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Welcome to this weeks' edition of BAA Horizon, bringing 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

News:

- **Hearing aid cuts in North Staffordshire** - Despite much opposition and against all the evidence provided by BAA along with members of the Hearing Loss Alliance and many other groups to the North Staffordshire CCG, and despite the decision being rejected by the three scrutiny groups it went to, the new commissioning contract came into force on 1st October. BAA has worked tirelessly alongside its partners to try to prevent these cuts being carried through. Read the full BAA response on the website: <http://www.baaudiology.org/indexphpnews/news-home/rationing-nhs-hearing-aids/>

You can read news articles in both The Guardian (1st October) and Daily Mail (2nd October) newspapers online and you can read the comments and reactions on the BAA Facebook Group.

Actions you can take:

1) BAA Board are tabling a motion at conference and encourage you all, even if not attending conference to vote for it by sending BAA an email pledging support. Email admin@baaudiology.org with the subject line North Staffordshire CCG Motion.

The motion states:

"We call on NHS England to intervene and overturn North Staffordshire CCG's hearing aid cuts, which are against professional opinion and clinical evidence, and will leave thousands of local people less able to communicate."

2) Action on Hearing Loss and DeafVibe have managed to get a petition of over 5,000 local signatures which has triggered a discussion at the full Local County Council Meeting.

This is scheduled for the 8 October. Paul Breckell, CEO AOHL, will be speaking for 5 minutes followed by a debate between councillors. It's a public session so please if you can attend go and show your support. Michelle Booth will be representing BAA at the meeting to show opposition to the new policies. Details of the meeting can be found here:

<http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=124&MId=5543&Ver=4>

- **RCCP Update** - The RCCP sent out an update to all registrants in September and this can be read on the website <http://www.baaudiology.org/index.php?cID=226#.Vq4oMGCWsyE>
- **Academy of Healthcare Science - Call for information on academic and research profile of healthcare science** - The Academy for Healthcare Science asking professional bodies and networks to help determine the current academic and research profile of the profession by providing information through a short online survey. This asks for any information on the roles of their members in academic teaching and research and whether there are adequate numbers for the task of leading research and evidence-based practice within healthcare science. The survey can be accessed here: <http://www.ahcs.ac.uk/2015/09/call-for-information-healthcare-science-academic-and-research-profile/>

- **Urgently update your HTS details (Action by 19th)** - Fitwise Management has recently taken over the administration of the Higher Training Scheme (HTS) from the HTS Committee and so we are asking you to update your details for both the clinical and non-clinical modules of the HTS. Please can you email admin@baaudiology.org with the following information if you have not already done so by **19th October 2015**.

- The HTS module(s) you are registered for and intend to complete
- An estimate of when you will be applying for your examination for each module/submitting your portfolio of evidence
- The name of your training department
- Your up to date email address

If you do not provide this information by **19th October 2015** the HTS Committee will assume that you are no longer undertaking HTS training and therefore your details will be removed from the database.

- **National School of Healthcare Science** - The National School of Healthcare Science has now published its Annual Report 2013/14. You can download it from their website <http://www.nshcs.org.uk/reports>
- **Audiologist of the Year 2015 - Congratulations to Sarah Baumann.** After a closely fought competition, a dedicated hearing professional has been crowned the best in her field. Sarah Baumann, who works at University of Southampton, has won the coveted title of UK Audiologist of the Year 2015, after a heartfelt nomination from one of her patients. Full details of the award are here: <http://www.audiologistoftheyear.co.uk/news/2015/09/24/she-has-made-the-rehabilitation-process-an-adventure-rather-than-a-daunting-task-uk-audiologist-of-the-year-2015-is-announced/>
- **British Tinnitus Association Updates - Regional Tinnitus Networks** - The BTA is looking to help get Regional Tinnitus Networks up and running around the UK for those working in the NHS initially. If you want to attend see the calendar entries on the BAA website or email David@tinnitus.org.uk to register an interest or to get help setting up your local network.

