

Welcome to this weeks' edition of BAA Horizon, bringing you updates, opportunities, news, and information from across the field of audiology.

We'll be taking a break over Christmas and New Year and therefore the next edition of the Horizon Newsletter will be 11th January 2016.

Season's greetings. Have a fabulous Christmas!

If you have any information that you would like to be included in a future edition of Horizon, please contact admin@baaudiology.org

Presidents Introduction:

- **Jagjit Sethi took over the BAA President Role** during conference in Harrogate. Jagjit has written a few words for this newsletter.

"I want to thank you personally for placing your trust in me as your new President elect for the coming year. This trust is not taken lightly, but is accepted with a sincere sense of duty to the BAA membership. I take this Presidential role, with gratitude and humility, and promise to remain true to BAA vision and values.

There is only one BAA and it is bigger than its leaders and committees. I believe there are no bounds or limits to what we can do when we work collaboratively. Therefore, I call upon you all to join me and the BAA to ensure Audiology services continue to live NHS values, our values. Only through unity comes the strength to bring influential change and make the difference.

But before battles commence, the festive season is almost upon us. I hope you will find time in your busy schedules to have quality time with friends and families, to relax and recharge your batteries, and allow for reflection on the past year and making plans for the New.

I wish you all season greetings and a very happy and prosperous New Year. I look forward to working with you all in 2016." Jagjit Sethi

News:

- **An exciting opportunity 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 2 vacancies for clinical members 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. The first date is the 20th of January 2016 and this will be the annual accreditation training session.

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.

- **BAA Annual General Meeting - The Motion on North Staffordshire passed with a unanimous vote.**

The BAA Board presented a motion at the AGM in Harrogate that stated:

"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"

Alison Walsh asked for a show of hands for all those in favour – All those within the room were in favour of this motion to intervene and overturn the commissioning decisions. There was also one proxy vote.

BAA President will now take this forward to NHS England on behalf of members.

Get Involved In Research:

- **Proposed audit of provision of hearing aids for mild/moderate hearing losses.** What do we want to do? As an extension to an existing project hosted at the University of Manchester, we are proposing to carry out an audit of hearing aid dispensing across a large number of NHS patients first fitted in 2016. We propose to mine information from Auditbase to include data about the hearing loss, patient demographic (age, gender, profession) and tie this in with the data logged routinely by modern digital hearing aids. The aims are to identify factors that predict successful and quantifiable outcomes, as well as possibly identify factors that support lack of intervention. For full details of how to get involved see the BAA Website News Section <http://www.baaudiology.org/indexphpnews/news-home/get-involved-research-manchester-university/>
- **National Research Agenda for ENT, Hearing and Balance.** The agenda highlights the research priorities set by patients, the public and healthcare professionals from across the UK. The agenda is just the beginning; we are committed to carry forward the partnerships built through this initiative and develop high value research and care for the benefit of our patients and their families. Dr Jagjit Sethi, BAA President attended the launch of the Agenda in London and BAA have been an active part of the process throughout it's initial stages. The full document is available to read on the BAA website: <http://www.baaudiology.org/indexphpnews/news-home/national-research-agenda-ent-hearing-and-balance/>

BAA Board/Committee updates:

- **Conference Update** - Thank you to everyone who joined us in Harrogate for the 12th Annual Conference and for making it a great success! We are now pleased to share with you the post-conference information, including details on receiving your certificate of attendance, award winner details and access to this year's official conference photos. Please visit the website by following this link: <http://www.baaudiology.org/conference/baa-2015-post-event-information> please note that these photos cannot be used for print or for display on commercial websites without the permission of the British Academy of Audiology.

Job Adverts / Advisory Appointments:

- PC Werth IntriCon Uk - Clinical Lead** - IntriCon UK Ltd a subsidiary of IntriCon Corp, USA are looking for a suitably qualified clinical lead with recognised audiology qualifications to join our sales team for our PC Werth & Kamplex product range of hearing aids, instruments and sundries business. Based in the South of England, the successful Clinical Specialist will be dealing with both NHS and private customers; you will be speaking to Audiologists, ENT surgeons and Hearing Aid Dispensers. This role carries the responsibility to foster a strong audiological presence within the hearing care professional community and to develop methods and tools to enhance and increase sales into the UK audiology environment. Extensive travel overseas.

Your profile; Recognised qualification in Audiology. Broad experience in fitting hearing aids. Experience in giving talks/lectures and training. Creative and imaginative person with ability to think out-of-the-box in an ever changing healthcare environment. Analytical with strong communication skills.

Your qualifications; BAAT Parts 1 and 2 / RCCP qualification or equivalent. BSc or MSc qualifications would be preferable. Registered with RCCP / HCPC. NHS Audiology background. Experience in fitting Hearing Instruments is essential. Proficient in Real Ear Measurements. MS Office intermediate level skills. Customer focus, self-management, communication and team skills. Exposure to NHS sales / procurement. Demonstrable skills in Interpersonal Communication, Negotiation, Business Acumen, Self-Management and Sales Strategy. Commercially astute and credible candidates with excellent relationship building skills will do well here. Customer focus, self-management, communication and team skills.

For more information about IntriCon, visit www.intricon.com

Closing date: 31 January 2016

Contact: Stewart Howell, Sales Director, Tel: 020 8772 2700

Email: showell@pcwerth.co.uk For further information about PC Werth visit: www.pcwerth.co.uk

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

- Appointment of Chair to hearing loss clinical guideline** - NICE is seeking to appoint a chair to its Guideline Committee (GC) for hearing loss. The committee will work with the National Clinical Guideline Centre (NCGC) (the Developer) to produce recommendations for hearing loss that are informed by the best-available research evidence. The National School of Healthcare Science is recruiting a Deputy Head of School. This is a new and very senior post responsible for supporting and deputising for the Head of School in all aspects of the School's work including the development of new educational programmes and strategic direction. The role will extend across all healthcare science specialisms and themes, working with the School's Programme Director and Professional Leads, with a particular focus on ensuring high quality education and training. Closing Date **11th January 2016**. Full details on NHS jobs at: https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/4c7b2a3c2b522660a1bbab431822a60b/?vac_ref=913999337

Upcoming Courses / Events:

- BSA Conference 2016** - BSA have added an extension to the Applied and Clinical Research abstract submission deadline for the BSA Annual Conference. Applied & Clinical Research Abstract (Day 2-3) New Submission Deadline: 8th January 2016. The Basic Science Abstracts (Day 1) Submission Deadline: For full instructions and to submit your abstract visit www.eventsforce.net/bsa2016 and click on the "Abstracts" tab.

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

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