

## Spirituality, values and the NHS

Full details can be found at [www.cmf.org.uk/news](http://www.cmf.org.uk/news)

1 July 2009 is a date we may come to see as seminal in the history of spiritual issues and healthcare.

### CMF Breakfast at ARM

For the first time since 1892, when the Medical Prayer Union (one of two organisations which merged in 1949 to form CMF) began these annual outreaches, the Breakfast was not a formal part of the BMA programme at its Annual Representative Meeting. Nevertheless, about 40 gathered to hear Trevor Stammers speak on *A dangerous cocktail? – Religion, Belief and the NHS*.

After quoting part of Matthew Arnold's poem *Dover Beach*, written in 1867 and prophetic in predicting the slow demise of Christianity – at least of Victorian Anglicanism and at least in the UK – he described how in many parts of the world Christianity is growing rapidly. Referring to current hostility in Britain he quoted: 'if religion is such a busted flush, secularists should surely stop being afraid of its influence'. However, growing political correctness now insists that God must not be mentioned, particularly, it seems, in the NHS.

After reviewing the Caroline Petrie case and another, he read from 2008 GMC guidelines *Personal Beliefs and Medical Practice*: 'All doctors have personal beliefs which affect their day-to-day practice. Some doctors' personal beliefs may give rise to concerns about carrying out or recommending particular procedures for patients.

Discussing personal beliefs may, when approached sensitively, help you to work in partnership with



Photos: BBC



Caroline Petrie

patients to address their particular treatment needs. You must respect patients' right to hold religious or other beliefs and should take those beliefs into account where they may be relevant to treatment options. However, if patients do not wish to discuss their personal beliefs with you, you must respect their wishes.'

Trevor stated: 'This applies as much to the atheist seeking to encourage assisted suicide as a possible option as it does to the Christian seeking to dissuade a patient from it. Both could give rise to concerns if undue pressures are exerted but to try to discriminate against one set of values alone is hardly compatible with any meaningful concepts of equality and diversity. The GMC clearly understands this.'

Just before lively discussion, he mentioned a BBC poll of over 1,000 people in the wake of the Caroline Petrie case, where 62% agreed that religion had an important role to play in British public life and 63% felt our laws should respect and be influenced by those religious values.

### ARM 1: Spiritual care

Bernadette Birtwhistle is a cancer specialist in Yorkshire who'd already received much media coverage even before two hours later she proposed a composite motion, the first two parts of which recognised the importance of spiritual care, and supported GMC rejection of inappropriate discussion. The last three asked that doctors and other health professionals should not face censure for offering prayer and other spiritual support. The Meeting supported the former but rejected the latter, although as ARM Chair Peter Bennie reminded everybody, even if the Meeting did not pass a motion, it did not mean the opposite held.

### ARM 2: Abortion TV ads

Mark Pickering was heckled for proposing that TV advertising for abortion services was unnecessary – there were other sources of information; discriminatory – only abortion providers would be able to afford TV advertising; and sent the wrong message – women watching would perceive an alleged safety net being promoted. Emphasising TV's power, he advocated values-based education instead. After brief debate the Meeting rejected the motion, but the issue had been aired.

### ARM 3: 'Assisted death'

In this motion, so critical the week before the Coroners and Justice Bill, the proposer essentially made two points – because no relatives accompanying Britons to *Dignitas* were prosecuted, the law was unclear and should be changed; and changing the law altogether was an important matter of

human choice where there could be adequate safeguards.

Baroness Ilora Finlay spoke powerfully against: numbers were tiny; there could be no effective safeguards; the law worked well; and passing this motion would go against two medical Royal Colleges, disability groups, and the Association of Palliative Medicine. A speech in favour pleaded patient autonomy, and Helen Grote spoke against on patient safety grounds. Tony Calland, Medical Ethics Committee Chair, argued against, and Chair of Council Hamish Meldrum pointed out that the latest survey of doctors' opinions in March 2009 showed 2/3 against. He said he had found Ilora Finlay 'compassionate and compelling'.

The decriminalisation vote for relatives accompanying abroad was lost by 44.4% to 52.6%, and changing law altogether on euthanasia and PAS was clearly lost by show of hands.

