



# AFMS NEWS

Winter 2012

AFMS  
www.anglofrenchmedical.org

Issue number 67  
Charity Number 327706



Greenwich in South East London has been chosen as the next venue for the AFMS conference. The dates are from the 3<sup>rd</sup> October to the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2012. Accommodation is in the Davenport House Hotel, a 4 star hotel and conference centre in the former nurses's home to the Seaman's Hospital.

Greenwich, soon to be Royal Greenwich as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, is notable for its maritime history and for giving its name to the Greenwich Meridian (0° longitude) and Greenwich Mean Time. The town became the site of a royal palace, the Palace of Placentia from the 15th century, and was the birthplace of many in the House of Tudor, including Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. The palace fell into disrepair during the English Civil War and was rebuilt as the Royal Naval Hospital for Sailors by Sir Christopher Wren and his assistant Nicholas Hawksmoor. These buildings became the Royal Naval College in 1873, and they remained an establishment for military education until 1998 when they passed into the hands of the Greenwich Foundation. The historic rooms within these buildings remain open to the public; other buildings are used by the University of Greenwich and the Trinity College of Music.

The town became a popular resort in the 17th century and many grand houses were built there, such as Vanbrugh Castle (1717 - actually styled on the Bastille) established on Maze Hill, next to the park. From the Georgian period estates of houses were constructed above the town centre. Greenwich formed part of Kent until 1889 when the County of London was created.

Highlights of Greenwich include The Royal Observatory. The building designed by Christopher Wren, has exhibits on the history of timekeeping. The complex also includes a Planetarium and Greenwich Park that will be holding the equestrian events during the Olympics. The National Maritime Museum is at the North end of Greenwich Park and Greenwich Village, with its many pubs and eateries, is a three minute stroll from the hotel. The Cutty Sark tube station is within the Village and is named after the famous tea clipper, whose major refurbishment will be completed by the summer.

The social and scientific programmes are currently being put together and more details will be available with a booking form in the next newsletter.

## 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

## In This Issue

Conference details 2012  
Anglo Swiss Medical Society  
Manchester meeting 2012  
Chamonix 2012  
French Medical Weekend 2012  
Who's Who.  
Member's Request

## • Meeting and Events.

- March 2012  
French Medical Weekend. Warwick University.  
23rd to 25th March.
- October 2012  
Scientific Conference London.  
3rd to 6th October

## AFMS NEWS



### WELCOME

We would like to introduce you to the AngloSwiss Medical Society. We are an international support network for Anglophone medical professionals who are living in, working in, or have other links with Switzerland. Our aims are to foster a cultural understanding of medical care in Switzerland and to facilitate our integration into the Swiss healthcare system.

Our meetings will also serve as an aid to continuing our professional development.

### WHO ARE WE?

We have trained in a variety of countries (including Switzerland) and are now living and (some of us) working in Switzerland. Currently based in Geneva and Vaud cantons, our aim is to expand our network within Switzerland and we are happy to welcome new members to the society. The society was originally founded by a group of doctors but we now also welcome nurses as members.

### WHAT NEXT?

Our meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month, at 8pm, in the Auditoire des Polycliniques, Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève. Visit our website for further directions. All these details, and more, are posted on [www.angloswissmedical.com](http://www.angloswissmedical.com).

If you would like to become a member, please email the Membership Secretary on [ASMSLorraine@gmail.com](mailto:ASMSLorraine@gmail.com) to receive further details and application form. There is a membership fee of 20CHF for qualified doctors and nurses. Membership is free for medical students.

### ADVERTISEMENT

#### FRANCE MAGAZINE - HALF PRICE OFFER!

With spectacular scenery, vibrant cities and charming villages, *FRANCE* magazine brings you the very best of France. Featuring inspiring articles on weekend getaways, destinations and holiday ideas, an intriguing food and wine section for French foodies as well as articles steeped in history and culture. As a member to the Anglo French Medical Society, *FRANCE* Magazine would like to offer you a fantastic subscription offer;

**SAVE 50%** when you subscribe to *FRANCE* Magazine from just £23.95 every 12 months by Direct Debit. Alternatively, you can subscribe by credit/debit card for £28.75 and still save 40% on the cover price. To receive this fantastic offer, follow [www.subscriptionsave.co.uk/AMSI](http://www.subscriptionsave.co.uk/AMSI) or call 0844 848 8044 and quote code AMSI.

We look forward to welcoming you soon. T&C's: Direct Debit is a UK offer only. Details on Direct Debit guarantee available on request. For overseas orders, add £10 for delivery to Europe and £12 for delivery to ROW.

Offer ends 28/03/2012.



