



AFMS NEWS

Autumn 2016

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AFMS Conference Windsor 21st to the 24th September 2016.



Delegates were treated to a marvelous meeting at Windsor where the setting, hotel and arrangements were quite splendid and our very varied speakers outstanding.

We started with a talk from Julia DINA from Caen, on an outbreak of mumps in English winter sports enthusiasts, which led on to a description of the general impact of mumps, including orchitis, oophoritis, pancreatitis and temporary mild renal function abnormalities in 30-60% of cases. Then Julia described the different genotypes of which there are 12 recognised. MMR (ROR) is based on Type A and the majority of cases are of Type G which may be drifting, making the vaccine less effective. Other outbreaks have followed a similar course recently, but research has shown that the severity of side effects is reduced by vaccination, although virus shedding in saliva is not reduced.

Tim REILLY presented a troubling case of intractable diarrhoea with severe weight loss which came on after a holiday visit to Florida. It is safe to say that no one in the audience recognised the diagnosis of amyloidosis in a patient with cardiomyopathy, peripheral neuropathy and bowel symptoms. Tim showed excellent slides of full-thickness biopsies of bowel demonstrating the amyloid. We were informed about the very varied presentations of amyloid disease and the 2 main types: hereditary or post-inflammatory disease. Treatment remains difficult although some cases respond to low dose treatment similar to myeloma therapy.....

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AFMS Website

Please visit us at

[www.](http://www.anglofrenchmedical.com)

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Meetings and Events

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AFMS Winter meeting In Chamonix.
February 3rd to
February 5th

• April 2017

AFMS Medical French weekend in Lille.
21st of April to the 23
April 2017.

• September 2017

Scientific Conference
Lille, France
20th September to the
23rd September 2017.

Future Newsletters

Please note that to save on our postage costs, the AFMS will be sending newsletters to members by email from 2017. Please can you send your email address to Tony Ridge.

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Claire DELVAL talked about Lyme disease and the controversies over the existence or not of chronic Lyme. Most of us were unaware that infected ticks (tiques) can carry multiple different *Borrelia* viruses as well as multiple other pathogens, and that *B burgdorferi* is uncommon in Europe, with fewer than 20% of cases. ELISA tests are based on *B burgdorferi* as it is the main culprit in the USA. There is a huge variation in reported rates of Lyme across Europe as it is not notifiable in most countries, and testing is of poor specificity and sensitivity so confirmation is quite difficult. New tests (ELISPOT) are being produced, at higher cost but greater sensitivity, and seem to demonstrate that there is indeed a chronic condition, but this is still under investigation.

Michel BISMUTH presented a review of a survey of primary enuresis done in his department. This was for a thesis, but did not have great predictive value as the responding families were not demographically comparable with the local population and the test numbers were small. Nevertheless it was a useful review of the natural history of spontaneous recovery (15% per annum), and of the sometimes marked social consequences for the families. Part of the survey was on paper, part via the website www.pipiaulit.com.

Mike KELLY gave one of his excellent reviews of the differences in medico-legal procedures between our countries. In a case where damages are being sought in the UK, the majority are settled long before an appearance in court, largely due to informed but disinterested medical experts having detailed in camera debates about which items can be agreed and which remain contentious. The content of this debate, but not its outcome, remains confidential. The stages of the process are too numerous to precis here, but the importance of the experts being fully informed and prepared prior to the meeting, and even more so if there were to be a court hearing were emphasised. Anyone wishing more information can request it from the Society or directly from Mike.

Corinne MATUSSIÈRE is an A&E specialist and, as in UK, her service is under increasing pressure. She gave a thoughtful overview of burnout in professionals concentrating on her own department where a questionnaire has demonstrated high scores in a validated burnout tool. She suggested that an annual application of such a questionnaire might prevent events like the suicide of a cardiologist whose close colleagues had not either noted or responded to his mental state.

John ALTRIP is in the process of developing a totally new way of assessing the state of health of sufferers of (cardio-)respiratory disease. A chip that measures CO₂ and O₂ concentrations in real time has been introduced into a simple device allowing normal tidal breathing to be used by the patient rather than peak flow etc. The graphs obtained after training in the tool show clear differences across the respiratory cycle including in some cases marked changes in profile prior to an exacerbation of COPD, for example, potentially allowing early treatment at home and obviating admission. The predicted savings in ill health and in cost to the health service are large, and John is presently hoping to take the device to market for home use once a commercial sponsor is found.

