



# AFMS NEWS

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## Liverpool Conference September 29th to October 2nd 2010



Everyone agreed that the 27th Annual Conference in Liverpool was a fantastic event with a most enjoyable scientific and social programme. The meeting started with a short introductory talk on the history of Liverpool followed by a hot buffet and a Beatles tribute band The Blue Meanies; there were some members spotted dancing!

Thursday; Professor Gill (International Medicine) started the scientific meeting with a fascinating précis of the history of the city of Liverpool (meaning “muddy pool”) concentrating on the contribution of famous Liverpoolian doctors such as Dobson who demonstrated that diabetes was a systemic disease. William Duncan was a great public health doctor who was the first Medical Officer of Health (MOH) in England; he worked with a civil engineer and introduced modern sewerage thereby greatly reducing the death toll from cholera. Hugh Thomas, the inventor of the “Thomas splint”, was another; Ronald Ross won the Noble Medical prize for discovering the means of transmission of malaria. Yacine Vadel-Lamarche spoke on how to stop people jumping off a building. Apparently in Hong Kong jumping off tall buildings is not uncommon whereas it is less common in Europe and the USA. Nevertheless, there are about 2 falls per day in Paris. There are two ways to stop a “jumper”...one can “jump on the jumper” or talk. Talking can take 3-4 hours, empathy is vital (not sympathy) and it is important not to change the negotiator. A distance of 3m needs to be kept for safety. Absolute avoidance of judgmental phrases is necessary, as is making impossible promises. If successful the potential jumper must move towards the negotiator who must not grab the subject.

## 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](mailto:tonyridge72@yahoo.co.uk)

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### • Meeting and Events.

#### • November 2010

Wedgewood College Stoke. French Intermediate / Advanced Speaking Courses: 6th November / 13th November. French January 2011

Burton Manor French Medical Weekend 28th to 30th January.

#### • January 2011

Chamonix Scientific Conference 27th to 30th January.

#### • September 2011

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



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Continued.....

On the other hand, if a decision is taken to “jump” the jumper that is OK, but the two resolution methods should not be mixed. A major problem is that the Sapeurs Pompiers themselves can suffer psycho-trauma and unfortunately can be reluctant to ask for help. Bernadette Mennesson presented “Talking Medicine” and gave an eloquent summary of why English is useful for French doctors. Clearly the best way to learn another language is to be immersed, and, whilst all agree with the principles, who pays is usually the problem. Internet meetings one to one is being piloted with Manchester University Language School using Skype and giving 8 weekly sessions for students (French and English speakers) from Paris 12 and 5 with Manchester. Participants are encouraged to correct errors in their pair’s language. Analysis of the students’ aims and use of the system is allowing its development as an effective learning tool. A high intermediate level in English is required for French participants (and presumably French for English speakers). “Talking Medicine” has now gone world wide with 7000 registered users who are often non-native English speakers, in fact often teachers of English! Danielle Treton’s talk entitled “Serendipity or, to be outwitted” was an entertaining dash through Freudian sexual theory and the French and English languages. Janet Hall highlighted the Liverpool Care Pathway and its use in the UK for the dying as well as outlining the controversial issues surrounding end of life care. “The quality of care of the dying is an indicator of the quality of care of the living”. David Lipson and Colin Mumford briefed conference in their experiences with a medical English course in Paris South when Colin attended as both a native English speaker and an expert in neurology. An appeal was made by several members to take forward these initiatives and to encourage the green shoots of linguistic co-operation to grow.

### FRIDAY

Aishling Quiery spoke on her experiences in Niger where the French government is still active in local life, helping health development. There are 1800 maternal deaths per 100 000 births (8 in France and UK). Resources are poor but staff are enthusiastic and very hard working. The UN is funding a programme to help local women with vesico-vaginal fistulae. Mark Savage updated conference on new treatment for type 2 diabetes, concentrating on the newer GLP-1 and DPP-4 agents and touching on the soon to be launched (?) SGLT2 inhibitors. Nouroitza Tourrissan spoke on a proposed vaccine against *helicobacter pylori* as this causes gastrointestinal bleeding as well as stomach cancer. A vaccine would be helpful due to increased antibiotic resistance, side effects of PPIs and, of course, costs. However, HP is good at hiding from the immune system so effective vaccine production is difficult.

