

BAA President Blog – 17th August 2026

Consider this a ‘coming to the end of summer better get ready for the last third of the year’ reminder kind of blog. The equivalent of putting your name in your school uniform and buying new stationary. Let’s face it, before we know it Strictly will be starting and that essentially means we are on a countdown to Christmas.

Having our annual conference at the end of October rather than mid-November has also brought timetables forward. We were delighted to have a record number of abstracts submitted. The conference team are currently reviewing them all. For several years now they do this via our abstract portal, which means all abstracts are judged blind, with none of the committee knowing who the authors are. We find this means we get a good spread of topics and high-quality presentations. I’ve heard about a few of the topics submitted, and again I am delighted to see that we have many of your service improvement projects to choose from. I strongly feel one of the main strengths of our conference is that we share presentations and posters that give delegates resources, knowledge and skills that they can use directly in their practice as soon as they are back at work. Viewing the posters and listening to the free papers can be really inspiring, helping everyone see what can be achieved in all kinds of departments and services – not just the well-funded, well-staffed big centres.

One of the things I feel very strongly about is the pooling of ideas, sharing of resources and reducing the duplication of work to improve and develop services. BAA tries to facilitate this as much as possible. One of the fastest ways of getting inspired, starting that project and learning from others is to come to conference and fully immerse yourself in all the opportunities on offer. Finding people you normally wouldn’t contact or speak to and having a chat, sharing details and accelerating your process of change. We do try and tailor the content to what we hear is needed most – there has been a lot of talk of accessibility of services, reducing was-not-broughts/did-not-attends, and there is only so much a text reminder can do – so Piers Dawes is coming to talk about tackling health inequalities to improve accessibility. This is simply one of the many inspiring presentations coming your way in October.

Following conference, we do ask many of our presenters to write an article for the magazine to spread the information even further. We are always looking for articles for the magazine, so if you are involved in a new network, trialling something new in the service, finishing a research project or indeed doing anything that would be of interest to our members please do consider writing it up and sharing it with us. Our next deadline for the autumn magazine (comes out just before conference) is the 4th September.

My last reminder for this blog – it is just 3 weeks until we close to nominations for prospective new Board Directors. So, if you have been thinking about standing for Board, there is still time to submit your form. There is so much happening within our profession at the moment, with lots of opportunities for change, if you want to be part of steering those come and join us on Board.

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](#)