

Welcome and Season's greetings to all members! This will be the final edition of BAA Horizon for 2016...but we will be back in 2017.

In this week's edition we bring you updates, opportunities, news, and information from across the field of audiology.

If you have any information that you would like to be included in a future edition of Horizon, please contact admin@baaudiology.org. The deadline for submissions is the 5th January 2017.

BAA Board & Committee News:

- **President's Blog** - Michelle Booth BAA President continues her blog on the BAA website. You can follow her blog here: <http://www.baaudiology.org/about/president/#.WE14bYXXLIV>
- **The new BAA Board met on the 5th December** to discuss and develop the strategy plan for the forthcoming year, the details of which will be shared with membership in the coming months. The Board were joined by the new Consultant CEO who will be formally introduced to membership in a separate communication.
- **The Service Quality Committee** are pleased to submit a final draft of the Guidance on Shared Care of Children, Young People and Adults using Audiology Services for consultation by BAA members. **The document is available for comment** on the SQC webpages: <http://www.baaudiology.org/index.php?cID=225> Please use the Consultation Feedback form provided to **return your comments by Monday 16th January 2017** to BAA@Fitwise.co.uk.
- **An exciting opportunity has arisen to join the BAA Accreditation of Academic Education committee.** The remit of this committee is the accreditation of pre-registration Audiology programmes (both undergraduate and post graduate) on behalf of the RCCP and BAA. This committee consists of members with HEI backgrounds as well as NHS clinical staff supervising students, to ensure a good balance of clinical and/or higher education experience. We have a vacancy for a clinical member from the NHS on the committee and we invite applicants with experience of supervising students on undergraduate and postgraduate courses to apply. We would also welcome anyone with experience of successfully completing the BAA Higher Training Scheme.

The committee meets 3 (to 4) times a year at Aston University in Birmingham and the dates are usually set in advance.

An accreditation visit usually involves some time reviewing documents as well as a visit to the prospective course provider. It is typically done by a team of 2 or more members, so there will be support from an experienced team member.

The number of accreditation visits per year will depend on the range of requests from the RCCP and/or BAA. Travel expenses for meetings and accreditation visits will be reimbursed.

If you are interested in joining this committee please send a short email (no more than 250 words) detailing your interest and any relevant experience to BAA at admin@baaudiology.org.

- **Information for potential AHCS assessors - BAA and AHCS have agreed a protocol** for approving PTP and STP assessors. This should streamline the process and allow the Academy to contact applicants more quickly.

At present, applications go directly to the Academy and are then forwarded to the neurophysiology committee and professional body for review. Following approval, the applicant is then contacted regarding training.

With immediate effect, applications from BAA members should be routed through the BAA office rather than directly to the Academy. **Please email:** admin@baaudiology.org a copy of your C.V with your application letter and clearly indicate whether you wish to become and assessor for PTP or STP.

- **Tinnitus Awareness Week** is taking place between the **6th and 12th February, 2017** and further details can be found on The British Tinnitus Association's new website which launched on 8th December and can be found at this link: <http://www.tinnitus.org.uk/>
- **The North London British Tinnitus Society Support Group** is meeting on **12th December** from 6pm till 8pm. **For details please email:** LondonTSG@outlook.com or call 07984 372760.
- **As part of their Speak Easy campaign for a quieter dining experience, Action on Hearing Loss** is calling on patrons of restaurants, cafés and pubs by giving direct feedback to venues. **More here:** <https://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/news-and-events/all-regions/press-releases/speak-out-to-beat-the-noise-when-eating-out.aspx>
- **Action on Hearing Loss Cymru** reported that the Welsh Government has reinforced their commitment that ear wax treatment will continue to be provided free of charge on the NHS. **More details here:** <https://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/news-and-events/wales/news/statement-on-ear-wax-removal.aspx>
- **NICE** have recently published the mental wellbeing and independence for older people quality standard (QS137) which **you can view by following this link:** <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs137>

Other News:

- **The NIHR are currently advertising funded schemes for** Audiologists / clinical physiologists based in the West Midlands who would potentially be interested in becoming clinical researchers as part of their career development. For further information please visit: <http://www.birminghamhealthpartners.co.uk/education/training-for-health-care-professionals-and-caip/> alternatively for those outside the West Midlands please visit: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-and-support/funding-for-training-and-career-development/training-programmes/nihr-hee-ica-programme/>
The scheme provides a structured training programme to take potential clinician researchers from degree level to M level; and from M level to doctorate.
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There are two schemes:
1. Clinical academic internship programme (for clinicians with existing degree level qualifications)
2. Masters to doctoral bridging programme (for clinicians with Masters level qualifications)
- **The Chief Scientific Officer, Professor Sue Hill, OBE** has announced the dates for the 2017 CSO **Annual Conference of 6-7 March 2017** in London. Further details and how to register can be found here: <https://www.events.england.nhs.uk/nhsengland/frontend/reg/tRegisterEmailNew.csp?pageID=50803&eventID=228&tempPersonID=53403&eventID=228> The organisers are calling for submissions of innovative service improvement to compile a publication for attendees and key partners for NHS England. If you would like more details relating to this, **please contact** admin@baaudiology.org

Job Adverts:

- **To advertise a job in future editions of Horizon please contact** advertising@baaudiology.org

Upcoming Courses / Events:

- **Help us develop study days and online learning for 2017**
We have some exciting plans for 2017 and we need your help. The Learning Events Group are looking for more members to help create and drive the way we offer CPD opportunities next year. Could you be someone who can help? For more information on helping with online learning, face to face study days and how we review and accredit courses please contact Laura Turton, Operations Manager on laura@thebsa.org.uk to discuss the flexible ways in which you can help. **For more information** on this group click here: <http://www.thebsa.org.uk/learning-events-group/>
- For further event information together with details of other Audiology events taking place please visit www.baaudiology.org/events

Social Media:

- **The Facebook Group has discussed:**
 - Wax removal courses.
 - Telephone follow-ups
 - BAA strategy day
 - BPPV

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