



AFMS Website

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Meetings and Events

• January 2019

AFMS Winter meeting
In Chamonix.
January 31st to
February 3rd 2019.

• April 2019

AFMS Medical French
Weekend.
April 12th to
April 14th 2019.

• May 2019

Manchester Meeting.
Date TBC.

• September 2019

AFMS Conference in
Montpellier, France
September 18th to
September 21st 2019.

Future Newsletters

The AFMS will send out newsletters by post. However if you would like to receive them by email, please inform our admin secretary Tony Ridge. tonyridge72@yahoo.co.uk

Our conference in Cardiff in late September was a great success with a comprehensive scientific programme and a highly enjoyable social programme culminating in our gala dinner at Cardiff's prestigious City Hall.

Our scientific programme began with Graeme MACKENZIE who gave a most interesting but rather disturbing, introduction to recent advances in the understanding of CJD and variant CJD. Graeme presented the history of CJD research and understanding, including Kuru, from the first descriptions in 1921, then the story of the Mad Cow episode in the 90's. It appeared possible, until recently, to differentiate sporadic from variant CJD on MRI, but there are now very rare cases of vCJD which seem to show rather similar MRI appearances to sporadic, and these may be in patients with less common variations in the prion proteins (methionine and valine in one particular site). It may lead to a second wave of cases, but probably quite small.

Marion SOICHOT gave a very interesting review of the importance of local/personal factors in illegal drug use. Marion is a biologist in Paris and is involved in the rapid assessment of samples from patients in her local area. These may be in the Urgences, checking of treated addicts, or even at clubs and raves. In addition, potential drug mules passing through Orly can be screened.

Michael KELLY gave another of his excellent reviews of the improvements in the care of patients with low GI tumours. In his professional lifetime, the 5 year survival rate has gone from 25% to 58%, largely due to improvements of treatment, but also rapidity and standardisation of care, particularly with the introduction of multi-disciplinary teams.

Izhar KHAN gave a fascinating historical review of the gradual acceptance and understanding of the 2-way link between renal disease and hypertension. Bright described nephrotic and nephritic disease with the hard and full pulse. Gull showed possible resistance to blood flow through the kidney. Dr F H H Akbar Mohamed, grandson of an immigrant from Patna and an Irish woman, the first part-Indian consultant in Guys, cont.....

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published on variation of blood pressure in Bright's disease and then on high blood pressure without proteinuria, effectively essential hypertension, in the 1880s.

Corinne MATUSSIÈRE presented on the comparison of emergency care UK and France. Corinne spent a week with John Altrip and discovered that the patients, the problems and the treatment facilities, are very comparable but was surprised by the differences in recovery of victims. Specialist nurses with advanced training were a new experience. Workload in both countries has increased dramatically in recent years, even more so in the UK, as the availability of GP services has diminished.

We are always delighted to have a presentation from Laurent GUYOT who talked about facial reconstruction. He demonstrated clearly the major problems involved in facial reconstructive surgery with the complication of hard and soft tissues, including the existence of the teeth creating a unique link from the outside to the facial bones. He showed us complex graft surgery for major central facial trauma or tumour, for example fibular flap (lambeau) reconstruction of mandible, pectoral graft to mouth.

The student presentations were as ever astonishingly professional. A very close competition for the James Tudor prize between: Roxanne PRUVOST, Alyss ROBINSON, Julian LELANDAIS, Bénédicte SJOLFLOT and Caitlin SHEEHY, (Combined) Olga ZELGADO and Freya MILLER, saw Alyss just pip the others to first place. The AFMS would like to thank the students for the quality of their presentations and the work they put in for our conference.

Col. Kevin DAVIES, who works on behalf of the Halo Trust, presented on "Getting mines out of the ground, for good." Col Davies clearly showed, by multiple examples from the Ivory Coast, Nagorno-Karabakh, the Ho Chi Minh trail and Kosovo, that the Trust has this firmly in mind. Removal of mines involves educating and employing local people to solve the local problems. This involves training in the actual removal and destruction of munitions but also the critical education required in safety and medical care for staff and local people, who have been damaged by these weapons, often decades after conflict ceases. Laos is a good example, where clearance of American antipersonnel mines continues 50 years after they were dropped in huge numbers. This was a remarkable lecture showing the dedication of volunteers to this most hazardous effort on behalf of others.

The James Tudor Invited Lecturer this year was Rhys DAVIES who talked about bilingualism from a very personal perspective. This was clearly an interesting topic for our societies. He went on to tell us about various forms of aphasia associated with subtly different forms of brain damage. Some patients were able to understand but not express, others unable to comprehend but with retention of memory, and yet others with lack of insight and inappropriate behaviour. With new imaging it is becoming possible to show why the different patterns exist. Treatment is not as yet so advanced, sadly. The lecture was a tour de force and received with great enthusiasm by the rapt audience.

