



# AFMS NEWS

Autumn 2023

**AFMS**

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

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## A Message From Our President.



Perhaps the only negative aspect of the recent meeting in Inverness was our failure to spot “Nessie”. Everything else went very well indeed, with a fine hotel, superb excursions, and an energetic sweat-laden Gala Dinner to remember. I have had numerous appreciative messages of thanks from French colleagues who uniformly appear to have loved it. Tim Reilly has written a splendid report on the meeting, and that appears elsewhere in this newsletter. I’d like to pass my thanks to him, to Tony, to the hotel staff, to Elle and Dan (our professional guides) and to James McDonald (who stood in for me as chair of the AGM). Without their input it would not have been such a success.

It was reassuring to see that concerns regarding the cost of this year’s meeting appeared to dwindle once the location and calibre of the hotel were appreciated. All the same, one of our goals as a society is to encourage links between junior doctors in the UK and France, and whilst seven medical students came to Inverness (since we pay for their attendance), there were only three junior doctors this year, in part because of the cost. So my suggestion is that whilst luxurious venues might be reasonable once every ten years or so (remember how good Guernsey was in 2000?), we need to keep an eye on pricing. The hotel for Manchester in 2025 has not been chosen yet, and we shall aim for somewhere good, but less pricey than Inverness. We may also - with the membership’s consent - tweak the registration charge a fraction, so that established consultants and principals in general practice pay a little more, to subsidise the attendance of younger doctors.

Don’t forget to sign up for Chamonix (1st to 4th February 2024). There’s a form in this newsletter. It’s always good fun, with a lot of skiing, but also much coffee and vin chaud on the slopes. Beginners, intermediates and experts are all welcome!

**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](http://anglofrenchmedical.com)

## AFMS Instagram

Please visit us on Instagram

[@anglofrenchmedicalsociety](https://www.instagram.com/anglofrenchmedicalsociety)

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## Meetings and Events

- February 2024.  
Chamonix Meeting.  
1st to 4th  
February 2024.
- April 2024.  
Medical French Meeting, Lille. 5th to 7th April 2024.
- September 2024.  
AFMS Conference  
Orleans, France  
18th to 21st  
September 2024.

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### **Inverness 2023** **Meeting Review.**

The autumn AFMS meeting at the Kingsmills Hotel in Inverness this year was bracketed by unnamed torrential downpours the week before, and Storm Babet the week after, but somehow contrived between 11th and 15th October to find the Highlands clothed in a windy but mostly dry autumn beauty.



What, we wondered as we crossed the famously bouncy footbridge over a swollen River Ness, as it flowed past at an alarming rate beneath our feet, was the French for “shoogly”? Bancale? Rebondissant? No matter, the bridge, like all structures in Inverness that week, held firm and did its job.

The Kingsmills Hotel, our venue, turned out to be supremely reliable and delivered us board, lodging and conference facilities all to a standard universally agreed to be exceptionally high. After our president had welcomed us all, in Gaelic, on the evening of the 11th, there was a chance to catch up with *auld acquaintance* over a buffet supper, before the meeting began in earnest the following morning.

This year for the first time we were delighted to hear entries for the newly created Hertford British Jean-Pierre Gotlib Prize, named after the late distinguished past president of our French sister society, and generously funded by the Hertford British Hospital of Paris. Aimée Lawton explored the question of how climate change is facing health around the globe, and equally importantly, what healthcare services should be doing to avoid contributing to the problem. Philippa Davies and Marcus Goodlad presented unusual clinical cases, the first of a case of weakness preceded by headache and facial nerve palsies which turned out to be a variant of Guillain-Barré syndrome (yes, nerve conduction studies can be useful), and the second of an orbital swelling which turned out both to be caused by the rare lymphoproliferative disorder myeloid sarcoma, and to belong to the speaker, who was able to confirm his complete remission. Aimée Lawton carried off the laurels.