### ARM 4: Conscience

That employers should have protocols for issues of conscientious objection without individuals being disadvantaged passed narrowly, and that trainees should inform employers of any conscientious objection issues before starting passed easily.

### ARM 5: MEC Membership

A motion inspired by continuing concerns about balance in the membership of the BMA's MEC was not reached, but will be followed up by correspondence.

**Peter Saunders**  
is CMF General  
Secretary



## Diamond Anniversary decisions

It was perhaps fitting that in CMF's Diamond Anniversary year, the annual General Committee meeting on 6 June voted significant revisions through unanimously. However, although we have made some necessary amendments to bring ourselves up to date with changes in charity law, improve our ability to adapt to future ministry challenges, and provide better protection for our trustees and assets, we have not changed anything that is at the heart of CMF.

### The following stay the same:

- Our membership basis
- Our doctrinal basis
- Our four core aims (discipleship, evangelism, mission and values) with slight rewording of the mission and values aims
- Our current 'constitution' with a few minor amendments to make it fully complementary to our new memorandum and articles
- Our current process of electing Officers, Executive Committee and General Committee
- Our current system of regional secretaries, member reps, medical school secretaries and student reps (but we have more flexibility to change this in the future)
- The current structure of the General Committee
- The current central organisation's staff structure and roles

### The changes are as follows:

- We cease to be an 'unincorporated association' and become a 'charitable company limited by guarantee'
- We adopt a new governing document termed 'the memorandum and articles'
- The CMF 'Executive Committee' is renamed the 'Board of Trustees'
- The Board of Trustees is set at 12-20 with a quorum of 7 (currently 6)

- Up to two non-medically qualified members on the Board give us access to specific non-medical expertise
- The Board is elected annually by the 'members' of the new company (equivalent to the current General Committee)
- Our objects are expanded to add 'the advancement of education' and 'the relief of poverty, sickness and suffering' to our original object of 'the advancement of the Christian Faith'
- New subsidiary 'powers' are added to our four core aims or 'powers' (discipleship, evangelism, mission and values) to give us more flexibility to adapt to future challenges and protect us against hostile actions
- The General Committee quorum is set at 25

A huge amount of work had been done by a subcommittee, by the Executive, and by professional advisers before all this was made known in detail to the entire membership. We thank you for the many endorsements received, and for your prayers. The process should move ahead smoothly over the next few months and you'll see some minor effects in due course.

### General Committee

The Committee had earlier approved encouraging accounts for 2008 (a £50,000 surplus) and went on to brainstorm the future on four key issues – revitalising local fellowship, advocacy, working abroad and fundraising. Reports were received and discussed briefly, and the day was punctuated by short times of prayer.

### New Chairman



Nick Land

**Trevor Stammers** stepped down after more than two years in the Chair and was succeeded by **Nick Land**, a consultant psychiatrist in Middlesborough who is the chairman of the Graduates Committee and whose management expertise has already proved invaluable.

### Congratulations

**Sarah Gwynne** – FRCR, Faculty of Clinical Oncology

### Outgoing

Stroma Beattie (Edinburgh) to Singapore  
 Elspeth Paterson (Edinburgh) to Pakistan  
 Laura Rinchey (Belfast) to Belgium

### Homecoming

John Baigent (Leeds) from Cameroon  
 James Bunn (The Middlesex) from Malawi  
 Mary Bunn (Charing Cross and Westminster) from Malawi  
 Francesca Elloway (Bristol) from Uganda  
 Huw Morgan (Birmingham) from Nepal  
 David Tyers ((Leicester) from Swaziland

### Change of address abroad

Elspeth Young (Aberdeen) from Nigeria to Australia

### Regional CMF meetings

See [www.cmf.org.uk/fellowship](http://www.cmf.org.uk/fellowship) for information about local groups

### Obituaries

**John Collings-Wells** (*q* King's College Hospital 1954; *d* February 2009) became a GP in Lymington with an interest in rheumatology and rehabilitative medicine. He was an honorary medical officer to the Jubilee Sailing Trust in Southampton.

**Brenda Dudley** (*q* Royal Free Hospital 1964; *d* March 2009) had been a clinical assistant in respiratory medicine at Watford General Hospital.

