

**MEMBERSHIP
BOOKLET**
(January 2010)

You and BSHAA

The British Society of Hearing Aid Audiologists is the professional body for Hearing Aid Dispensers and all those working in the private hearing care profession in the United Kingdom. As well as representing the interests of its members and promoting the benefits of professional hearing care, the Society is committed to professional development and provides education and support.

Your membership of the Society gives your clients the assurance that you are committed to the Society's Code of Practice and through the Society, companies and sole-traders may join the Customer Care Scheme which offers even greater assurance of the quality of care available.

On your behalf, BSHAA maintains regular contact with the regulatory body, the Health Professions Council, as well as the British Healthcare Trades Association, the RNID, Hearing Concern Link and other organisations with interests in audiology and hearing care. We can therefore keep you informed of the latest developments within the industry.

Membership of the Society provides you with access to a wide variety of professional support to allow you to keep up to date with professional changes, with evolving technology and with the latest development in hearing instruments.

The CPD programme includes Professional Development Days, Masterclasses and an annual conference at a variety of venues around the country. As well as a forum for the exchange of ideas, these events provide you with excellent opportunities to network with other professionals in the private hearing care sector.

As a member you will:

- **Be part of the largest group of professionals in private hearing care in the UK.** With over 1,200 members here and around the world, BSHAA is a well respected organisation in the audiological world.
- **Be able to use the letters MSHAA or FSHAA after your name.** When a client searches for a hearing care provider they can see instantly that you are a member of the Society.
- **Be able to display the BSHAA logo in your business advertising.** Being a member of BSHAA is a sure way of reassuring your customers of your commitment to the professional values the Society promotes for the hearing care profession.
- **Receive the quarterly magazine, BSHAA News.** This prestigious publication is ONLY available to members and includes technical articles, news from the Society, stories about members, about new products and business developments as well as advice and professional guidance. It is also a source of news on job opportunities within Hearing Aid Audiology.

- **Have access to the Members’ Section of the Society’s website, www.bshaa.com.** This is also a fund of information about the profession and its development and where you can find a variety of business tools including marketing support, advice on writing press releases and on building relationships in your community.
- **Be included in the online Find a Dispenser Section of www.bshaa.com.** As a Registered HAD and member, your name and business details can be included in this public search engine on the website. It is the facility most used by surfers visiting the website and can be a regular source of clients for you.
- **Be given special rates at regular Education Seminars and Masterclasses.** BSHAA undertakes to provide on-going professional development and education at reasonable cost at accessible venues around the country. Members will enjoy discounted delegate rates at these events.
- **Be able to qualify as a BSHAA Fellow.** By following an approved learning path you can upgrade your membership to the status of Fellow of the Society entitling you to use the initials FSHAA after your name.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

ASSOCIATE

A person who has an interest in audiology may become an Associate Member of BSHAA after being proposed by two BSHAA members having either Qualified Membership or Fellowship status.

ASSOCIATE STUDENT

A person studying for a BSc Degree, MSc Degree or a Foundation Degree in Audiology or closely related subject may enrol as an Associate Student of the Society after being proposed by their course tutor. An Associate Student will not be a full member of the Society and will not be entitled to vote. If an Associate Student wishes to apply for Qualified Membership status on graduation, sponsorship will be required from two Qualified Members or Fellows of the Society.

QUALIFIED MEMBER

A person who is on the HPC Register as a Hearing Aid Dispenser, or has graduated from a British University with a BSc Degree, MSc Degree, Postgraduate Diploma or Foundation Degree in Audiology or Hearing Aid Audiology approved by the HPC or passed the Irish Diploma of Audiology, may enroll as a Qualified Member provided they have been proposed by two Qualified Members or Fellows of the Society.

FELLOW

A Qualified Member becomes a Fellow of BSHAA either by passing a Fellowship examination or in accordance with the rules under “The Gaining of Fellowship Status” on page 4.

All Fellows as at 1 January 2000 will retain their Fellowship status (see Page 4 Retention of Fellowship Status)

HONORARY FELLOW OR MEMBER

An Honorary Fellowship or Membership may be awarded by Council for an outstanding contribution to Audiology.

COUNCIL APPROVAL

Approval of BSHAA Council is required for admission to all categories of membership.

The BSHAA Council may refuse to admit to membership, at its discretion, any applicant and will not be required to provide any reason for rejection of such application.

All membership categories are subject to the Society's Articles of Association and its Code of Practice.

RULES FOR CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

These new rules for CPD (effective from 1 January 2010) are consistent with HPC's CPD requirements and support BSHAA members' compliance with the HPC's standards for continuing professional development. These should also be read alongside the BSHAA Statement on Continuing Professional Development for Hearing Aid Audiologists which is on the Society's website.

The new BSHAA CPD Scheme will start on 1 January 2010. The first CPD period will run for 19 months so that it will fall in line with the HPC Registration year from 1 August 2011. Thereafter, each CPD period will be for 12 months.

