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Top Behavior Analysts Attending Chicago Convention *2017 Nobel Peace Prize Nominee to Discuss Nonviolent Resistance*

A conference that annually draws thousands of behavioral scientists, psychologists, educators and students from throughout the country – and the world – is in Chicago this month, May 23–27, and will feature an address by 2017 Nobel Peace Prize nominee and Afghan native, Jamila Raqib.

The 45th Annual Convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) will feature workshops, poster presentations and cutting-edge research on a wide range of scientific, educational and psychological topics in behavior analysis, including autism, behavioral pharmacology and neuroscience, verbal behavior, behavioral development, experimental analysis of behavior and organizational behavioral management.

Established in 1974, the ABAI now represents a global network of more than 7,000 member professionals, educational specialists, scientists and students. The organization’s focus is on supporting the theory, study and practice of behavior analysis.

Because of the convention’s extended size, programs will be conducted at three Chicago hotels – Hyatt Regency Chicago, Swissôtel Chicago and Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park.

Especially noteworthy will be a Saturday, May 25 Presidential Scholar Address by Raqib on *Nonviolent Resistance in the Global Struggle to Defend Democracy and Human Rights*, says ABAI chief executive officer, Maria Malott Ph.D.

“Jamila’s participation in this convention truly highlights the mission of ABAI – that is to contribute to societal well-being by developing and supporting the science of behavior analysis and fostering diversity in the field,” says Dr. Malott.

Raqib serves as executive director of the Boston-based Albert Einstein Institution, which studies and promotes the strategic use of nonviolent action worldwide. In collaboration with political scientist Gene Sharp, who, during his lifetime, was considered the foremost scholar on strategic nonviolent action, Raqib developed a curriculum to guide groups engaged in – or planning – nonviolent action in support of democracy and human rights.

In her convention speech, which starts at 6 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency East, Raqib will discuss the importance, impact and practice of nonviolent resistance “to defend the rights of minorities

and oppressed communities, advance environmental and human rights campaigns, and to preserve democratic freedoms and institutions.”

“Concern is growing among citizens around the world at the rise in the election of populist governments, increase in authoritarianism, and degradation of democratic rights, institutions, and norms,” Raqib says. “However, as a field, nonviolent resistance continues to be neglected, and as a technique and type of social and political action, the phenomenon is not well understood, including by policymakers, journalists, academics, or citizens or institutions in our societies. This dearth in understanding is dangerous.”

In addition to Raqib’s speech and a Presidential Address by psychologist, Peter Killeen Ph.D., professor emeritus at Arizona State University, the convention will offer sessions on a variety of unique subjects, such as:

- “Helping Academic Avoiders Choose to Do More Work,”
- “Changing the World Through Behavioral Analysis,”
- “Using the Science of Behavior to Engineer Creativity and Innovation in the Workplace,”
and
- “Behavioral Approaches to Creativity.”

Later this year – September, the ABAI will host its 10th International Conference in Stockholm, Sweden. The group’s 14th Annual Autism Conference is scheduled for Miami in February 2020.

More information about these events, including the annual convention, is available at www.abainternational.org.