

AUDIENS



**The Newsletter of the
British Association of Community Doctors
in
Audiology**

**APRIL 2007
No. 39**

Amplivox advert

REPEAT FROM OCTOBER 2006



AUDIENS



The Newsletter of the British Association of Community Doctors in Audiology

BACDA is registered as a charity, No.1019567

CONTENTS

<i>Editorial</i>	Page 4
<i>List of Officers</i>	Page 4
BACDA Study Day Reports: "One Ear or Two"	
<i>Chairman's report: Susan Rose</i>	Page 5
<i>Post script Susan Rose</i>	Page 6
<i>Secretary's Report Veronica Hickson</i>	Page 7
<i>Treasurer's Report Dr. K Abban</i>	Page 7
<i>Reports from Regional Representatives</i>	Page 10
<i>British Society of Audiology, Annual Conference</i>	Page 12
<i>Auditory Processing Disorder — current clinical approach</i>	Page 12
<i>BAPA Prize Rules</i>	Page 13
<i>BACDA (Scotland) Study Day</i>	Page 14
<i>Advertisers: Amplivox</i>	Page 2
<i>Guymark</i>	Page 15
<i>Puretone</i>	Page 16

The cover photo was taken by Dr. Lesley Batchelor on a recent trip to Uganda

Thanks to Pam Williams for her work in distributing Audiens

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Editorial

After about 20 years as newsletter editor (give or take), this is my final editorial as I am handing over to Jeanette Nicholls, who I am sure will edit the next Audiens (October 2007) most ably. I never really envisaged editing a newsletter as I thought it would be too difficult, but in the absence of other volunteers I agreed to take it on for a short while. However, I have really enjoyed my years as editor, and over the years have developed it from an A4 photocopied type-written sheet. When it became a small A5 booklet I coined the name "Audiens" (meaning "hearing", in Latin). It finally transformed into a glossy A4 booklet, initially with just the logo, but with Alan's suggestion the front cover now sports a photograph (often a committee member's holiday photo!). Ironically it has become easier, as I am now supported by a small team, to whom I am very grateful. Thank you to Pam Williams (BACDA secretariat), Alan Batchelor (producer), and Janet Ryan (my very able personal secretary).

However, I will not be resting on my laurels. I will of course be in touch with all matters relating to BACDA, soon to be known as BAPA (British Association of Paediatricians in Audiology). I plan to support Jeanette until she establishes herself in her new role as editor.

In addition to my day-to-day work, I have taken on a new role, and have recently been appointed to the NHSP Quality Assurance Team. Although this is hard work I find it most interesting; travelling to different areas of the country and seeing how newborn hearing screening works in practice. Then seeing how different audiology services cope with the challenges of diagnosing hearing impairment and fitting hearing aids to babies, in a family friendly and multi-disciplinary way. I have been pleased to see how community doctors, other paediatricians and ENT specialists have been involved in supporting hearing impaired children and their families. Although, in many areas this is not co-ordinated under the one umbrella of a consultant paediatrician specialising in audiology, generally there is some medical input, albeit from more than one doctor and from different specialties. I also hope the Quality Assurance process will raise the profile of paediatric audiology nationwide, and emphasise its importance to the commissioners of local health services.

Don't forget to visit the website, for the powerpoint presentations from the January 2007 study day, One Ear or Two, at www.bacda.org.uk

List of Officers

Jane Lyons

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Dr. Susan Rose</i>	<i>susan.rose@sahs.nhs.uk</i>
<i>Immediate Past Chairman</i>	<i>Dr. Ann MacKinnon</i>	<i>ann.mackinnon@twht.scot.nhs.uk</i>
<i>Vice Chairman</i>	<i>Dr. Adrian Dighe</i>	<i>adrian.dighe@mspct.nhs.uk</i>
<i>Honorary Secretary</i>	<i>Dr. Veronica Hickson</i>	<i>veronica.hickson@gwent.wales.nhs.uk</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Dr. Ken Abban</i>	<i>kwesi@doctors.org.uk</i>
<i>Meetings Secretary</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Audiens Editor</i>	<i>Dr. Jane Lyons</i>	<i>irajlyons@btinternet.com</i>
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	<i>Dr. Susan Snashell</i>	<i>susans@enta.net</i>
<i>BACCH Representative</i>	<i>Dr. Daniela Lessing</i>	

