



AFMS NEWS

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Biarritz Conference 2013

This year's scientific conference will take place from the 2nd to the 5th October in Biarritz, France. Biarritz has long made its fortune from the sea: as a whaling settlement from the twelfth century onwards, in the 18th century doctors recommended that the ocean at Biarritz had therapeutic properties, inspiring patients to make pilgrimages to the beach for alleged cures for their ailments.

Biarritz became more renowned in 1854 when Empress Eugenie (the wife of Napoleon III) built a palace on the beach (now the *Hôtel du Palais*). The British royal family such as Queen Victoria and Edward VII were frequent visitors as well as other European royalty such as Alfonso XIII of Spain.

Biarritz's casino (opened 10 August 1901) and beaches make the town a notable tourist centre for Europeans, and East Coast North Americans.

Biarritz is located in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques department in the Aquitaine region. It is adjacent to Bayonne and Anglet and 11 miles (18 km) from the border with Spain. It is in the traditional province of Labourd in the French Basque Country.

Biarritz is easily accessible from Paris by France's high-speed train, the TGV, and more regionally from Bordeaux, by TGV. Trains are also available to travel east towards Nice. The Biarritz – Anglet – Bayonne Airport is located about four kilometres from the city. There is a daily Ryan Air flight from Stansted.

As well as a comprehensive scientific programme an exciting social programme will be available. A provisional plan can be seen overleaf. Also please contact Tony Ridge if you wish to give a talk at the meeting.



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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)

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- October 2013
Scientific Conference Biarritz, France
2nd October to the 5th October.
- April 2014
French Medical Weekend, Warwick.
4th to the 6th April.
- February 2014
AFMS Winter Meeting Chamonix - Dates TBC
- September 2014
Scientific Conference Durham UK - 17th to the 20th September.

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30th Meeting of the AFMS and the AMFB

Provisional Social Programme

Hôtel Novotel Biarritz-Anglet BIARRITZ: 02– 05 Octobre 2013

Mercredi 2 Octobre :

Accueil à partir de 16h00 dans le Hall de l'hôtel

19h00. Apéritif d'accueil dans le Hall suivi de la présentation du Congrès et d'une présentation du pays basque. Buffet à 20h00

Jeudi 3 Octobre :

Matin : Séance de travail pour les congressistes

Pour les accompagnants 09h30 : Départ en car pour une visite de Bayonne.

12h30 Déjeuner à l'hôtel .

14h30 Visite pour tous: Cambo, Espelette et Ainhoa

Soirée libre à l'hôtel ou à l'extérieur.

Vendredi 4 Octobre :

Matin : Séance de travail pour les congressistes

Pour les accompagnants : 9h00 Départ en car pour Fontarabie et Hendaye

12h30 Déjeuner à l'hôtel .

14h30 Départ en car pour la visite de Biarritz et Saint-Jean de Luz

18h30 Départ pour la soirée de Gala dans un village basque typique.

Concert de chants basques dans l'église;

Démonstration de pelote basque au Fronton;

Repas au restaurant du trinquet

Samedi 5 Octobre :

Matin : Séance de travail pour les congressistes

Matinée libre pour les accompagnants :

Faire un tour aux halles typiques , des acquisitions en ville ou se reposer.

1230. Déjeuner Fin du Congrès

Pour l'extension du Samedi après-midi:

La Rhune, montagne mythique à laquelle on accède par un train à crémaillère ..

Un parcours admirable qui permet de découvrir la campagne environnante, l'océan atlantique et les Pyrénées espagnoles ...continuation vers Sare

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21st AFMS Medical French Weekend at Warwick University

The university of Warwick proved to be an organised, reliable venue as we met there for the second time for the 21st Medical French weekend from Friday 5th to Sunday 7th April 2013. Despite the delayed spring, the sun shone for us, and one of our tutors, Elenea Hazelgrove-Planel, continued her great tradition of teaching her groups outdoors.