### JAMES TUDOR PRIZE

Again 5 excellent presentations from students competing for the James Tudor Prize. Competitors were: Sihame Benmira (Newcastle-u-Tyne, elective in Morocco, HIV); Emily Mason (Cambridge, elective in Madagascar talked on Typhoid Fever); Pamela Mazoyer (Newcastle-u-Tyne, La Réunion, type 1 diabetes); Tom Peachey (Warwick, Community Health Provision in Madagascar); and Anna Wilding (Manchester, Urgences à Clichy). The winner was Anna Wilding and her prize was awarded by Rod Shaw from the James Tudor Foundation who joined us for the Gala Dinner on Friday evening.

### SATURDAY

Michael Kelly (English clinical lead for colorectal cancer) addressed the colorectal cancer service in England and highlighted the many “challenges” that he and his colleagues face in developing the service with appropriate patients being seen by the appropriate clinician/investigator etc. Chris Turnbull updated us on the different images of Parkinson’s disease over the ages. Gareth Williams, after a wonderful meal at the Gala Dinner, reminded us all about the dangers of obesity across the world. Interestingly one eats more when in good company! Carol Barton gave a résumé of Douglas Bader, who as a bi-lateral amputee fought in the battle of Britain and who had his surgery at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Flavia Leslie presented the final talk of the Liverpool conference on Bipolar Disorder. About 1% of the population have this condition but it often takes 10 years and 4 doctors to make the diagnosis. Newer agents are helpful but, like the older ones, there are problems, possibly including predisposition to type 2 diabetes; although there is evidence that psychiatric illness by itself is involved too.

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### Social Programme

Delegates enjoyed a flavour of the highlights of Liverpool in a comprehensive social programme. After being welcomed to Liverpool on the Wednesday night by a Beatles Tribute band, our tour guide, Elizabeth Newell, continued the programme on the Thursday, with a walking tour of Liverpool including a visit to the Cavern (where the Beatles first played) and Grade I listed St George's Hall which is widely regarded as one of the finest neo classical buildings in the world. In the afternoon we enjoyed a trip to Speke Hall, a haunted National Trust 16<sup>th</sup> Century timber framed Tudor Mansion. On the Friday a coach tour to the Lady Lever Art Gallery, situated in the beautiful garden village of Port Sunlight, allowed delegates to enjoy a treasure trove of 18th and 19th century British paintings and furniture as well as a collection of Wedgwood and Chinese ceramics. In the afternoon, Liverpool's two cathedrals were visited. The Metropolitan Cathedral with its crown like structure and the Anglican Cathedral which took almost 100 years to build and is the largest cathedral in the United Kingdom. On Friday evening Gareth Williams entertained delegates with a fascinating talk on smallpox and the work of Edward Jenner in eradicating this disease. The Friday night Gala dinner took place at the 19th century Liverpool Racquet Club, with a superb music finale from Gareth Williams and his band. Members were still dancing the night away when the coaches were scheduled to leave near midnight.

On Saturday, after some goodbyes following lunch, remaining delegates enjoyed a trip to the Roman walled City of Chester with its celebrated medieval "rows." The evening drew to an end at Bluecoat Chambers, the oldest building in Liverpool where, whilst enjoying a fantastic meal, Danielle Treton (piano) and Jean Gotlib (vocals) serenaded us with their classical musical renditions. To see photographs from the conference just email [Youssef Girgis on Girgis7@aol.com](mailto:Youssef.Girgis7@aol.com) and he will send you a link to see his extensive collection of photos from the meeting.

### Angel of Death

On the Friday evening of the conference, Professor Gareth Williams gave an illuminating talk about the work of Edward Jenner in eradicating smallpox.

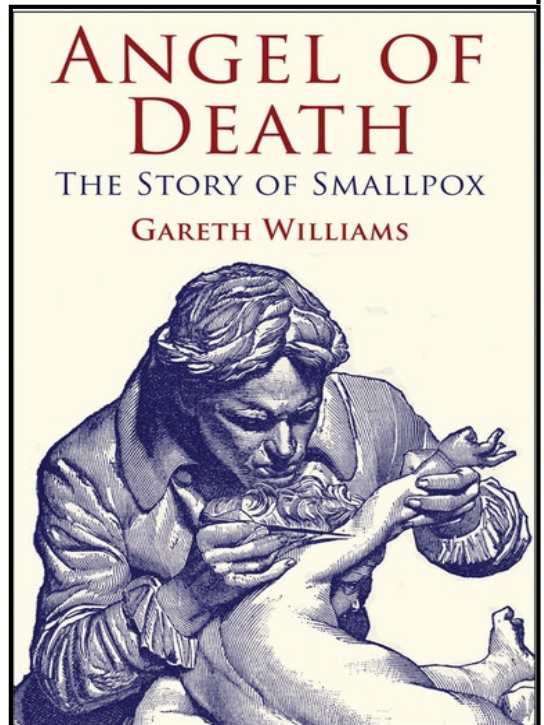
More can be learned from Gareth's book "Angel of Death" which is a lively and powerful account of the battle against the only disease that mankind has successfully eradicated from the planet. By weaving previously unrecorded voices in with the personal experiences of colourful historical figures such as Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and Edward Jenner, Gareth brings alive one of the most exciting success stories in the history of medicine. His book also gives original and engaging insights into the anti-vaccination campaigns which remain active today, and into the many unlearned lessons of smallpox. *Angel of Death* will appeal to all those moved by the excitement of discovery and stories of people fighting against adversity, and to anyone interested in history or medicine. *Angel of Death: the story of smallpox*, published by Palgrave Macmillan at £18.99. The book is available on Amazon, or via the Edward Jenner Museum ([www.jennermuseum.com](http://www.jennermuseum.com)). All proceeds go to the Edward Jenner Museum.