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

<i>Midlands</i>	<i>Dr. Jeanette Nicholls</i>	<i>jeanette.nicholls@southbirmingham</i>
<i>North West</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Dr. Ruth Mackay</i>	<i>ruth.mackay@tuht.scot.nhs.uk</i>
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<i>East Anglia</i>	<i>Dr. Janice McCreadie</i>	<i>janmcc@doctors.org.uk</i>
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If your contact details have changed, please let BACDA know by sending your details to Pam Williams

BACDA Study Day - 2nd February 2007

"One Ear or Two"

Chairman's Report

2006 has proved to be a busy and productive year for BACDA. Activities include the organisation of two excellent Study Days, completion of the BACDA census, the gaining of Special Interest Group status within the RCPCH, representation at NICE Consultations and at the Workforce Review of Children's Services. In addition BACDA has received an invitation to the Initiation Event for the National Action Plan (NAP) for Audiology which is scheduled for 1st February 2007. I will be attending as the BACDA representative and Lesley Batchelor as the RCPCH representative—and so more anon.

None of the above would have been achieved without the enthusiasm and commitment of the members of the Executive Committee, the Development Group and Pam Williams who, as well as giving unstintingly of their time, somehow manage to maintain a sense of humour! I am delighted that virtually all will be continuing in their current posts. Sadly we will lose Bernie Borgstein who has proved a most able Meetings Secretary. I am sure you will agree that last year's Study Day with the 20th Birthday Celebrations was a memorable occasion and this year's Programme looks excellent. We welcome our new BAACH representative, Daniela Lessing.

As I mentioned in my last report much of my time this year has been spent on internal organisational issues and I hope that some of these projects are nearing completion.

A New Name and amended Constitution for BACDA

As I am sure you are by now aware the name elected by the Name Change Consultation Ballot was the **British Association of Paediatricians in Audiology (BAPA)**. The acronym trips neatly off the tongue (unlike some other organisations one could mention, UKPHB for example!) and I trust you will all shortly grow as fond of it as you have been of BACDA.

No objections to the proposed constitutional changes have been received by the Committee and all that is now needed is the assent of two-thirds of the members present at the AGM. These changes will then be notified to the Charity Commission for final ratification. Thereafter we can officially call ourselves **BAPA** and the membership will be informed when this process has been completed.

Website and Logo

Jane Lyons has done sterling work setting up and maintaining the BACDA website. However, the Committee consider that if we are to extend the functions of the website to include a secure area for the membership list, professional input will be required to design and maintain this. Adrian Dighe has been exploring options and possible new logo designs. He will give a short presentation at the AGM.

Audiens

We again have Jane to thank for our informative and friendly Newsletter which arrives through the letter box, without fail, twice yearly. After very many years of single-handedly cajoling members to submit articles and companies to provide sponsorship, she is to receive very welcome assistance from Jeanette Nicholls, the current Midlands Representative.

The BACDA Development Group

I do not plan to duplicate the information in the Development Group Report but I do wish to emphasise the Group's achievements particularly as regards the negotiations with the RCPCH on training. Much work is still to be done but a fruitful dialogue has been established with colleagues in Neurodisability. Please take note of the request in Ann Mackinnon's recent letter for you all to act as advocates for paediatric audiovestibular medicine.

Audiovestibular Medical Federation (AMF)

The Officers of BACDA and BAAP continue to value the close working relationship that has been established. Much has already been achieved in pursuing the aims of the Federation (see Susan Snashall's report in Audiens 2006). At the most recent meeting it was agreed that we should do more to promote the Federation. Also we need to work with related professional and voluntary bodies to develop outcome measures.

