

Welcome to this week's 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

BAA News:

- The BAA Board met at the end of January and the new board roles are now defined as below. You can contact any member of the board through BAA admin using admin@baaudiology.org.

President	Jagjit Sethi
Vice President	Michelle Booth
Immediate Past President	Alison Walsh
Treasure & Regional Groups	Matthew Murray
Membership Secretary	Neil Summerfield
Education	Harriet Crook
CPD	Karen Shepherd
Accreditation	Lizanne Steenkamp
Registration & Professional Affairs	Christine De Placido
SQC including ASG	Rosemary Monk
Publicity Communications web & IT	Sue Falkingham
Conference	Claire Benton
Student Rep. (co-opted)	Sarah Holliday
Welsh Rep (co-opted)	Paul Bruins
Scottish Rep (co-opted)	Gemma Leadbetter
Northern Ireland Rep (co-opted)	Barbra Gregg

General News:

- Good news on commissioning services**
NHS South Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has decided not to restrict access to audiology services for people with 'mild' hearing loss for the time being. Full details can be found on the BAA Website here: <http://www.baaudiology.org/indexphpnews/news-home/nhs-south-norfolk-ccg/>

After consultation, Mid Essex CCG have also decided not to ration hearing aid services for mild to moderate hearing loss at the moment. It is now starting to become clear that if commissioners are listening to the consultations they are not following North Staffordshire CCG approach and North Staffs is an isolated decision. Tough decisions are undoubtedly being made by commissioners but the work that the Hearing Alliance Partners do when these consultations arrive is being taken seriously. BAA works with the organisations in the Hearing Alliance to represent the profession in these consultations. As a Board we would ask members to get in touch immediately if they hear of a consultation on cuts to service in their areas, we are consulting with CCGs early and have documents and evidence ready to help you and BAA represent the profession. We are ready to respond quickly and effectively with the Hearing Alliance Partners to help keep service provision for mild and moderate hearing loss. Further details on the Mid Essex CCG decision are here: <http://midessexccg.nhs.uk/about-us/the-library/press-releases>.

BAA Meetings:

- BAA Meetings – all meetings can be found on the events pages of the BAA website:** <http://www.baaudiology.org/events>
[South West Regional Study Day](#), 9th March 2016
[North East Regional Study Day](#), 11th March 2016
[BAA England Heads of Service Day](#), 16th March 2016
[North West Regional Study Day](#), 23rd March 2016 (*more details soon*)
[BAA Student Conference](#), 8th April 2016
[Yorkshire Regional Study Day](#), 20th April 2016

General Events:

- Tinnitus Awareness Week**
This week is Tinnitus Awareness Week in the UK and the Plug'em Campaign run by BTA has exciting news on a new ambassador for the campaign. Renowned Music Producer, Mark Ronson, is now supporting the campaign. <http://www.baaudiology.org/indexphpnews/news-home/mark-ronson-shows-his-support-btas-new-plugem-campaign/>
Good luck for those holding Tea for Tinnitus events and general events supporting Tinnitus Awareness Week!
- Cochlear Implant International Day: 25th February 2016**
What are you planning to do to celebrate International Cochlear Implant Day? The European Cochlear Implant Users' Group would like us all to think about how we can celebrate the difference this amazing technology has made to those with hearing loss; see their website at www.eurociu.eu.
It's a great opportunity for us all to raise awareness of the impact of hearing loss and what cochlear implantation can do. Action on Hearing Loss, with The Ear Foundation, is preparing briefings on behalf of the Adult Cochlear Implant Action Group, to support any whom wish to raise awareness about cochlear implantation, and provide useful information and resources which can be used with the press and on social media. The Ear Foundation is updating its information sheets for the day, about both adult and children's implantation, with up-to-date information and stories. We will be sending these out nearer the time, but meanwhile, we suggest that we all use this opportunity as widely as we can; some are planning to contact local MPs, to use social media on the day, to use websites, to send out emails to all those on databases, or hold events to mark the occasion.
Please post on #CochlearImplantDay to raise awareness of hearing loss and cochlear implantation.
- Healthcare Science Week 2016 is March 11th – 20th this year. Don't forget to tweet about it using #hcsweek.**
There are lots of ways you can get involved and a fantastic **NEW Healthcare Science Week Guide** for 2016 is available with loads of excellent resources: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/news/healthcare-science-week-guide-2016>
- BDA Members Conference and AGM "Building on our Legacy for the Future"**
British Deaf Association conference is taking place on **Saturday 20th February 2016** from 9am – 4.30pm At Amnesty International UK, 25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA. You can book a place at the conference here: <https://www.bda.org.uk/Event/conference-and-agm-2016>
- BSA Annual Conference, 25 – 27 April 2016, Coventry**
The programme has been updated and is available on the conference webpages: www.eventsforce.net/bsa2016
The abstract submissions for Applied and Clinical Research Posters are still open, along with oral and poster abstracts for Basic Science. With the final submission deadline as the **13th February**, don't delay any longer. We would strongly encourage you and your teams to consider submitting. Please can you also consider dispersing this information to your relevant contacts.

Surveys:

- Disability Matters Survey**
Disability Matters is proud to partner with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) to promote the importance of inclusion and access for all disabled children and young people aged 0 - 25 years.

Building on the 2015 UN Disability theme of **Inclusion Matters** the Disability Matters consortium is issuing a **Call for Evidence** to parent carers, disabled young people and those who work or volunteer

with disabled children and young people.

We are inviting the submission of evidence and case studies from individuals or UK organisations highlighting the positive or negative ways that people are:

- working pro-actively with disabled children and young people
- enabling inclusion
- making services accessible

As a pan-disability programme, we are interested in examples that relate to all disabilities.

