

Mike Saks: Resignation statement as Chair of the British Acupuncture Accreditation Board (BAAB) – July 2022

Professor Mike Saks has decided to step down as Chair of the British Acupuncture Accreditation Board (BAAB) at the end of the calendar year in December 2022 to enable him to pursue other commitments. Mike began his role three years ago in 2019. During that time the BAAB has faced several major challenges including the Covid pandemic and the associated reduction of funding, but it has successfully come through these in acting as a highly efficient and effective professional accreditation body.

In addition, as highlighted in recent BAAB Annual Reports, with the support of colleagues, there have been a number of significant achievements in modernising the acupuncture profession. These include, amongst others, agreeing the first Memorandum of Understanding between the BAAC and the BAAB, developing a formal and progressive Strategic Plan, and forging positive international accreditation links.

This has been facilitated by Mike's world leading expertise on accreditation and regulation which has led to him to advise international governments and professions, from the General Medical Council to the Royal College of Podiatry, on health regulatory issues. Indeed, he currently serves as the only UK representative on the Technical Expert Group of the World Health Organization developing global guidance on health practitioner regulation.

In his role as Chair he has also been greatly assisted by his knowledge of acupuncture over some five decades based on his PhD at the London School of Economics and his many publications on this and related areas – as well as his multiple roles on the Executive/Boards of universities and his range of Visiting Professor positions. In this vein, aside from being Dean of a major university Faculty of Health, he has also helpfully been Chair of many NHS and other Committees - including the Research Council for Complementary Medicine.

He has enjoyed his time as Chair of the BAAB, but he now feels that he has taken this organisation as far as he can as an independent accreditation body. He will nonetheless do his utmost in the six months to the end of his three year tenure to strive to ensure that the BAAB remains a global beacon of success in its field and a model of good governance in serving as a key accreditor for the profession.