There has been a steady increase in reciprocal attendance by members at each others' Study Days/Conferences. I would urge BACDA members to consider attending the next Conference at Chilworth Manor, near Southampton from 19th-21st April 2007. Lesley Batchelor, BAAP's Education

Secretary (too!) has put together an exciting Programme and it is a lovely venue.

Susan Snashall is now approaching the end of her Presidency. She has been instrumental in the establishment of the Federation and extremely supportive of BACDA. It has been a privilege to work with her and, on behalf of the Organisation, I would like to express our deep appreciation and thanks.

BACDA Prize

There is no recipient of the BACDA prize this year.

As I hope you saw in the October issue of Audiens, new rules were proposed which widen the categories for which the Prize can be awarded. No comments or objections have been received and therefore these new rules will apply for 2007. Candidates can now themselves apply or, alternatively, candidates can be proposed by any full member of BACDA by submission of a citation. The closing date is 30th September each year. For full details please see Audiens.

Honorary Life Membership

I am pleased to announce that the Executive Committee has decided to award Honorary Life Membership to both Dr. Bethan Davies and Professor Valerie Newton for their outstanding contribution to Paediatric Audiovestibular Medicine and for inspiring so many BACDA members over the years

The Staff and Associate Specialist New Contract

As this applies to the majority of our members I am sure many of you will feel frustrated by the delay in these

negotiations. The BMA roadshows initially planned to start on 8th January have been delayed for a second time. The BMA has advised that all SAS doctors keep a diary of their working week in order to complete a “ready-reckoner” of how the changes may affect them. BMA membership is not necessary but those who wish to vote must register by emailing membership@bma.org.uk or telephoning 020 7383 6642

And so the year ahead.....

The diary is already filling up! Many of you will have attended one of the two courses on Aetiological Investigations for NHSP organised by Dr. Tony Sirimana.

I thought the London one was excellent and provided much food for thought- as well as for ongoing discussion and planning both at local and regional level. BACDA regional meetings could provide an ideal opportunity for discussion and sharing of case presentations – as could Audiens- so please feedback to any Committee member.

In addition many of you will be planning for your NHSP Quality Assurance visit – as well as trying to keep the day job going!

We really would like to hear your views. Are you having difficulty obtaining funding for study leave? Do you think there are issues that BACDA or the Federation should be addressing? Please contact your Regional Rep –or any Committee member.

Susan Rose, BACDA Chair

Post script to the Chairman’s Report

Feb 2007

Following the Study Day, “One Ear or Two” and AGM on 2nd February 2007 I wish to make a few brief additions to my Report.

Firstly, I thought the Study Day was excellent with authoritative and well-paced presentations from beginning to end. Hopefully most will appear on the Website shortly. Many congratulations to Bernie Borgstein for her impeccable organisation and thanks to Dr. Deirdre Lucas who stepped in at the last moment to give a thought-provoking presentation on Unilateral Vs Bilateral Cochlear Implant in Professor Summerfield’s absence.

Recruits are still required for the Babies Early Amplification Study (BEARS) Study. If you are interested in helping with this please contact Dr. Emily Pattison at the MRC Hearing and Communication Group, email: emily.pattison@mrche.ar.man.ac.uk

It will probably not surprise any of you that the HTA Review of the School Entry School Entry Hearing Screen conducted by Dr. Heather Fortnum, Professor John Bamford et al.

found large variation in practice, poor data management systems and little data on screen performance. However Dr. Peter Watkin gave a fascinating presentation from his detailed records of screening outcomes both pre- and post introduction of Newborn Hearing Screening in Redbridge and Walthamstow. He found that significant numbers (up to 45%) of children with a permanent hearing loss (mild, moderate or unilateral) remain to be diagnosed at school entry. Whether this is best tackled by retaining the School Entry screen or by some form of targeted screen is unclear as yet. The important message, however, is that if your area is still screening please try to collect good quality data on coverage, referral rates and outcome.

As for the AGM, the delegates overwhelmingly voted in favour of the name change of the Organisation to the British Association of Paediatricians in Audiology (BAPA) as well as to the amendments to the Constitution. Dr. Adrian Dighe showed us some examples of possible designs for the new logo and website. And so it is likely to be a busy year ahead for the Executive Committee finalising these changes In the meantime please contact any of us with your suggestions.

