Do you want to be more involved with the BSA?
2016 is going to be a busy year for the BSA as we plan to expand our activities and we are looking for people to help us surpass our expectations. Could you or members of your team be one of those people? We are particularly looking for people to help us with publicity, our social media presence and the Audacity magazine. For further information, please email laura@thebsa.org.uk

Consultation on new Recommended Procedure

1. The Balance Interest Group have a new document called “Recommended Procedure for positioning tests”. Please send any comments you have to laura@thebsa.org.uk by 22nd January 2016.


2. The Electrophysiology Special Interest Group have worked on a new document called “Cortical Evoked Response Audiometry” Please send any comments you have to laura@thebsa.org.uk by 5th February 2016


There’s a new Special Interest Group for 2016
At the end of 2015, eighteen multi-disciplinary professionals met to discuss the possibility of a new Tinnitus and Hyperacusis Special Interest Group. This group will aim to:

1. To develop evidenced based assessment and management practice guidance for tinnitus and hyperacusis.
2. To raise the standards across the private and public sector in tinnitus and hyperacusis management.
3. To promote relevant research, disseminate commentary on new studies and provide lifelong learning for professionals through a range of CPD activities.
4. To promote tinnitus and hyperacusis awareness to the professional community, particularly at primary care level.
5. To advise professionals of onwards referral options and signposting.
They plan to meet by the end of March and once they have, we will update you further.

BSA hopes for 2016
We asked the BSA Council what their hope is for 2016, here’s what they said:

**Helen Pryce, Trustee**
I hope to shape the commissioning framework with Alliance colleagues and NHS England.

**Kevin Munro, Immediate Past Chair**
My hope is that BSA becomes indispensable.

**Laura Turton, Operations Manager**
My hope is that the BSA is a strong, vibrant and effective organisation for its members and the wider Audiology community.

**Michael Akeroyd, Trustee**
I hope the BSA has an increase in participation from its members and in its work, giving more value to members and growing the membership too.

**Pauline Grant, APD SIG Chair**
I hope that the BSA attracts a wider, more interdisciplinary membership.

**Liz Midgley, Vice Chair**
That the BSA continues to lead the way in setting the standards by which we practice.

**David Greenberg, Trustee**
My hopes for 2016 are the BSA influences hearing aid provision and audiological support for all with hearing loss, including adults with mild and hearing loss and that we revisit the cochlear implant criteria to ensure that this is offered to all that would benefit.

**Nicci Campbell, Trustee**
I am looking forward to 2016 it will be exciting to see the range and scope of Special Interest Groups growing further to offer support and guidance to clinicians in an increasing number of areas.

**Ted Kilkenny, Trustee**
I hope the BSA is able to use its position to steer the generation of high-quality evidence and positively influence audiology-related policy making for the benefit of individuals with hearing and balance impairment.

**Barry Downes, Treasurer**
During 2016, I hope that we make good progress with increasing our membership, influence and relevance, whilst continuing with prudent management of our Society’s finances, achievement of NICE accreditation would be an added bonus.

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Have you registered for the annual conference yet?
BSA Annual Conference 25-27 April 2016, Ricoh Arena, Coventry

Registration is now open please click [www.eventsforce.net/bsa2016](http://www.eventsforce.net/bsa2016)

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**News**

**GENERATE’s Research Agenda for ENT, Hearing and Balance Care**
GENERATE, together with doctors and researchers in ENT, Hearing and Balance have worked closely with patients and families to develop an agenda that will guide research in the field for the next 10 years.

Research priorities include improving the patient’s journey when suffering from ENT problems, such as allergies, and problems of the sinuses and voice. Patients felt it is important that there is research into self-management, in particular for those suffering from dizziness. There is a need to improve the benefit of hearing aids and develop and test new treatments for hearing loss as well as for loss of other senses such as balance and smell.

For more information click here [GENERATE Research Agenda for ENT Hearing and Balance 2015](#)

**CLARIFYING AUDIOMETRIC DESCRIPTORS: THEIR VALUE AND LIMITATIONS**

While audiometric descriptors may provide a useful summary of an individual’s hearing thresholds, they should not be used as the sole determinant for the provision of hearing support. The ability to detect pure tones using earphones in a quiet environment is not in itself a reliable indicator of hearing disability and audiometric descriptors alone should not be used as the measure of difficulty experienced with communication in background noise, the primary complain to individuals with hearing loss.

The BSA recommended procedures document ‘Pure Tone Air and Bone Conduction Threshold Audiometry with and without Masking’ has been amended to ensure that the value and limitations of audiometric descriptors are clearly understood. [CLICK HERE](#) to access the document.

**Spotlight on…. Balance**

![Image](image)

**From Andrew Wilkinson, Vice Chair of the Balance Interest Group**

There have been a number of changes to the BIG steering committee over the past 12 months. Debbie Cane came to the end of her two-year period as Chair, and continues to be involved with BIG whilst taking on her new role at Manchester University. Katy Morgan (Addenbrooke’s, Cambridge) has moved from position of Vice Chair to Chair, and Andrew Wilkinson (Bristol) has taken the position of Vice Chair.

