



AFMS NEWS

Autumn 2022

AFMS

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AFMS Word from our President.

October 2022.

Many of us have just returned from a fabulous meeting in Strasbourg. The location was excellent, the academic talks first class, and – strikingly this year – we enjoyed a set of presentations from five medical students which were truly outstanding.



Our thoughts are now turning to the 2023 meetings. Covid forced us to cancel both the 2021 and 2022 trips to Chamonix, so next January is going to be our first skiing get-together for three years. Do think about coming on this. Although many members who go are reasonably strong skiers, every year we have one or two complete beginners, some people who like to try snow-shoeing rather than skiing, and others who simply want to soak up the Alpine atmosphere and café culture of the town. Intermediate skiers will do well, since even the good skiers amongst us are rapidly ageing, and the pace is generally pretty measured, with obligatory stops for coffee or 'chocolat chaud' at a minimum of hourly intervals. You don't need your own gear, since we have formed a good relationship with one ski hire shop in the town centre, and they have a very good range of kit, which – following in-store fitting - they deliver to the hotel for us. A form to register for the Chamonix meeting is enclosed.

In October next year (11th to 14th) we'll be heading to the Highlands of Scotland for our autumn meeting. The base is going to be the five star Kingsmill Hotel, above the centre of Inverness. It has its own pool, gym and spa, as well as a first-class banqueting suite where we shall have our Gala Dinner with a Ceilidh band and Scottish Country Dancing. The meeting will have a distinctly Scottish theme with trips to Loch Ness, to Glenmorangie Distillery near Tain, and various other adventures.

Dr Colin Mumford

Mailing List

We are updating our mailing list and need up to date emails for all members. Please send your current email to

[info@](mailto:info@anglofrenchmedical.com)

anglofrenchmedical.com

AFMS Instagram

Please visit us at Instagram

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

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Meetings and Events

• January 2023

Chamonix Meeting.
26th to 29th January 2023.

• April 2023

Medical French Meeting.

• October 2023

Inverness Annual Meeting. 11th October to 14th October 2023.

37th Annual meeting of AFMS/AMFB **Strasbourg.**

28th September-1st October 2022



Strasbourg provided the backdrop to our first annual meeting in three years. It was good to get back and see old friends and make new ones once again. The scientific meeting got off to a great start with Rex Melville being in fine form, showing us what external manifestations of HIV can be picked up with thorough examination. Caroline Tran Van presented her work on the selection of medical students in both France and the UK, and showed us some interesting differences and also similarities. She was followed by newly appointed consultant in neurology James McDonald, who left us all wondering why we'd all had such difficulties in understanding the structure of the brain stem with his very clear explanation. There was a lively discussion following the three case studies with interesting points being made by our audience.

Michel Dubuisson gave us a presentation of the history of medical training in France, somewhat bravely asserting that Paris was the centre of medical training in Europe and beyond, during the nineteenth century. Having just heard a professor of anatomy in Edinburgh making similar claims a few weeks ago about Edinburgh, I thought in the interests of '*entente cordiale*' to leave the matter hanging! The final presentation of the first session was given by Dr Alexandre Nuzzo - working in London and Paris - on the subject of intestinal ischaemia, presenting evidence for impressive improvements in the patterns of service delivery for the acutely ischaemic gut. This was a masterpiece of presentation, showing us all why he had been awarded the Jacques Foray prize.

John Beaven gave quite a thought provoking talk on the sensitive subject of the impact of the UK leaving the EU.

COVID -19 inevitably featured in this conference, with two excellent presentations from France: the first by Thierry Baudalet on a look back over the French Covid experience and an extremely thorough discussion of "long Covid" by Dominique Salmon. I felt we missed a UK perspective, but maybe that's something that can also be addressed in the future. On the second day, our medical student entrants for the James Tudor Prize demonstrated that their skills were not far behind some of our senior colleagues, and we were subjected to five gloriously high standard presentations from the participants, Mayan Mujeeb, Anna Corriero, Rima Touati, Aimée Lawton and Eve Miller. The non-PC conclusion was that it was impossible to put a cigarette paper between them, but as we didn't have any cigarette papers, the winner was Rima Touati for her very detailed, clear and concise presentation on autism - not an easy subject to discuss in front of a dually language skilled audience.

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As usual, the prizewinner was selected on votes cast by the audience, with marks included for standards of interaction with the audience and the all-important language skills.

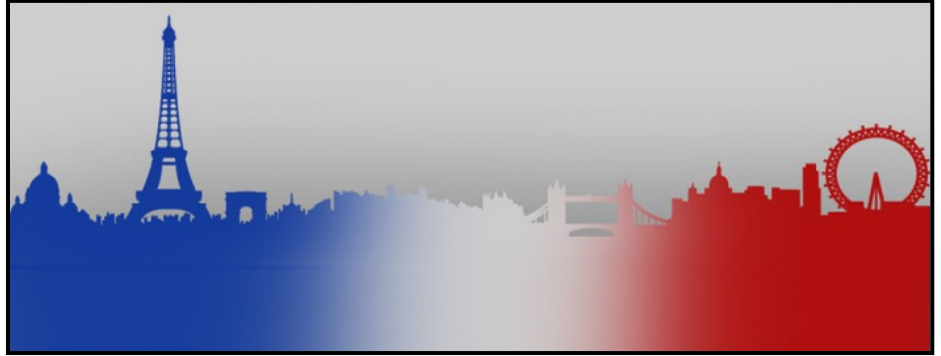
On the Saturday morning we turned our attention to cancer management. Starting with a presentation on palliative care by Philippe Trenz, we moved on to a very engaging talk on the history of hormone therapy for prostate cancer by the James Tudor lecturer, Thierry Vuillemin. Not an easy subject for us men knowing that cancer of the prostate is the commonest male cancer!