So far network meetings are scheduled in:
 East of England 20th November
 Yorkshire 4th November
 North West 16th October
 London 23rd October
 East Midlands 21st October

- **Report on the experiences of adults with different degrees of hearing loss and tinnitus** - Launched at the BTA's annual conference in September 2015, the report with the Ear Foundation presents the views of the 1432 participants on the treatment they have received, what helped, what didn't and their hopes for the future. The report contains important messages for all those involved in supporting people with tinnitus and hearing loss. The report can be read and downloaded from the BTA website here: <http://www.tinnitus.org.uk/tef2>

Surveys / Reminders:

- **Reminder to all members to vote on formally condemning the removal of provision of hearing instruments to the mild-moderately impaired adult population of North Staffordshire. Action On Hearing Loss**, will give an update on the position and steps taken during the BAA AGM on 26th November. Action On Hearing Loss have asked BAA members to vote on supporting the motion: 'We call on NHS England to intervene and overturn North Staffordshire CCG's hearing aid cuts, which are against professional opinion and clinical evidence, and will leave thousands of local people less able to communicate'. Please confirm your opinion and complete this quick online survey **by Friday 16th October**: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BAA2015>

- **Leeds University Research study**

Last year Leeds University contacted hearing healthcare professionals to see if they would be willing to take part in a short research project running at the University of Leeds entitled "The influence of advances in Hearing Aid technology on models of service delivery for hearing impaired adults". They are now seeking to recruit additional participants. This project forms part of Sean McNally's PhD

studies. If you have already responded to the first call, there is no need to respond again as we already have your contact details.

The aim of the project is to explore how models of adult aural rehabilitation may have been influenced by the significant advances in hearing aid technology experienced over the last three-four decades (1970-2014).

Full details of the project and how to respond are here:

<http://www.baaudiology.org/index.php/news/news-home/leeds-university-recruiting-hearing-healthcare-professionals-research-study/>

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 attend 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!

Job Adverts:

- **GN ReSound - Product Specialist, Australia** - Do you want a dynamic and exciting new challenge? Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of an organisation leading the industry. You will be responsible for providing face to face training to clinicians, demonstrating features and benefits of the product range, always ensuring that the knowledge of ReSound products is delivered and maintained at a high standard. You will develop close working relationships with our customers, providing them with a premium service. This diverse role offers variety, travel, challenges, and job satisfaction as you work independently on a daily basis whilst also being supported by our committed team. Ideally the positions will be Victoria and New South Wales based. The successful applicant will need to be a qualified audiologist or audiometrist, have a strong clinical background and be willing to travel extensively. In addition you will be a great communicator and confident presenter with good problem solving abilities.

For the full job description please click here: <http://www.baaudiology.org/careers/recruitment/#.Vg5b-uxViko>

Please submit your letter of application and CV to: Olivia Bakiewicz, Key Account Manager
Australia obakiewicz@gnresound.com Tel: 0404 344 149.

- **Audify Ltd - Audiologist/Hearing Healthcare Professional** - Audiologist / Hearing Healthcare Professional - Some ideas are so potent that they change the way the world sees itself. Some individuals are so galvanised by the limitations of a status quo that they transform the world around them. And some audiologists are so passionate about what they do that they inspire others to be more.

If you're one of them, we'd like to hear from you. We don't expect many applicants—we know it won't be easy to find someone with a purpose-driven ideology that matches our own, where "being good at what you do" is merely the starting point, and where hearing is allowed to take centre-stage.

So if the idea of working in a forward-thinking independent practice appeals to you, where you have the flexibility to do what's best for your patients/clients, and you believe there should be more to hearing care than you currently see around you, please send an email to opportunities@audify.uk along with your CV, together with a short explanation (written/video/audio) of what you believe hearing care should be about.

Closing date: 30 October 2015

Location: Devon

Salary & Hours: Negotiable

Qualification: FdSc / BSc / MSc

- **Chime Social Enterprises CIC (NHS Audiology) - 3 x Audiologists** - Located in Exeter, the gateway city to the South West, Chime is responsible for working in partnership with the NHS in providing high quality NHS audiology services covering a population of over 350,000 across Exeter, Mid and East Devon. We are the only NHS audiology department in the UK that has moved to this Social Enterprise status. Indeed many other NHS audiology departments often mention that they wish they had also made this move, as we represent the best of the NHS hearing services and are regarded as a Centre for Excellence. We are now looking to recruit up to 3 Audiologists to join our expanding services on a permanent basis. <http://www.chimehealth.co.uk>
This role may also appeal to new or current band 5's looking for a new challenge.

