AFMS NEWS

Autumn 2026

AFMS

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Vannes Conference 2026





To Vannes in Brittany this autumn for the annual joint meeting of the two societies, where we met in a hotel on the edge of the Golfe du Morbihan. On the Wednesday evening the president of the French society Paul Benfredj, in the absence of a tourist guide, showed he was well up to the task himself by giving us an excellent introduction to the area, its history and its culture.

The following morning we heard about the history of the French Dispensary in London, a body which still exists though its premises are now a hotel; a schema for understanding the progression of addiction in adolescence from an invited Parisian professor of psychiatry ; and some advice on how to get your pronouns right in English and French. Clue: it's easier in English. After coffee we had a reassuring talk on AI which showed us that AI plus doctor is better than either alone, suggesting we still have a role, and finished the morning with an intriguing clinical case which turned out to be cerebral amyloidosis.

After lunch at the hotel we set off to explore the Golfe du Morbihan, an inland sea formed by the coalescence of several estuaries, tidal and dotted with islands. We stopped for an hour or two in the autumn sunshine on the Île aux Moines, where the more intrepid members hired bikes and set off on the trail of cromlechs and menhirs, before heading home.

On Friday we heard from the students competing for the Hertford British Jean-Pierre Gotlib prize. This year there were five submissions, and the palm went to an account of an elective with the plastic surgery unit at Nantes by a British student. Later we heard from a French nephrologist (the second invited speaker) an admirably clear (even for anglophones) account of the up-to-date dietary management of chronic renal disease, and from a retired French GP how to remove a bead from a child's nose, (or rather how to get the mother to do it), by insufflation.

(continued overleaf)

Email Updates

Please use this QR code to update your email address on our website (if applicable)

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Did you know?

Meetings and Events

- **January 2027.**
  AFMS Winter Conference.
  Chamonix, France.
  28th January to 31st January 2027.
- **September 2027.**
  AFMS Conference.
  Belfast - Northern Ireland.
  22nd September to 25th September 2027.

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Our afternoon was spent visiting the chateau of Suscinio, which was Breton long before it was French, where a tour guide enlarged our French architectural and geological vocabulary, before we were free to wander the battlements and muse on Arthurian legend and whether using bear fat on your hair would have made an attractive pommade.
We were back in plenty of time to ready ourselves for the gala dinner before we headed off to our second chateau of the day, this time the eighteenth century Chateau Trédion, where we followed Breton pipers up the path to the front door, to find an entire Breton bagad waiting to serenade us with bombarde and biniou and commendable vigour. Pianissimo is evidently not a Breton concept. The band took a break long enough to permit dinner table conversation before they were back in action leading us in the steps of Breton dance, to aid digestion.

Saturday morning we heard that if global health care were a country its carbon footprint would make it a leading emitter, and we had a history of anaesthesia which reminded us that where obstetric anaesthesia is concerned, copying the royal family is not always a bad thing. Following this we had a professorial update on long Covid: the evidence that virus persists, the disappointing results of antiviral treatments, and what else we can do about it. We concluded the morning with a personal account by a British doctor of the conjunction in his family of French, jazz and medicine. The AGM brought the meeting to a close. If you would like a copy of the minutes, please email the admin secretary in the first instance.

Those who stayed on after lunch on Saturday enjoyed a trip to the Arzon peninsula to our south, with visits to a UNESCO world heritage megalithic site at Petit Mont. The Wehrmacht's contribution to Neolithic architecture had consisted of demolishing an ancient burial site and building a heavily-fortified gun emplacement. A careful and sympathetic restoration had allowed both the bunker and the burial site to remain, the combination providing an interesting example of French savoir-faire in dealing with matters of heritage. This visit was followed by a short walk to the port of Cruesty. The evening meal was at Port Navalo where delegates were treated to a traditional Breton meal - interestingly accompanied by cider. Altogether a splendid way to round off a superb conference.

We departed with the sense that this had been a wonderful meeting, with old friendships renewed and new ones formed, and a sense that the tide may be beginning to turn in terms of the much lamented cultural isolation of Britain from mainland Europe, and plans to help further strengthen those bonds our two societies have done much to keep intact.

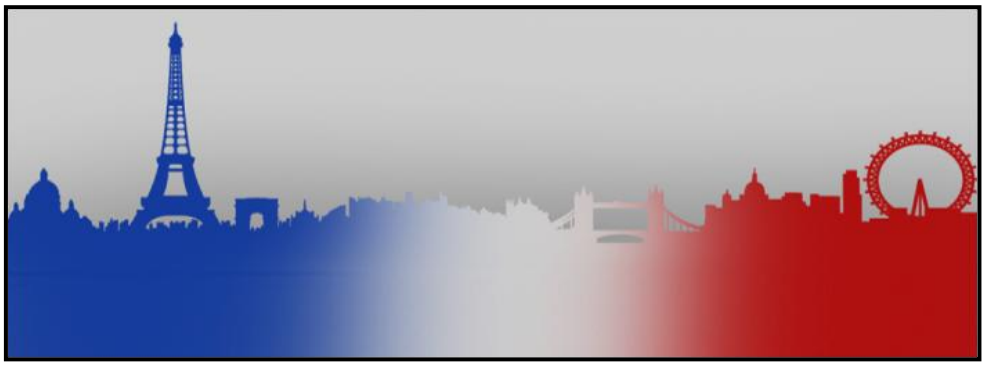
Dr Tim Reilly and Dr Nick Mc Carthy





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Lille Medical Weekend - April 2027



Anglo-French Medical Society

33rd Medical French

Residential Weekend Course.

9th to 11th April 2027,

Lille, France.

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

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: £720 FY1/2: £620

Students: £495 (Single Room) £415 (shared room)

Discount available for all bookings before January 6th 2027.

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AFMS - Winter Conference 2027





The 27th AFMS Winter meeting is scheduled to take place in Chamonix, Haute Savoie, France at the Hotel de l'Aiguille du Midi from the 28th January to the 31st January 2027. 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.



The next AFMS conference will take place from the 22nd to the 25th September 2027 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. A booking form will be available in the spring of 2027.



Members of the Society will be deeply saddened to learn of the unexpected and untimely death of Andrew Green. A member of the AFMS for many years, he was a regular attender at our winter meetings in Chamonix, where he impressed with his accomplished skill as a skier and entertained us with his amiable anecdotes. Having qualified in Birmingham, he settled in the west of England and was a GP in Cheltenham for more than thirty years. We send our thoughts to his family, colleagues and friends.

Committee

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(President)
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(Hon Secretary)
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Dr Marvin Duenger
Dr Aimée Lawton
Dr Nick McCarthy
Dr Julia Bache
Dr Benedicte Sjøflot
(co-opted member)

Did you Know?

With a total length of 29,000 km, the French railway network is the second largest in Europe (behind Germany) and the ninth biggest in the world. It is not surprising that their busiest station, Paris Gare du Nord, receives more than 214 million passengers per year. France was one of the world's first countries with high-speed technology. In 1981 the TGV was introduced by the SNCF.