



AFMS NEWS

Winter 2010

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AFMS Chamonix Meeting February 4th to 7th 2010

The twelfth AFMS winter meeting was, once again, held in the charming Aiguille Du Midi Hotel in Les Bossons in the Chamonix Valley. Hunger is never a problem here – all appetites are more than adequately catered for, and the quality and variety of food and wine on offer was possibly even better than previous years.

A select group of delegates and accompagnantes met on Thursday for a welcome meal in the evening. Friday brought lots of fresh snow to the delight of all. We returned to the warmth and comfort of hot showers and baths, with the hotel's Jacuzzi and sauna being well used, following which, the scientific session began. Chaired by Dr Nick McCarthy, the timing was impeccable and the presenters well organised. Dr Janet Hall showed us clear evidence that some alcohol is of proven benefit. Despite illogical and confusing guidelines from the RCGP and the DOH, the difficulty of assessing glass sizes and beverage strengths, the conclusion is that 'it is not the use of a bad substance, but the abuse of a good one' that is society's problem. Dr Tom McCarthy told us that regional anaesthesia was used and is preferable for many procedures, particularly if they have co-morbidities. The concern expressed by some patients of being awake during a general anaesthetic largely stems from the media and films, but some awareness is possible, and sensitive handling and management of their symptoms is needed. Dr Rod Storrington is employed as a community consultant respiratory physician in Barking and Dagenham, an area of high deprivation. He has been able to improve the accuracy of the diagnosis and treatment of many patients with asthma and COPD, the overlap of which conditions causes much confusion. He mourned the passing of the general hospital physician and the introduction of 'tick-box' medicine just to satisfy the demands of QOF. Another excellent meal rounded off a very full day.

Saturday dawned bright and clear but, by lunchtime, the snow began to fall again, and an early-ish departure from the slopes guaranteed a good spot in the Jacuzzi. The evening meal was the by now near-traditional 'Pierres Rades' – three large hot stones on which all the remaining delegates were able to cook more meat than they could possibly eat. Sunday was a lovely bright day, only dampened by the thought of having to leave Chamonix for another year.....à la prochaine fois.



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@yahoo.co.uk

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Did you Know?

Who's Who in the AFMS.

• Meeting and Events

• May 2010

Manchester Meeting.
Date 14th May 2010.

• September 2010

AFMS Conference.
Liverpool 29th Sep to Oct 2nd 2010.

• November 2010

French Intermediate Speaking Course.
Wedgewood College
Stoke 6th November.

• November 2010

French Advanced Speaking Course.
Wedgewood College
Stoke 13th November.



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AFMS Conference 2010

The AFMS is pleased to announce that Liverpool will be the venue for its next conference from the 29th September to the 2nd October 2010. Liverpool was voted the European Capital City of Culture in 2008 so there will be lots to enjoy in the city.

Liverpool has an impressive history that stretches back over 800 years. A designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, the city is home to more listed buildings than any city outside of [London](#). The city also has a fascinating maritime history and its history as one of the world's great ports has left a remarkable legacy of art and architecture that gives it a distinctive look and unique atmosphere. Liverpool's attractions have something for everyone.

The [Albert Dock](#) is one of Britain's top tourist attractions, and is home to the [Beatles Story Museum](#), [Tate Liverpool](#) and [Merseyside Maritime Museum](#). But the jewel in the crown of Liverpool's museums and galleries is the amazing [Walker Art Gallery](#) - the National Gallery of the North. Liverpool's restaurant scene has blossomed over the past decade, and whatever your taste and budget, the choice is huge. The city is home to Europe's oldest Chinese community, so you'll find lots of Chinese restaurants in the city's Chinatown. And in many places you can still indulge in excellent local delicacies like Scouse and local seafood.

A booking form and further details will be available in May 2010.

www.eastliverpool.com



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Dr Rex Melville
Dr Carol Barton
Dr Flavia Leslie
Dr David Bell

Did you know?

Would you like low property prices, cheap food, pleasant climate and general well being? Yes; then move to France. According to a recent survey the best country to live in the world is France. Second was Australia whilst Switzerland was third.

Administrative Secretary

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

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Manchester Meeting— 14th May 2010

The 14th North West Regional Meeting will take place on Friday 14th May. Cost to delegates is only £10.00 per head with students free of charge. The venue is the Alliance Francaise office in Manchester.