We then had the annual wonderful problem of trying to separate excellent student presentations from each other. It gets harder every year but the winner by a narrow margin was **Sophie L'EBRALY** who showed her professional curiosity and nous in diagnosing a troublesome case of abdominal pain. Congratulations also to **Clara FARQUE** and **Marianne PHILLIPS** who came second and third respectively.

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The annual James Tudor Lecture was given by:
Professor Julian F.R. Paton PhD, Professor of Translational Cardiovascular Science School of Physiology, Pharmacology & Neuroscience, University of Bristol and was titled "High blood pressure: getting to the bottom of it."

A fascinating and important presentation showed us that Hypertension is the leading cause of mortality in the world. 40% of over 1 billion affected patients on medication are not controlled to target levels. This unmet need demands new approaches to better understand and control blood pressure.

Helen MACKAY gave a most interesting talk on the **Scottish Women's Hospital at Royaumont**. It was started by **Frances Ivens** the first registered female surgeon (1907) and **Elsie Inglis**, Edinburgh's most famous female doctor. Both were suffragists, (as distinct from Suffragettes), and refused to allow the **War Office** to stop them from opening their hospital behind the lines. Ivens' publications (under the name of a male colleague, of course) remain the mainstay of battlefield surgery today.

Linda PARR gave a talk on the complicated family of the Tudors, concentrating on the women, their influences on the dynasty and the dreadful obstetric histories that could not be improved over those of the lowest orders. Despite the carnage of maternity, and in the case of 2 of Henry VIII's wives the axe, the Tudor royal women on average lived longer than the men. Elizabeth might have chosen to be celibate to avoid following her royal family to an early grave, but at the expense of the **Stuarts** taking over.

J-P BOYES told us of their efforts to give adequate training in chronic disease management to medical students. They have tapped into the resources in private practice, so away from the medical school. Most chronic disease never makes it to the tertiary centre, so this makes good sense and has been welcomed by the students. Their only negative comments were around the formal presentations in the medical school itself; the experience outside was thoroughly embraced.

Flavia LESLIE and **Andrew McAULAY** taught psychiatry at **Decartes University in Paris**. 400 students a week are getting excellent medical English, but this external input has been welcomed universally. One of the visits coincided with terrorist attacks on Paris. The visitors recognised the deep shock through the student (and staff) body and modified their presentations to concentrate on PTSD, using a **BBC** film and role play. This appears to have been powerful, educational and therapeutic.

The **AGM** took place on the **Saturday the 24th**. If anyone would like a copy of the minutes please email **Tony Ridge**.

Social Programme

Delegates enjoyed a walking tour of **Windsor** in the morning followed by a guided tour of **Windsor Castle**. We were fascinated by how the castle was rebuilt after the fire in 1992 and the painstaking efforts to restore it to its original state. A tour of **Cliveden** followed on Friday morning with its amazing gardens and on Friday afternoon a most pleasurable trip on a riverboat allowed us to appreciate the beauty and splendour of the area. 125 guests attended the gala dinner at **Eton Dornay Rowing Club** and we were entertained by **Neil Coleman's** daughter, **Jenny** with her renditions of operatic classics. A truly memorable evening. On Saturday for those who remained, a trip to **Hampton Court Palace** brought the meeting to an end.

Please visit our Facebook page for photographs of the meeting.

Dr David Bell

**Anglo-French Medical Society
25th Medical French
Residential Weekend Course
21-23 April 2017
Lille, France.**

To celebrate our Silver Anniversary, the course will be held in France for 2017 only

A unique opportunity to experience Medical French in France. Teaching in partnership with the Medical Faculty of Université Catholique de Lille

Extensive course handbook provided

All levels of French-speaking accommodated

Early booking advised, details on

www.anglofrenchmedical.com

Contact: Christine Greenwood on 0151 529 5885 or email c.greenwood@liverpool.ac.uk

Price includes 2 nights hotel accommodation, all meals including a gala dinner, 2 day travel pass and guided tour of historic Lille

**Doctors £550 - FY1/2 £450 - Students £280
(or £260, twin room)**

A warm welcome to Clara Farque; our new student representative.



