

INSIDE BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS INTERNATIONAL

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Washington, D.C.

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October 7–9, 2020
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ADVANCING BEHAVIOR ANALYTIC SCIENCE: A LETTER FROM THE SABA PRESIDENT

BY MARK MATTAINI

Since its inception in 1980, the singular mission of the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis (SABA) has been to provide financial support to advance and promote the science and practice of behavior analysis.

SABA's ability to serve that mission has always been entirely dependent on the generous and enthusiastic support of the behavior analytic community through private financial gifts and donations. These funds have allowed SABA to support student research, globally disseminate the science and practice of behavior analysis, encourage translational and public service efforts, and recognize individuals and organizations that have made important and enduring contributions in the areas of research, practice, dissemination, and education.

How the Funds are Used

Contributions to SABA and the money raised in the 2014-2016 Capital Campaign have been and will continue to be used to fulfill three major goals: strengthening student support, expanding global outreach, and increasing public awareness. Given contemporary global challenges, support for new scientific discoveries, rigorous analyses, and translational work has never been more important. For example, SABA is currently positioned to contribute to the emerging expansion of culturo-behavior science through support for student research, for example into the analyses of behavioral systems or potential behavioral interventions responding to climate change, while further expanding translational work bringing basic science findings into the most challenging areas of current practice. Funds are also made available to support critical global outreach efforts, particularly in areas in which there is little awareness of the power of our science.

Student Support

SABA has for many years provided funds to offset travel



expenses for students wishing to present their research at the annual convention. Attending the convention provides students with the opportunity, not otherwise available, to present their research at a national conference and to discuss research ideas with their peers and more senior researchers. Last year alone, 29 Student Presenter Grant were awarded, totaling \$4,640. In addition to the Student Presenter Fund, SABA has further strengthened its support for students through research grants that span the full range of behavior analytic inquiry. Such grants are an investment in the brightest and most promising individuals in our field, and thereby into the growth and vitality of behavior science and its applications. Successful student applications for the current year include, among others, the applied study “Teaching Young Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities How to Recognize and Respond to Victimization Scenarios in the Workplace,” the basic research study “The Transfer of Persistence Through Relational Framing,” and the Bijou Grant “Evaluation of Contingent Imitation as a Reinforcer in Typically Developing Preschoolers and Children with Autism

Spectrum Disorder.” However, each year the society has to decline a number of excellent student proposals simply because the demand for research support far exceeds current resources. Contributions to this area support promising, emerging scientists at a critical stage of development.

Global Outreach

SABA’s international outreach is truly global. We have supported projects in Bahrain, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Guyana, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Tanzania, the UK, and Zimbabwe. As an example, this year SABA was able to support an outreach project in Scotland (where knowledge of behavior analysis is limited), including the development of locally sensitive videos and animations to expand dissemination among key influencers, students from the local University, and parents, with plans to expand into parent education going forward. Such successful projects notwithstanding, our funds have allowed for grants of only a

few thousand dollars per project, and even with distributing our resources among several projects, the SABA Board is forced to turn down many excellent proposals simply for lack of funding. Nonetheless, the Society is continuously exploring options to fund initiatives that effectively promote behavior analysis globally, especially in areas where its development has the greatest potential impact.

Public Awareness

Increasing the public's awareness of the extraordinary success and promise of behavior analysis is critical for the future health of our field. Increased support for the two goals already discussed also contributes to our success in increasing public awareness of behavior analysis. Supporting student research also helps expand the range, relevance, and awareness of our science among the general public and helps to cultivate the next generation of leaders and advocates. International outreach brings behavior analysis to populations that would otherwise have little or no exposure to the field and creates opportunities for practical demonstrations of what the science can accomplish in a variety of contexts. Additionally, SABA regularly presents an award for Effective Presentation of Behavior Analysis in the Mass Media, presented to an individual who writes or produces communications that inform the public about a scientific discovery or important application in behavior analysis. In addition, the success of the capital campaign has

allowed SABA to expand its outreach efforts through the creation of the Public Awareness of Behavior Science Fund. This fund supports creative and promising efforts to broadly disseminate the many ways that behavior analysis pursues its core mission of contributing to the wellbeing of society through research, practice, and education. As examples, awards for the current year included a statewide campaign in Missouri informing key elements of the population of the contributions of behavior analysis in the areas of mental health, substance use disorders, and aging. Another grant supports the development of online training modules in Hebrew, with the ultimate goal to increase public awareness of the effectiveness of behavioral practices

