** and the **European Health Management Association** in Brussels. Different Universities across Europe are undertaking different aspects of the research.

- There is more information on the King's College website at: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/nursing/research/themes/workforce/projects/international/prometheus.html>
- Our study's overall aim is to contribute to the improvement of workforce management, working environments and the situation of workers in the health services - both in countries such as the UK that receive large numbers of health staff from abroad and other European countries that need to understand what measures, if any, they can take to keep more health staff at home.
- If you think you would be interested to take part, we would like you to complete a short survey (only 10 minutes to complete this) and return it by email to the **AFMS Secretary, Tony Ridge** at tonyridge72@yahoo.co.uk. The **PROMeTHEUS SURVEY** is on the **AFMS** website. Even if you cannot complete all of the questions, we would still be very grateful for **ANY INFORMATION** at all that you can give us. All information will be kept strictly confidential. If you give us permission to email you for further discussion (optional), we will not keep your contact details beyond the study.

A message from Andrew Hassan

It is with great sadness that we heard that Marie Helene Jean, wife of Alain, whom many of you will have met over the years at our conferences had passed away after many months fighting a malignancy. Marie Helen always impressed with her command of English, her elegance and her loyalty. Alain will miss her enormously, and I am sure we all send heartfelt condolences to all the family.

Marseilles Conference 2011

The Marseilles conference will take place from the 21st to the 24th September 2011. Marseilles is a fascinating city; it has been designated as the European City of Culture for 2013 and is the oldest city in France.

The Holiday Inn Marseilles has been chosen as the venue for the meeting(www.holidayinn-marseille.com) A booking form is included with this newsletter and as well as a provisional programme of events. Please complete the booking form as soon as possible and return with either your deposit or full payment. A detailed programme will be available nearer the time. If you would like to present at the conference please contact Tony Ridge in the first instance at tonyridge72@yahoo.co.uk



Back Page Notes

Manchester Meeting

June 3rd 2011

The 15th Manchester meeting was once more held at the

Alliance Franciase de Manchester. We are becoming spoilt methinks as the presentations by our four students were of the highest quality, both in terms of medical content and in the quality of the spoken French. The Alliance staff member who sat in on the conference was "bowled over" by the students' fluency.

The winner (as usual by a close margin!) was Ania Crawshaw from Manchester University who spoke on the surgical management of Parkinson's disease. She won a prize of £50 and will be invited to compete for the James Tudor Prize in Marseilles in September 2011. The Alliance is moving venue soon and we hope to be able to use the AF next year, depending on facilities available.

Dr Mark Savage



Eat, sleep and shop: French live the cliché

The French spend more time eating and drinking, sleeping and shopping than any other nationality, according to the latest OECD report. The survey examines a range of indicators such as family characteristics, rates of employment, poverty and inequality, and trust and tolerance, to assess the social progress of each of the EU countries. France's strongest assets have proved to be its citizens' ability to make the most of life's pleasures: eating, sleeping and shopping; an assessment that seems to fulfil all the clichés of France as a country of bon viveurs.

They certainly know how to relax. Sleeping an average of 8.5 hours a night, the French are by far the best rested of the 34 countries in the survey. Also, the French spend on average just over two hours a day around the table, suggesting that, even if fast food chains have popped up across the country, good food and sociable meal-times remain as important as ever; an idea that supports the re-

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Did you know?

Around 200,000 British holiday homeowners in France are to be charged a new tax . To calculate the amount owed, the French government estimates the value of the annual rent the property could generate, then charges the owner 20 per cent whether or not it is ever actually rented. For example, a family with a two-bedroom flat in Normandy worth £350,000 would have to pay roughly an extra £700 a year; or the owners of £5.5m second home in a fashionable part of Paris would pay about £3,400 extra yearly.

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