



AFMS NEWS

Spring 2021

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Manchester Meeting 2021

Postponed Again

In spring 2020 none of us could have predicted the terrible impact of Covid-19 on the world. The AFMS was affected, since we were obliged to cancel both the Medical French weekend in Lille and also our September 2020 meeting in Manchester. When we decided to postpone the Manchester meeting we were worried that the decision might have been premature, but in retrospect it was clearly correct. The ongoing pandemic and its inevitable impact on international travel means that we have had to make a similar difficult decision with regard to our September 2021 meeting.

There is currently evidence that cases of Covid in the UK are starting to dwindle, and at the time of writing (late April 2021) there is optimism that life will return to normal as we enter autumn 2021. The situation however is not the same for colleagues in France, where the prevalence of the illness remains greater than in the UK, and where the vaccination rollout has been a little slower. In both nations there remains anxiety regarding a possible "third wave" of cases and it is not clear when normal travel around Europe will resume. After very careful discussion and evaluation of the risks, both health-related and financial, the officers of the Society have made the decision to cancel our September 2021 meeting. I know this will be disappointing news, but it seems to be the most sensible strategy. We have let the venues in Manchester know that we would still like to visit their city, and it could well be our choice for 2025. By way of small recompense, James and Tony are going to set up an on-line "virtual" meeting, for drinks and informal chat, on the evening that would have been dedicated to the Manchester Gala Dinner. This will be on Friday 24th September. Please advise Tony or James if you would like to attend.

Dr Colin Mumford PRESIDENT



Mailing List

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

info@anglofrenchmedical.com

AFMS Instagram

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

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Did you know?

Meeting and Events

- September 2021
Manchester Meeting Virtual Gala dinner.
- January 2022
Winter Scientific meeting Chamonix.
- September 2022
Scientific Conference France.

Covid Finale? A postcard from Cheshire - Part 3

Not so long ago, a politician speaking in the House of Commons, (I forget his name - I forget all their names) was in trouble for mentioning a 'chink' of light in the tunnel and subsequently accused of racism. Another took the whole

"train/tunnel" story to the next level describing how we, the people in the carriages, embarked (became infected?) and disembarked (died?) at various stages en route and so expanded the analogy that he became confused about the roles of the conductor, the driver (Boris?), the catering carriage and then sat down in a medically significant confused state. Has the train hit the metaphorical buffers I wonder? Is there just a hint of a chance of popping over The Channel to enjoy good wine, a half decent baguette and stocking up with more cheese?

The joy of the prospect of freedom was tainted recently by the sad news of the death of the AMFB Past President and good friend, Jean Pierre Gotlib who will be so sadly missed. Outside the AFMS/AMFB our paths crossed in our shared gastroenterological interests and we met at several international meetings. In Paris, JP invited us to his apartment in the Rue de Rivoli. His bureau is ten minutes away. Midway is a cafe/bar (bar stools, plastic table tops, nicotine stained walls) where JP used to stop for a morning café and maybe a glass of something on the way home. The Registry Office where JP and Suzy were married is on the other side of the road.

The wedding reception was held in the cafe and the entire event took just 24 hrs to arrange. The Cafe Patron was like family to JP. On one occasion we were drinking in the cafe, the patron, who could not be a year less than ninety, disappeared into his dark cellar to emerge ten minutes later with a couple of unlabelled, cob-webbed, wine bottles.



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Dear Readers, the wine was wonderful and the rest of the evening a bit of a blur but how we laughed together. In San Diego - Digestive Disease Week - JP taught me how to approach a hotel buffet breakfast. We Brits had got it all wrong he said. Every other meal has savoury before sweet and breakfast should be the same. That evening we 'dined' (I use the word loosely) at the "Top Gun" Kansas City Barbecue. The attached image needs no further words! JP was a generous and kind man with a wicked sense of humour and is a loss to us all.

Another recent loss was HRH The Prince Philip. I love this anecdote: While inspecting the ranks of officer cadets at Sandhurst he stopped in front of a black cadet. "Where are you from?" he asked. "Senegal, Sir," came the reply. Remembering that Senegal had once been a French possession, Prince Philip asked his next question (a longish one) in that language. The cadet looked at him. "In my country, Sir," he said, "we speak French."

Virtual Gala Dinner -

Vous êtes invités!

While the Manchester meeting and Lowry dinner may be the latest in a series of pandemic victims, there's no need to put the drinks idea on ice. For those of



you feverish for a (socially distanced) aperitif, we are delighted to invite you to an online Gala Dinner / drinks event hosted on Google Meets on Friday 24th September 2021 at 7.00 p.m. While catering will be strictly B-Y-O-B, we are optimistic that this will improve the quality of the wine list. Log-in virtually for a welcome from the President, followed by drinks with old friends. Small group breakout rooms will be available to encourage le bavardage. Register your interest and get your invite link on the website (<https://www.anglofrenchmedical.com/virtualgala/>)

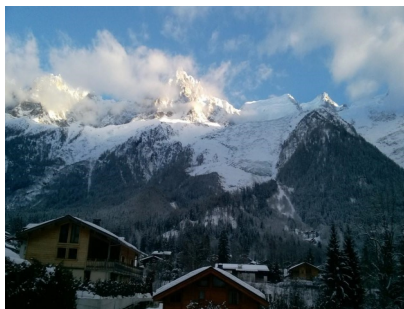
Gmail email addresses are required to use breakout rooms, but general conversation will be available for all. Desktop computers preferred. Formal dress optional. On vous attend sur ligne!



Back Page Notes

Chamonix 2021

We were all looking forward to a great reunion in Chamonix in January 2021. The hotel was booked, the snow had fallen deep and crisp and even, the pre-ski exercises were done and the Ibuprofen had been consumed!



Sadly reality was not what we were faced with. We had to go back to plan B, which was dreamed up in a flurry of emails. With thanks to John Wilkinson for the initiative, the "adhérents fidèles" met for drinks chat and canapés on zoom and we fantasised about steep gullies, wide open pistes, fondue and tartiflette as we cuddled a glass of tepid English beer and nibbled on crisps and olives in anticipation of another lockdown supper.

We had an excellent virtual meeting, sociable as always and heard much from colleagues about how vaccinations, and covid generally were going in our respective corners of the country. We learnt a lot from colleagues in public health, neurology, general practice and care of the elderly. It was not the same, but in the circumstances it was the best we could do.

2022 is booked and we look forward to our next meeting.

Committee

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Dr Nick Mc Carthy
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Did you know?

Britain is "absolutely not" going to war with France over fishing in The Channel, Jersey's foreign minister has said, after Boris Johnson ordered in the Royal Navy to protect the island's territorial waters.

Speaking as the international row escalated, Ian Gorst said the island's government believed French fisherman were just carrying out a legitimate peaceful protest.

Jean Pierre Gotlib

The AFMS is sad to inform its members of the passing of Jean Pierre Gotlib. He was a former physician and regular attendee at meetings. He leaves his wife Susie, son Roger, brother Roland, sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Michou and Jean-Paul. Our society has been privileged to know him and count him as a caring friend and colleague.

