

BAA President Blog – 20th July 2026

I have just been on the BAA website and registered for our conference, I hope you have all had chance to look through what we are offering this year to decide whether you are able to join us in October.

Last month we held our Heads of Service meeting and, looking through the feedback forms, one thing strikes me as being mentioned repeatedly – the benefit of networking, face to face, with your peers. With so much now offered online, with the benefits of no travel costs, being able to fit it in between other jobs, staying in your pyjamas...it now can be hard to justify turning up to in-person meetings and events.

However, I would urge you to consider the benefits of coming to conference over and above the content of presentations (although these are top quality!), to experience things that can only happen at a face-to-face meeting. There are the obvious things, like going around the exhibition, being able to talk to manufacturers directly about equipment, hearing aids, support materials and doing direct comparisons right there and then. There is looking at the posters and seeing a really wide range of inspirational, thought-provoking work. Finding people with similar interests who are working on the same things from their poster and making contact with them there and then to discuss the work, without the effort of a speculative phone call or email. Obviously then catching up with other delegates, colleagues you may not have seen for a while.

But there are the less obvious benefits too, listening to the questions at the end of the presentation and hearing a different angle on the subject. Finding yourself in the wrong room and listening to a talk you never would have chosen to log on for and discovering a new interest. Over-hearing interesting conversations and joining in over coffee or whilst at a stand. Realising other people have just stood up and presented or brought a poster and that you could too next time.

The conference team have worked hard to put together a comprehensive, interesting programme we have nearly sold out our exhibition space, and the abstracts are starting to be submitted. I'm looking forward to it all, I hope to see you there.

One last thing about conference, we will get to meet our new President and new Board members – remember there is still plenty of time to put in a nomination form to stand for Board, come and join the team. If you don't see yourself represented on our current Board, now is your chance to change that.

Registration for BAA Conference 2026 is live. A fantastic two days have been arranged for you. Make sure you benefit from your member discount and early bird pricing to really get value for money for the two days. Have a look at what we have planned here: www.baaudiology.org/conference

I hope to see a lot of you in Liverpool in October, for my last conference as President.

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](#)