Major Donations

The legacy of major capital campaign donors is honored at the ABAI headquarters, where SABA operations are handled. Gold, Silver, and Bronze level donors are recognized on a donor recognition installation titled, "Understanding Behavior, Transforming Lives, Shaping Our Future (2014–2016)." This beautiful monument was crafted from custom architectural glass suspended on a wire cable system. Each major donor has a glass tile etched with his or her name, photo, and year of donation. The piece is currently on display in ABAI's lobby and is open to the public. This "wall" can be disassembled and moved, should the headquarters ever change locations. ❖



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Donate to the SABA Senior Student Presenter Fund

Your donation can make a big difference in
the career path of a behavior analysis student.

"Thanks to the generosity of the SABA grant donors, I was able to travel to San Diego to present my master's thesis at ABAI 2018. I received invaluable feedback that I can incorporate into future research projects. All in all, it was a wonderful opportunity to share the work we have been doing at Brock University."

— Talia Ennett

"The SABA Senior Student Presenter Grant was instrumental in providing me the opportunity to attend the 2018 ABAI Annual Convention in San Diego, CA. In attending the convention, I was able to present my research and attend many excellent presentations. I am extremely grateful for the generous donations that made these experiences possible. Thank you!"

— Sarah Davis

"I was the recipient of a SABA student presenter grant this year, which not only helped me monetarily to attend ABAI, but made me feel encouraged to present my interdisciplinary work to the ABAI community."

— Christina Nord

"The SABA award allowed me to get to know some cutting-edge research and talk face to face to researchers from all over the world that I could not contact otherwise. It was also an opportunity for networking and getting to know other fields. The participation and presentation of research in international events adds several points when we apply for a job (at least in Brazil). In this regard, your donation has increased my chances of getting a job after I finish my doctorate. So, thank you! You literally have the power to change some lives for the better."

— Táhcita Mizael

saba.abainternational.org/funds/senior-student-presenter-fund

2018–2019

SABA Donors

On behalf of the SABA Board, we are grateful for all the ABAI members who contributed to SABA in the past year to help build our funds. These donations enable SABA to provide annual grants that support research in and the development of behavior analysis. This list reflects donations from September 1, 2018 through September 1, 2019.

\$5,000 and above

Unrestricted Fund

Kennon Andy Lattal

\$1,000–\$4,999

Unrestricted Fund

Michael Perone
 Marcus Jackson Marr
 Philip N. Hinline
 Bradley G. Hinline

\$500–\$999

Innovative Student Research Fund

Judi Komaki

Public Awareness of Behavior Science

Kent Johnson

Unrestricted Fund

Darnell Lattal

\$250–\$499

Unrestricted Fund

Eli T. Newcomb
 Mark Galizio

\$100–\$249

Innovative Student Research Fund

Michael J. Dougher
 Mark Galizio
 Peter R. Killeen
 Rita Olla

International Development Fund

Theodore A. Hoch
 Weihe Huang
 Peter R. Killeen
 Joe M. Lucyshyn

\$100–\$249 (cont.)

