



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Global Leaders in Behavior Analysis to Gather in Stockholm** *Topics Range from Autism to Addiction, Animal Behavior, Even Obesity*

Behavior scientists, clinicians, psychologists, educators, and students from throughout the world are meeting in Stockholm, Sweden at the end of September to discuss the latest global research on behavioral issues – everything from autism, addiction, and animal care to telehealth, parent training, social skills, even treatment of obesity.

The 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference, sponsored by the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI), will be held Sept. 29 and 30 at the Stockholm Waterfront Congress Centre and offer more than 90 hours of programming, including panel discussions, symposia, invited sessions, and more than 100 posters.

Featured presenters include:

- Eva Bertilsson, a noted expert on the behavior, training, and welfare of animals of all species.
- R. Douglas Greer PhD, professor of psychology and education, Teachers College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Columbia University, who will focus on a greater understanding of how children “learn the names of things incidentally.”
- Deisy de Souza PhD, professor in the psychology department, Universidade Federal de São Carlos (UFSCar), Brazil, on instructional procedures for teaching rudimentary reading and writing skills.
- Peter Killeen PhD, psychologist and professor emeritus at Arizona State University, whose lecture will emphasize how to marshal the energy needed “to make progress toward achieving our aspirations” as did individuals like William Röntgen, discoverer of X-rays; Emil von Behring, developer of the anti-toxin for treating diphtheria; and Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross Movement and Geneva Convention.

“None of the ensuing benefits would have materialized if each of these men had not had aspirations and focused their energies on achieving them,” says Killeen in his lecture abstract.

“The conference represents a singular opportunity to meet, collaborate with and learn from some of the world’s leading experts in behavior analysis,” says ABAI chief executive officer, Maria E. Malott PhD., who is also serving as chair of Killeen’s discussion session. ABAI’s previous international conference – the 9<sup>th</sup> – was held in 2017 in Paris, France.

Established in 1974 and based in Portage, Mich., ABAI now represents a global network of more than 7,000 member professionals, educational specialists, scientists, and students. The organization’s focus is on contributing to societal well-being by supporting the theory, study, and practice of behavior analysis through basic, translational, and applied research.

Behavior studies scheduled for presentation in Stockholm include:

- The impact of play skills as early intervention for children diagnosed with autism.
- Teaching adaptive skills, particularly use of a debit card, to adolescents with autism spectrum disorder.
- Use of technology and contingency management (rewards and incentives) to promote healthy lifestyle choices.
- How concepts of reinforcement and punishment affect behavior.
- Role of telehealth in behavior coaching and treatment.
- Effects of teacher approval and disapproval on students’ social and academic behavior.
- Applied behavior analysis therapy for infants with developmental delays.
- Training of educators in the management of challenging behaviors within the school system.
- Effectiveness of time-outs as a behavior intervention for children.

Conference discussions will span 13 program areas, among them autism, developmental disabilities, education, teaching behavior analysis, verbal behavior, organizational behavior management, and community, social and sustainability issues.

More details about the Stockholm conference, as well as the ABAI’s next major event – the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism Conference in Miami in February 2020, are available at [www.abainternational.org](http://www.abainternational.org).