**STOP PRESS** -The book has just been nominated for the Wellcome Trust Book Prize; the medical equivalent of the Booker Prize and this will be judged on the 6th November. More at [www.wellcomebookprize.org/2010/shortlist](http://www.wellcomebookprize.org/2010/shortlist) and you can even vote for Gareth's book online.

*The Angel of Death* is a fascinating account of the most terrible disease to afflict mankind. Smallpox showed no mercy: the young, old, poor and royalty all equally at risk; whole societies almost wiped out in its inexorable wake. 2010 marks the 30th anniversary of its final eradication; Gareth Williams charts this compelling story with a plot that weaves seamlessly between cultures and centuries.

Highly relevant for today as the fight lives on to banish other deadly diseases from the world.'

Sarah Parker, Director, Edward Jenner Museum, Gloucestershire, UK.







# Back Page Notes

## Chamonix Conference 27th to 30th January 2011.

The 13th AFMS Winter meeting is scheduled to take place in Chamonix, Haute Savoie, France at the Hotel de l'Aiguille du Midi from the 27th to the 30th January 2011. The hotel is in a wonderful setting, 3km from the centre of Chamonix. It has 40 comfortable rooms and a restaurant, offering a traditional quality cuisine, a wide variety of dishes and Savoy specialities. Getting to Chamonix is very easy. Geneva is the closest airport and various companies offer transfers with a drop off and collection to and from the hotel. Perhaps the best company is a company called Chamexpress who offer 30 departures a day at 25 Euros one way (one hour transfer time). You can book your ticket on line. ([www.chamexpress.com](http://www.chamexpress.com)). A



## Committee

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Dr Rex Melville  
Dr Carol Barton  
Dr John Altrip  
Dr David Bell

## **A message from our Membership Secretary**

Cheque, please! It's that time of year again... there are 82 members whose payments are apparently outstanding. There are 23 unidentifiable payments on our bank statement. Help! Please check your statement; if you haven't paid, please send a cheque for £15 (made payable to the AFMS) to Tony Ridge, 9 Babbacombe Road, Childwall, Liverpool, L16 9JN. If you can help solve our perennial problem with numbered, initialled or simply un-named accounts, James, Tony and I would be very grateful. I'll be chasing the remaining apparent non-payers before the next newsletter, so any reduction in the emails and letters I have to write would be very welcome! Please email me ( [helen.sykes@nhs.net](mailto:helen.sykes@nhs.net) ) if you have any questions/comments.

## **French Medical Weekend 28th to 30th January 2011**

The annual AFMS Medical French Weekend will be held at Burton Manor training college near Chester, from the 28th to 30th January 2011. The main aim is to provide an essential medical vocabulary and the confidence to use it. The teaching programme has been designed specifically by members of the Modern Languages Department at Liverpool University. Sessions will be in small groups which will be led by experienced French speakers and teachers, including doctors. Specific topics will emphasise the practical aspects of medicine. For more information please email [ChristineGreenwood](mailto:ChristineGreenwood) at [c.greenwood@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:c.greenwood@liverpool.ac.uk)

## Members' Requests

Bernadette Mennesson, a French pharmacist who attended the conferences in Plymouth, Lyon and Liverpool is looking to encourage medical students to exchange medical views on Skype. The new [www.talkingmedicine.com](http://www.talkingmedicine.com) will tell you more about it.

## Strange but true.

A recent report has shown that that French frites are on average 6.2 inches long, the longest in Europe. The second longest belong to German chips at 5.7 inches in length. British chips, measure in at 5.5 inches on average.. Way down the list are the American Fries, a good 1 inch smaller than the French.

## Administrative Secretary

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

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