## AFMS NEWS

### **20th Medical French Course**

**Friday evening 23rd March to Sunday 25th March 2012**



This long-established and highly-regarded course has an excellent new venue in the Conference Park on the Warwick University campus, just outside Coventry. The facilities, general environment and accommodation are all first-class.

The aims of the course are designed to provide essential French medical vocabulary and the confidence to use it. Teaching is given in small tutorial groups (up to 8), each made up of students or doctors whose command of spoken French is similar. Teaching is carefully tailored to the standard of the group, which means that we can accommodate a wide range of capability in French – everything from rudimentary (GCSE/O-Level) to fluent.

The tutors are all experienced teachers, who bring a variety of skills and backgrounds to the Course. They include doctors and other native French speakers, professional linguists, and UK-trained doctors who have worked clinically in a French-speaking setting. Participants at all levels find the Course extremely useful, including students preparing for an Erasmus exchange or an elective in a Francophone country, or doctors planning to work in France, Switzerland or for organisations such as Médecins sans Frontières. The 2012 Course will take a maximum of 40 doctors and 30 students.

There are only a few places left so we recommend booking as soon as possible.

Fees for the 2012 Course with standard accommodation are: students: £150, doctors and other professionals: £375. An upgrade to superior accommodation is available at £120 for the weekend.

To register contact Christine Greenwood, School of Clinical Sciences, Clinical Sciences Centre, University Hospital Aintree, Longmoor Lane, Liverpool L9 7AL.

Email: [c.greenwood@liv.ac.uk](mailto:c.greenwood@liv.ac.uk) Tel: 0151 529 5885 Fax: 0151 529 5888

### **Manchester Meeting Friday 18th May**

The 17th Manchester Meeting will take place on Friday the 18th May. Cost to delegates is only £9 a head with students free of charge.

( Students will be asked to pay £9 with their booking forms but will be refunded the fee on arrival at the meeting).

The venue is the

**Alliance Francaise Office, 3rd Floor, 55 Portland Street Manchester M1 3HP**

**Details**

**Registration 6pm to 6.30pm, Meeting starts at 6.30pm**

**Presentations, Buffet 8.00pm to 9.00pm with a selection of French wines.**

**9.00pm Meeting finishes.**

**If you would like to attend, please complete the enclosed booking form and return with your payment. Places are limited so early bookings are advised to avoid disappointment.**



Alliance Française





# Back Page Notes

## AFMS Conference Report Winter Meeting 2012

After some very cold hours on the slopes, walking, or shopping we met up for the medical portion of the conference.

Rod Storning, now working as a community consultant in respiratory medicine, updated us on the management of asthma and COPD by Primary Care. Unfortunately following guidelines doesn't seem to make any difference to measured outcome as those GPs not following guidelines had the same outcomes compared with those who did. This might be due to the different way doctors and nurses work. The former seem disinclined to use guidelines while the latter are excellent at following them. It is proposed that a more interactive approach to patient management with thinking outside the box guided by expert GP or specialist input would improve outcomes. We also discussed airway reactivity and what increases this; improving GP knowledge about these agents/ circumstances and how to modulate them.

Prof John Wilkinson discussed health outcomes in the French "DOM TOMs" using EU data from a project he was involved with. These areas, either Departments or Territories, are heterogeneous and have many health problems although life expectancy, whilst below France and UK is better than many EU countries. Nevertheless, infant mortality remains high; although it was noted to be generally better than parts of the USA....

Colin Mumford discussed the Moorgate tube crash and possible neurological causes of temporary impairment of the driver, it was a controversial inquiry and the Expert Witnesses were not specialists; hopefully things would be different today. Suicide seemed to be a strong possibility that the Inquiry did not consider due to the lack of Expert Witnesses. Our President talked on Britain's largest man who got to 500kg, we discussed the ethical and moral concerns surrounding the management of such patients. His mother was his "feeder" and might have benefited from psychological intervention before he put on so much weight that his health was affected.

Dr Mark Savage



Facebook is a social network that connects people with friends and others who work, study and live around the world. The AFMS is pleased to announce that it now has a Facebook page.

So if you want to keep up with friends and other members please visit us.

## Committee

Dr Andrew Hassan  
( President )  
Dr James Taylor  
( Treasurer )  
Dr John Altrip  
( Hon Secretary )  
Dr Helen Sykes  
( Membership Secretary )  
( helen.sykes@nhs.net )  
Dr 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  
Dr Nick Mc Carthy

## Member's Request

'Catherine Saint-Quentin, a psychiatrist in France, would like to talk to any student or doctor to help improve her spoken English. She has suggested using 'Skype' for this, so, if anyone is interested to link up with her, please can you contact Tony Ridge for her email address?'

## Administrative Secretary

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

Tony Ridge

Admin Sec AFMS

9 Babbacombe Road

Childwall

Liverpool L16 9JN

tonyridge72@yahoo.co.uk