



AFMS NEWS

Spring 2015

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AFMS Conference Nantes 23rd to the 26th September 2015.

The next AFMS conference will take place in Nantes from the 23rd to the 26th September 2015.

France's sixth-largest city, lies on the Loire estuary in the west of France, some 50 km from the coast. A former commercial and maritime centre of Brittany, the city boasts a strong historical and cultural heritage.

Nantes was the capital of the independent Duchy of Brittany back in the Middle Ages and came to be a key trading port in the 18th century, thanks to its strategic position at the Loire, Erdre and Sevre rivers.

Today, the city remains a prosperous and popular part of Western France. Its impressive Chateau, the cobbled streets and the charming half-timbered houses in the medieval Bouffay quarter still remind visitors of Nantes' glamorous past but the city has more to offer than just history. It boasts a lively art scene, a strong culinary background as well as a thriving nightlife. Of the main sites, the Château des ducs de Bretagne (Castle of the Dukes of Brittany) houses the Nantes History Museum, displaying more than 850 historic objects. The former Ducal Palace also holds temporary exhibitions and cultural events all year round. Our gala dinner on the Friday evening will take place in this chateau.

Nantes was also the capital of the slave trade in France: it was responsible for 43% of the French slave trade in the XVIII century. The Memorial to the Abolition of Slavery in Nantes is the biggest in Europe. Located on the Quai de la Fosse, a symbolic place in the city that has seen many slave ships to Africa, the Memorial has been open to the public since March 2012.

There is also a beautiful museum dedicated to one of the greatest science fiction writers; Jules Verne. The museum is housed in a beautiful late 19th century building, which overlooks the Loire River. The museum has a collection of artefacts, replicas of his inventions and memorabilia inspired by his writings.

If you would like to attend the conference please complete the booking form enclosed in this newsletter. Please also inform the admin secretary if you would like to give a presentation at the conference.



AFMS New Website

We have a brand new website. Please visit us

www.anglofrenchmedical.com

We are also updating our mailing list and need up to date emails for all members. Please send your current email address to

info@anglofrenchmedical.com

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Meeting and Events

• May 2015

Manchester Meeting
15th May Manchester University,

• September 2015

Scientific Conference
Nantes France.
23rd to the 26th
September.

AFMS Meeting: Chamonix January 2015

Colin Mumford and Eoin Dineen have recently returned from the Chamonix meeting. Here they give two overviews on how proceedings went....

The Regular's View , Colin Mumford

At the southernmost limit of the Les Houches ski area lies a piste called "Plancerts". This red-graded run is protected at its start by an ominous notice warning of a "Télési Difficile" which must be negotiated in order to return to the top of the piste, and also to the regain the security of the main runs back down to the resort. Despite this off-putting billboard, the run proved popular with this year's delegates at our annual meeting in Chamonix, and it was tackled numerous times. Some of us descended cautiously, others zigged and zagged speedily through the virgin powder flanking the main slope, and one new member elected to ski it backwards whilst effecting a series of 360 degree turns, a couple of jumps, a double-daffy, soft landing and bow - to the wonder and amazement of all.

The three academic presentations this year excelled in terms of content and the interest generated amongst the audience. Ingrid Kane, Consultant Stroke Physician from Brighton, presented the sobering and chilling tale of what can happen when the usually unobtrusive interface between routine NHS practice and the world of private medicine explodes into acrimonious conflict, arguably resulting in a less favourable outcome for the patient.

Next, Renée van der Most, Consultant Intensivist, also from Brighton, outlined developments in organ donation and transplantation. Those AFMS members who had worked with transplant recipients in years gone by were uniform in their enthusiasm for more donors to be identified, and were fascinated to be educated in the complexities of so-called "deemed consent" (due to be introduced in Wales later this year) and donation after circulatory death, rather than brain stem death. A powerful discussion indeed ensued.

Finally Eoin Dinneen, Specialist Registrar in Urological Surgery from London, gave a highly engaging presentation on the role of robotic surgeons (rather than humans) in surgery of the prostate and bladder. The technological advances in this area were startling, as was the income being generated by the US firms responsible for the production of the machines.

This was a very successful winter meeting. It was great to be able to welcome some new members, and wonderful to reconnect with old friends. As always the staff at the "Aiguille du Midi" in Les Bossons treated us like royalty. Sincere thanks to Carla and her team there.

The "Newbie's" view - Eoin Dinneen

At the southernmost limit of the Dining Room of the Hotel Aiguille du Midi, Les Bossons, lies "le chariot du fromage." This four-wheeled, wooden run-around adorned with a variety of exclusively French cheeses is protected at its side by a friendly, red-haired French man who must be negotiated with in order to return to the table amongst the esteemed company, and before one may regain the relative security of "le salon" where le chariot rarely rumbles by. Despite the off-putting prospect of having to order French cheese in French from a French man in front of your Francophilic peers, le chariot proved popular with this year's delegates at my first annual meeting of the Anglo-French Medical Society in Chamonix.....