Susan Rose, BACDA Chair

Secretary's Report

This year the committee has been busy with the census results, name and constitution changes - the majority of the activity has not involved any action required as secretary. I am available for members to use as point of contact and for anyone else wishing information. Now that we are a speciality group within RCPCH the minutes of the executive meetings once ratified are sent to the college.

I have received video newsletters from 'Open', various documents from RNID, and the B CoD which are available to members on request. Ros Aylett has agreed to represent us at the B CoD meetings in future and feedback to the executive committee.

Veronica Hickson, BACDA Secretary

www.bacda.org.uk
have you visited the website
recently?

The copy dates for the next editions of Audiens are:

15th August 2007 and 15th February 2008.

Articles, letters or adverts etc. to the editor by those dates please.

All submissions must at least be typewritten, and preferably on disc or by Email.

Advertising rates for Audiens

Colour, A4	Commercial	£300
	Academic	£240
Black & White	Commercial	£150
	Academic	£120
B & W, ½ page	Commercial	£90
	Academic	£60
Flyers for insertion with mailing	Commercial	£100
	Academic	£75

Treasurer's Report January 2007 Financial Year Ended 30th November 2006

It is my greatest pleasure to present the Treasurer's Report for the year. As you may be aware, it has been a year of hard work by the Executive and all involved in the various committees. BACDA is progressing in terms of academic and medico-political issues, which are all so important if we are to remain a recognised body within the medical profession.

The Executive Committee members continue their financial restraint on our overall expenditure ensuring a success in keeping within our resources. Our forward progress also reflects the hard work put in by the Executive Committee. BACDA membership is still falling. Our vigorous campaign to recruit new members was successful and it is therefore important we continue to maintain our recruitment policy.

The January Study Day gave £8210 (£8797 in 2005).

The Study Day in June gave £4150 (£1680 in 2005).

Subscriptions- £8910 (£8520 in 2005)

BACDA did not run any VRA Training course in 2006 whereas in 2005 there was

a surplus of £3758 from the VRA courses.

Our Net Assets for the year showed a balance sheet of £47313 (£42981 in 2005)

Finally I would like to thank the Chairman, the rest of the Executive Committee members, the Trustees and Mrs Pam Williams. Their dedication and work input have been invaluable in promoting the cause of the Association.

KEN K. ABBAN TREASURER

16 January 2007

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views held by the British Association of Community Doctors in Audiology

AUDIT

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY DOCTORS IN AUDIOLOGY

Balance Sheet as at 30 November 2006

	2006	£	2005	£
Fixed Assets				
Computer and Printers at cost	2400		2400	
Deduct Depreciation to date	<u>2390</u>	10	<u>2390</u>	10
Office Equipment at cost	301			
Deduct Depreciation to date	241	60	301	80
Audiology Equipment at cost	113		113	
Deduct depreciation to date	<u>41</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>85</u>
		142		175
Current Assets				
Prepaid expenses	869		869	
Cash at National Savings Bank	5871		5871	
Cash at bank: Deposit Account	29246		33627	
Cash at bank: Current Account	12945		3554	
Cash at bank: Area Branches	5457		5475	
Cash in hand	<u>300</u>		<u>300</u>	
	<u>54688</u>		<u>49678</u>	
Current Liabilities				
Creditors Area	746		200	
Branches Accrued	5457		5457	
Accrued expenses	<u>1314</u>		<u>1215</u>	
	7517		6872	
Net Current Assets		47171		42806
Net Assets		47313		42981
<u>Accumulated Fund</u>				
Balance as at 30 November 2005	42981		31330	
Excess of income for the year	3713		9706	
Bank interest	619		512	
Transfer of Funds from South Wales Region	-	<u>47313</u>	<u>1433</u>	<u>42981</u>

These accounts are approved, all records and information for their preparation having been made available.

