

BAA President Blog – 31st August 2026

We are now into single figures of weeks until conference (9 to be exact) and excitement is building. Over the last week those of you who submitted abstract are hearing whether you have been accepted or not which means our programme is being finalised with the last details. However, I want to focus on our big hitters – the keynote talks. Over the course of the two days we have 5 keynote lectures.

Years ago I may not have gone or paid attention to keynotes which weren't on parts of Audiology I thought were relevant to my practice. With experience, and on occasion after persuasion, I started to go to them all. You know what, I learnt stuff some might say I even enjoyed myself! So I would encourage you all to have a look at what is on offer this year, and when you come along on the 29th and 30th October give all the keynotes a try.

We have Barbara Weinstein talking about auditory wellness, specifically around older adults. It has been a few years since we had Barbara at BAA, she is a great speaker. Supremely engaging, and even for paediatric audiologists I would challenge you not to take something away from her talks. Next up is Susan Scollie, this is where we reverse things. For those of you who stay in your adult audiology lane, come to a paediatric audiology talk – find out what some of your patients went through in their formative years, what impacts them, find out details about the different approaches to their technology and devices. For they are indeed your future patients.

Piers Dawes will be speaking about culturally appropriate audiology care. One size service delivery does not fit all, finding out how to reach all people who may need our care and offer services that actually work for them is important. Piers will be discussing what they have learnt from studies in Australia that really have crossed boundaries.

Mini Gupta is a new guest to BAA; we have been impressed with her engaging approach to tinnitus and hyperacusis and are looking forward to her joining us. Again, as she is talking about distinguishing hyperacusis from recruitment so that makes this is for everyone who works with hearing aids, not just those who see tinnitus or hyperacusis patients.

The fifth of the speakers is Jo Milne. Listening to Jo's lived experience of hearing loss (actually for Jo, it is a dual sensory loss) is hugely important for every Audiologist.

Consider our Keynote speakers like a really good Christmas selection box, no matter what you thought of contents before, you should try them all.

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](#)