Public Awareness of Behavior Science

Olivia Harvey
 Peter R. Killeen
 Jeff Kupfer
 Ellen Schleifer

SABA Student Presenters' Fund

Summer Adami
 Judah B. Axe
 Francisco J. J. Barrera
 William M. Baum
 David Bicard
 Meghan Deshais
 Alyce M. Dickinson
 Mitch Fryling
 Celia Wolk Gershenson
 Ezra Hall
 William J. Helsel
 Timothy E. Heron
 Christine E. Hughes
 Ann Axtell Kanter
 Karen Kate Kellum
 Peter R. Killeen
 Tiffany Kodak
 Raymond G. Miltenberger
 Edward K. Morris
 Paul D. Neuman
 Melissa L. Olive
 Christina M. Peters
 Jason N. Simmons
 Douglas C. Taylor
 Thomas J. Waltz
 David W. Wesch

\$50–\$99

Innovative Student Research Fund

Julie A. Ackerlund Brandt
 John W. Esch
 Tiffany Kodak

\$50–\$99 (cont.)

International Development Fund

Julie A. Ackerlund Brandt
 Thomas R. Freeman
 Jeremy H. Greenberg
 Kennon Andy Lattal
 Olga Vojnovic-Fireman

Public Awareness of Behavior Science

Erica Jowett Hirst

Senior Student Presenters' Fund

Julie A. Ackerlund Brandt
 Peter-Cornelius Dams
 John W. Esch
 Daniel Mark Fienup
 Jeremy H. Greenberg
 Amy Kenzer
 Julie Koudys
 Emily Kennison Sandoz
 Karen R. Wagner

Unrestricted Fund

Terri M. Bright
 Amir Dipuglia
 Adam E. Fox
 Thomas R. Freeman
 Jeremy H. Greenberg
 Erica Jowett Hirst
 Eric V. Larsson
 Michael P. Mozzoni
 Henry S. Pennypacker
 Kathryn M. Roose
 Emily Kennison Sandoz
 Kristin E. Skousgard
 Stephanie J. Stolarz-Fantino
 Mark L. Sundberg
 Karen R. Wagner
 Susan Wilczynski

Other Amounts

Innovative Student Research Fund

Laura Belz
Samantha Bergmann
Adam M. Briggs
Carolynn S. Kohn
Barry S. Parsonson
Evan Schleifer-Katz
Lauren K. Schnell
Kendra Thomson
Susan Wilczynski

International Development Fund

Alexandra Brown
Julia H. Fiebig
Paul Guinther
Richard E. Laitinen
Maria Isabel Munoz-Blanco
Feliipe Ernesto Parrado
Janani Vaidya
Suzanne N. Ward
Susan Wilczynski

Public Awareness of Behavior Science

Laura Belz
Adam M. Briggs
Matthew A. Davidson
Cheryl J. Davis
Julia H. Fiebig
Jeffrey Gesick
Carolynn S. Kohn

Other Amounts (cont.)

Public Awareness of Behavior Science (cont.)

Teresa Camille Kolu
Forrest Toegel
Janani Vaidya
Susan Wilczynski
Eriko Yamagishi

SABA Student Presenters' Fund

Kelly M. Banna
Laura Belz
Holly L. Bihler
Kerry A. Conde
Cheryl J. Davis
Genevieve M. DeBernardis
Jeffrey E. Dillen
Jovonnie L. Esquiedo-Leal
Tara A. Fahmie
Amanda Guld Fisher
Jeannie A. Golden
Mary Elizabeth Hunter
Abdulrazaq A. Imam
Carolynn S. Kohn
Elizabeth Kyonka
Patricia Oliver
Brady J. Phelps
Erin B. Rasmussen
Gregory Scott Smith

Other Amounts (cont.)

SABA Student Presenters' Fund (cont.)

