



# AFMS NEWS

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## Mont St Michel Conference 2007



The 2007 Scientific meeting of the Anglo French Medical Society and the Association Médicale Franco Britannique was held in the Hotel Mercure, Saint Michel, Normandy, France, between 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

The scientific programme was, as usual, wide ranging: we were treated to a discourse from Mike Kelly into how modern post graduate examinations are established with the aim of "building houses" rather than "collecting stamps"; Nicola Strickland reminded us all how to interpret a chest radiograph in a structured professional manner. A wide ranging discussion occurred after Bruno Magnin's talk on "La cardiologie vue par un gériatre" when the full range of primary and secondary treatments available to treat cardiac dysfunction in the elderly were discussed, in particular, the need for appropriate anti thrombotic agents. Richard Taylor brought a higher level of culture to complete the first part of the morning with a discourse on the depiction of polydactyly in many paintings and sculptures through the ages. After the café pause, Jean-Louis Large discussed the modern treatment of osteoarthritis of the knee with hyaluronic acid injections. This author was extremely surprised at the relatively inexpensive cost of radiology and magnetic resonance imaging in France! Colin Mumford presented an extremely interesting case of polio presenting in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century secondary to live attenuated polio vaccine. Annie Guezennac completed the session with her study on the diabetic population of the Ile de la Réunion.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007 gave us an insight into gynaecological issues in France with Pascale Mace discussing the screening of cervical cancer in France with Anne Claire Guyard discussing another "French paradox": contraception is used widely in France but the number of abortions remains stubbornly constant. John Bevan presented his talk on 'le syndrome des anticorps antiphospholipids (Syndrome de Hughes). Professor Michel Claudon gave us an update on the use of ultrasound including a discussion on the usefulness of 4D images of foetuses as well as the use of small air bubbles which can improve the quality of the ultrasound images. The James Tudor prize was a closely fought contest between Omar Mirza and Carl Reynolds (see separate article for details of their presentations) and we congratulate Carl Reynolds on winning the prize which is to attend the Plymouth meeting in 2008 with a partner, all expenses paid. The AGM of each branch of the AFMS/AMFB was held; the minutes are printed separately. Of particular note is the enthusiasm with which life membership was conferred onto Mark Cottrill, our founder member, who now intends to take a back seat..**cont...**



Conference



St Malo



Day trip to Avranches

## NEW AFMS NEWS

Welcome to the 5th edition of the new look AFMS news.!!!

Please let us have your feedback on this new look or if there is anything you would like to be included in further editions. Please contact Tony Ridge at [tonyridge72yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tonyridge72yahoo.co.uk)

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January 2008; Weekend Course in Medical French

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### • Meetings and Events

#### • January 25th to 27th 2007

16th Weekend Course in medical French. Burton Manor Wirral.

#### • January 31st to February 3rd 2008

10th Winter Meeting.

Chamonix

#### • May 2008

Manchester Regional Meeting. Date and Venue to be confirmed

#### • September / October 2008

Scientific Meeting.

Plymouth. Dates TBC

# AFMS NEWS

## Chamonix Winter Meeting February 1st to 4th 2007



## Chamonix January 31<sup>st</sup> - Feb 3rd 2008

The Society has chosen a new hotel for the tenth winter conference. The 3 star hotel is located 2 miles south of Chamonix town centre at Bossons and enjoys marvellous views over the glacier of the same name, the largest glacier in Europe. Ski areas and the town can be accessed by the frequent (and free) bus service. The hotel is a "Bib Hôtel" in the Michelin Guide (2007) representing good accommodation at moderate prices. The entry in the Guide is as follows ;

"Des fresques à la mode tyrolienne égayent l'extérieur de cet hôtel bâti en 1908.

Chambres diversement meublées, bons équipements de loisirs et parc face au glacier des Bossons. Restaurant en rotonde, jolie terrasse côté jardin, plats traditionnels et savoyards".

The evening meal is a 5-course dinner with wine included (1/4 bottle pp) as well as water and coffee. Information on the hotel (including a map) can be found on their website - [www.hotel-aiguilledumidi.com](http://www.hotel-aiguilledumidi.com).

We have secured 16 (of 40) rooms and only a few of these are still remaining . Please complete the booking form enclosed with this newsletter to guarantee your place.