**Chris Savile** (*q* Cambridge 1952; *d* April 2009) became a GP in Eastbourne, and was well known in national GP circles. For many years he organised the CMF GP Bureau which after suitable vetting put Christian practices around the UK seeking a partner in touch with Christian doctors returning from the overseas mission field, and vice-versa. He handed this on to a local colleague until the changing medical scene made this approach impractical. He played a major role in developing CMF's South East Conference in the early 1990s, and was on the Council of Reference from 1989 to 1997, serving as President from 1993 to 1995.

# New: for the next academic year



Alex Bunn

## New Head of Student Ministries



Giles Cattermole

There is good news on student staffing. We are delighted to announce the

appointment of **Giles Cattermole** as the new Head of the Department. A consultant in emergency medicine, he is currently working in Hong Kong, but will join us in London in January 2010.

Giles has a long track record of supporting students on summer camps at home and abroad, as a church leader, and as Medical School Secretary in Cardiff, and has much to offer CMF. We will give him a full introduction in the Christmas edition.

## New interns

In addition, we anticipate having two student interns join the office in September. They replace Will Taylor, who marries fellow student member, Daisy Acres, before returning to Newcastle medical school in August. He will be sorely missed for his dedication and good humour.

## Need new members for NSC

The National Students' Committee will say goodbye to many of its reps this summer, and we are keen not just to recruit, but to disciple, mentor, equip and 'radicalise' the leaders of tomorrow. We have a unique training programme for Christian medics, and want to help them make the most of their student years – see Daniel 1:20.

## Graduation services for new doctors

Graduation services are being planned in Aberdeen, Belfast, Cardiff, Glasgow and London,

## New student staff worker for the North-East

We have just appointed **Matt Lillicrap**, and interview him here:

### Who are you, and how did you end up in CMF News?

*My name's Matt and I'm starting as the North-East CMF staff worker from August.*

### OK, but we want to know more than just your name – Who are you? What are your passions in life?

*Well, I'm married to Anika and have an extremely cute 3-month old daughter called Charis. We live in Gateshead, but I'm originally from the Garden of England, Kent. As for my life's passions, God's wonderful gift of cricket has to get a mention! But what really excites me is people coming to know and love Jesus.*

### How did you come to be in the North-East?

*Anika and I came to Newcastle to study medicine in 2001 and qualified in 2006. I've been working full time since, and am coming to the end of ST1 in Core Medical Training (2nd year SHO in old money). Anika has now side-stepped medicine for motherhood and is at home full time.*

### Can you tell us about your church involvement?

*I'm part of Holy Trinity Gateshead (HTG), a church plant from Jesmond Parish Church in Newcastle.*



*I've loved being part of it from the beginning, and seeing how God is working to grow his church. I've particularly valued the opportunity to be a Bible study leader and to preach occasionally.*

### So why are you becoming a CMF staff worker?

*As a student, CMF was a great support to me, especially in teaching me how Jesus' lordship should shape me as a doctor. I pray that as a staff worker God would use me to help medical students work this out in their lives. I know that he will have lots more to teach me too.*

*That sounds great.*

### How will you actually do this in the two days a week you have?

*I'll be supporting the student CMF leaders as they run their groups, and seek to grow in godliness and understanding of biblical ethics. I also hope to encourage and equip them in their evangelism.*

### How can we be praying for you as you prepare for and start your new role?

- For wisdom to know how best to use the CMF time I have each week
- That I would get to know the students quickly and be an encouragement to them
- That I would be a godly example in my medical work

**Thank you.**

to help new graduates remember that medicine is a vocation as well as a career (Ephesians 2:10).

Newcastle have also invited working doctors to rededicate their lives to 'the Great Physician', at a time of increasing change, uncertainty and opposition.

## Summer missions

Many students are involved

in a variety of summer missions. Members are supporting Christian medical camps in Armenia and for the first time, Azerbaijan.

## Student fundraising events

These were initiated last year, so that students could feel treated as equal partners within CMF. One major walk is planned for the West Highland Way,

from 18-23 July, and another on the Derby Canal Ring, 15 August.

