

**Suffering and Science**  
**Launde Abbey, Leicestershire. 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

**Feedback & Quotes**

....another spectacular meeting.... these speakers ... were absolutely incredible. I think it will take until the next meeting for me to deal with the content, the reading prompted by the talks and just thinking. It is always a humbling yet exciting experience to attend this group but always an enriching one. This was the best yet.

It was indeed an excellent meeting and well worth attending. I do hope the group continues to be as inspiring and motivating, giving a rare intellectual ethos to pain medicine. I found all the speakers to be thus and it was a pleasure to meet Alex Cahana, a rare and exceptional recruit with a very incisive intellect (Phenomenologist!).

Michael Hare Duke, as one of many inspiring speakers, gave a superb tour de force on poetry as a way of communicating with damaged patients and gave a good insight into the power of 'alternative' ways of communicating. One question which occurs to me since is whether we have adequately addressed the issue of 'hopelessness' in the suffering aspects of pain? I do wonder whether we were all thinking around this without actually hitting this nail on the head!

The programme was very interesting indeed, even though some of it went over my head. I was very grateful to Alex (Cahana) for providing such a good translation of some of the tough stuff. It is so rare to go to a meeting where every single speaker is relevant and interesting. It was also wonderful to have so much opportunity for discussion with each other and the speakers. I thought the Bishop's poetry reading was magical. Doing Tai Chi with Willy on the lawn, watched by sheep, will stay with me. It was the first time I had attended one of your meetings and I felt most welcome.

Once again, we looked forward to a time of intellectual stimulation, inspiration, interdisciplinary exchange of experience and ideas, and recreation, and we were not disappointed! There is no other conference for which we would travel 12,000 miles and back.

A perfect balance of the practical and the theoretical, as well as a valuable opportunity to meet others working in allied areas and to gain insights and concepts never conveyed in journals, combined with healthy exercise in a tranquil place, was refreshing in every way.