## The Conference

Delegates arrive on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January for a welcome evening.

The Scientific Session will take place in the hotel's conference room on Friday February 1<sup>st</sup> from 6 – 8pm followed by a meal in the hotel. On Saturday evening we plan to join our colleagues from Annemasse for a further scientific session followed by a meal in a local hotel or restaurant. The conference ends after breakfast on Sunday morning, but delegates will be able to book extra nights before or after the conference if they wish to extend their stay.

Delegates are encouraged to give a short presentation at the meeting on Friday evening; powerpoint facilities will probably be available. Each presentation should be of approximately twenty minutes duration, allowing another ten minutes for questions and discussion. Please contact Tony Ridge (Administrative Secretary) if you are interested in giving a talk; it can be on any medically related topic (and need not be in French).

Chamonix is approximately 80km from Geneva airport which is served by many budget airlines; early booking is recommended for the cheapest fares. There is an hourly bus service from the airport to Chamonix; the hotel is a short taxi ride away. Apart from raquetting (walking with snow shoes), cross country and downhill skiing are widely available; parapenting can also be arranged from the centre of the town. A train journey to the Glace de Mer or a trip on the téléphérique to the Aiguille du Midi (with superb views of Mont Blanc as well as the whole Chamonix valley) as well as coach trips to Annecy and Italy are options for those who prefer the gentler approach to seeing the local sights.

## AFMS to meet up in Plymouth in 2008

The next AFMS conference is scheduled to be held in late September / early October 2008 in Plymouth. Plymouth nestles in an area of outstanding natural beauty, with the Dartmoor National Park to the north, the natural harbour of Plymouth Sound to the south and the rivers Plym and Tamar on either side. Its rich history and maritime heritage combine the advantages of city living with the benefits of having the countryside and coastline of Devon and Cornwall on its doorstep. Full details of the conference will be available shortly.

# AFMS NEWS

## The James Tudor Foundation



The AFMS is most grateful to the James Tudor Foundation for its support. The Foundation is a grant-giving charitable organisation primarily established for the relief of sickness. The Foundation makes grants, gifts or loans within its area of benefit, principally to organisations that can maximise the effectiveness of its donations.

The James Tudor Foundation was established in 2004.

It makes grants for charitable purposes, usually in the UK, across six programme areas:

- Palliative care • Medical research • Health education, awards and scholarship
- The direct relief of sickness • The UK independent healthcare sector
- The fulfilment of charitable objects by other means

The AFMS received a grant enabling students to travel to the Mont St Michel meeting to present medical topics and to compete for The James Tudor Foundation Prize.

Omar Mirza gave us a presentation on erectile dysfunction in epilepsy sufferers. He detailed the normal anatomy and physiology of the penis and discussed the nature and incidence of erectile dysfunction. He had performed a study using a questionnaire in an epilepsy outpatient clinic; the results were collated from this self completed form. The conclusion that ED is more common in epilepsy sufferers over and above that which can be expected for age and drug therapy.

Carl Reynolds' presentation was on the topic of assessing fitness to fly in patients with respiratory disease. There is no established method to determine the risks involved, but clearly a simple effective method to prevent acute respiratory distress and prevent a costly diversion of an aeroplane is very desirable. Carl gave an outline of respiratory problems and the effects of reduced atmospheric pressure; the simplest solutions are often the best and he concluded that the 50m walk test gives a good indication of fitness to fly.

The James Tudor prize was a close fought race between Omar and Carl and we congratulate the winner by a narrow margin (Carl Reynolds) who will be attending the Plymouth meeting in 2008 with all expenses paid.

## AFMS—Course in Medical French Burton Manor College Hotel—The Wirral

Friday 25th January (evening) to Sunday 27th January (midday), 2008

- Established course, successful teaching format in small groups
- Provides vocabulary and confidence to survive (and enjoy!) working in French-speaking medical settings.
- Suitable for doctors and medical students at all stages and for the professions allied to medicine
- Consistently rated 'excellent' and 'great value for money'
- Attractive venue, easily accessible
- All grades of linguistic ability accommodated
- Great Fun!!