Dr. K ABBAN Treasurer

British association of Community Doctors in Audiology

Unaudited Financial statements for Year ended 30th November 2006

Hallidays Limited, Chartered Accountants, Portland building, 127-129 Portland street, Manchester M1 4 PZ

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 November 2005

	2006	£	2005	£
INCOME:				
Subscriptions	8910		8520	
Clinical meetings: Delegates fees	12360		14610	
Advertisements and exhibitors	3800		3100	
Surplus on Visual Reinforcement Audiometry Course			3758	
Sale of Coasters and CDs	572			
Other			<u>709</u>	
		<u>25642</u>		<u>30697</u>
EXPENDITURE:				
Room hire and refreshments	6813		4898	
Meetings: Committee	3524		4718	
Research group	65			
Training group	-		521	
Other	1834		2712	
Lecturers fees and expenses	902		915	
Newsletters	3091		3800	
Postage	537		556	
Stationery	924		853	
Telephone and fax	195		156	

AUDIT

Secretarial	600		668
Subscriptions	40		71
Accountancy	1234		1175
Bank charges	382		232
Prize			100
Web site registration			71
Cd & coaster expenses	860		
Electoral Reform Services	662		
Donations	30		
General expenses	20		46
Depreciation	33	<u>21929</u>	<u>20991</u>
Excess of Income		3713	9706
Bank interest received		619	512
Transfer of Funds from South Wales			1433
		<u>4332</u>	<u>11651</u>

Analysed Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 November 2006

	Clinical Meetings		Newsletter	General
	January	June		
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subscriptions				8910
Clinical meetings: Delegates fees	8210	4150		
Advertisements			2600	
Exhibitors	800	400		
Cds & coasters				572
Other				
Total Income	<u>9010</u>	<u>4550</u>	<u>2600</u>	9482
EXPENDITURE				
Room hire and refreshments	3922	1609		1282
Meetings:				3524
Committee				65
Research				1834
Other	369	503		30
Lecturers fees and expenses				3091
Newsletters, postage				537
Stationery				924
Telephone and fax				195
Secretarial				600
Subscriptions				40
Accountancy				1234
Bank charges				382
CD & Coaster expenses				860
Electoral reform services				662
Donations				30
General				203
Depreciation				33
Excess of Income (Expenditure)	4719	2438	(491)	(2953)

Other meetings

BAAP	117.85
Federation Day	212.95
BACDA Development Group Meeting	417.80
NCPA	349
NDCS Working Group Meeting	157.90
UKFPHB	70
BACDA Southeast	196.50
NHSP Steering Group	26.49
D o H Workforce Meeting	162.20
	122.80
	1833.49



Reports from the Regions

BACDA South East Region

The regional meeting was held at Edgware Community Hospital on June 9th kindly hosted by Sebastian Hendricks.

We started with a tour of the Children's Outpatients and Paediatric Audiology Department conducted by Sebastian. Lunch was followed by two very interesting presentations. The first given by two speech and language therapists/audiologists from South Africa on their experiences in rural and urban settings. Sebastian then spoke on "Streamlining a Paediatric Audiology Service". The meeting was very well attended.

Following Bernie Borgstein's resignation Keith Stewart was elected as regional representative.

*Rosamund Aylett
South East Representative*

BACDA South West region

We had a very useful study day in Bath in July.

In the morning we made the most of the expertise of some local speakers from other disciplines, and the highlight was an update on useful Makaton signs and we all enjoyed practising!

In the afternoon members had prepared case presentations, which sparked off useful discussions.

Numbers attending were relatively small as it seems very hard to find a suitable day for members across the area, perhaps reflecting that many of the group have other work commitments besides Audiology.

As the London Study Day is in February this year the plan will be to have our next regional meeting in the spring.

*Alison Hooper.
South West Representative*

BACDA East Anglia Region

We held a joint BACDA Eastern region Audiology meeting on January 18th at Fulbourn near Cambridge. The topic was Audiological problems in children with Cleft Lip and Palate. Victoria Perfect the lead audiologist for Cleft.NET.East gave an interesting presentation followed by a good discussion on local services and follow up for these children with a view to developing a formal protocol throughout the district. Future meetings were discussed and we hope to hold our next

meeting in September, anyone interested will be welcome more details nearer the date.

