



AFMS NEWS

Spring 2014

AFMS
www.anglofrenchmedical.org

Issue number 75
Charity Number 327706

Anglo French Medical Society Conference 2014



The 31st Anglo French Medical Society's conference will take place from the 17th to the 20th September in the cathedral city of Durham. An exciting social and scientific programme has been planned.

The conference hotel is a newly built Radisson hotel on the banks of the River Wear and is an easy five-minute walk into the city centre. The Wednesday reception will be held in the magnificent splendor of the Great Hall of Durham Castle, with some local entertainment provided.

On Thursday, for those not attending the scientific session, there will be a visit to Crook Hall Gardens - a short walk along from the hotel. Crook Hall is a 13th century Grade I listed medieval hall which provides a spectacular backdrop to the gardens. Visitors from all over the world come to share in the timeless magic of Crook Hall and leave inspired by these idyllic English themed gardens.



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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) Please also can you inform Tony of any changes in either home or email address.

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Durham UK - 17th to
the 20th September.

• March 2015
French Medical
Weekend, Warwick.
27th to 29th March

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In the afternoon, all the conference delegates will have the opportunity to visit Beamish Museum, one of the biggest open-air museums in the country. The Museum is world famous and tells the story of the people of the North East England during the Georgian, Victorian, and Edwardian periods. Transport is available around the museum in historic trams and buses for those not wishing to walk.

We have planned a visit to the Bowes Museum on Friday morning. Set in the beautiful town of Barnard Castle, this museum is built in the style of a French chateau and houses an impressive collection of European fine and decorative art.

All the conference delegates will join us in the afternoon for a walking tour of the historic city of Durham. This will include a visit to the Cathedral built in 1093, the greatest Norman building in England. It is cherished not only for its architecture but also for its incomparable setting. For this reason it has been listed, along with the Castle, as one of Britain's first World Heritage Sites. It was recently voted the UK's Number One Landmark by Trip Advisor users. Durham Cathedral is the burial place of both St Cuthbert, a great northern saint, and the Venerable Bede, author of the first English history. The gala dinner will take place at the historic Beamish Hall Hotel. The history of the hotel can be traced right back to the Norman conquest and since then the Hall has been home to several generations of prominent families. Various areas of the Hotel are now named to commemorate these notable occupants.

On Saturday, for those wishing to extend their stay, we have arranged a visit to Hadrian's Wall and the pretty village of Corbridge. During the week of the vote on Scottish Independence, it is a good time to see where the Romans built the boundaries of the outpost of their empire. The day will conclude in a convivial restaurant back in the city.

The scientific programme is in the process of being finalised. Provisionally we will have a scientific session on the Thursday morning. On the Friday morning there will be student presentations for the James Tudor Prize and we are delighted that the James Tudor Foundation will be supporting the conference with a guest presentation later in the morning. Professor Richard Grundy will talk on the subject of "Childhood Brain Tumours : a multidisciplinary approach ". On the Saturday morning there will be further scientific presentations followed by the Annual General Meeting.

If you would like to attend the conference, please complete the booking form enclosed in the newsletter. If you would also like to present at the conference please can you also email our administrative secretary.

Professor John Wilkinson

Manchester Meeting 18th May 2014

It was a pleasure to attend the 18th North West Regional Meeting for the Anglo-French Medical society at the University of Manchester.

This meeting was supported by Professeur Benoit Guilbaud, senior university lecturer in Manchester for students studying medical French. There were 4 scientific presentations from 4th year medical students recently returning from their medical studies in France as part of their degree. Mikaela Nordblad presented on a clinical case of Cushing's syndrome seen in Strasbourg, Shelby Ramsamy stimulated discussion on cachexia focussing on cardiac cachexia. Erwin Chung Chen Tse Sak Kwun gave us a very enthusiastic presentation on a severe case of systemic sepsis arising from acute pneumonia, including a clear description of SIRS. His report included an interesting history about the doctors who first described pneumonia in the medical literature, one who succumbed to the disease himself.



The University of Manchester

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The last to present was Sanaa Zayyan, who had recently returned from Nice. Sanaa's talk, 'La prevention de la premature. Un rapport de cas a Nice' started with some wonderful photographs of the Cote D'Azur, getting us all in the mood for summer breaks. Sanaa quickly moved on to give us a fabulous educational review of cerclage of the cervix, and current guidelines for the procedure.

The standard of French was phenomenally high, and all of the presentations demonstrated evidence of thorough preparation. The clarity of presentations was excellent.

Although the result was very close, the £50 prize for the best presentation was awarded to Sanaa Zayyan. All the students were offered an invitation to present at the forthcoming AFMS meeting in Durham. We hope that they will be able to attend, medical studies permitting. The evening was rounded off with some food, and, as always being a French meeting, an optional glass of wine.

Dr Helen Mackay

22nd Medical French Weekend 4-6 April 2014 at Warwick University – Another big hit!

"Really enjoyed the course. Lovely to spend the weekend with others with so much enthusiasm and interesting stories and experiences. Thank-you."