This established course, now in its 16th year, provides an invaluable background for doctors and medical students intending to work or study in French-speaking countries. Teaching is in small groups, by native French speakers, including doctors. All grades of linguistic ability accommodated. Feedback from the last course was very positive: the teaching, handbook, enjoyment and value for money were all rated as excellent/very good. Residential fees: £265 for doctors (£215 if within 5 years of qualification); £115 for students. Non-residential: £215 for doctors (£165 if within 5 years of qualification); £95 for students. There are places for 50 doctors and 30 students. Previous courses were highly successful, great fun and heavily over-subscribed; early application is advised.

Contact: Christine Greenwood, School of Clinical Sciences, Clinical Sciences Centre, University Hospital Aintree, Longmoor Lane, Liverpool L9 7AL. (Tel: 0151 529 5885; Fax: 0151 529 5888).



# Back page Notes

## Mont St Michel ( continued ) ...

On the 29th September, Patricia Hanna and Michel Dubuisson presented discussions on both the British (mainly English) and the French health service systems, which generated a lot of debate. Carol Barton presented an interesting vignette on polycythaemia presenting with a discoloured foot and we finished off the session with a highly entertaining discussion of English and French words for Mad, Drunk, and Dead!

As usual, a convivial atmosphere existed throughout the conference and the Gala Dinner was a particular success with live musical entertainment and excellent food. Roger Celestin, our first president, gave a glowing tribute to our founder member and now retired hon. Sec. Mark Cottrill; he has kindly written an article for this newsletter. Andrew Hassan, our current president, presented Mark with a digital SLR camera as a token of our appreciation for his commitment to the AFMS over its 24 years.

The Social Programme was, as usual, varied and very informative and interesting. Trips educated attendees on the cultivation of oysters and the ancient manuscripts written by the Benedictine monks of Mont St. Michel. An Abbey visit was of course *de rigueur* and absolutely fascinating. The walk across the bay for the young, not so young and brave was well attended with some, including the author taking an easier option of a horse-drawn carriage ride. The AFMS would like to thank the President of the AFMB Michel Dubuisson along with all the local contributors in France for a fantastic meeting.

## Dr Mark W Savage, Hon. Sec, AFMS



The Walk across the bay



The Abbey



Guided tour of the Abbey

## Committee

**Dr Andrew Hassan**

( President )

**Dr James Taylor**

( Treasurer )

**Dr Helen Sykes**

( Membership Secretary )

( [helen.sykes@nhs.net](mailto:helen.sykes@nhs.net) )

**Robyn Hughes**

( Webmaster )

**Dr Mark Savage**

( Hon Secretary )

**Dr Nicola Strickland**

**Dr Mark Cottrill**

( co-opted member )

**Dr Colin Mumford**

**Dr Helen Mackay**

**Dr Rex Melville**

**Dr Emma Reynish**

**Dr Andrew Leitch**

**Student Representatives**

**Emilia Holland**

**Laurie Hanna**

## Petites Annonces

**3 AFMS Students are looking for accommodation for their elective in Paris from the end of October for 4 months. Ideally near to the hospitals Salpêtrière or Xavier Bichat. If anyone can help please email Tony Ridge .**

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



## Rex and The City

You may remember committee member Rex Melville giving a short curtain-raiser for the Stratford upon Avon conference in 2004. Rex also entertained everyone at Mont St Michel. Rex's latest venture is in the duo "Rex in the City". "Along with a new pianist, both are available for hire for parties, weddings and other celebrations mainly in South-East England. The band specialise in presenting classic American and British popular music, but like to throw in some French songs. When they can! Their new website [rexinthecity.com](http://rexinthecity.com) will go "live" in mid October, 2007, and further details can be obtained there. Who knows; Rex may be entertaining us at Plymouth in 2008?

## French Sorbonne Query

The AFMS has received a request from a student at the Sorbonne who is studying the comparison between the socio-economic situation of doctors in France and in the UK. The student is keen to speak to any doctor who specialises in radiology, anaesthesia, cardiology and ophthalmology. If any member is interested in helping with this then please contact Tony Ridge in the first instance.

## Advanced French Conversation

There is a French Conversation class ( although this is not organised by the AFMS ) with Dounie Evans which will take place on Saturday 24th November at Wedgwood Memorial College , Barlaston Village, STOKE. The cost is only £33. Interested parties should call the college on 01782 372105/ 373427 or email the college [Wedgwood.memorial@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:Wedgwood.memorial@stoke.gov.uk). Please note that this course is organised by the college itself.