

BAAT Chair's Update – May to October 2021

Seems a long time since we met in July at the AGM and even longer since my last update in May. Hope that you all had a good summer break, as there is much to do this Autumn!

Here is an update about my work:

- Took part in interviews with CEO for new operational manager role
- Was the Examiner for the final oral exam for participants from the BAAT Supervision Course
- Attended the HCPC approval visit with BAAT CEO and Director of Research at Sheffield Hallam University for the new training (the Leeds Beckett training has moved across to a new HEI); spoke with HCPC education lead after this to review process and the role that BAAT can take in these
- Attended farewell for our previous office manager and thanked her on behalf of council for her service
- Attended a meeting with BAAT Scotland about some issues that they are facing
- Undertook interviews alongside with IJAT Editor to review and re-appoint three existing associate editors; then this month again for the new deputy editor role, and two new Lead Associate Editor roles: 1) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and 2) Research Reporting Standards
- Attended interviews with three companies that had tendered for the website and brand re-development work that our CEO will set out under his report
- Spoke with the students at Ulster University at the start of their term about BAAT and encouraged them to join as members
- Explored online intelligent Board software options that may support us and IJAT board to do their work on behalf of BAAT
- Spoke at ANZACATA AGM (Australian, New Zealand and Asian Association of Creative Therapists)
- Reviewed feedback from the EDI policy and strategy consultation and incorporated this into the two draft documents, for approval by Council today.

Ongoing regular meetings and tasks:

- Held monthly Chair drop-in meetings for members
- Monthly "From the Chair" update for the newsletter
- Attended IJAT Board Meetings
- Attended HCPC Professional Body Education Forum – focus has been on the new QA process that launched this past week.
- Attended HCPC Equality and Diversity Taskforce meetings
- Attended Coalition for Diversity and Inclusion meetings – most recent in September and this month signed agreement for Toolkit to be developed; we've contributed £300 for this
- Attended HEE Education and Training network meetings – most recently with a presentation from Jed Jerwood about work to Expand LD and autism placements amongst AHPs. Do watch his video promoting art therapy as an AHP

Since we returned from the summer, it has been a busy period for BAAT, with changes to staffing that will yield long-term benefits but were challenge to manage in the short-term. I have supported CEO over this period and answered clinically-focused members enquiries. I am aware that we have a lot of business to attend to over the coming six months, as we implement the changes to systems and procedures that we need to work efficiently and effectively.