

BAA President Blog – 7th February 2022

Welcome to the first of the February blogs.

During the last week there were many meetings, but there are two I would particularly like to highlight. The first was the Person-Centred Hearing Network (PCHN) organised by IDA institute. This was a late one (9pm – 11pm) as there are Audiology attendees from all over the world, and it is great to chat to them and catch up on what they are doing. All of them are working to implement person centred care (PCC) in their countries. Our main discussion was around the future of IDA as their main funding source since they were founded (William Demant), will cease funding them from February 2023. They may be able to access special project funds from William Demant but not research or operational costs.

We had a workshop on what new funding options they could look at and what skills they needed to continue. There were a lot of suggestions to investigate but an immediate ask for help was for suggestions of expert fundraisers in each country for research grant applications. If you know anyone who would fit the bill, or you are that person, please let me know.*

Another great meeting was the North West Regional BAA online session. The NW regional representative, Alison Edwards, with brilliant support from Sarah Forbes, presented the IDA tools (timely in respect to my meeting the previous evening). There was a presentation on the Earways tool for wax removal from Dan at Sonova and I gave an update on what Board has been working on. You can watch a recording of this webinar in the 'Knowledge Hub' area of the BAA website.

On another note, those involved in the scientist training programme (STP) have raised concerns about the current assessment method – the Independent Assessment of Clinical Competence (IACC) - which is online and covers five global statements around the different areas the trainees need to cover. Those of us who assess the trainees do not feel this is the best method of assessing all competencies as there is no practical assessment element in the IACC and we cannot ask about any areas the trainees have been signed off on the practical areas of their clinical training. The Welsh Heads of Service and BAA wrote to the National School of Healthcare Science to raise these concerns and they have agreed to meet with us this Wednesday. If any of you who are involved would like to raise any points, please let me know before the meeting on Wednesday afternoon.*

Still on the STP programme, Rob Gardner has been the lead station writer for over seven years and should have stepped down from the role by now. Please could I make a request to any of you involved in STP assessments if you would like to take on this role. I have asked Rob to outline what's involved and hopefully it will be in the next edition of Horizons.

Thank you to our Scottish colleagues who have booked into our Paediatric Training Days in March. The uptake has been fabulous and we have had to close registration now otherwise we will not be able to fit everyone in the room. We are now confirming some dates for England and Northern Ireland. The England day is looking like 5th May in Milton Keynes (more details to follow).

We will also hold our postponed face-to-face Heads of Service meeting in June. Originally planned just as we went into the first lockdown in March 2020, the venue has now been confirmed for 15th June. Again, more details will follow as soon as the agenda is ready to publish.

Stay well and I look forward to any comments or requests.

Take care

Kath Lewis

*Please contact Kath on admin@baaudiology.org about any of the points above