



# AFMS NEWS

Winter 2011

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## Visiting Lecturer Programme York 2011

In early January A group of AFMs members met in York in the latest stage of the AFMS' Visting Lecturer Training Programme; Dr Elaine Powley ran the meeting:

In 1820, the engineer Robert Stevenson, grandfather of Robert Louis Stevenson, pioneering the construction of lighthouses off the Scottish coast was researching how to get the best intensity and brightness from the beam of the light. He took himself on a trip to Corduan in France, the most famous of Europe's early lighthouses. He met two Parisian brothers, Leonor and Augustin Fresnel, scientists studying light practically, seeking the perfect lighthouse lens. With them he developed a life long professional friendship. How did they communicate? Did the Scotsman speak French, or the French brothers English? Their common interest, and enthusiasm, with a similar scientific vocabulary would soon iron out difficulties.

Friendships and communication have always been important in the AFMS. So the proposal for English doctors to go as tutors into French medical schools to help medical English language teaching was embraced enthusiastically by AFMS members. The State curriculum for French medical undergraduates, states -

'Article 18- L'enseignement des langues étrangères doit représenter l'équivalent d'au moins 120 heures, soit sous forme d'un enseignement spécifique, soit intégré à celui d'autres disciplines'

Last year 6 members went by personal arrangement with French English teachers already known to the AFMS through GERAS to do some sessions. At the AGM in Liverpool 2010 it was decided to hold a Workshop/ Training Course for members wanting to help this teaching scheme. 14 members met at the Novotel in York in January.... continued



## AFMS NEWS

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)

## In This Issue

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## • Meeting and Events.

### • June 2011

Manchester Meeting  
3rd June -  
Alliance Francaise  
Office, Manchester.

### • September 2011

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

### • November 2011

Advanced French  
course at Wedgewood  
Memorial College,  
Stoke.

## AFMS NEWS

Continued

Workshop aims were to exchange ideas about what we could offer, look at ways of teaching and try out some methods, as well as plan a document outlining the scheme to be sent to all Medical Schools in France. We worked hard, had fun, and got a lot done, with excellent contributions and insights, enthusiastically presented by participants. At the end of the first afternoon, we were able to identify some working points.

What do the French students want/need and why? How will we know their existing expertise level of English? What teaching facilities/ resources will be available?

Our contribution must be unique as doctors [we are not just teaching the English language] and fully use our skills and aptitudes, working 2-3 together or just singly, cooperating and checking with our French colleagues, and with active participation in teaching by speaking and listening, BUT how is it all going to be funded??

Bernadette Mennesson, who had come from Paris for the meeting, had devised a draft questionnaire to go to the Universities to gather data about interest in our proposed scheme, student numbers, facilities etc. We decided that modified, this questionnaire could provide information on which to base our portfolio for marketing the scheme. The portfolio would have the format -what we offer, who we are, what it will cost, when can it happen, and how to get more information, written in French and English.

Working in small groups, the remit was to produce a 2 day teaching module. This was based on the aims of a French Diplome of Medical English, to achieve English language competence in consultations as well as in letters to colleagues about patients, telephone calls, presenting papers, taking notes from someone else's project and understanding a research paper. This unit could involve 2-3 British tutors or 1-2 Brits and a French English teacher.

The group work achieved some comprehensive plans, always referring to principles of educational method-initiating the session, rapport, identifying learner's needs and understanding their perspective, building relationships, checking learners progress, planning future learning, summarising, feedback, and dealing with unexpected difficulties. At the end of the Workshop we felt we had addressed our aims. Members volunteered to produce a final draft Questionnaire as above, research into funding streams from EU etc. When data is available, the Marketing Portfolio can be finalised. All this hopefully can be achieved, and liaison with our French colleagues, in time for some real action after the AFMS/AFBM meeting in Marseilles in September.

All we need now is a good catchy [but professional] name for the teaching scheme....

Dr.Elaine Powley ( [elainepowley@doctors.net.uk](mailto:elainepowley@doctors.net.uk) )

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## Manchester Meeting Friday 3rd June 2011

The 15th Manchester Meeting will take place on Friday the 3rd June. Cost to delegates is only £10 a head with students free of charge. ( Students will be asked to pay £10 with their booking forms but will be refunded the fee on arrival at the meeting). The venue is the Alliance Francasie Office, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU.

Details

Registration 6pm to 6.30pm

Meeting starts at 6.30pm

Presentations

Buffet 8.00pm to 9.00pm with a fine selection of French wines.

9.00pm Meeting finishes.

If you would like to attend, please complete the enclosed booking form and send to the address on the form.



### **AFMS Conference 2011 Marseilles**

The AFMS is pleased to announce the 2011 conference will be held in Marseilles from the 21st to the 24th of September.