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I tackled it numerous times myself. Sometimes I descended upon the Beaufort and the Comte cautiously and quietly. Others zigged and zagged speedily across the trolley asking for les bleues and les chevres with flair, abandon and loud disregard for pronunciation.

What a marvellous trip. I must immediately thank all those in the Society who played any role in organising the meeting and making me feel so very welcome. Though certainly the academic presentations were of a very high and professional standard, I am bound also to say that in other respects some of the clinical acumen demonstrated by the delegates left room for improvement. One instance stands out. When a group of AFMS delegates came across a fellow skier towards the end of a narrow and grisly stretch of red run in Les Houches who was holding his painful, swollen knee, it is a matter of some regret and embarrassment that; a) the group more or less unanimously agreed that the most likely diagnosis was Reiter's Disease, and that b) the most effective medical intervention (a welcome gram of paracetamol) was provided by one of our non-medically trained delegates, Deirdre Dinneen.

This was an extremely successful winter meeting. It was great to be welcomed so warmly by the other members and to make new friends. I would of course echo Colin's thanks to the wonderful staff at the Hotel who put on such good fare at such good value. I am already looking forward to returning in 2016.

Manchester Meeting 2015

The 19th AFMS North West Regional Meeting will take place on Friday 15th May 2015 at The Kilburn Building, University of Manchester, M13 9PL. Programme:

- 18h00 Registration
- 18h30 Scientific Presentations
- 20h00 *Un répas buffet avec des vins français....*
- 21h00 Close of meeting

So come, bring your friends, whether members of the AFMS or just interested in joining and enjoy a great evening *dans une ambiance accueillante !*

The cost will be £12.00 per person (students are free). Reservations are essential. It is certain to be a fantastic meeting so please complete the booking form to reserve your place.





Back Page Notes

23rd AFMS Medical French Weekend Residential Course at Warwick University

Springtime means many things lambs, les jonquils (daffodils), some amazing rugby weekends

and the AFMS Medical French Course (27th to the 29th March 2015).

Now in its 23rd year, this is quite a mature course. I believe it is unrivalled in ability to provide not only intense medical language tuition, but access to those with real experience of working in French, surviving on calls, learning on the hop and blending into a medical team in another language. We kicked off at a relaxed pace to start on the evening of Friday 27th March, slipping into the chilly water of Medical French with some gentle warm up conversation in small groups selected for similar French ability.

Saturday 28th March brings a brisk start at 9am with delegates rotating round tutors covering specialist vocabulary. No death by Power Point here, quite the reverse, on your feet with role-play, anatomical vocab games involving sticking the post-it on the right joint, listening to real French medics on video and strict correction of pronunciation.

After a busy Saturday, delegates relaxed to listen to Margaret Cant talk about her work in Limoges with asylum seekers who have no access to medical care other than through special units in A+E. No snoozing and on to another fascinating talk by Una McNelis on working in Nancy as an anaesthetist.

Participants specialties ranged from army medicine, neurosurgery, General Practice, paediatrics, a consultant physician, anaesthetics and a clinical communications expert. The gala dinner was a lively affair with tutorial groups getting the chance to mingle. Sunday saw a dash to the finish with more tutorials and a series of workshops including a SKYPE session with French doctors, a debate, a session on GP locuming in France, surviving on calls, working as a junior doctor in France and student selected research projects on Medical French.

Delegates presented the, now famous, tri-corn hat to anyone found speaking English on Sunday. Check out the photos on the gallery section of the website and the Facebook page. Fluency and confidence levels soared and baffled Warwick staff smiled as requests for lunch selections came rolling out in French. Feedback for the 2015 course was extremely positive. Students and doctors alike praised the intensity and value for money of the course. Every student place is subsidised and we are proud to have had such a great bunch of motivated students and doctors alike. A big thanks to our hard working tutors, Gareth Williams, Brice Rodriguez, Aurore Grandier, Elena Hazelgrove-Planel, Nia Griffith, Mireille Sweeney, Margaret Cant, Una McNelis, and Arunkumar Krishnakumar. 2016 may come around more quickly than you think so look out for course dates et reservez vos places! All info can be found on the website.

Zara Bieler, AFMS Medical French Course Organiser
www.anglofrenchmedical.com



Committee

Dr Andrew Hassan

(President)

Dr Martin Punter

(Treasurer)

Dr John Altrip

(Hon Secretary)

Dr Helen Sykes

(Membership Secretary)

Dr Zara Bieler

(Webmaster)

Dr Mark Cottrill

(co-opted member)

Dr Colin Mumford

Dr Rex Melville

Dr Carol Barton

Dr Nick Mc Carthy

Dr David Bell

Dr Paul Ward



SKYPE Language Exchange Initiative

If you are interested in medical language exchange via SKYPE, please send your name, speciality and SKYPE name to skype@anglofrenchmedical.com

Once we have a list from French and UK members, it can be emailed to those members wishing to make SKYPE contact with each other.