After coffee Stéphane Deluermoz gave a psychiatrist's point of view on whether or not James Joyce was mad, coming down after sifting the evidence on the side of sanity, although the extracts from *Finnegans Wake* ably read by Rex Melville left some room for doubt. Corinne Matussièrè, urgentiste, brought us all back down to earth by telling us what we should be packing in our emergency evacuation bag, the thing you grab as you head through the front door after the dam bursts. I'm definitely going to get a 'life straw' which allows you to drink safely from muddy puddles, though whether I can lay my hands on it when the hour comes.... Such was Corinne's infectious enthusiasm, we all went away thinking “Disaster? Bring it on!”

The morning concluded with the first of two James Tudor Lectures, given by an invited speaker. Rob Reid, lately a captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps, recounted his experiences as the MO delivering prehospital care at a forward medical station at Kabul airport. Many of the casualties were civilian, and we were left with a mingled sense of admiration at what can be achieved in the face of overwhelming demand with minimal and dwindling resources, by a team with good morale and a sense of pluck and improvisation, and exasperation at the political failures that had left them so exposed in the first place.

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Accompanying delegates had enjoyed the morning with a walking tour of Inverness, exploring landmarks and history, and they joined the main group for the afternoon visit to a distillery to learn about the Water of Life which irrigates the Scottish economy. While Bus A headed off to Glen Moray, Bus B learnt 5 minutes before departure that their distillery had been flooded. No matter, our resourceful guides had a replacement up their sleeve, complete with a master brewer and distiller who had worked in France for eight years, and was able show us round in fluent technical French. Only problem, the distillery itself was so new they couldn't actually let us taste their product, which has to be three years old before you can call it whisky. But I shall be looking out for a bottle of Uile Bheist to try in 2025. You heard it here first.

On the Friday morning we heard the students presenting their entries for the James Tudor Prize. It has been a pleasure over the years to see both the number and quality of presentations from both sides of the Channel continue to grow, with more than ever students speaking in their non-maternal language. This year there were seven entries. We heard about post-mortem organ donation in France, and about the differences between the French and British systems of choosing career specialty amongst newly qualified doctors. A French Cambodian student gave us a comparison of healthcare systems in France and Cambodia, and a British student talked about about the experience of misogyny and racism and we had two reports arising from electives which the society had supported through the Miss Ford Prize, one about the French SMUR system of paramedic response teams and the other a reflection on the experience of living and working in a second language. The overall winner was Joseph Albou from France who presented a case of a young man whose sudden collapse was found to be due to profound hypokalaemia caused by underlying thyrotoxicosis.

After coffee the second James Tudor lecture was delivered by Hamish Myers, who as well as being a specialty registrar at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, training in Emergency Medicine, is a working farmer. He kindly spared time from the livestock to tell us about Remote and Rural Medicine, illustrating his talk from his personal experience. Here, should we ever need to know, was how to manage an unstable patient on an island when the sea is high in the Minch, the ferries are not running, and the choppers can't fly. The session concluded with our president giving us an overview of the Ghaidhealtachd and how it is doing, and while the ever-retreating front of Gaelic-speaking Scotland towards the North and West looked depressing, he was able to point to a few green shoots.



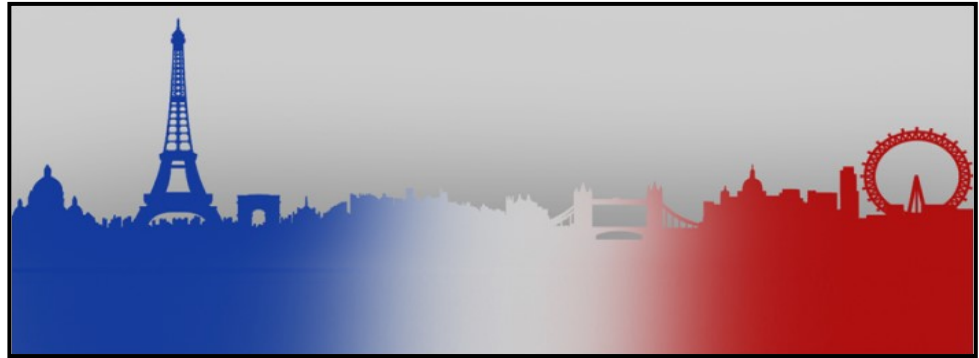
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In the afternoon the entire group took to the water, bound for Urquhart castle. If you had wanted Loch Ness to show itself at its romantic best, you'd have requested a bright blustery afternoon when the headlands down the lochside receded in a succession of lightening tones, a dark cloud above throwing from its underskirts a shaft of sunlight to silver the distant water, and maybe a rainbow as a backdrop to your Jacobite ruin when the cloud finally shed its load. Which was exactly what we got. Home in time to spruce up (everyone) and don the plaid (some of us) before we were piped by our military speaker of the day before, revealing hidden talents, into the gala dinner. A ceilidh band, as patient as it was excellent, took the uninitiated through the steps of Strip the Willow, and our French guests rapidly understood that Highland dancing is perfectly possible with an ounce of determination, a large smile and a lively appreciation of the principle of centrifugal force. Although it's fair to say there were still debates over breakfast about when to use 'le bras gauche', and when 'le bras droit'.

