

BAA President Blog – 29th June 2020

Welcome everyone to the biweekly Horizon blog. As you are aware, Karen Shepherd stepped down as your President two weeks ago. Board thanks Karen for all her dedication and hard work for BAA and all her involvement over her career in Audiology. Karen will continue to influence and drive forward quality standards in her professional role and we do wish her all the very best.

So, now I find myself stepping into the President role far sooner than I had anticipated. But with the great support from Board members and our committees, we are determined that we move onward and upward representing all our members, at all levels, providing support to our wonderful profession.

We are still moving through challenging times and facing uncertainty. However, there have been some positive outcomes. Telehealth has come to the fore and I am sure this will become a standard part of our service delivery.

Online learning has become the method of meeting CPD; this also applies to Webinars which are now the main method of keeping up to date with new developments. The great thing about webinars is if you like the topic being presented but unable to link into them live, you no longer need to miss out on all these great ideas and updates, you can catch the recording later at your convenience.

The BAA webinar last Friday, 'Dementia and considerations in the clinical environment' presented by Dr Jenna Littlejohn and Jack Bennett is a great example. I missed the live event as I had a clinic to cover but was able to listen to it later and I was so glad I could do this. Our past President Sue Falkingham also gave an update on what BAA were doing for members.

I am all for reducing our carbon footprint, so online meetings have helped us to achieve this. However, we all need to be able to network and meet up with our friends and colleagues occasionally so hopefully next year we may be able to. As the conference this year will be online, Claire and her team have some exciting news for you.

Our next Board meeting is the 20th July and we have a very full agenda. One of our topics will be accessibility to taking on roles in BAA committees and Board. We are an inclusive profession and professional body and we need to ensure we demonstrate this. We will be welcoming applications for the Board positions coming up from any of our members at whatever stage of your career. If you want to be part of helping drive your profession forward, please apply.

Kath Lewis