*Janice McCreadie
East Anglian Representative*

BACDA South Wales Region

The NBHSW (NewBorn Hearing Screening Wales) programme continues to run well and many members are involved at various levels. This has involved local training and ongoing liaison with colleagues both within and between areas.

Within Wales we have been pleased to have Audiology Cymru which has allowed us to meet with other colleagues not only within our own profession but also those in other disciplines. If you know of any other doctors who would like to become members then please encourage them.

I am looking for a replacement/volunteer to be the representative for the Principality.

Any volunteers or suggestions for a named person then please get in touch. Veronica.hickson@gwent.wales.nhs.uk

*Veronica Hickson
South Wales Representative*

BACDA North Eastern Region

At the moment membership of BACDA in the North East stands at 9 and these doctors are all based in different counties. However a recent audit has identified at least another dozen Associate Specialist or Staff Grade Doctors who are actively involved running audiology clinics. It would be useful to have suggestions about how membership could be boosted!

On a more positive note, a contingent from the NE did attend the York meeting in June and found it to be a most useful and enjoyable day, hopefully there will be NE attendees at the meeting in London as well.

Sally Wade

BACDA Yorkshire Region

We can report a relatively busy year. We had two meetings. The first being an afternoon session on 4th January, organised by Dr. McDonagh & held in Leeds Infirmary. There were 2 speakers:

Phil Holt, Consultant Audiological Scientist spoke about the

BACDA Newsletter April 2007

ADVENTS

“Do once & Share Programme” & also “Deafness & Audio-Vestibular Impairment”. Wendy McCracken, Senior Lecturer, University of Manchester, spoke about the “Complex Needs Action Group”. Although only an afternoon a lot was covered and we were given plenty to think about.

The second meeting was the annual full day session held in York. This was organised by Dr. Lwin, Northern Meetings Secretary. As usual the venue and catering were good, and the day well attended.

The programme covered non organic loss, hyperacusis and tinnitus. Speakers included Dr. Deirdre Lucas, Rosie Kentish, Dr. Lwin and Dr. Nicholls. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Lakin. This will have been her last meeting as she is retiring so grateful thanks were given for the many York meetings she has chaired over the years.

That concludes our activities for the year.

*Kathleen Coats
Yorkshire Area Representative*

BACDA Scottish Region

In 2006 we have held 3 meetings with a good attendance of 14-15 members. We were pleased to welcome new members at the February meeting and even more pleased to see them back in June!

In February we had a discussion on the aetiological investigations of hearing loss in the newborn led by Dr. Juan Mora. We then had very interesting case discussions and it was reassuring to hear other areas had diagnostic difficulties.

In June we had a very interactive talk on ENT problems by Hathan Kubba an ENT surgeon at RHSC in Glasgow. I'm sure he didn't expect such a challenging afternoon! He also told us about his joint Downs Syndrome clinic and his joint “drooling clinic”. We were joined for part of the day by our recently retired members Helen and Jackie and then a group of us went out for a meal.

In November we held a multidisciplinary day on “the wobbly child” led by Dr. Katherine Harrop-Griffiths with invited guests from paediatrics, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. This was an excellent day (but an awful lot of work for Katherine) and we all left more confident in at least asking about balance problems and doing some basic testing.

Date for the diary Monday 5th November 2007 national study day in Stirling program not finalised but looking at aspects of where we are with early intervention.

*Ruth Mackay
Scottish Representative*

BACDA Midlands Region

Two meetings were held this year both at the Education Centre at Birmingham Children's Hospital which was a central location for all attending.

After a request put in by my predecessor, Nicky Bulmer, we finally managed to tie down the Birmingham BAHA team and for our spring meeting were treated to a very interesting set of presentations on the surgical procedure, aftercare and the audiological involvement with the paediatric team at the hospital. To complete the afternoon were listened to a talk on the prosthetic work that goes on to cosmetically improve the features of both children and adults with maxillo-facial and ear deformities as a result of congenital and secondarily acquired conditions.