**Alex Bunn** is Acting Head of Student Ministries  
alex.bunn@cmf.org.uk

# Making the connections



Kevin Vaughan

## Connecting – with God and with the Fellowship

- *Inspirational worship*
- *God speaking through Dick and others*
- *Honest sharing with old and new CMF friends*

These are just some of the overwhelmingly positive comments after the annual Graduates Conference *Joy in Turbulent Times* at Swanwick in April. Dick Dowsett's Bible Readings from 1 Peter inspired and challenged us, particularly looking at how a Christian doctor can make a difference for Christ in the current climate of the nation and the NHS. More than ever we need real and living relationships with Christ and with each other. When biblical truth penetrates the barriers of superficiality we put up, it can be life changing and strengthen us to face the daily struggle with joy!

John Wyatt's Rendle Short Lecture *The Doctor in the Workplace* touched many. We were challenged to see how Christian doctors need to follow Jesus' model of servant leadership, and to acknowledge that what we show to the world is often something very different. How we need to help each other to make a difference for Christ today!

Plenty of time for worship, relaxation, and participation in a wide variety of seminars led to a memorable weekend. Undoubtedly many who came will be returning to Swanwick for 23-25 April 2010 when John Lennox, Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University and a well known Bible teacher and apologist, will be giving the Bible Readings. If you've not been to Swanwick in recent years, 2010 might be the year to start again!



## Connecting with the profession

On 1 July Trevor Stammers spoke at the CMF Breakfast meeting during the British Medical Association ARM in Liverpool, on *A dangerous cocktail? – Religion, Belief and the NHS*. The title was particularly apt for several reasons; one being that for the first time in over 100 years, the BMA downgraded the Breakfast from being a mainstream part of the formal programme at their annual representative meeting to a fringe event.

However, Professor Averil Mansfield, President-Elect of the BMA, graciously took the chair and after Trevor's excellent talk highlighting the dangers of marginalising Christian belief and allowing militant atheism to take over, the comments and questions that came from the floor showed how vitally important this question is for the NHS. (Reports on the debates at the ARM and other related issues can be found elsewhere in *CMF News* and on the website.)

## Connecting at breakfasts

Many attend CMF breakfasts at annual specialty meetings throughout the year. These are a unique opportunity to get to know Christians in your own specialty, and sometimes other Christian doctors in the local area. Recent meetings for paediatricians, gastroenterologists,



psychiatrists, rheumatologists and ophthalmologists have brought encouragement to members at all stages in their careers. Do get involved. There will be more breakfasts in the autumn: details of all meetings are on the CMF website.

## Connecting at conferences

During the autumn conference programme, the **annual conference for psychiatrists** on 2 October will invite us to look at our connections – with God, with patients, with Christian and non-Christian colleagues, and with churches.

Many of our other events look at some aspect of these connections too. The **East Anglia** conference looked at how we can make the best use of the limited resources available to the healthcare team as we serve our patients. At the **South-east** conference we will explore advocacy for Christians who face criticism and public scrutiny for speaking up for Christian truth and standards, and the **Northern** conference will look at how we can renew our relationship with God as we

turn from our jaded humdrum everyday existence and put the spotlight on Christ.

The theme for the **Midlands** conference will be the theology of work and vocation, and how this works out in daily practice and experience. The **Scottish** conference will also challenge us to consider what 'Loving God' actually means in practice, and there will be seminars on practical issues at the interface of Christianity and medicine.

In addition there is a continuing programme of **Saline Solution** conferences helping us to be more effective witnesses for Christ among patients and colleagues in daily clinical practice.

## Connected through contacts

Local contacts are still a key means of support for most of us. Could you volunteer to help a regional group, be a pastoral carer for juniors, or start a prayer meeting in your hospital?

## Connected through training

Two vital conferences this autumn for junior doctors will be a day conference on 26 September on how we may practically follow God's call through the maze of the MMC developments, and a weekend conference 23-25 October to relax together, listen to God and be refreshed. Juniors: please put the dates in your diary as soon as possible. Everybody: please pray for juniors in these challenging days!