It wouldn't have been an Anglo French Medical Society meeting without a comprehensive social programme, which provided us with the opportunity to get to know new colleagues from both sides of the Channel, many of whom sowed the seeds for Anglo French relations for decades to come.

There is no shortage of sights to be seen in Strasbourg, the Cathedral is one of the most impressive I've ever seen. The geographical situation of Strasbourg on the border between Germany and France means an interesting mix of solid German architecture and the softer style of the French. It would be no surprise to say we were treated to a variety of different foods, which were delivered in amazing restaurants. Our gala dinner featured some local Alsace dancers and by the end of the evening there was full participation in the dancing. This all bodes well for the planned ceilidh in Inverness next year.

The optional visit to see a local winery and historic village provided a fitting end to what everyone felt was a very worthwhile and well organised conference. Our thanks can hardly be enough for all the hard work involved, particularly to Paul Benfredj, Thierry Baudalet and Catherine Saint-Quentin who maintained her usual enthusiasm despite struggling with an injured leg. I know what it's like to organise conferences: it's what people don't see, when everything is running smoothly which is the challenge, and of course thanks to our own Tony Ridge who handled all the UK bookings and administration.

Professor John Wilkinson.



Anglo-French Medical Society
29th Medical French
Residential Weekend Course.
14th - 16th April 2023,
Lille, France.

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 or contact

Christine Greenwood c.greenwood@liverpool.ac.uk

**Price includes 2 nights hotel accommodation, all meals
including a gala dinner, and guided tour of historic Lille.**

Prices:

Doctors: £625

FY1/2: £515

Students: £330 (shared room)

**Doctors booking prior to 31 January 2023 will receive a
£30 discount.**



Inverness 2023



The next AFMS scientific conference will take place in Inverness from 11th October to 14th October 2023. Travelling to Inverness is relatively straightforward, There are easyJet flights from Bristol, Gatwick and Luton. There are also British Airways flights to Inverness from Heathrow, Loganair Flights from Manchester and many other options. A booking from will be available in the spring of 2023.

Footnote from Colin: Money Musings

Like any small charity, we have an obligation to the Charity Commissioners, and indeed to the Society itself, to maintain a healthy financial status. Currently our accounts are looking good, due not least to the excellent behind-the-scenes work by our treasurer, Izhar Khan, and to the success of the Medical French courses organised by Zara Bieler. We have also benefitted over the years from generous grants from supporters such as the James Tudor Foundation. But we do need to future-proof the Society, and ensure that we are well-placed to maintain the quality and calibre of our meetings for many years to come. We also want to make certain that we can continue to subsidise the attendance of medical students from the UK and France. Therefore at the Annual General Meeting in Strasbourg we approved an increase in annual membership subscriptions from £25 to £40.

Could you log into your electronic banking website (right now, before you forget), and increase your standing order to £40 per year? Should you wish to give more than that, then feel free to do so. One-off donations to the Society are also always very welcome. And remember to think about us when you make your will.

If you would like a copy of the minutes of the AGM in advance of our Inverness meeting in October 2023, then simply contact Tony Ridge, and either a paper copy or an electronic version can be sent.

Dr Colin Mumford



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Winter Conference Chamonix January 26th to 29th 2023.

The 23rd AFMS Winter meeting is scheduled to take place in Chamonix, Haute Savoie, France at the Hotel de l'Aiguille du Midi from the 26th January to the 29th January 2023. The hotel 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.

New Committee Members

The Committee gained a new student rep in Strasbourg – Aimée Lawton, currently a student in Edinburgh. Aimée will help develop our student membership. Welcome also to Dr Cian Finnegan who attended his first meeting in Strasbourg. Cian is based in Galway and is our first Irish Committee member. Hopefully he will help recruit Francophile Irish doctors to our ranks.



Committee

Dr Colin Mumford
(President)
Dr Izhar Khan
(Treasurer)
Dr John Altrip
(Hon Secretary)
Dr Tim Reilly
(Membership Secretary)
Dr James McDonald
(Webmaster)
Dr Mark Cottrill
(co-opted member)
Dr Andrew Hassan
(Immediate past president)
Dr Zara Bieler
Dr Clara Farque
Dr Jacqueline Emery
Dr Aimée Lawton
Dr Bryan Dunsmore

Did You Know?

France is the most visited country in the world with 90 million visitors per year. Paris is the most visited city in the world. The Louvre is the largest art museum in the world.

This museum is so big that if you wanted to spend 30 seconds looking at each piece of art, it would take you approximately 100 days to get through the entire museum.