BRITISH ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY

BAA President Blog – 23rd November 2026

This last fortnight has been productive for the BAA Board - more than I realised until I began typing this post.

I signed off on three letters sent out to external stakeholders. The first, to Dr Rhydian Phillips (Director of Diagnostics and Transport at NHS England) around the longstanding conversations the use of private providers in diagnostics, provided our recommendations for how innovation and engagement with private providers should be considered. I would recommend that you view the full letter, but the key points were around ensuring cross-sector quality (through clear specifications and monitoring), evaluating new technology, considering the hidden costs of inappropriate commissioning, and the urgent need for investment in estates and facilities.

Separately, we wrote to NICE to flag concerns around their expert selection and published expert commentary for HTG10886 *Hearing aids for adults with hearing loss: existing use assessment*. We asked for clarification on their expert selection process (view letter here), emphasising our focus on ensuring NICE guidance remains well respected and practical. In response to concerns from a number of members, we also wrote to the HCPC, asking for clarification on timelines for their Fitness to Practise processes and the known delays that are leaving colleagues in limbo for far too long and under undue stress.

I will update you on any outcomes from all three. We already have an upcoming meeting with NHSE colleagues to discuss the first letter.

Those members who are keen to see a College of Audiology will be pleased to hear that this week also saw some productive discussions at the Joint Audiology Leadership Group meeting (attended by BAA, BSHAA, BSA and AIHHP), where all members reaffirmed our commitment to joint working, discussed opportunities for more joint guidance, and continued the groundwork on the College. We are reviewing and signing off documents and anticipate sharing more detailed information with you in the new year.

In addition to these highlights on externally facing work, Board leads have been busy with the handover of portfolios and onboarding. There has also been some good work beginning on a Clinical Educator focus within BAA from Rob Frost. A key area we want to strengthen (ably led by Alison Edwards) is engagement with regional groups, so please consider becoming a regional representative. We want these groups to feed into the Board more, so that your voices are truly captured, and we can respond to your concerns and priorities more effectively.

For those of you in leadership roles, please encourage some of your early- and mid-career staff to volunteer as well. If you are not sure what this entails or how much commitment is involved, please contact us. Even if this is not the right fit for you, we have plenty of opportunities to contribute in ways that work for different levels of availability and experience.

Best wishes,

Dr Saima Rajasingam
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