

BAA President Report for AGM 20/21

"April 2020 - March 2021 - what a year it has been. I feel truly privileged to work with an amazing Board who are keen to deliver you the very best a professional body should. We are focusing on many workstreams to deliver on our strategy over the next few years.

I talked a lot about the past year and the effect that Covid has had on all of us, during my opening address this morning, so I won't repeat what I said there. I will put my remarks up on the website for those that might have missed this morning. But I would like to make some comments about how your Board has been working for you.

We welcomed five new board directors in November 2020 and created two new roles, one for professional development - an area we need to continue to build on to give you CPD and training - and one for Policy and Campaigns to grow and strengthen our partnerships for the future, giving us a stronger voice for members.

The new board members include Rebecca Anderson who leads the professional development team, Dawn Bramham has taken on Publicity and Communications, Saira Hussain, who is responsible for early professionals, Jason Smalley has stepped into the SQC lead role and Lauren Willis is our new membership director. Susannah Goggins took the reins on Conference and Heather Dowber leads on Policy and Campaigns. As I became President in June 2020, Samantha Lear was voted in as your new Vice President and has developed a committee to oversee Equality Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility. They have worked with an EDI Consultant to help set our agenda to ensure we deliver for all our current and future members.

The new website was launched just as the Covid pandemic took hold, and it continues to grow and develop providing invaluable resources for members. The professional and educational content has been greatly enhanced as we continue the strong emphasis on CPD for BAA members. All the online meetings and the great webinars that were delivered over the past year, including the Wonderful World of Webinars (BAA Online) that replaced our live conference, are available and all count towards your CPD.

Victoria Adshead has been working hard with BAA board and our volunteer teams to add even more content, delivering a truly wonderful resource, well worth our investment. She has also increased our social media presence and you can find BAA communicating via the four main platforms (we are still wondering whether to join Tik Tok!) Social media does help us reach a wider audience as well as you our members. I thank Victoria once again for

all the additional hours and effort she puts into ensuring our communications and digital focus works well, along with keeping the Board on track, ensuring we deliver a worthwhile resource for our members.

I also want to thank our regional team who started to deliver a full program of regional meetings online and we hope to continue this for a while. Delivering online means that you can attend any meeting in any region to access the fabulous programmes they are putting together.

Our partnerships with IDA and BCIG continue to develop and although we have had to postpone face-to-face events, we have provided online content. We regularly meet with our partners and work closely with other groups including the Hearing and Deafness Alliance and RNID. I attend the Person Centred Hearing Network (PCHN) which is a truly international forum for Audiology and have been able to share what we do in the UK. It makes me feel very proud that we have a NHS and although we have all had difficulties this past year, we can deliver a fantastic service for our patients and clients.

During the year in focus, the Higher Training Scheme (HTS) team has been furiously busy, getting ready to relaunch the scheme in April 2021. The small team led by Helen Martin have worked really hard refreshing the scheme with updated content and modules as well as making sure more examiners are in place. Our Service Quality Committee continue their hard work in developing guidance and support for members. I urge you to look at the SQC pages as they are producing new items all the time and work on projects for your benefit to ensure we can deliver high standards and quality services.

Our end of year accounts shows that BAA maintains a healthy financial position despite a difficult year. Cancelling conference incurred costs for us, but we were able to make savings elsewhere during the year. Your Treasurer, Barbara Gregg will cover this in more detail in her report.

I want to end by saying that I have been inspired by all of you who have adapted your services, been redeployed and out of your comfort zones, showing that Audiologists really are flexible, adaptable and forward thinking professional people."