Marseilles has quite a complex history which began in 600 B.C when the city was first founded. Over the years, the city played home to Italians, Greeks, Russians, Spanish, Armenians and North Africans. It was during the 1480s that the city became a part of France, but it was quite rebellious at the time. The people of Marseille embraced the Revolution and in 1792 sent about 500 volunteers to defend Paris. As they headed north, they sang an inspiring march which was dubbed La Marseillaise and is now the national anthem of France. Since the 1830, the city has played a central role in trade. Today it is one of the most important and largest ports in Europe. Marseille displays its different cultures through its art galleries, cinemas, maritime and historical museum and its opera house. All these make the city a regional centre for entertainment and culture. Marseille has also played an important role in arts and literature with French poets and writers like Edmond Rostand, Pierre Bertas, Victor Gelu and Andre Roussin all coming from this city. A favourite haunt for many French artists is l'Estaque, which is a small beautiful port towards the end of the Bay of Marseille. Most of these cultural and historical sights can be found in Central Marseille. The city is ideal for tourists who are not afraid of discovering a different kind of destination. There are a number of sights that visitors should visit when they are in Marseille. These include the Notre Dame de la Garde, la Palace Castellane, Musee des Docks Romains, Stade Velodrome, Parc Borely et cetera. There are also a few beautiful beaches like Plage des Catalans that tourists can visit if they want to sunbath and relax. One can get a wonderful experience of Marseille's North African and southern European blend by visiting the colourful street markets. For a more exciting way to discover the beauty of the city, one can explore the Calanques where picturesque cliffs look like they're falling into the sea.

The Congress will be from Wednesday 21st to the 24th of September with the possibility of staying until Sunday. Accommodation is likely to be the Holiday Inn - Marseilles- Avenuedu Prado.

<http://www.holidayinn-marseille.com/> This hotel is situated in the town centre, not far from the "vieux port." We hope to include a visit to the ancient and picturesque area called "quartier du panier" and a visit to the old port with its famous fishmarket. We also plan to visit to the Basilica Notre Dame de la Garde. For the Gala diner, we envisage dining at the "cercle militaire", (the old fort). For those staying on the Saturday, it is intended to visit the Frioul Islands with the well-known Chateau d'If, made famous as the penal colony in Alexander Dumas' novel The Count Of Monte Cristo.





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## Chamonix Conference 2011

The Winter meeting once again was excellent (if you like temperatures of -15°C).

We had a talk from Dr Nick McCarthy on medico-legal matters in particular how one might get sued and what the implications might be. One of our new members, Dr Patrick Hughes, updated us on Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and highlighted his message with an interesting case. Our President spoke on NPSA alerts using his experience as Medical Director of his PCT. John Wilkinson reprised his epidemiological presentation of several years ago and updated conference on how Health Indicators are being used to compare regions across the European Union. Leisure activities included downhill skiing and walking and once more we had a great stay and a warm welcome from L'Hôtel Aiguille du Midi. Dr Mark Savage



### FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP

Anyone fancy a chat 'en français'? We are a Leeds based group who meet up every other Tuesday for an informal, friendly evening of French conversation. We span a range of abilities, ages and professions and we always welcome new people to join us. So if we're near you, we'd love you to come along! Just drop an e-mail to [holliemccconnell@live.co.uk](mailto:holliemccconnell@live.co.uk) À bientôt!

## France shows up England at the dinner table

Could obesity be cultural? New research comparing French and English eating habits has shed new light on one of Britain's most rapidly growing problems. University of Plymouth Dietetics lecturer, Dr Clare Pettinger, has co-authored a research paper recently published in the Public Health Nutrition Journal, which compares meal patterns and cooking practices in France and England. The research was conducted by polling 1,000 males and 1,000 females between the ages of 18 and 65 in each country. The findings confirm just how lazy English families are when it comes to meal times, as they rapidly climb the world's obesity league of shame, while just across the pond, the French are leading the way in healthy eating habits. While the French most often cook from raw ingredients, enjoy their meals together as a household and follow a regular pattern of three meals a day, the English are relying on calorific ready meals and take-aways, skipping breakfast and filling the gap with unhealthy snacks. Staggeringly, nearly 60 per cent of British people were found to gorge regularly on crisps and snacks compared to only 6percent of the French.

## Committee

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Robyn Hughes

( Webmaster )

Dr Mark Cottrill

( co-opted member )

Dr Colin Mumford

Dr Mark Savage

Dr Rex Melville

Dr Carol Barton

Dr David Bell

## Did you know?

The Stoke City footballer John Carew had asked to have the French translation of "My Life, My Rules" - "Ma Vie, Mes Règles" tattooed on the his neck. The mistaken use of an acute accent (é) rather than a grave (è) now means "My Life, My Menstrual Periods."

## Administrative Secretary

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

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