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Welcome to this edition of BAA Horizon. This week's edition gives you news, surveys, board updates and upcoming courses, all with useful links to the BAA website.

Please send any information you would like included in this newsletter to admin@baaudiology.org

News:

- **Congratulations to Ellen Smith for winning the first BAA student and trainee quiz** winning her £25 in Amazon vouchers from BAA. The second quiz is now live on the student section of the BAA website and students can enter for a chance to win £50 love to shop vouchers. <http://www.baaudiology.org/students>

- **HSJ Article** - In an article published in HSJ on 29th July it is stated that NHS England will not intervene in a clinical commissioning group's attempt to 'ration' access to hearing aids in North Staffordshire. It is suggested that the measures will save £200,000 and affect 500 people a year.

BAA Board are considering how to respond to this news – it is unlikely there is a way to reverse the decision but we continue to apply pressure at every opportunity with our Alliance partners.

- **Hearing Times is a monthly e-magazine** that can be viewed here: www.hearingtimes.co.uk

Surveys / Reminders:

- **Hearing Aids for Music** - Survey for audiologists: 'Hearing aids for music' is a collaborative research project led by Music Psychologist, Dr Alinka Greasley (University of Leeds), and Dr Harriet Crook, Lead Clinical Scientist for Complex Hearing Loss (Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) exploring how music listening behaviours are affected by deafness and the use of hearing aids. The team are running a survey exploring the experiences of audiologists in the clinic which can be accessed directly at <http://tinyurl.com/audiologyandmusicsurvey> or through the project website www.musicandhearingaids.org. For more information email musicandhearingaids@leeds.ac.uk or follow www.twitter.com/musicndeafness on Twitter.

- **Cochlear Implants** - Would you be able to find a moment to fill in a survey to help us explore referrals for cochlear implants and bone conduction hearing implants?

The British Academy of Audiology (BAA), Cochlear and The Ear Foundation (TEF) are carrying out research to examine referrals for cochlear implants and bone conduction hearing implants (formerly known as BAHAs). As part of this, we would really like to hear about your views and experiences as a professional in the field of audiology. This survey explores how professionals working in the field of audiology refer people for a cochlear implant and bone conduction hearing implant, looking at their views and experiences of making referrals, the process of making referrals, and further needs. The survey will take about 5-10 minutes, and your answers will be anonymous and all responses will be safely stored. Please find more information and the survey link

here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Referrals_CI_BCHI

BAA Board/Committee updates:

- **Conference Update** – Planning for this year's Gala Dinner is progressing nicely with entertainment now being sourced. The theme of this year's dinner is a Winter Wonderland Black Tie Masquerade Ball and we hope you can join us for an evening of mystery and discovery in the grand dining hall of the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate on Thursday 26th November. If you haven't already booked your place at this year's conference, please visit the conference website www.baaudiology.org/conference to find out more about this year's exciting event! Don't forget that if you register for full conference, a ticket to include the gala dinner is already included. Alternatively, tickets can be purchased separately for just £49 each. Please note that for the last two years running, the gala dinner has sold out so we do encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment!

Political News:

- **Ruth Smeeth MP (Labour, Stoke-on-Trent North)** asked Minister of State for Care and Support, Alistair Burt MP (Con, North East Bedfordshire) questions regarding the North Staffordshire CCG Hearing Aid provision and what discussions had taken place with the DoH as well as asking if the decision was compliant with both the NHS constitution and the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Alistair Burt MP confirmed there have been no discussions with North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on its decision to restrict the provision of National Health Service hearing aids from 1 October 2015. He added that the provision of hearing aids is a local matter for local commissioners based on the needs of its population and therefore 'it would be for NHS England, within its routine assurance processes, to assess whether North Staffordshire CCG was in breach of its duties, or was considered likely to breach its duties in this matter'.

Alistair Burt also said that Nice has advised that the clinical guideline on hearing loss is currently scheduled for development from spring 2016 and anticipates that this will be published in autumn 2018. A quality standard on hearing loss based on the clinical guideline will follow.

Job Adverts:

- **Express Diagnostics - Audiologist Job Share / Full time**
We are looking to appoint a fully qualified (BSc/MSc or equivalent) Audiologist to join our busy team working Monday – Friday 08:45 – 16:45. Full time / Job share available. BAA membership is essential and HCPC registration would be desirable. For further information or to apply for this position please contact Emma Kingdom emma.kingdom@expressdiagnostics.co.uk or telephone 01752 720799 Ext: 218

These are now on the website with the usual careers page link
www.baaudiology.org/careers/recruitment

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

Upcoming Courses:

- **Paediatric Assessment: A Refresher Course** - Tue 3rd – Thu 5th November 2015 at James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough. Booking deadline: Tue 7 October.

To apply for this course, please visit:

<http://southtees.nhs.uk/services/ear-nose-and-throat/audiology/information-for-professionals/>

For details of other Audiology events taking place, visit www.baaudiology.org/events

Social Media Summary:

- Twitter

Teenagers have started using the <https://twitter.com/hashtag/showyouraids> on Twitter to showcase the fact that they are proud to wear their hearing aids and stand up to bullies and negative advertising

Use <https://twitter.com/hashtag/audpeeps> on Twitter to see conversations relevant to audiologists around the world.

If you are on Twitter following <https://twitter.com/HearingJournal> will alert you to new editions of the Industry Publication

- Facebook

Look on the web or Facebook for the Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Loss <https://www.facebook.com/pages/AMPHL-Association-of-Medical-Professionals-with-a-Hearing-Loss/638606532893568?ref=ts> next time you are looking for advice on stethoscopes or support for individual patients www.amphl.org

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