The responses will help inform a report highlighting case studies and other examples of good practice on inclusion and access.

Share your own experiences, good or bad, by completing our [short survey](#) before **Friday 11 March 2016**.

Social Media News

- Stephen Campbell from CHIME Audiology has been sharing articles he has found interesting on the BAA Facebook Group over the last few weeks. Thanks Stephen!

The BAA CPD Team also post regularly courses that have been awarded CPD points on the Facebook Group- if you are attending course you can add yourself to the event and post to others attending.

The debate on self-programming hearing aids is discussed on the [BAA Facebook page](#) this month.

On Twitter, [@CochraneENT](#) have posted about the evidence for swimming after grommet insertion <https://twitter.com/CochraneENT/status/693096315677478912?s=09>

A nice piece appeared in The Independent Newspaper on cotton buds and the ears and this has been widely shared on social media – remember all “nothing smaller than your elbow in your ear!” <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/features/the-dangers-of-putting-cotton-buds-in-your-ear-why-cant-we-resist-the-temptation-despite-warnings-on-a6840251.html>

During Tinnitus Awareness Week, 8th-14th February, don't forget to tweet about the Plug'Em campaign on noise protection and Tinnitus Awareness Week itself.

A quick and easy way to help is by making a mention on social media. Please follow, share, retweet or like. Please use our hashtags: **#BTA #tinnitus #TAW2016 #plugem #tea4tinnitus** and follow us on:

Twitter: [@BritishTinnitus](#) | [@Plug_em](#)

Instagram: [BritishTinnitusAssociation](#) | [Plug_em](#)

Facebook: <fb.com/BritishTinnitusAssociation> | <fb.com/plugemuk>

Here are some key facts you could use in tweets :

- Tinnitus Awareness Week 2016 runs from 8 – 14 February
- Tinnitus affects at least 1 in 10 people in the UK – that's approximately 6 million
- At present, there is no cure
- Support and advice is available from the British Tinnitus Association (BTA), a national charity (1011145), call our Freephone helpline 0800 018 0527
- The BTA is running a new prevention campaign 'Plug'em', raising awareness of the need to use earplugs in clubs, at gigs and festivals. More info at www.plugem.co.uk
- Help support people with tinnitus by holding a Tea for Tinnitus party during TAW 2016. Full details can be found at www.teafortinnitus.co.uk
- BTA website has information about the services it provides and how it helps fund research, provides training and free information days for people with tinnitus and those who support people who have the condition. Please visit www.tinnitus.org.uk

Job Adverts:

- **Clinical Specialist (Hearing Implants)**
MED-EL UK Ltd
Permanent, Full Time (Job share /Part time considered)

MED-EL UK is seeking an exceptional audiology professional to join our Hearing Implant Clinical Support team. In this key role you will provide the highest level of clinical and technical support to audiologists and other professionals working in the hearing implant field across the UK & Eire. You will liaise with professionals, patients and families, and represent us at conferences and meetings in any of the 100+ countries that the global MED-EL team supports. You will hold a graduate level qualification, and UK Registration (or eligibility for registration) via RCCP, HCPC, or a similar professional body. You will be able to demonstrate a range of clinical skills and experience, including an advanced knowledge of hearing aid and/or implantable hearing devices. A post-graduate level qualification and experience with both adult and paediatric work would be an advantage.

We seek an effective communicator, who can self-manage but also work in a team environment. The ability to rapidly grasp technical concepts, and explain them to persons with a variety of knowledge levels is essential. Computer literacy, including knowledge of standard MS office software, is expected. The role will be field based, requiring extensive travel across the UK, including some overnight stays. In return we'll offer you an attractive benefits package, including non-contributory pension, full training on MED-EL hearing implants, and remuneration between £26-38k, commensurate with experience and qualifications.

If you are interested in joining our dynamic UK team email your CV and a covering letter to Alison Woodcock, MED-EL UK Ltd, Alison.woodcock@medel.com Informal enquiries are welcome; contact Fiona Kukiewicz, Clinical Services Manager, Fiona@medel.co.uk or Dawn Webster, Clinical Services Manager, Dawn@medel.co.uk.

The closing date for applications is **26th February 2016 at 12noon**. Interviews are planned for week beginning 7th March 2016. For more information about MED-EL visit www.medel.com

- **Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board**
Principal Clinical Scientist/Audiologist – Primary Care Area Leads (BCU East, BCU Central & BCU West)
Band 8a
3 x Full time 37.5hrs/week permanent posts

An exciting opportunity has arisen for three experienced and enthusiastic Audiologists or Clinical Scientists to join our busy and friendly Audiology team in North Wales. These three posts will each take the lead in one of the three Primary Care Areas within Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. We are looking for three dynamic and motivated individuals to lead the implementation and evaluation of the new and innovative service. These posts, and the Audiology Primary Care service, will be the first of their kind in Wales.

The Advanced Audiology Primary Care Practitioners will be working within the Primary care setting and with the Primary Care teams providing first line, direct access, care to patients of all ages with ear, hearing and balance difficulties that would otherwise have been seen by their GP. The role will require advanced Clinical Audiology skills and will include extended scope of practice related to aural care. Training and support will be provided to support the development of the role.

Because this is a new role within Audiology, the post holders will also be responsible for the implementation and evaluation of the service within different Primary Care settings across the area covered by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

For further information please contact Jane Wild jane.wild@wales.nhs.uk To apply, visit www.jobs.nhs.uk and search for job reference 050-HS004-0216

Closing date **4th March 2016**

Contact us
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