Roger CELESTIN gave an erudite talk on Images of tuberculosis examining the links between art and consumption. So many artists, musicians, authors and poets illustrated the effects of the disease and died from it; too many to list here. The pictures were poignant as were the poems.

Meg PARKES gave a fascinating insight to the traumas suffered by POWs in the 2nd World War. The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine has discovered and hunted down unknown journals and art work made in secret and at great peril during captivity

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during the Second World War. The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine has discovered and hunted down unknown journals and art work made in secret and at great peril, during this captivity under the Japanese. Many showed ingenious medical devices constructed by expert tradesmen conscripted into the army, who used scrap metal and bamboo to make, for example, stills for clean water for medical use, blood transfusion equipment, ileostomy devices etc. Others used some of the polished rice ration to grow yeast to treat beriberi. Surgical instruments could be made from spoons. There were 130k Empire POWs in the Far East. 25% of the UK ones died of slave labour, brutality and tropical disease.

Remi BOURY is a law student, and reminded us of our responsibilities as information handlers and controllers in his presentation about Medicine, the law and the internet. Europe has adopted data protection rules based on Caldicott, under EHCR (in French CEDH). We were all aware of GDPR which came into force this year and this was a very useful refresher for us all.

Patrick HAYES is an artist and educator who teaches medical students about wider topics, using role play and literature. One area of interest is history and he talked about the massacre of the tiny village of Oradour sur Glane in 1944. He gave a very detailed and moving account of the events when an SS regiment massacred an entire village just a few days after the Normandy landings. The regiment was composed largely of soldiers conscripted from occupied Alsace-Lorraine region.

THE AGMs for both societies brought the conference to an end. If you would like a copy of the minutes, please contact Tony Ridge.

Social Programme

On the Wednesday evening, all delegates were welcomed to the hotel with a drinks reception and fine wines, complimented by a wonderful harp rendition by local musician Ben Creighton Griffiths and then an introductory talk on Cardiff by the French Consul for Wales, Marie Broussard Navarro. This set us up nicely for a walking tour the following morning and a visit to Cardiff Museum and its fine collections of art, especially French Impressionism. Thursday afternoon saw all the delegates visit St Fagans, a wonderful living museum of Wales.

On Friday morning delegates enjoyed a boat trip to Cardiff Bay. A visit to Cardiff Castle and its amazing interior after lunch, was a prequel to a wonderful evening at the City Hall for our gala dinner. We were welcomed by the Llantrisant Male Voice Choir and enjoyed further harp renditions from Ben. A truly magnificent evening.

For those who stayed Saturday, a trip to Tredegar House in Newport was followed by a farewell dinner at the hotel.

D J Bell





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Welcome to Our New President

Our new President, Dr Colin Mumford, is a consultant neurologist based in Edinburgh. Colin hails originally from Liverpool, read medicine at Nottingham, and received his postgraduate medical training in numerous centres up and down the A1 including Newcastle, Cambridge, the National Hospital for Neurology in London, and in Edinburgh. His first AFMS meeting was the one in Avignon in September 1999, and he has attended more-or-less every meeting since then, including most of our winter reunions in Chamonix. Outside of his medical work, he spends his time riding motorbikes, playing and listening to Baroque chamber music and trying to speak better French.



Chamonix 2019

Winter Meeting

The 20th AFMS Winter meeting will take place in Chamonix, Haute Savoie, France at the Hotel l'Aiguille du Midi from the 31st of Jan to the 3rd of Feb 2019.

This family run hotel with a truly warm ambience, is Michelin recommended for value and

comfort and is 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 specialties.

If you would like to attend the meeting, please can you complete the attached booking form and send it back to Tony Ridge with the correct remittance.



Footnote

The AFMS does not want to lose any members, but if old age is beckoning, you might want to think about remembering us in your will! Societies like ours rely heavily on charitable donations, and even a small gift left to us in your will can make a big difference to us in terms of supporting the attendance of students at our meetings, and in furthering the general work of the Association. It is worth remembering that if you leave 10% of your estate to charity, then the inheritance tax bill for your remaining family members is significantly reduced, so this can be an effective tax-planning measure. Perhaps consider adding a small codicil to your will, mentioning the AFMS?"

Committee

Committee

Dr Colin Mumford

(President)

Dr Izhar Khan

(Treasurer)

Dr John Altrip

(Hon Secretary)

Dr Zara Bieler

(Webmaster)

Dr Mark Cottrill

(co-opted member)

Dr Andrew Hassan

Dr Carol Barton

Dr David Bell

Dr Nick Mc Carthy

Dr James Mc Donald

Dr Clara Farque

Dr Tim Reilly

Did you know?

French boules may be widely associated with old men with alcohol passing time in the shade of a French village square. However players have been told to shape up as the sport seeks inclusion in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

Not only have the sport's governing bodies published strict rules demanding "correct attire" during competitions but they are encouraging the best players to submit themselves to physical and psychological training sessions.