BRITISH ACADEMY
OF AUDIOLOGY

BAA President Blog – 9th November 2026

It is November, and the time of year when BAA board has its changeover. My name is Saima, I am your new BAA president, and my background is as a researcher, educator and audiologist. Before taking on the role of Vice President and now President, I served as a board Lead for Education (along with Saira Hussain) and prior to that, as a member of the EDIA committee.

It was a pleasure to see so many of our members at conference this year, but as an incoming president, the experience was humbling to say the least. Imagine meeting 500+ of your line managers on day 1 of your new job, all with slightly different views on the priorities and needs of the membership - it was full immersion in at the deep end, and left me with plenty of food for thought.

I heard many positive views and experiences of the BAA, but also a real sense of the gaps in our work to alleviate the increasing challenges that members are facing across all sectors and career stages. This growing need makes the work of BAA board and all of our committees even more important, and is why I am so happy to see the large number of people who stood for election this year and that number of voters also double from the last election. It is a sign of a healthy professional body and a reflection of the work that Claire Benton (BAA's immediate past president) and her predecessors have put in to creating a space where people feel able to contribute.

This leaves the board with clear priorities: to build on existing member benefits, continue growing engagement, establish more direct communication channels between members and BAA board and, critically, create a more inclusive culture that represents all of our profession - across the UK, career levels and backgrounds - especially those who may not have felt heard or known that they can lift their voices here.

Over the next two months, we will work on completing as many ongoing board actions as we can, with the support of outgoing board members. In parallel, we will take the opportunity to reflect on the above priorities and how best we can deliver for our members... watch this space.

Of course, one date you can definitely put in your diary is the 2027 BAA Focus Day (More info here). With the World Congress of Audiology coming up in 2028, we have the opportunity to try a leaner, clinically focussed one-day event format and welcome your participation and feedback.

Over the next few months, I will use this blog to update you on developments in our work, share outcomes of national discussions and joint working, so do drop by here when you can, have a read and get in touch.

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