

# You and BSHAA

## Membership Booklet



**Assuring High Quality Professional Hearing Care**

## You and BSHAA

**The British Society of Hearing Aid Audiologists is the professional body for Hearing Aid Dispensers and those working in the independent hearing care profession in the United Kingdom and overseas. 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 Codes of Practice and are a member of the Society's Customer Care Scheme which offers even greater assurance to your clients.

BSHAA maintains regular contact with the regulatory body, the Health and Care Professions Council, the National Community Hearing Association, Action on Hearing Loss, Hearing Link and many other organisations with interests in audiology and hearing care. This ensures the Society is able to influence and gain insight on behalf of members keeping them informed of all the latest developments within the industry.

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

The CPD programme includes professional development events and an annual conference. As well as a forum for the exchange of ideas, these events provide you with excellent opportunities to network with other professionals in the hearing care profession and industry.

# Contents

- 2 You and BSHAA
- 4 Membership benefits
- 6 Member categories
- 7 Gaining Fellowship

## As a Member you will:

- **Be part of the largest group of professionals in independent hearing care in the UK.** With over 1,500 members in the United Kingdom and overseas, BSHAA is a well respected organisation among hearing care professionals around the world.
- **Be able to use the letters MSHAA (Member) or FSHAA (Fellow) 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 a member of the Society's Customer Care Scheme.** A well established and successful way of assuring your clients that in the unlikely event something goes wrong, there's someone there to help, and it protects you too.
- **Be able to display the BSHAA logo in your business advertising.** Being a member of BSHAA is a sure way of reassuring your clients of your commitment to the professional values the Society promotes for the hearing care profession.
- **Receive the much admired professional journal *BSHAA People*, six times a year.** This respected 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 the hearing care profession.



### There's more online:

- **Have access to the wealth of information contained in the Members' pages of the Society's website, [www.bshaa.com](http://www.bshaa.com).** Here you will find news about the Society, the profession and its development and 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 an Audiologist Section of the website.** As a Registered Hearing Aid Dispenser and member, you can add your name and business details to this public search engine on the website. It is the facility most used by the public visiting the website, and can be a regular source of clients for you.
- **Manage your professional learning and development using the CPD tool on the website.** With this you can plan your CPD activity, record what you have done and prepare reports on your development.
- **Enjoy special rates at BSHAA Professional Development events.** From time-to-time BSHAA provides professional development and education opportunities at reasonable cost at accessible venues around the country. Members benefit from discounted delegate rates at these events.
- **Reduced prices at the BSHAA Congress.** This is a popular and memorable annual event which gives you the chance to be at the cutting edge of learning. There are international motivational speakers on hearing care, audiological research and business matters as well as one of the biggest industry related trade exhibitions in the country. These combined with its social and networking opportunities, make this a conference NOT to be missed.
- **Be able to qualify as a BSHAA Fellow.** Experienced members can become Fellows by following an approved learning path, contributing to the Society and to the profession. This entitles you to use the initials FSHAA after your name.

# Member categories

## Associate

Any person who has an interest in audiology may become an Associate Member of BSHAA. Those who have completed an unapproved course of training to act as a hearing care assistant to a Fellow or Qualified Member of the Society may also enrol as an Associate of the Society. An Associate Member has voting rights.

## Associate Hearing Care Assistant

A person who has successfully completed a BSHAA approved Hearing Care Assistant course may apply to become an Associate Hearing Care Assistant member. An Associate HCA has voting rights.

## Associate Student Hearing Care Assistant

Whilst in training on an approved course the student may enrol as an Associate Student HCA. An Associate Student HCA will not be a full member of the Society and will not be entitled to vote.

## Associate Student

A person studying for a BSc, MSc Degree or a Foundation Degree in Audiology or closely related subject may enrol as an Associate Student of the Society. An Associate Student, who wishes to apply for Qualified Membership status on graduation, may do so online via the Society's website or in writing to the Secretary. An Associate Student will not be a full member of the Society and will not be entitled to vote.

## Qualified Member

A person who is on the HCPC Register as a Hearing Aid Dispenser, or has graduated with a BSc Degree, MSc Degree, or an approved Foundation Degree in Audiology or equivalent at a British University or passed the Irish Diploma of Audiology may enrol as a Qualified Member. A Qualified Member has voting rights. A Qualified Member can become a Fellow of BSHAA in accordance with the rules which are currently under review.

## Gaining Fellowship

The whole issue of gaining and retaining the much coveted Fellowship Status is under review. In his address to the 2015 Annual General Meeting, the Chief Executive David Welbourn said that Fellowship ought to be the pinnacle of the profession and in future, members wishing to gain or retain it would have to demonstrate a balanced portfolio of educational attainment, proven experience, contribution to the profession and contribution to the Society. He explained that the development needs of every member were different and consequently it was no longer appropriate to assume that everyone who sat through a given lecture would benefit in the same way.

Just as the HCPC expected its registrants to demonstrate that they had identified their development needs in any given year, undertaken learning and then demonstrated how this had benefited their practice, so, in future the Society would shift the emphasis to best practice for meeting professional development standards, particularly for Fellowship.

You can see and hear his speech on the website:

<http://www.bshaa.com/Society-News/bshaa-annual-general-meeting-2015>



[www.bshaa.com](http://www.bshaa.com)