"Well organised and enjoyable."

"Very experienced tutors, very relaxed environment. Brilliant teaching. All tutors offered something different and this added tremendously to the variety of the course. All tutors were great."

"J'ai trouvé le plus utile les classes ou nous avons été encouragés de parler au groupe et de faire les jeux de role en groupe."

"Exceeded my expectations. Really appreciated the value of meeting others and making connections."

"Excellent organisation, high standard of teaching, excellent resources and help/advice given, excellent food and accommodation and most importantly very friendly. Many thanks."

The feedback speaks for itself! Another very successful Medical French Weekend kicked off smoothly on the evening of Friday 4th April at Warwick University. Course Organiser, Dr Zara Bieler, introduced the tutors to the delegates who had travelled from far and wide including Geneva, Paris, Dublin and Jersey. All UK regions were represented by the doctors and medical students from Edinburgh, Oxford, Sheffield, Newcastle, Belfast, Swansea, Pembrokeshire, Yorkshire, Lancaster, Liverpool, Manchester, Torquay...to name but a few. Thanks to Christine Greenwood's brilliant organisation, all arrived with handbooks, campus maps and the busy schedule for the weekend ahead.

Tutors come from a variety of backgrounds, both linguistic and medical. The course runs with 8 sessions covering paediatrics, cardiovascular, endocrinology, respiratory medicine, A+E and anaesthetics, psychiatry, locomotor system and general practice. This year saw the launch of a choice of workshops, which were greatly praised in feedback. "More please!!" was the consensus.

Tutors enjoy the course as much as the participants and 6 out of eight tutors have now returned for several years running. The medal for long-term survival goes to Professor Gareth Williams who launched the course 22 years ago and is still making his tutorial groups chuckle as they practice their "endocrinologie" French pronunciation.



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22nd Medical French Weekend 4-6 April 2014 at Warwick University – Another big hit!

**Dr Brice Rodriguez, a real
French O+G doctor with a
foot on both sides of la Manche,**

gracefully teaches how to take a skilful history and examination in French. Dr Nia Griffith a consultant anaesthetist, with nerves of steel, brings her first-hand experience of working in “le bloc opératoire” over several years in French hospitals. Dr Mireille Sweeny joined the team this year at very short notice. Mireille is a French trained GP who runs a single-handed general practice in West of Ireland and has written a book on how to survive in English, for French medics. Dr Margaret Cant, a British GP partner also joined the tutorial ranks after taking the plunge to move and work in France in 2013. Margaret was herself a delegate at the medical French weekend only 2 years ago. An inspiration that the dream can come true!

Aurore Grandidier, a French linguist, kept her groups sane covering psychiatry. We had a hard time believing she had just had a baby and were delighted that she could join us to teach once again.

Solène Le Gouzouguec, now in her fifth year of medical school in Paris, returned to teach. Her workshop on working in France was very popular with students and doctors alike. Solène’s audio footage of real French patients kept us all listening hard. We are hoping her busy schedule will allow her to join us again for next year’s course. The prize for role-play went to Dr Elena Hazelgrove-Planel who arrived to teach the locomotor system, hopping along on crutches. Bravo Elena, for her imaginative teaching – we wish her foot a speedy recovery.

Through Saturday we worked hard and networked hard, exchanging both linguistic and practical tips. Brice and Margaret both gave fascinating talks on Saturday evening on their work in France. Brice outlined the long days in French hospitals (and the perks of the ski slopes) and Margaret described her work managing asylum seekers in Limoges. The hard work was rewarded by the gala dinner on Saturday evening. Onward to Sunday when “French only” is the rule! There was a choice of workshops including; The realities of GP locuming in France, Surviving as a British medic in French hospitals, French Medical Student life, a debate in French, a talk on the history of vaccination and Jenner. See our Facebook page for photos.

Plan ahead and book for next year! The course dates for 2015 are 27 -29th March. Details will be available on the Facebook Group and Facebook page and on the AFMS website.

Dr Zara Bieler



Student Requests

My name is Viviane Ayivi, I am a French nurse and I am looking for an opportunity to work in the UK for 2 months during the summer of 2014. If you have any advice or can help please contact me on 13viviann (at) gmail.com

Emma Evrard (Paris Cretail student) would like to improve her English (by Skype, Etandem or other) in advance of coming to study at Cardiff University next academic year. Please contact evrardemma (at) @hotmail.com

Adrien Glomaud (Paris Descartes student) will be attending UCL June 30th 2014 - Sept 26th and is looking for accommodation in London. Please contact adrien.glomaud (at) @gmail.com

Thomas Zanier (Paris Descartes student is looking for a placement in London In July 2014 in a Medical environment to Improve his English. Please contact thomaszanier(at) gmail.com

Malek Ihaddaden a French Cardiologist from Paris would like to work in the UK next year (London or Birmingham) for an extended period of 1 year or more. Please contact ihaddaden.malek (at) gmail.com