*Kevin Vaughan is Head of Graduate Ministries*

## Extending our influence



Andrew Fergusson

### New look for CMF website



The main site has undergone significant redesign and was relaunched on 2 July. The home page of [www.cmf.org.uk](http://www.cmf.org.uk)

- now fills the whole screen for most users
- is cleaner and brighter
- is more visual
- is lighter on text
- has a more prominent search function, easier to use
- takes you to each department's individual home page
- has a colour-coded theme



There is a new section for Allied Professions, to reflect the growing conviction voiced at this year's General Committee that CMF must do more to support nurses and other professions allied to medicine.

Nick Mott, our previous designer/developer, started the

work two years ago because the existing site no longer reflected how CMF had come to be restructured departmentally. The lengthy process of extensive recoding was speeded up by the appointment of a full time web manager last October, and Robert Yaxley has received further technical support from David Clark who is contracted to CMF on a one-day-a-week basis.

### CMF's other sites

The previous [www.cmf.org.uk](http://www.cmf.org.uk) averaged 14,000 visits per month, ~ 450 per day, and each visitor viewed an average two pages. [www.healthserve.org.uk](http://www.healthserve.org.uk) averaged 3,500 visits per month, with an average three pages viewed per visit. The content has now moved to CMF's International Ministries department. (The url still exists and there is a redirect page.)

We are currently exploring various options about what to do with [www.ethicsforschools.org.uk](http://www.ethicsforschools.org.uk). Although nothing has been updated for four years, this site still gets significant traffic, averaging 2,500 visits per month with three pages viewed per visit. The material is still accessible from the new ethics and public policy page.

### Password protected areas

These are the next priority. They would help get around the question of 'sensitive' material; could enable us more easily to keep track of members' email addresses; might encourage more to join – especially if only members could view the entire contents of publications; could let individual groups post events to their specific interest webpage; and would allow regional secretaries, medical school secretaries, and perhaps other volunteers to have convenient contact with their groups.

### Developing a 'Media Centre'



A budget of £4,000 to set one up has been agreed. With more and more members and staff appearing regularly in the media, and with the potential later to create specific material of our own, promoting audio and video material easily would be a great bonus for the site. At its recent meeting, the Publications Committee felt on balance that accessibility to our arguments was the priority and that getting material onto sites such as YouTube should be considered.

### Blogs?

Pilot blogs have been working, but the main obstacle identified by the committee was staff time to produce well written, insightful reading matter. Effective blogs would need to be updated at least weekly.

### Promotional DVD

The editing and post-production work for the DVD to introduce CMF to colleagues and to churches is being finalised throughout July, and we will be sending every member a copy, with other materials, in the early autumn. Please join us in a promotional blitz then!

### Forthcoming books

- ***I could do that!*** is a racy collection of 15 short and inspiring autobiographical chapters. Every one of us should find something in the wide range of stories that we ourselves at least *could* do. This should be out by the autumn. Watch out for details of a pre-publication special offer.
- ***More Matters of Life and Death***. John Wyatt's substantially revised version of his 1998 bestseller will definitely be published by IVP in January 2010, hopefully as a co-publication with CMF. We will keep you posted.
- ***Foundations***. With apologies for the delays, we trust this practical guidance specifically for juniors will be out this year.

### New Publications Committee invites members

It is clear from all the above and of course from our everyday lives that technology is changing the way we communicate. CMF's Publications Committee is adapting to recognise that. We meet two or three times a year, in Johnson House of a midweek evening, under the chairmanship now of Dominic Beer, and would welcome approaches about joining the group – especially if you are mainly interested in 'new media'.

*Andrew Fergusson is Head of Communications*

## The wider horizon



Vicky Lavy

### Zimbabwe Appeal

The appeal's final total was £33,415 – a fantastic response to the request for help from CMF Zimbabwe during the cholera epidemic which has claimed over 4,000 lives. Our donations bought supplies to treat 3,000 patients and provided running costs for cholera treatment centres. In total, our partners treated 13,000 patients – 13% of the country's caseload – and gave health education to 25,000 people. Through word and deed they brought God's love to thousands of people and many gave their lives to Christ. It has been a privilege for CMF UK to be a part of this.