The autumn meeting was programmed to look at the support for hearing impaired people outside the audiology and medical setting. Unfortunately at the last hurdle our NDCS speaker was unable to attend due to constraints of work. We did look at the Early Years Intervention of the Specialist Support Service presented by Ruth Wilman from the Solihull team and a Family Liaison Officer, Michelle Williams, from BID. To fill the gap I gave a shortened presentation of the Hyperacusis talk that was given at the June conference in York. (Apologises to all those who are eagerly awaiting the PowerPoint presentation on the website, it will appear sometime soon). Our final speaker, Mrs. Barbara Maughan, was an owner of a Hearing Dog for the Deaf. She gave a very moving account of how her dog, Chloe, had changed her life, giving her the confidence to face the hearing world and give the talk we heard.

Looking ahead to 2007, our spring meeting on May 10th will be an all day combined meeting with the geneticists to be held at Birmingham Women's Hospital. This will look at the practical side of genetic investigation and discussion of cases particularly identified from NHSP. We will be calling for case presentations and hope it will be a peer learning time.

It will also be my last meeting as midland rep and I hope one of my colleagues in the region will step forward and take us on into 2008/09.

Thank you to all who have supported the meetings that I have arranged.

*Jeanette Nicholls
Midlands Representative*

There were no reports from:

BACDA Northern Ireland Region

BACDA North West Region

British Society of Audiology Annual Conference

19th to 21st September 2006

First Past the Post in Medicine, Science and Therapy

The BSA 2006 conference was held in the impressive surroundings of Chester Racecourse and had a significant paediatric audiology component that we felt merited a trip from Scotland.

Prior to the actual conference were a series of master classes, covering subjects such as paediatric hearing aid verification using functional hearing assessments, developments in newborn hearing screening, speech and language therapy issues, real ear measurements and migraine related vertigo.

Between us we attended the first 2 of these master classes, both of which provoked lively debate within informal small group settings and ideas and examples of good practice to take back to our local services.

The conference proper got under way with a keynote addresses from Professor Sue Hill, the Chief Scientific Officer from the Department of Health, on 'The future of audiology and hearing services in England' and Professor Linda Luxon, consultant in audiovestibular medicine, on 'The future of vestibular services in the UK'. Both presentations led to a lot of interesting discussion, particularly in light of the current push to meet varying government targets. It would have added to the discussion if there had been some input from appropriate government departments in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

During the next day and a half there was a busy programme with a number of parallel sessions offering a significant paediatric component. Topics covered included implantable devices, advances in genetics, electrophysiological testing, auditory processing disorders and the future of amplification and audiology. Unfortunately it was not possible to attend all sessions. In the sessions we were able to attend, speakers addressed current issues and explored possible future developments. There was a lot of discussion following sessions, often with more questions being raised than answered. Speakers highlighted recent advances and ongoing challenges.

The academic presentations are available on the BSA website which is well worth a visit.

The conference was extremely well organised with ample time for networking and viewing of the extensive exhibition. It provided opportunities to learn from colleagues from other disciplines and to acquire some new skills, although, despite a crash course in the rules and several hours of intense hands on practise, I am afraid to say that neither of us mastered the intricacies of Black Jack at the Las Vegas casino night. We will just have to keep working as we will never make our fortunes at the gambling tables!

*Martina Stones
Ann MacKinnon*

Auditory Processing Disorder — current clinical approach

28th November 2006

Institute Child Health Great Ormond St. Hospital

This was an interesting well run course. Although auditory processing disorder (APD) is a well recognised clinical entity, as yet there is no test battery to give a diagnosis. Multidisciplinary assessment involves speech and language therapy, audiology and educational psychology. It was interesting that the 2 consultants working in the same hospital used different tests.

Both Prof. David Moore and Dr. Tony Sirimanna gave good talks on the function of auditory processing and clinical presentation. The main message seems to be that:

- APD is a hearing disability resulting from impaired brain function and characterised by poor recognition, discrimination, separation, grouping, localisation or ordering of NON SPEECH

SOUNDS (UK APD Steering Group working definition)

- Diagnosis of APD requires a demonstration of a deficit in neural processing of auditory stimuli that is not due to higher order language, cognitive or related factors (ASHA 2005).
- APD may coexist with other disorders such as ADHD, dyslexia, language impairment and learning disorder but is not the result of these.

