

BAA President Blog – 27th July 2020

First of all, I must congratulate Samantha Lear on being chosen as your new Vice President. The vote was unanimous. I am delighted to be working with Sam and the BAA Board on your behalf.

On Wednesday 22nd, we held a member webinar on career development. Thanks go to Claire Benton and Victoria Adshead for hosting this really interesting session, which covered opportunities for learning and development at all stages of our careers. I wish all these options had been around when I was in my early career.

Thanks to Maheen Boodhoo from Nottingham who spoke about the 'Stepping up' programme. This course is one of many on offer in the NHS leadership academy. Maheen talked about how the course had really helped her confidence as a band 5 moving to a band 6.

Helen Martin, chair of the BAA Higher Training Scheme (HTS), gave an update on the scheme and all the recent changes that have been made. Gemma Hopkins provided an interesting overview of being an in-service Scientific Training Programme (STP) trainee.

Sam Lear talked about the Higher Specialist Scientific Training (HSST) programme, which she is due to finish in December. And finally, Lizanne Steenkamp talked briefly about the mentoring scheme.

If you missed it and would like to watch at a convenient time, please go to the BAA website. All our member webinars are saved in the Knowledge Hub in the members' area.

Many more webinars are planned, and I can honestly say I am looking forward to all that are coming up; there really should be something for everyone.

Please do not forget to check out our annual awards categories. These are really important for all of us. Please consider nominating your colleagues as there has been some amazing work going on. We look forward to celebrating people's achievements this year. Deadline is 11th September for your nominations.

At our July Board meeting on Monday 22nd, we discussed our Equality and Diversity. The next step for us as a professional body is to set up a working group to look at our compliance and initiatives to ensure we are truly inclusive and diverse. We are an inclusive professional body that encourages all audiologists at stage of their career to be part of the voluntary board and committees, but acknowledge there is work to be done in several areas, including making sure we are more diverse in our makeup.

Please keep sharing your stories and ideas with us. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading all the student blogs that have been shared with us so far. Have a read [here](#) if you haven't done so already.

Keep safe.

Kath Lewis