Bonjour! As the newly appointed Student representative, I would like to introduce myself and the brand new branch of AFMS. My name is Clara and I am a final year medical student at Warwick University. The idea of setting up a student-focused branch came to me during the French-speaking course back in April. Over one of the lunches, it was agreed around the table that students would really benefit from AFMS and its great linguistic opportunities if the society had a bit more of a presence within medical schools.

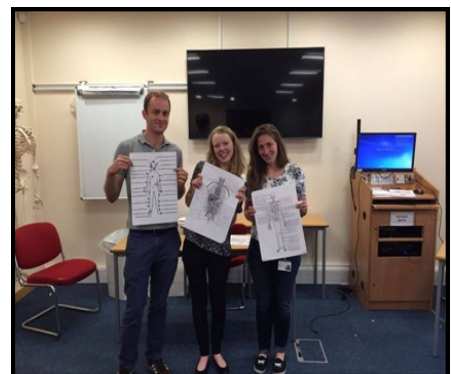
And so, upon my return to university the following Monday and with the help of two of my Francophile friends, I started setting up AFMS Student Network. We set out some learning objectives and with the help of great resources (Medical translation books and AFMS' own French Vocabulary Handbook), we created our first lesson plan, and advertised our inaugural event on the medical school's Facebook page. This was back in June, and now 3 months down the line, we are organising our 4th monthly event!

Based on a particular medical system, each session starts with some basic anatomy and symptomatology. With the new vocabulary, our members try their hand at creating "une anamnese" for a medical scenario presented by one of the session tutors. We have found that the biggest difficulty was not the French (thank you Latin for the easily French-isable words), but correcting the "tu" to the "vous"! We then move on to a translation exercise, for which we use an exam stem from the "Examen Classant National". Finally, we welcome a guest speaker who kindly shares their experiences within a French Medical system. This insight is invaluable and has proven to be very popular with our members. Last but not least, let us not forget the important role our cheese selection holds in optimizing concentration levels!

With the new term starting, we were able to set up a stall during Fresher's Fair. Patrick and I were delighted to see how much interest there was in the branch, judging by how quickly our sign-up sheet filled up!

Despite the great success of our first few sessions, there is still a lot of work to be done. Once we have consolidated the session plans and learning materials, we are looking to starting up AFMS Student Network in other universities. From then, we want to create a Social Media forum, which will help students from different medical schools share their experiences and advice about electives or working holidays in French-speaking countries.

If you would like to be involved in our sessions as guest speakers, we would love to hear from you! Your experiences and stories would be very beneficial to all students thinking about a career in France. (C.e.farque@warwick.ac.uk)





Back Page Notes



Chamonix Winter Conference February 3rd to February 5th 2017

The 19th AFMS Winter meeting will take place in Chamonix, Haute Savoie, France at the Hotel l'Aiguille du Midi from the 3rd of February to the 5th of February 2017.

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 specialities.

Travelling to Chamonix is very easy. Geneva is the closest airport and various companies offer transfers with a drop off and collection to and from the hotel. One company, called Chamexpress, offers 30 departures a day. (www.chamexpress.com).

If anyone would like to give a presentation at the meeting, please let the admin secretary know when returning the booking form, enclosed.

Future Meetings

The next scientific meeting will take place in Lille, Northern France, from the 20th to the 23rd of September 2017. More information and a booking form will be available in the new year.



Committee

Committee

Dr Andrew Hassan
(President)
Dr Martin Punter
(Treasurer)
Dr John Altrip
(Hon Secretary)
Dr Helen Sykes
(Membership Secretary)
Dr Zara Bieler
(Webmaster)
Dr Mark Cottrill
(co-opted member)
Dr Colin Mumford
Dr Rex Melville
Dr Carol Barton
Dr Paul Ward
Dr David Bell
Dr Nick Mc Carthy
Dr James Mc Donald
Dr Clara Farque

More jam please.....



France can't get enough of it apparently...jams! Trade bosses in Westminster have released an advert hoping to persuade producers in the UK to sell more jam to France who cannot get enough of UK's fine marmalades and jams.