Tony Sirimanna gave good examples of history sheets, APD questionnaires, Fisher's auditory Problems check list, and C.H.A.P.S. etc.

Dr. Doris-Eva Bamiou gave a fast run through tests available with a few comments on auditory neuropathy.

The prevalence of APD is unknown and Sally Hind discussed

APD NEWS

the reason for this and current studies.

An interesting pilot study involving a teacher of the deaf, audiologist, speech and language therapist, psychologist and neurodevelopmental paediatrician was discussed by Rosie Kentish. After 4-5 full day visits this led to the diagnosis of APD in 7/11 children aged between 11-14 years, and although this was invaluable to those taking part it would be a pipe dream for the mainstream.

Modifying the listening environment, auditory training and some examples of computer software were the main management techniques discussed by Nicci Campbell.

A clear, concise description of classroom management and adaptation for children with APD was given by John Briggs and this was followed by case discussions.

Take home messages for me

- Don't try to set up a service until further research clarifies the diagnostics!
- Continue to admit that some children have features suggestive of an APD. Use some of the questionnaires.
- Remain sceptical about diagnosis of APD by alternative practitioners using speech testing only.
- Try and be more proactive about acoustics in schools (there is no legislation in Scotland)

I recommend the day; it was worth leaving home at 3.30am to attend.

Ruth Mackay

The BAPA Prize Rules.

1. The award is named the BAPA Annual Prize
2. Any BAPA member (Full, Associate or Retired) will be eligible for the award apart from members of the Panel (see below)
3. The award will be given for work that promotes the aims of BAPA, which are:
 - (a) The promotion of standards in both training and professional qualifications of paediatricians working in audiovestibular medicine and to contribute to the training of other professionals working in related disciplines.
 - (b) The promotion of multidisciplinary working for the benefit of children and their families.
 - (c) The promotion of multidisciplinary working by maintaining and developing links with other professional bodies.
 - (d) The holding of meetings, lectures and discussions in various regions and the publication at regular intervals of a newsletter for members.
4. This work can be in the form of:
 - (a) a report or publication
 - (b) a presentation to an educational or audit meeting
 - (c) an outstanding contribution to service development and/or multi-disciplinary working.
5. Candidates can themselves apply for the Prize by submitting a report or presentation. Alternatively candidates can be proposed by any full member of BAPA by submission of a citation.
6. The Awards Panel will comprise three assessors, two of whom are BAPA members (one of whom is a committee member) and one non-BAPA member who is actively involved in children's hearing services. The Panel will be nominated annually by the Committee.
7. Submissions should be sent to the Secretariat or Chairman by 30th September each year for consideration by the Panel. If the Panel agrees to make an award this will be presented at the next BAPA Annual General Meeting. If the recipient is unable to attend, the award will be presented in absentia.
8. The award will be in the form of tokens of the recipient's choosing. The value of the award is currently £250.

BACDA (Scotland) Study Day

Monday 5th November 2007, Stirling Royal Infirmary



Early Days - Dilemmas and Decisions

Challenges in early intervention following the newborn hearing screen

Topics will include

Diagnostic Dilemmas and Challenges with Early Aiding

Pauline Campbell, Queen Margaret University College

Current Issues in Cochlear Implantation

Agnes Allan, Cochlear Implant Team, Crosshouse Hospital Kilmarnock

Early Intervention

Elizabeth Tyszkiewicz, Auditory Verbal UK

Case Presentations highlighting

Diagnostic challenges

Auditory neuropathy

Engagement with families

Multidisciplinary working

Cost £60

For further information and application forms please contact Dr. Ruth Mackay at
ruth.mackay@nhs.net

Change of address or other changes? If any of your details have changed, please let BACDA know by completing the form and sending it to Pam Williams, 23 Stokesay Road, Sale, Cheshire. M33 6QN

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