The scientific programme concluded on the Saturday morning with an update of the status quo in France with regard to COVID-19 by Thierry Baudalet of the French society, a run-down by Helen Mackay on how to make sure that payments due to you from your NHS trust are in fact paid, and a case presentation by Rex Melville of an unusual parasitic infection in an immunocompromised man. Those who stayed in the afternoon visited the battlefield at Culloden to be reminded that there are worse ways of deciding the future of the country than a referendum, while the rest of us departed to reflect on a wonderful meeting when old friendships were renewed, new ones forged, and fruitful discussions had for future meetings and directions. We look forward to Orléans next year.

Dr Tim Reilly





**Anglo-French Medical Society  
30<sup>th</sup> Medical French  
Residential Weekend Course.  
5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024,  
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.**

**Details on [www.anglofrenchmedical.com](http://www.anglofrenchmedical.com) or contact**

**Christine Greenwood [c.greenwood@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto: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: £650 FY1/2: £530**

**Students: £350 (shared room)**

## Winter Conference 2024 Chamonix February 1st to February 4th 2024.

The 24th AFMS Winter meeting is scheduled to take place in Chamonix, Haute Savoie, France at the Hotel de l'Aiguille du Midi from the 1st February 2024 to the 4th February 2024. If anyone would like to give a presentation at the meeting, please let the admin secretary know when returning the booking form, enclosed.



## Fiona Kingston

It is with great regret that I report the death of Fiona Kingston (née Strang) MRCOG MRCGP 1946 – 2022, whom many members of the societies will remember. I had the great pleasure to work with Fiona at St Mary's and the Samaritan Hospital for Women in London in the late 70s. I was the senior house officer and she the obstetrics and gynaecology registrar, immensely experienced after a year working in South Africa.

On her first day she also impressed me with her red high-heeled slingback shoes, she was smart, and smart. She always communicated well with her patients and the team, she was clever, skilful, efficient, and calm.

I was delighted to meet her again at the 2007 Anglo-French Medical Society in Mont St. Michel, and to renew our friendship at several meetings. We had both gone into General Practice, and both had four children. I was sad to hear that she had been widowed in 2005. She was very proud of her daughters and adored her grandchildren.

She met her second husband Tom Keane through playing golf, they enjoyed holidays and life in Bath together. Fiona became chair of the Bath Scottish Country Dancing Society, as well as having prowess in gardening and many other talents. She beat the odds for five years after a diagnosis of metastatic thymic cancer and, later, metastatic malignant melanoma.

She is much missed by her husband, her four daughters, nine grandchildren, and all those fortunate enough to have known her.



Dr Linda Parr

## Committee

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( President )  
Dr Izhar Khan  
( Treasurer )  
Dr Tim Reilly  
( Hon Secretary )  
Dr Jacqueline Emery  
( Membership Secretary )  
Dr James McDonald  
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( co-opted member )  
Dr Andrew Hassan  
(Immediate past president)  
Dr Zara Bieler  
Dr Clara Farque  
Dr Aimée Lawton  
Dr Nick McCarthy

## Did You Know?

Home of the Mona Lisa and the Venus De Milo, the Louvre is not just one of the most famous museums in the world but holds the title of the world's most visited museum with 10 million visitors in 2022.

The Eiffel tower welcomed 7 million visitors in 2022 whilst Mont St Michel welcomed 3 million visitors. France is officially the most visited country in the world with 90 million international visitors in 2022.