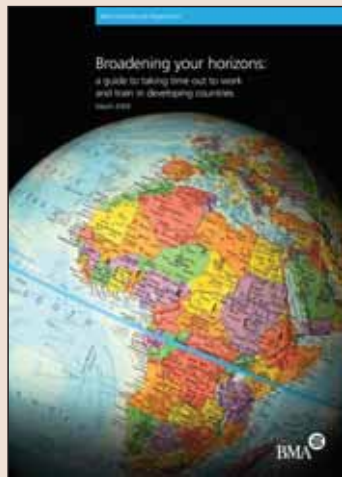
Thank you to all who prayed and gave. Read the full report at [admin.cmf.org.uk/pdf/appeals/zimbabwe\\_report.pdf](http://admin.cmf.org.uk/pdf/appeals/zimbabwe_report.pdf)

### Appraisers needed

Requirements for revalidation remain undecided for doctors working abroad. However, it is clear that annual appraisals will play an important part, but these will be difficult for many of our overseas members to arrange. If qualified appraisers here could provide appraisals – either by phone and internet, or face-to-face during leave periods – this would be a valuable way of supporting those working abroad. If you are interested in helping, contact [vicky.lavy@cmf.org.uk](mailto:vicky.lavy@cmf.org.uk)

### Broadening your horizons

The BMA have recently published this helpful guide to taking time out to work and train in developing countries. Trainees can do this as 'out of programme experience' (OOPE) or as approved research or training, or between training schemes. Doctors in substantive posts can do this through the



NHS career break scheme, or as study leave, or as sabbatical. The handbook provides a step-by-step guide to the application processes for all of these options.

[www.bma.org.uk/careers/working\\_abroad/broadeningyourhorizons.jsp](http://www.bma.org.uk/careers/working_abroad/broadeningyourhorizons.jsp)

The overall message is encouraging: while it may require hard work and perseverance to arrange time out, the opportunity is there for everyone. See this edition of *Triple Helix* to read about two members' experiences.

### Developing Health Course

As *CMF News* goes to print, 40 are still attending the annual *Developing Health* course. The course is aimed both at those currently working overseas who want to update their knowledge, and those planning to go who want to be equipped for the work they will do. In addition, many who are simply interested in international work have found it useful to learn more and explore the possibilities. For information on next year's course, and booking information, please visit [www.cmf.org.uk/internationalministries/?context=category&page=events](http://www.cmf.org.uk/internationalministries/?context=category&page=events)

**Vicky Lavy** is Head of International Ministries

## International partnerships



Steve Fouch

### The Christian HIV & AIDS Alliance

This is about to launch a new initiative called 'Covenant to Care' which aims to equip and empower churches to link with Christian organisations involved in HIV and AIDS programmes around the world, and to encourage those churches to make a long-term commitment to partner with those programmes. More details at [is.gd/12ypO](http://is.gd/12ypO)

### The UK Consortium on AIDS & Development Faith Working Group

We have been co-operating with WHO and UNAIDS over the last year on ways of working more effectively with faith communities and faith-based organisations.

### Department for International Development

CMF has also been involved with a recent consultation by the UK government's DFID on its new White Paper. Although there was little in the consultation document directly linked to health in the developing world, we did bring health and faith into the issues we felt DFID needed to consider – particularly working constructively with churches and Christian organisations, both in developing countries and in the UK.

### Healthcare Mission Forum

Finally, we have been working with Global Connections in a consultation by their Healthcare Mission Forum on the current and possible future challenges for healthcare mission from the UK. A meeting was held with a range of mission leaders, church leaders, and health professionals involved in mission. After lengthy discussion, a range of working groups was drawn together around:

- The missiology of healthcare mission
- Partnerships – between Western agencies and churches, and national agencies and churches
- Getting the story out – both to inspire the churches and to provide a hard evidence base for governments and international bodies
- Building and developing local capacity
- Communicating to British churches what is happening in healthcare mission worldwide

The plan is to draw the findings of these working groups together over the next few months to feed into the Global Connections conference this autumn, and so to steer the direction for future work and partnerships between mission agencies and churches in our area of healthcare mission.

**Steve Fouch** is Head of Allied Professions Ministries and works with the International Department

# ICMDA

International Christian Medical and Dental Association



James Tomlinson

## Eurasia

The Eurasia Committee and Area Student Representatives (ASRs) came together in March from across Europe and Eurasia to meet in Lithuania, for a time of team development and for the Eurasia Committee meeting.