The course was once again fully booked with 64 delegates, roughly half doctors and half medical students and one brave nurse who feels we should be pitching to have more nurses on the course. Please do spread the word. Delegates hailed from all over the UK and we also attracted 2 GPs currently living in France. Thanks to the hardworking course secretary, Christine Greenwood, everyone arrived complete with the extensive handbook, a coloured map of the campus and detailed instructions of where to eat, sleep and learn.

We began with a gentle start on Friday evening, with delegates splitting off into their teaching groups after a quick introduction by Dr. Zara Bieler who has now taken over as course organiser from Prof. Gareth Williams, who started the course 21 years ago. We then adjourned for dinner and on to a special reserved area of the bar for further language practice in introductions.

Throughout the weekend, groups had the chance to be taught by each of the tutors who were covering a system or specialty. Every tutor has a unique teaching style and feedback showed positive comments for all.

Brice Rodriguez was welcomed back for a 9th time to teach French obstetrics and gynecology. Gareth Williams remains firmly on board and guided groups gracefully through endocrinology. Nia Griffiths, an anesthetist who has worked in France, kept up the pace and the pulses covering emergency medicine. Edith Piaf could be heard belting out from her tutorial room on Sunday morning. Elena, a bilingual FY2, who has worked as a junior doctor in France, enthusiastically covered all things locomotor. Oliver Burnside, also bilingual, tackled the respiratory system. Zara Bieler, a GP working in both UK and France, taught how to understand those kiddies with French paediatrics. Aurore Grandier, our “professeur de langues étrangères”, taught her group how to literally find their way around a psychiatric institution en français. Solène le Gouzouguec, a Parisian medical student with experience in the UK, inspired with enthusiasm as she covered the cardiovascular system.

Interesting, amusing and informative talks were given by two tutors.

Elena spoke her experience of applying for a job in France via the nationally ranked Internat exam. She kept us enthralled with her slides of life as a junior doctor in the French Caribbean. Brice, a consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, gave us an insight into his time working with colleagues in developing and working in a new regional hospital in the beautiful French Alps near ski resorts such as Morzine. It was fascinating to hear of not only system differences but also cultural differences, such as lack of a need for chaperones. Slides of snowy leisure time had us all dreaming of going on the next AFMS winter conference.

We adjourned to change for the gala dinner. Much fun was had as tables mingled during and after dinner and valuable networking took place. Food was good and the private bar remained open. Some groups went dancing and much French was spoken.



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On Sunday the course tradition is to stay 100% en français. We responded to feedback that this should be gently enforced by self-policing with a roving gendarme complete with Napoleonic hat and baguette. We kept up the momentum and sneaked in a group photo between tutorials.

A lively feedback session showed great enthusiasm for the course. Satisfaction levels were high and we continue to take on board your suggestions. In future we hope to offer some workshops in addition to the tutorials to cover topics such as applying for work in France, practical hints on surviving as a GP in France, essential elective language, the GP consultation in detail, presenting on a ward round, common emergency situations and others. Send us your thoughts!

So, we hope to see you next year at Warwick. The course is likely to be 4-6th April 2014. Watch the web page for more photos from this meeting and book early! AFMS's Facebook page?

Facebook is a social network that connects

Some feedback comments

people with friends and others who work, study and live around the world. The AFMS

provided a supportive environment to learn and practice

general French. Would definitely recommend, thank you.

Role-play techniques very useful. Great to have a chance to use

Committee

Dr Andrew Hassan

(President)

Dr James Taylor

(Treasurer)

Dr John Altrip

(Hon Secretary)

Dr Helen Sykes

(Membership Secretary)

Robyn Wittersheim

(Webmaster)

Dr Mark Cottrill

(co-opted member)

Dr Colin Mumford

Dr Rex Melville

Dr Carol Barton

Dr Mark Savage

Dr David Bell

Dr Andrew Leitch

Did you know?

French Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, in an attempt to booster his popularity, has warned fellow government officials against using English language instead of French words

Administrative Secretary

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