

BAA President Blog – 24th May 2024

I would like to start this blog with a big thank you to everyone who volunteers on one of the BAA Committees. Approximately one hundred of you give some of your time to support the work of the BAA, and it is really appreciated.

The ebb and flow of work varies across teams, throughout the year. One committee with their noses to the grind stone at this time of year is our Conference committee, as they gear up ready to launch registration for the BAA Annual Conference.

The launch takes place in early June, so we're nearly ready to go. When we launch the conference, we will start the call for your abstracts. With ten free paper presentations on the programme, we are keen to see some abstracts of your work. The committee will then select ten of this year's presentations from those abstracts. There are also 100 poster presentation boards ready to display your research/projects. Keep an eye on your inbox for conference details arriving soon.

Our regional reps are busy arranging local meetings throughout the year. Many of these are online, as this offers the most efficient way to meet. However, in Northern Ireland, our representative, Mandy Speers, recently hosted a great in-person meeting in Belfast for 60 of her peers and colleagues from across the country. There was a great turn out, and we must thank Interacoustics for sponsoring the day.

Our Early Professionals committee has just finished presenting a series of Journal Clubs with the fantastic BSc Students at the University of Southampton. These sessions, over lunchtimes, were brilliant. It was wonderful hearing from the students and seeing the time and effort they put into studying the chosen papers, and then presenting them to us. Thank you to Miru, Rebecca and Hemna from the EP committee, and all the wonderful students. And thank you Saira Hussain and Vicky Watson, for bringing it all together. If you missed these sessions, please watch the recordings [here](#).

Our Education team has also organised a series of webinars on equivalence for Clinical Scientists. Running in conjunction with the Academy of Healthcare Science, these sessions are all available to book through the events pages [here](#).

The Professional Development team continues their sterling efforts with our Mentoring Scheme and the Cochlear Implant Champions work, among many other projects. The CI Champs recently organised a day of presentations as part of the BCIG Conference in Gateshead, which was well received – thank you Laura, Rhian and team!

I know the SQC team is working behind the scenes, ready to bring updated guidance and standards, along with the Education committee, who are readying the updated scope of practice for consultation. There is much, much more happening across all of our committees.

I know that a few of our teams are looking to recruit new volunteers, so please consider joining one of them. The time you can give is invaluable to all of us. I started volunteering for BAA many years back as a regional representative in Yorkshire, and a decade (or more) later I am nearing the end of my time as President. That time has certainly flown by!

As ever, you can contact me or any of our board directors here: admin@baaudiology.org

Take care

Sam
BAA President