For members of the Society as at 1 January 2010 working towards Fellowship status there will be transition arrangements from the old to the new scheme and each member will be advised of their transition arrangements. There is a schedule of transition periods on the Society's website.

CPD Requirement

The Society recommends that:

Qualified members devote a minimum of 20 hours each year to CPD or 40 hours over any two consecutive years (i.e. 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2013, 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2014 etc). This will be pro rata during the first CPD period.

Associate members devote a minimum of 10 hours each year to CPD or 20 hours over any two consecutive years (i.e. 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2013, 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2014 etc). This will be pro rata during the first CPD period.

Type of CPD to be Undertaken

This depends on individual development requirements and individual job roles. Some members might want to advance to a higher level of skill and knowledge whilst others might simply want to maintain a good and up to date standard of practice. The key thing is that the member decides.

CPD Points and Accreditation of Courses

Courses will continue to be accredited. The points system will be used for gaining and maintaining Fellowship status. FSHAA is a highly regarded status and as such it is important to set a higher CPD standard for the achievement of Fellowship than is required for maintaining MSHAA status. To make Fellowship too easy to achieve would devalue the status and BSHAA needs to satisfy itself that this award maintains its prestigious status.

Courses will be submitted for accreditation by course providers or individual members on an application form (which can be found on the BSHAA web site) together with documentation as requested on the application form. Application must be made within 30 days of the event taking place (any later submissions will be accepted only at the discretion of the BSHAA Education Committee). BSHAA will award 1 BSHAA CPD point per hour of relevant activity. Accreditation of courses will last for two years from the date of accreditation.

The Gaining of Fellowship Status

A Member must obtain 50 BSHAA CPD points over a two year cycle (ending 31 July) with a minimum of 20 points obtained from BSHAA events (Professional Development Days, Masterclasses and/or Congress). Members applying for Fellowship status will also have to write a summary (up to 750 words) of their professional activities during the previous two years and describe the ways in which their CPD has enhanced their professional practice and has contributed to achieving their personal development goals.

Additionally members will need to submit their CPD Portfolio which will provide the evidence of CPD undertaken (including Attendance Certificates and Personal Evaluation Forms to support their reflective practice).

Qualified members who wish to apply for Fellowship must submit their application with their CPD Declaration Form (see later). An application for Fellowship will not automatically entitle the Member to Fellowship status.

There will be special arrangements for new members joining from 1 January 2010, during the first "19 month" CPD period which will be advised.

Retention of Fellowship Status

For Fellowship gained after 31 December 1999, a minimum of 50 BSHAA CPD points

must be achieved during every two year rolling period (ending 31 July). Alternatively Fellows may sit the formal Fellowship examination.

For Fellowship gained prior to 1 January 2000, BSHAA recommends that a minimum of 20 hours each year is devoted to CPD activity or 40 hours over any two consecutive years. As these FSHAAAs gained their status by examination they will maintain this status irrespective of the amount of CPD undertaken - this ruling will be kept under review.

CPD Record Keeping and Personal Evaluation Forms

The HPC states that a continuous, up to date and accurate record must be maintained; this is the CPD Portfolio. The CPD Portfolio must include sufficient documentation to evidence your CPD activities e.g. course attendance certificates, personal evaluation forms and records of other, unstructured/self directed CPD activities.

Personal Evaluation Forms are not to be submitted to BSHAA as in the previous system. However, these forms (or similar) are an essential part of your CPD Portfolio and should be maintained for each and every CPD learning undertaken. The BSHAA forms have been designed to record all types of CPD activity and enable you to add your own reflective comments. They will help you to monitor your activity and to draft your CPD profile if required by HPC audit. A Personal Evaluation Form template is on the BSHAA website.

A well documented CPD Portfolio will be essential for HPC compliance.

CPD Declaration Form and BSHAA Membership Renewal

As part of BSHAA membership renewal each 1 September, members will state in a CPD Declaration Form (which will be sent with the renewal request) the totals of their CPD hours and CPD points achieved during the previous CPD period (ending 31 July). They will also affirm that they have satisfied the HPC standards with regard to CPD.

The annual CPD declared will be recorded by BSHAA on the member's record. BSHAA will not (as per the old scheme) record individual member's CPD points for individual courses. Members have to take responsibility for their own CPD, as is clearly required by the HPC.

Any member not submitting their annual CPD declaration at the time of renewal, i.e. 1st September, may be subject to a CPD review. Any other member may also be selected for review. By undertaking these reviews, BSHAA can provide any assistance necessary prior to the HPC re-registration and audit cycle.

Recommended Reading

The HPC booklet entitled Your Guide to our Standards for Continuing Professional Development. It can be downloaded from their website:

http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/1000119FShort_guide_to_CPD.pdf