Key Responsibilities:

Plan and undertake key audiological procedures unsupervised and recommend appropriate courses of action on a direct referral basis. Analysis, assessment and interpretation of a broad spectrum of adult diagnostic and rehabilitation. Selection of adult hearing aid prescription and hearing aid systems relevant to patient's individual audiological requirements. Travelling to clinics in Health Centres and Community Hospitals within the Devon area.

If you feel this may be the opportunity that is right for you then call us for an informal discussion, and speak with Jonathan Parsons, Managing Director of Chime on 01392 402225 or Kelvin Wakeham, Principal Audiologist on 01392 402224.

Closing Date: 31st October 2015.

- **NHS Grampian - Senior Audiologist - Audiology Department, Woolmanhill Hospital / Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital.** An exciting opportunity has arisen for a well motivated Audiologist to work providing Audiology Services within the Grampian region. The post holder will be based in Aberdeen but may have to participate in peripheral clinics throughout Grampian. The clinical services provided include neonatal screening, paediatric assessment and re-habilitation, as well as adult assessment and re-habilitation. Other services provided include ALD clinics, BAHA services, Hearing Therapy Services, Tinnitus clinics and Vestibular Assessment and Rehabilitation clinics. The successful applicants will be expected to deliver effective care and would also have scope to develop skills and services, in areas that are of particular interest to them. The department also has various teaching commitments including regularly having Audiology Students on placements. Work is currently progressing to re-locate the department to a modern Audiology facility within Woodend Hospital, Aberdeen. The department would consider applications from newly qualified Audiology students with comprehensive training to develop experience in particular specialist Audiology areas being provided. This area of Scotland is particularly rich in natural beauty with numerous opportunities for outdoor recreational activities. Aberdeen has excellent transport links to the rest of the UK and beyond.

For any queries regarding the job, please contact Gordon McHardy, Head of Audiology Services on 01224 555479 or for an informal chat contact Hannah Greenwood, Audiologist on 01224 555588 . E-Mail gordonmchardy@nhs.net or hannah.greenwood2@nhs.net.

To apply please visit www.nhsgrampian.org/jobs and search for Ref No PR12123. Closing date 22 October 2015.

- **Guys' and St Thomas' NHS Trust - Senior Specialist Audiological Scientist** - Ref: 196-LIS2491
We are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated Audiological Scientist to support the Hearing Implant Centre at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust. The Hearing Implant Centre is located at the St Thomas' Hospital site, situated across the river Thames from the Houses of Parliament. You will be involved in assessment, activation and provision of ongoing support to paediatric patients referred to the Hearing Implant Centre for Cochlear Implants, Middle Ear Implants and Bone Anchored Hearing Aids. You will work as part of the multi-disciplinary Hearing Implant Centre. Additional training to supplement knowledge will be provided; although experience within the field of Cochlear Implantation is highly desirable. The post includes accurate collection and storage of data for clinical research purposes, and the ideal candidate should have some experience in this area. Experience in computerised data management would be an advantage. If you have an MSc in Audiological Science from a BAA accredited centre and have completed the CAC or have an equivalent level of training and experience we would like to hear from you.

For more information and to apply, please visit <http://jobs.gstt.nhs.uk/job/-v408459?ts=83816>. Closing date: 11 October 2015.

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

Upcoming Courses / Events:

- **Vestibular Compensation - Free 45 min webinar from Otometrics, 20th October.**
Join us for a discussion about static and dynamic symptoms, changes that occur in vestibular testing and ways vestibular rehabilitation can improve a patient's outcomes.
Presenters:
Kamran Barin, PhD, Assistant Professor Emeritus, The Ohio State University. Michael C. Schubert, PT, PhD, associate professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
And Wendy Crumley-Welsh, MS, Product Manager, Balance Products, Otometrics.
To sign up or read more about this and other Otometrics webinars: www.otometrics.com/webinars

The above course information together with details of other Audiology events taking place please visit www.baaudiology.org/events

Social Media:

- Many people and organisations are tweeting and sharing their response to the cuts that North Staffordshire CCG have made to hearing aid services in the area.

Dawn Branham who is chair of the Audiology Supplies Group posted on the Facebook Group that the BEA1 brown battery books are now back in stock at NHS SC with an order code of: GHD3687

A new campaign has been launched by BTA to encourage the use of Noise Protection you can read more about it at www.plugem.co.uk or follow them on https://twitter.com/plug_em to keep track of the campaign and the travels of the 5ft inflatable yellow earplug.

Contact us
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