

Historical First - Professional Registration for Educational Audiologists



JOY ROSENBERG

BAEA Officer; Educational Audiology Course Leader, Mary Hare with University of Hertfordshire



LIZANNE STEENKAMP

BAA Board Director (EAR); RCCP PBEC Chair; Lecturer in Audiology, Queen Margaret University

Introduction:

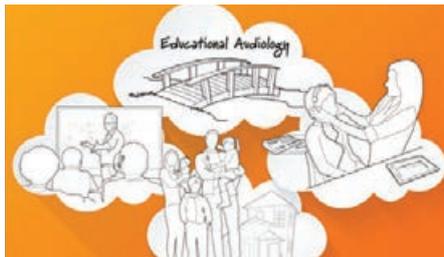
The first-ever professional registration for educational Audiologists opened in the UK this year with the Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists (RCCP) whose focus is on enforcing high standards of practice in clinical physiology competencies and maintaining a public database of registrants for six disciplines. The voluntary registration highlights the remit of the educational Audiologist relative to Audiology.

Background:

The British Association of Educational Audiologists (BAEA) are extremely pleased about this achievement because of the benefits for children and young people who are deaf and their families. Professional registration will improve joined-up working between Health and Education, and promote public recognition of the need for these links and the educational Audiology role that fulfils it in many authorities. These issues have been evidenced empirically (2017 BATOD* conference presentation cited in 2017 Department for Education *Future of the Sector* report) and anecdotally (BAEA case studies, and MESH** knowledge management Guides); and were presented internationally at the Hearing Across the Lifespan conference in 2018, and in a British Society of Audiology (BSA) CPD module.

Process:

The creation of the register came about in tandem with a memorandum of agreement between the British Association of Educational Audiologists (BAEA) and the British Academy of Audiology (BAA) who provided oversight for RCCP accreditation of the Educational Audiology postgraduate course. Since the 1990's, educational Audiologists have been trained at Mary Hare, now affiliated with University of Hertfordshire. The British Association for Educational Audiologists (BAEA) first met



with the British Academy of Audiology (BAA) and Registration Council of Clinical Physiologists (RCCP) in November 2014 to discuss possible accreditation and registration routes for educational Audiologists. That conversation started a process that reviewed the options for BAEA to start on the registration journey, and BAA Endorsement by the BAA Accreditation of Academic Education Committee (AAEC) in February 2017 was the first step. The purpose of endorsement was to consider the content, delivery and academic level of the MSc/ PGDip Educational Studies (Educational Audiology) course with a view to award BAA Endorsement and identify steps to be taken to move towards accreditation that includes clinical competencies.

This process was an excellent example of the collaboration between 2 different, but related professional bodies and highlights the importance of linking between professional bodies to benefit development of each profession. Endorsement was followed successfully by RCCP accreditation in April 2018 and graduates of the course in November 2018 will be the first cohort who are automatically eligible to register, and others can apply via an equivalency process.

Results and Discussion:

Professional registration is timely news because of the threat of budget cuts to essential support services most often provided by the non-mandatory educational

Audiology role.

Enabling educational Audiologists to continue to fulfil their bridging role with clinical Audiology, registration will further benefit children and young people who are deaf and their families. Joined-up working between health and education will be enhanced due to registration which can help raise awareness and recognition of the need for these links.

To further engage joined-up working between health and education related to Audiology, Mary Hare anticipate offering stand-alone module options as part of the MSc PGDip Educational Audiology course starting Sept 2019 (pending December 2018 finalisation of the October 2018 recommended approval of revalidation by University of Hertfordshire). Professional Opinion Survey 2017 responses indicated that both practitioners and heads of service in both education and clinical Audiology fields would welcome such shorter-term CPD opportunities. Modules will include topics such as Radio Aids and Developing Speech and Language. Efforts begun with the 1970's Education Act and fostered by leaders in the field, since then, have now come to fruition with the opening of this first-ever voluntary registration for educational Audiologists.

Resources:

Beckrow B, Nerbonne M (2012) Preparation in Educational Audiology: A Survey of Academic Programs in Audiology, *Journal of Educational Audiology* 10.

Johnson C, et al (2014) Shift Happens: Evolving Practices in School-Based Audiology. *Journal of Educational Audiology* vol.20.

Rosenberg J (2016) Adding Value: Becoming an Educational Audiologist *British Association of Teachers of the Deaf Magazine*, May Issue.

Contact Details:

j.rosenberg@maryhare.org.uk
www.maryhare.org.uk/professional-courses/postgraduate-courses
www.herts.ac.uk/apply/schools-of-study/education/partnerships-in-education/uk-education-partners
 LSteenkamp@gmu.ac.uk
<https://www.rccp.co.uk/articles/50/The-Process-of-Application-to-the-Register>

