

British Society of Audiology (BSA)

Code of Conduct

Applicable to all Members

1. Background

Over the last few years, BSA and its associated Special Interest Groups, has dealt with a substantial number of queries from members some of which were largely of an ethical nature. The Trustees and Council decided it would benefit BSA members if we drew up a *Code of Conduct*. To this end, this document aims to meet this need. It will be reviewed on a quinquennial basis only unless serious omissions/errors are identified in the interim. Any such issues will be dealt with as soon as feasible.

The purpose of this *Code of Conduct* is to enhance collegiality by establishing ground-rules of good professional behaviour. For example, in the case of allegations of misconduct, or of actions that are harmful to BSA as a whole or individuals within it, the code will provide a benchmark for addressing grievances.

It is not the purpose of this *Code of Conduct* to inhibit a full and open discussion on matters of scientific content or policy.

This *Code of Conduct* comes into effect from 1 JUNE 2008. It should be used to guide all members of BSA and should be read in conjunction with the BSA's Constitution <http://www.thebsa.org.uk> (member's area).

In formulating the *Code of Conduct*, a range of existing accessible codes, as listed in the Appendix, were reviewed. BSA has also considered the wide range of contexts in which its members work. The aim of the *Code of Conduct* is that it should apply to all members.

2. Terminology

In this document the term 'member' refers to any member of BSA, and the term 'client' refers to any person or persons with whom a member interacts on a professional basis e.g. in clinic, at academic conference, in public meetings. A client may be an individual (such as a patient, a parent/carer, a student, a research participant, a member of council, a member of another professional society), a family group, an educational institution, or a private or public organization. Throughout the document the term 'audiology' refers to the wider discipline, and hence encapsulates all associated specialties; it does not simply refer to audiology as practiced in an NHS audiology clinic.

3. All members should:

- 3.1. Be committed to the AIMS of the BSA as stated in the Constitution
- 3.2. Identify opportunities in both their professional and personal life, to influence positively, policy and practice in relation to Audiology
- 3.3. Co-operate with clients, across all disciplines and sectors, to advance the cause of audiology
- 3.4. Support the BSA and contribute to its ongoing development. Members should not speak publicly in a way that will undermine the aims of BSA
- 3.5. Use caution in the wording of emails to avoid misrepresentation, misinterpretation or offence

- 3.6. Not act or speak publicly in a way that will damage Audiology
- 3.7. Obtain appropriate approval to represent BSA views publicly (e.g. via meetings, letters, emails etc)
- 3.8. Never use membership of the BSA as a form of professional qualification e.g. writing MBSA (or something similar) after their name
- 3.9. Never use the BSA Logo on any documentation without approval from Council
- 3.10. Notify council if aspects of the above points have occurred unintentionally; thus enabling BSA to take appropriate remedial action
- 3.11. Not act in ways that unfairly discriminate against anyone on any grounds
- 3.12. Be prepared to justify any decision or action that may affect another member or a client
- 3.13. Not make false allegations of discrimination

4. Professional Qualifications

Members should report accurately their professional qualifications in curriculum vitae, job applications, and any public biographical information. Members should not present themselves or their work in a manner that is misleading. Members should perform the work they undertake for their institutions in a timely, competent and efficient manner.

5. Tenure of Membership

In addition to the points listed in Section 10 of the Constitution, membership at any level may be withheld or withdrawn if Council judges that it would misleadingly imply BSA endorsement for a particular product, establishment, practice, course or qualification, or if a member intentionally (and, if sufficiently erroneous, unintentionally) fails to comply with the points in Section 3 of this document.

6. Tenure of Council Membership

In addition to the points listed in Section 10 of the Constitution, membership of Council may be withdrawn if fellow Council members judge that a member's behaviour has failed to satisfy the requirements stated in Sections 3 and 4 of this document.

7. Appendix

British International Studies Association <http://www.bisa.ac.uk/code.htm>

British Psychological Society <http://www.bps.org.uk>

Royal Institution of Great Britain <http://www.rigb.org>

Amended July 2008