BIG has been keen to develop a wide/ multidisciplinary membership, to appeal to the nature of SIG and the aims of the society. In recent months, we have some new steering committee members. In addition to welcoming Vicki Kennedy, Clinical Scientist/Medical Physics from Liverpool, we also welcome aboard Natasha Harrington-Benton (Director of the Meniere’s Society) and Amanda Male (Highly Specialist Physiotherapist, National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery). This means we now have input from audiologists, clinical scientists, lecturers, a key national charity, audiovestibular physicians, and physiotherapy. We are positive that this broad range of input will help us develop further. Natasha has very kindly “volunteered” to take on the role of Secretary for the SIG.

The group has been very busy on writing/ updating BSA Recommended Procedures. The procedure for Positioning Tests has been completed and is awaiting final comments before publication, the procedure for Caloric testing was due for review in 2015, and this is undergoing some final tweaks, and the steering committee is now getting into the ‘nitty gritty’ of writing a procedure document for ocular vestibular evoked myogenic potentials (oVEMPs).

We have begun working on the organisation of BSA 2016 Conference, along the theme of the psychology of balance disorders, and are lucky to have talks from some invited speakers from the US. Following a preliminary BIG survey of balance services in 2014, we plan to investigate this to further service-oriented research.

As a team, we look forward to the challenges that lay ahead for the coming year.
The following titles are in this month’s issue

- **Ototoxicity (cochleotoxicity) classifications: A review** - Gemma Crundwell, Phil Gomersall & David M. Baguley
- **Evaluation of a wireless audio streaming accessory to improve mobile telephone performance of cochlear implant users** - Jace Wolfe, Mila Morais Duke, Erin Schafer, George Cire, Christine Menapace & Lori O’Neill
- **Age and gender differences in children and adolescents’ attitudes toward noise** - Andrea D. Warner-Czyz & Sarah Cain
- **Comparison of the CAM2A and NAL-NL2 hearing-aid fitting methods for participants with a wide range of hearing losses** - Brian C. J. Moore & Aleksander Sk
- **Sources of variability of speech, spatial, and qualities of hearing scale (SSQ) scores in normal-hearing and hearing-impaired populations** - Annie Moulin & Celine Richard
- **Hearing threshold distribution and effect of screening in a population-based German sample** - Petra von Gablenz & Inga Holube
- **Speech perception in noise for bilingual listeners with normal hearing** - Lisa Lucks Mendel & Hannah Widner

To access the IJA please log on to the BSA website and put in your membership details

**Job Listings**

**NHS GREATER GLASGOW AND CLYDE**  
Band 6 Healthcare Scientist Specialist (Paediatric Audiology)  
Royal Hospital for Children  
£26302.00 to £35225.00 plus relocation expenses where appropriate  
Full time (part time considered) 37.5 hrs and Permanent

Due to service expansion we are seeking additional staff to join our team in Glasgow. We have a varied caseload of around 450 children who are provided with hearing aids. The department actively support CPD activities. You will be involved in detailed audiometric assessments for all ages of children, including those with additional needs. They will also be responsible for managing a caseload of hearing aid users and making independent decisions regarding their habilitation/rehabilitation with amplification. You will have a delegated departmental responsibility for a specific area of the service provision and training will be provided. Applications would be considered from qualified Audiologists who have an interest in paediatrics and would like to develop further specialist skills in this area of Audiology. Previous experience of working in a multidisciplinary team would be advantageous. Part time hours will be considered.

For more information call Jim Harrigan, Head of Audiology on 0141 201 9210  
To apply visit [www.jobs.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.jobs.scot.nhs.uk) and search for job reference 0000040975G/SHOW  
Closing date 29th January 2016

**Events**

**British Cochlear Implant Group Meeting**  
Maximising Potential  
Thursday 28th and Friday 29th April 2016  
Kings Place, London

An interactive conference comprising of all professionals working in the field of auditory implants with structured debates on current issues which matter most to cochlear implant teams.  
We will have keynote lectures from internationally renowned professor’s: Marc Marschark, Christine Petit,
Astrid Van Wieringen and Christophe Vincent.

Click Here for more information about abstracts, accommodation and how to register! Alternatively email academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com with any queries. Follow us on Twitter @academia_uk #BCIG2016

British Society of Audiology  T:+ 44 (0) 1189 660622  E: bsa@thebsa.org.uk

Full details of upcoming events can be found at: www.thebsa.org.uk/events/category/meetings/

If you have any problems logging on to the website or changed any of your details, please update BSA Admin Office by email at bsa@thebsa.org.uk

Membership Fees 2015-2016: you can renew/pay your membership online www.thebsa.org.uk

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