

July 2022 BSA Cognition in Hearing Special Interest Group (CH SIG)

The CH SIG steering committee has recently undergone some changes: Nisha Dhanda has stepped down from the steering group and her role as CH SIG online learning liaison. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Nisha for all the work that she has put into our SIG, in particular refreshing the CH SIG online learning materials. We also extend a very warm welcome to our new CH SIG steering group members Dr. David Maidment and Dr. Jon Arthur.

David is a Lecturer in Psychology within the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences at Loughborough University. His research interests focus on digital behaviour change interventions to improve physical activity and reduce noncommunicable disease risk (e.g., dementia, cardiovascular ill-health) in older adults with disabilities, including hearing loss.

Jon is Head of Audiology and Consultant Clinical Scientist at Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board. He holds an honorary senior lectureship with Swansea University. He has varied research and clinical interests. Currently Jon is co-chair of a Welsh Dementia and hearing loss research group and chair of the Welsh Audiology Research Network. Jon is presently involved in a research project examining the use of AI and brain imaging.

The Adult Rehabilitation Interest Group and CH SIG collaborated to produce a video on “Raising awareness of Dementia from a clinical perspective” for BSA’s recently launched YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfgpVorzkPQ>

CH SIG have given several conference presentations over the summer at Cognitive Hearing Science for Communication, Hearing Across the Lifespan and the International Hearing Aid Research Conference. We are in the process of updating the CH SIG BSA online learning platform to include materials based on these presentations. CH SIG will also be represented at the upcoming British Academy of Audiology (BAA) conference in Manchester, in terms of both invited talks and posters, and we look forward to seeing some of our members at the BAA conference.

CH SIG is looking to recruit a new steering group member. The current CH SIG committee have specific interests in dementia and cognitive decline, tinnitus and hyperacusis, listening effort and improving access and clinical practice for underserved patient groups (Adults with Intellectual Disabilities, patients with Autism Spectrum Disorder). If you are interested in the cognitive processes that are involved in listening to and understanding sounds, please email our SIG secretary with a short summary of why you want to join the SIG: j.l.douglas@leeds.ac.uk