Throughout our times of worship and devotion, training, strategic planning, and fun there was a deep sense of 'team' as we enjoyed fellowship together. We were also aware of God's guidance during our discussions as we reviewed last year's Europe-Eurasia conference and together considered the way forward. Times such as this are vital for strengthening the Eurasia team and refining our vision as we support the work of the national movements and contact groups across our region.

While we were together, two new ASRs were interviewed and appointed for Eastern Europe and for the Caucasus. We also welcomed new members to the Eurasia committee from Portugal and Egypt. Kevin Vaughan continues in his role as chairman of the committee and Kristian Kristensen (Denmark) took over as treasurer.

A highlight of our time in Lithuania was an evening with members of the Lithuanian CMF who shared how, as they had prayed regularly with others from the CMF in their hospitals and institutions, they found themselves being given positions as heads of their departments and institutions. I was challenged by their dedication to pray in, and for, their places of work and sensed that because of their commitment to seek God's will and way in their workplaces,



they had been given these positions of influence despite their relatively small numbers.

### Priorities

In the almost 9 months of being Regional Secretary, my priority has been to follow up on the Europe-Eurasia conference and invest time into building a strong foundation on which further growth can occur. This applies both to the people who volunteer and work with ICMDA in Eurasia, and also in our systems and structures. The latter aspect includes work on a database, and our communication and work towards [www.icmda.net/resources](http://www.icmda.net/resources) which hosts recordings from the Europe-Eurasia conference among other resources, and has just gone online with some initial resources.

## ICMDA 2010



**Attention: Date change for World Congress to be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay.**

The conference now begins on Thursday 1 July with the Student and Junior Graduates conference from 1-4 July 2010, followed by the main Congress from 4-8 July.

The conference theme 'Priorities in professional practice: for whom are you working?' will be explored in Bible readings, plenary sessions and seminars. Congress speakers include Dr Pablo Martinez (Spain) as Bible Reader, Dr David Stevens (USA) and author Philip Yancey. Why not attend and join Christian medics and dentists, students and graduates from around the globe?

Registration and further information can be found on the Congress website [www.icmda2010.org](http://www.icmda2010.org). Please note early registration rates apply for bookings before 31 December. See same website for details on pre-congress seminars, including a meeting 2-3 July for psychologists and psychiatrists – 'The place of the Sacred in Psychotherapy'.

We are establishing a bursary fund to support delegates who would not otherwise be able to attend. Donations in the UK can be made through the ICMDA UK Trust. For information on how to give, contact the Trust's new secretary, Dr Mark Pickering on [uktrust@icmda-online.org](mailto:uktrust@icmda-online.org). Mark has taken over from Dr Peter Pattison.

The ongoing growth in our region requires wisdom and resources. Our thanks go to CMF and its members who have given both to past conference bursary funds and to the ongoing work of ICMDA in Eurasia. Do pray for Christians in healthcare across Eurasia, the ICMDA Eurasia team, and the organisations we partner with.

### ASR still needed for Western Europe

We are still seeking applications for the role of ASR for Western Europe. If you would be interested, or know someone who may be appropriate, please contact me on [Eurasia@icmda-online.org](mailto:Eurasia@icmda-online.org)

### Conference Season

In May, ARCHAÉ (the Austrian CMF) ran their first conference for students and juniors with 60 attending. This was an encouraging time for those

present, including our ASR for Central Europe – Chris. Also in May I had the privilege of joining the Romanian CMA at their annual conference which explored the theme of 'the Psyche and Soul'. The same weekend saw two other conferences in the Balkans, in Serbia and Bulgaria. Later the same month the Spanish CMF ran an *International Saline Solution* at their national conference, with the assistance of HCFI and International Health Services.

*James Tomlinson is the ICMDA Eurasia Regional Secretary*  
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## Allied professions



Steve Fouch

### Christian Nurses and Midwives Christian Therapists' Network

February's annual joint conference had to be cancelled because of heavy snow, so a day conference was organised in Johnson House on 13 June. Jeremy Hobson (a surgeon and currently minister of Trinity Church, Islington) spoke from 1 John on the importance of Christ-like relationships in the workplace. Both groups are considering another day conference in the West Midlands this autumn, possibly looking at issues affecting Christians working in the NHS, arising from the Caroline Petrie case and the new *Religion or Belief* guidelines.

