

## BAA President Blog – 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020

I hope many of you managed a break during July and August. Is everyone getting used to all the online meetings we are now having? There was an interesting article I shared on Linked In looking at the difficulty hearing loss has in following online meetings.

We received some great feedback about our webinar with Debbie Featherstone. Debbie talked about online counselling with tinnitus patients. This is something which, although new to most of us, Debbie has been doing since 2012!

One of our members with hearing loss thanked Debbie for providing captions. She has asked that we provide guidance for other webinar providers. We will look to see if we can do this with all our webinars. It might not be possible with some of the webinar programmes used. But we are looking to make sure all our information is accessible.

Last week, I took part in an online meeting with an international network for professionals in hearing. There were Presidents and CEOs from Brazil, Australia, USA, Canada, Denmark and South Africa.

No matter where in the world Audiology services are, we are all facing similar issues. Staff anxiety, PPE issues, infection control, safe working and face masks are issues for all. We shared what we had been doing to help our members during this time. The next meeting will involve a lot more audiology and hearing professionals on the 31st August. There will be at least two BAA representatives and we will report back.

We have been discussing telehealth and how patients feel about it. Australia has published some research on this topic. It would be interesting to find out from our members how telehealth has been going.

Please do not forget our annual awards, these are important for all. Please nominate your colleagues. There has been some amazing work going on and it will be great to celebrate these achievements.

We have another heads of service online meeting on the 16th September to share some updates. Can you share some things that have gone well with your services? Email me: [president@baaudiology.org](mailto:president@baaudiology.org)

Finally, the BAA Board has a meeting with an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion consultant on the 1st September. We look forward to progressing our work under expert guidance.

Stay safe and stay well.

*Kath Lewis*