



AFMS NEWS

Spring 2020

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Manchester meeting postponed until September 2021

A Message From Our President, Colin Mumford

I need to let you all know that the Committee and I have taken the very difficult decision to postpone the 2020 AFMS meeting. We were scheduled to meet in Manchester between the 23rd and 27th September. However the unprecedented international crisis provoked by the Covid-19 outbreak means that it is difficult to foresee when large meetings like this will be permitted to resume, and bearing in mind the need to ensure utmost safety of delegates and members, we have decided to postpone the meeting until September 2021. In advance of taking this decision I spoke to Paul Benfredj, the President of the French section of the Society, and he was in full agreement that this was the only viable option available to us.

Sadly our annual Medical French meeting in Lille (4th to 5th April) was also cancelled this year. We took that decision at a relatively early stage, and were in the process of informing people before we got the news from our hosts in the University of Lille that they were closing to external visitors anyway.

Cont



Instagram

AFMS –Instagram.

We now have an Instagram account. Please visit us at

<https://www.instagram.com/anglofrenchmedicalsociety/>

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Did you Know?

Meeting and Events

• January 2021

Winter Conference Chamonix.
28th of January to the 31st of January 2021.

• September 2021

Scientific Conference Manchester, UK.
25th of September to the 28th September 2021.

The activities of the Society continue behind the scenes and we are still helping to support students wishing to set-up elective periods in French-speaking countries. Obviously all electives are “on hold” currently, but at least students can make plans for 2021.

I want to highlight the extensive work already done by Tony Ridge and Zara Bieler to establish very promising programmes for Manchester and Lille. With luck this work will not be wasted, but will bear fruit in 2021. Our Chamonix meeting is now booked for the 28th to 31st January 2021, by which stage I am sure we all hope that the Coronavirus will have been completely eradicated.

Dr Colin Mumford

AFMS MEETING: Chamonix January 2020: Dr Nick Mc Carthy

The Society's winter meeting was once again held at the Hotel Aiguille du Midi near Chamonix, with attendance from different branches of the profession including dental and nursing colleagues, and with representation from the Société Médicale Franco-Britannique. While some members took advantage of the weather to engage in winter sporting activity, the main thrust of the meeting, as usual, centred on networking, together with more formal lectures.

Dr Ingrid Kane, Consultant Stroke Physician, Brighton, had given the society a presentation two years ago on the workings of her highly successful stroke unit. This year's talk brought us up to date, and delegates were impressed with the advances which had been made even over a relatively short time. Dr Kane described the process of interventional radiology in the active removal of blood clot from within the brain – this from a tiny excision in the groin. She went on to describe the ever-present difficulties with funding. Currently, clot retrieval is offered only on an in-hours basis, regardless of the urgency of the situation. Although “time is brain” – the specific title of Dr Kane's talk – she described the constant battle to obtain the necessary skilled personnel.

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Prof. Andrew Farrall, Professor of Neuroradiology, Edinburgh, gave a talk entitled “A weakness for cycling”. This was based on his personal experience of an unusual medical condition he encountered during a long-distance cycle tour. The presenting symptoms were, to say the least, bizarre: the cyclist becomes incapable, after some time on the road, of lifting his or her head up sufficiently to see the road ahead. Prof Farrall experienced considerable anxiety over this evolving danger, and so sought help from the first aid team supporting his organised cycle trip. Having baffled the first-aiders, it was only later that he was casually informed by a bystander, that he had “Shermer's neck”.

Dr Colin Mumford, Consultant Neurologist in Edinburgh, deployed his skills to regale the society with a medicolegal mystery: “Did he fall, or was he pushed?” Starting with a description of a patient who was found at his workplace having lost consciousness, Dr Mumford invited the audience to engage in a forensic exercise and consider all the available evidence. As often occurs in medicolegal cases, the patient (or his legal team) were seeking to attribute liability to a third party in order to obtain damages. In this case, there was evidence of possible culpability because of work site layout difficulties but this was a thought-provoking presentation, ranging from complex neurological issues through to medicolegal considerations and providing a challenge to the audience in performing their own evaluation of the evidence.

In summary, a highly worthwhile conference meeting, with broad ranging and highly interesting topics as well as great fun on the ski slopes!

Dr Nick McCarthy

A Postcard From Cheshire.

My niece, self isolating on Long Island, told me a classic Trumpism that I had not heard before, as follows:

"Many folk may die who have not died before." Mr Trump did pick up on a small study by Professor Raoult in Marseilles who looked at the effect of Hydroxychloroquine on patients suffering from Covid 19. The study showed a significant speeding up of the healing process and a sharp decrease in the time patients remained contagious. Mr Trump (bless) subsequently announced that he had pushed the drug through the FDA (he had not) and that it would be available to all Americans who would be able to return to work in two weeks. One American, anxious to try the wonder treatment, took it into his own hands by drinking a significant quantity of Chloroquine Phosphate solution designed to be used for cleaning fish tanks. He sadly succumbed.



Here, in self-isolation in Cheshire, a significant quantity of Quinine (aka Tonic Water) is already consumed with a fair slug of Gin. It may or may not be beneficial but it does have the dual effect of passing the time and keeping the lady of the house calm and manageable. (see photo above.) It is a strange world at present and emotions are mixed. I have cried when I located a 4-pack of toilet rolls in a convenience store in Cadishead for a very reasonable price of £7.99 living up to their claim that they were 'value buys'. Other groceries are more problematical but I have well documented evidence that pasta can be bought at the most unlikely outlet of Ann Summers (if they are open: it is debatable whether this is an essential service). The downside of Ms Summers' pasta is that they are penis shaped. Not so good for a dinner party but you may be able to pass them off with the children if you rename them 'elephant trunks'. There is news of the super-rich buying up ventilators at £20k a pop, usually three at a time (he, she and the butler ...or mistress) not that they are needed at the present and kept 'just in case.' I am working on my own version: so efficient is the Dyson in our house, I thought I could change the polarity and reverse the vortex to blow rather than suck and then attaching a section of garden hose with a few holes punched in it. Do not mock - it could work. Your own President quipped that the patients on the new Dyson ventilators in ITU are picking up well. Evidently, being British made, they will out sell the GM (Genetically Modified?) machines that Mr Trump has ordered, especially if they are chlorinated. Stay safe!

Mark Cottrill

Committee

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(Treasurer)
Dr John Altrip
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Dr Zara Bieler
(Webmaster)
Dr Mark Cottrill
(co-opted member)
Dr Andrew Hassan
Dr Carol Barton
Dr Nick Mc Carthy
Dr James Mc Donald
Dr Clara Farque
Dr Bryan Dunsmore

Did you Know?

Britain must become more like France in order to tackle its obesity epidemic.

Prof Dame Sally Davies, (ex Chief Medical officer for England) called for bold action to end a "snacking" culture and rebalance a "sick" society. She said children in the UK were being "flooded" with unhealthy foods, saying the country should learn from France, where children sit down for meals, snack less and eat healthier fare.

Five percent of children in Paris are obese, compared to 22 per cent in London.

Dame Sally said, "Children in France sit down in school to a shared meal that is nutritious. Our children in schools just don't."