At the recent CMF General Committee there was concern that we offer more support to develop stronger Christian fellowships among the other health professions. If you know Christian nurses or allied health professionals in your church or workplace, please let them know there are national fellowships for them. We hope soon to send all CMF members relevant literature to pass on to colleagues and friends.

### Nurses Christian Fellowship International

Meanwhile NCFI helped run the fourth students' conference on spiritual care in Norway in April. The stories around spiritual care and religion in the NHS, and especially the Caroline Petrie case, had been widely reported across Europe and beyond, and there was much discussion of the issues raised. A European network for nursing research and training in spiritual care was also established, and I held a seminar introducing *Saline Solution* in the concurrent sessions programme. See full report at [www.ncfieurope.org](http://www.ncfieurope.org). The next conference will be held in The Netherlands in 2011.

### Saline Solution International

The international group continues to work at developing links and networks within nursing and the other allied health professions, and at the European region re-envisioning conference in Birmingham, 11-13 September, we shall be looking at adapting both *Saline Solution* and the 'training the trainers' programmes for nurses and other health professionals.

### Healthcare Sunday

Finally, Healthcare Sunday this year is on 18 October. CMF is helping develop a range of tools and resources for churches to recognise and support the work of the health professionals in their congregations, and thus support the health service as a whole. See [www.healthcaresunday.org.uk](http://www.healthcaresunday.org.uk)

Steve Fouch is Head of Allied Professions Ministries

## PRIME

Partnership in International Medical Education



Clare Cooper

'Until today I thought there was only one way to practise – now I know there is another way. Why have I wasted my life till now? It is going to be different in the future.' These words from an African psychiatrist came after an evening in a UK hospital where PRIME shared its vision with doctors from various faith backgrounds. Putting God-centredness at the heart of clinical care is not just for overseas, it is also needed here. We are happy to share this message with your colleagues wherever they are.

### Australasia

PRIME's links continue to strengthen and we are working towards establishing PRIME Australia as a semi-autonomous group. We have a number of tutors based there, and they recently held a national conference together with HealthServe Australia and ICMDA Oceania. It successfully spread the concept of PRIME to a much wider group of potential Australian tutors, and also to those who came from New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

Doctors and other teachers of health professionals, many already engaged working in countries overseas, enthusiastically saw the PRIME approach as a way of deepening that work and making it more effective and sustainable. Thanks to Carolyn Russell, Bill Hague and Michael Burke, we have a group with enormous potential – not just for work in Australasia or the southern Pacific but also in many parts of Africa, South Asia, China and even Eastern Europe.

### Tom Garrett

As well as being involved with our work in Eastern Europe, Tom headed our Africa Desk and was actively involved in projects in Sierra Leone, Zambia and Mozambique. As International Development Officer for the RCGP he was connected with countries such as Nigeria and the Gambia. His death has left a big hole in PRIME work and in many people's lives. Tributes have been coming in from all over the world.

Can you help fill the gap? If you have in-depth experience of working in an African country, up to date contacts, and would be willing to co-ordinate and expand educational partnerships for PRIME, we would love to hear from you, even if you have not yet worked with us.

If you wish to join in with the PRIME vision in any way please email [admin@prime-international.org.uk](mailto:admin@prime-international.org.uk)

Clare Cooper is Associate Director of PRIME

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## Dates for your Diary

### September

- 5 Paediatric Nephrology Breakfast, Birmingham
- 19 Executive Committee, London
- 19 Saline Solution, Dundee
- 26 Junior Doctors' Day Conference

### October

- 2 Psychiatry Day Conference
- 3 London & SE Day Conference
- 6-8 Retirees Conference
- 16-18 Northern Conference
- 23-25 Junior Doctors Conference

### November

- 6 RCGP Breakfast, Glasgow
- 14 Midlands Day Conference
- 20-22 Scottish Conference
- 28 Executive Committee, London

For more details of upcoming events, see [www.cmf.org.uk](http://www.cmf.org.uk)

## CMF News

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