

BAA President Blog – 4th August 2025

Last week, I attended the joint BAA/BSA Student and Early Professionals Day held at Aston University. The day was well-attended, with enthusiastic participants. I was there to run an interview skills workshop and to participate on a panel with Dr Siobhan Brennan, Chair of the BSA, to discuss the roles and activities of both BAA and BSA, particularly in support of Early Professionals.

Over the years, I have interviewed many people, and I enjoy it, despite occasionally struggling with a short attention span. After expecting a good, solid fundamental knowledge of audiology, I was always looking for the 'something else'. You can support training in clinical skills, but the people skills, sense of humour, and curiosity also need to be present. We had discussions in my workshop about whether you were looking for a career or a job, and that currently, as we are all short of workforce, a good applicant should have their pick of jobs. This means that they should consider where they really want to work and for whom, and view the interview as a two-way decision-making process. On the theme of a challenged workforce, the most popular workshop of the day by far was the 'Audiology Abroad' one, so we'd better get on with that pipeline of potential new audiologists pretty quickly, as well as making 'Audiology at home' more appealing!

The panel discussion with Siobhan revealed that both of us were incredibly well-behaved students back in the day, as we were both told to join the BSA and our relevant professional body. As we both predate BAA, this would have been BAAT, BAAS or BSHT; we did as we were told and have remained members of both ever since. We just accepted it as a necessary part of our careers. Both of us have been involved in volunteering for either BSA or BAA (or its previous incarnations) throughout our careers, and we agreed that it was the networks, peer support, and mentoring that doing so provided that have shaped us and our careers.

BAA are always looking for volunteers, so if you fancy increasing your network, why not get in touch? We welcome new volunteers and appreciate the different viewpoints and ideas they bring. There is no wrong time to volunteer; we welcome audiologists from any sector at any point in their career. We have a couple of committees seeking volunteers, and new ones are about to begin as well. As you will have seen in Horizons, we are currently accepting nominations for candidates to stand for the Board. If you have dipped your toes into being on one of the BAA committees and feel you would like to join the Board, or if you have never volunteered for us before but feel you can contribute your time, ideas and voice, we want to hear from you. We have some big plans and need willing hands to help bring them to life. I can personally recommend that it supports your career development and job satisfaction.

We continue to be more transparent about many aspects of our work on your behalf. To this end, we share some insight into the meetings in which we are invited to participate. If you scroll down the page, we also include overviews of our monthly Exec Board and quarterly Board meetings: [BAA Board Meetings](#).

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

Take care

Claire
BAA President

Interested in joining a committee? Complete this, please: [Expression of Interest form](#)
Read our [Joining a BAA Committee Policy](#)