Details

Registration at 6.00pm to 6.30pm

Meeting starts at 6.30pm

Presentations

Buffet 8.30pm to 9.30pm with a fine selection of French wines

9.30pm Meeting Finishes.

Please complete the enclosed application form and send it to the address on the form.

AFMS Student Members

This is your opportunity to make a short (15 minute) presentation competing for prizes on the night and the chance to win one of two places to compete for the James Tudor Prize at the conference in October in Liverpool. Please contact Tony Ridge Administrative Secretary before the end of March at tonyridge72@yahoo.co.uk for more details.

Professional Qualifications in (Medical) French

As a Paris Chamber of Commerce Examination Centre, the University of Manchester Language Centre offers French language learners in the North-West of England the opportunity to validate their professional French language skills within a business, scientific or medical environment with an international qualification.

Taken by over 10,000 candidates worldwide every year, these qualifications are certified by the French Ministry of Education according to the six levels defined by the Council of Europe, and thus provide a clear indication of professional language abilities to current or future employers.

Examinations are sat on the University of Manchester campus (Oxford Road) in May. For further information (including dates, registrations, fees, descriptions, sample examinations, possible preparation, etc.)

Please visit:

<http://www.ulc.manchester.ac.uk/foreign/information/international-exams/french/> or email: l.semichon@manchester.ac.uk

Visiting Lecturer Programme.

Nick Mc Carthy and Martin Guest recently visited a medical school at Purpan (Toulouse) to kick start the AFMS's visting lecturer programme. Here is the report on the study day:

Undergraduate French medical students are required by law (*l'arrêté du 12 mars 1992*) to attend a minimum of 120 hours of English teaching during their undergraduate years (*PCEM and DCEM*).

The medical faculties of Toulouse (Purpan), Limoges, Dijon and Créteil also offer a 1 year (120 hrs) course leading to the *Diplôme Inter Universitaire d'Anglais pour la Santé*. This course is open to all postgraduate doctors whether in training (*TCEM*) or established, as well as vets, dentists, pharmacists and nurses. There is continuous assessment during the year (50% marks) and a final examination (50% marks). The number of places is limited to 15 at each faculty. During the year there are 10 intensive study days during which participants can be asked to give a short presentation (without notes) using powerpoint and listen to and comment on a case presentation. Course work also includes reading and discussing a medical paper and producing an abstract from a research article (for example from the *BMJ*). The website www.medecine.ups-tlse.fr/anglais is worth visiting.

MG and **NM** were invited by **Félicie Pastore** (*professeur agrégée UFR Langues*) who runs the medical teaching at Toulouse (Purpan) to participate in one of the study days. We arrived at Purpan Medical School and were introduced to the 11 participants – 3 abdominal surgeons, a paediatric surgeon, a paediatrician, a psychiatrist, a pharmacist, an ophthalmologist, an endocrinologist, an anaesthetist and a public health doctor. 3 of the participants then gave presentations (on HIV/AIDS, Still's Disease and Colonic Cancer) in English, using powerpoint and speaking without notes. This was followed by 2 recorded case presentations with a question sheet to test comprehension.

The afternoon started with a talk by **NM** on various aspects of medical practice in England. **MG** followed with a quiz on Acronyms, Eponyms and Faux Amis. We then enacted 2 typical emergency referrals from a GP to hospital. The final session consisted of role play of 2 cases from a typical GP surgery with the participant playing the GP and **NM** or **MG** playing the patient.

Only English was spoken throughout the day. During the two tea breaks and the lunch break we were chatting continuously. A short questionnaire after the final session showed:

Contact with 2 English doctors was very (11/11) useful; The content of our contribution was rated as very (5/11) or fairly (6/11) useful ;The level of spoken English was about right (9/11) The level of written English was about right (9/11) Comments included more (and maybe shorter) clinical scenarios (role plays) and more information about medicine in the UK

We were impressed by the enthusiasm and interest shown by all the participants as well as the generally high standard of speaking and comprehension. We found our short stay in Toulouse both enjoyable and stimulating and hope that further visits will be possible. Finally our thanks to **Félicie Pastore** for her hospitality and also for making the visit possible.

Martin Guest and Nick Mc Carthy