

BAA President Blog – 27th April 2026

Last week Victoria Adshead and I attended the British Cochlear Implant Group's (BCIG) conference up in Glasgow. It was a busy two days, with the BAA/BCIG Cochlear Implant Champs day on the first day. This allowed the CI champs a day of support, learning and networking to develop their CI knowledge and support them in their role. It was a great day, and we met many enthused champs at the end of it. Being a CI champ is so much more than simply carrying out an audit of referrals, it also includes supporting the department in understanding who may be eligible for a CI referral, what is needed for those patients to make a good assessment of their eligibility prior to referral and taking on feedback from the CI centres on those referrals and the subsequent assessment of patients.

Petrina Checkland, Rhian Bardsley and the rest of the CI Champs committee did a great job of organising the day. Also, thanks go to all the manufacturers who gave their time to have open and supportive conversations with the delegates.

It was also very positive to hear that all CI centres have committed to accept referrals from independent audiologists as well as NHS departments, a big step forward for smoother pathways for all.

If you are interested in becoming a CI Champ or supporting one in your department, please have a look through the information on our website here: <https://baaudiology.org/professional-information/cochlear-implant-champions/>

Also last week was our second Board meeting of the year. All Board Directors fed back on progress within their portfolios, and we welcomed our new co-opted Board Director Robert Frost to his first meeting. During the meeting we heard from the Finance team at CJAM (our management company) about our forecasted budget and our plans to ensure our financial stability in the year ahead.

One of our Strategic objectives at BAA is to maintain a financially viable position, therefore having time to review what we spend and where is vital each year. As a membership body, most of our income is generated by your membership fee. We had to increase that fee last year, and it is possible that in the future we will need to increase it again after nearly 14 years of keeping at the same level. We are often asked why the majority of our resources are kept to members only, and if we could share them more widely. However, the Board feels strongly that we must offer value for your membership fee, so our e-learning modules, HTS scheme, CPD webinars, significantly reduced conference fees for example will remain for members only.

With best wishes,

Claire Benton
BAA President

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

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