Kendra Thomson
Michelle Turan
Alyssa N. Wilson

Unrestricted Fund

Erik Arntzen
Nicole L. Bank
Alec Bernstein
Adam M. Briggs
Rogelio Escobar
Amanda Guld Fisher
Stephen Foreman
Deborah L. Grossett
M. N. Hegde
Nitzyah I. Helman
Ansley Catherine Hodges
Gerald C. Mertens
Raimund Metzger
Scott A. Miller
Patricia Oliver
Brady J. Phelps
Cynthia J. Pietras
Trista D. Robinson
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2019 SABA Grant Reports

The Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis (SABA) awarded the following grants in 2019:

- **Thesis grant winner (applied research), \$1,500:**
Andrea Peterson (Michigan State University)
- **Thesis grant winner (basic), \$1,500:**
David Haste (Auburn University)
- **Dissertation grant winner (basic), \$3,000:**
Ryan Becker (Utah State University)
- **Dissertation grant winner (applied research), \$3,000:**
Sarah Weinsztok (University of Florida)
- **International development grant winner, \$1,000:**
Suzie Repova (Catesbi CIC)
- **Sidney W. & Janet R. Bijou grant winner, \$10,000:**
Leslie Quiroz (Caldwell University)
- **Public Awareness grant winner, \$2,500:**
Lorraine Becerra (University of Missouri)
- **Public Awareness grant winner, \$2,500:**
Hedda Meadan (University of Illinois; Shiri Ayvazo, David Yellin College; Hagit Inbar-Furst, David Yellin College)
- **Public Awareness grant winner, \$2,500:**
Teresa Rodgers (Division of Developmental Disabilities, Missouri Department of Mental Health)
- **Public Awareness grant winner, \$2,500:**
Mari Watanabe (New York State Association for Behavior Analysis)

The following articles are summaries of the reports submitted by the 2019 awardees.

Master's Thesis Grants (Applied/Translational): Teaching Young Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities How to Recognize and Respond to Victimization Scenarios in the Workplace



BY ANDREA PETERSON

Andrea Peterson is completing her master's degree at Michigan State University under the supervision of Dr. Marisa Fisher. Having graduated with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, Andrea researches victimization of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Her thesis is designed to teach young adults with IDD in a school-to-work transition program to recognize and appropriately respond to victimization in the workplace. This research addresses a critical area of need, as individuals with IDD are at significantly increased risk of such victimization. In 2012, 1.3 million nonfatal hate crimes were committed against people with IDD in the United States; 40% of the perpetrators were well-known or casual acquaintances of the victims. What's more, individuals with IDD who experience victimization report lower quality of life and self-esteem; experience anxiety, depression, and sleep difficulties; and may be prone to displaying aggressive behaviors.

Using a multiple probe across participants design, individuals with IDD will be taught a response to victimization protocol through behavioral skills training (BST) with multiple exemplar training (MET). Specifically, participants will be taught to abstain from reprisal, respond with acknowledgment that the person is attempting to victimize them, and walk away. Victimization scenarios will be developed through responses to a survey designed to identify the most frequently occurring forms of workplace victimization encountered by individuals with IDD. An example victimization scenario might be "Hey, you're 21, right? Will you buy me some beer for this weekend?" An appropriate response may be maintaining a neutral face, stating "You're trying to take advantage of me," and walking away.

The study aims to evaluate the following research questions: (1) is BST with MET effective at teaching young adults with IDD to recognize coworker victimization, as measured through responses to role-play scenarios; (2) is BST with MET effective at teaching young adults with IDD to appropriately respond to coworker victimization, as measured

through responses to role-play scenarios; and (3) do skills acquired through BST and MET generalize to in situ probes in the employment setting?

Master's Thesis Grants (Basic): Effects of Chronic Risperidone Exposure During Adolescence on Reversal Learning and Impulsive Behavior in Adulthood



BY DAVID HASTE

David Haste is a graduate student working in a behavioral neurotoxicology lab at Auburn University under the guidance of Dr. Christopher Newland. His thesis is designed to evaluate the effects of chronic risperidone exposure during adolescence on reversal learning and delay discounting in adulthood in mice. After being given risperidone daily during the adolescent period (about 21 to about 60 days old), mice will undergo a spatial discrimination reversal procedure where one of two levers remains the reinforcing lever until stable responding occurs, then the side the reinforcing lever is on is switched. This procedure looks at perseverative responding and how long it takes for responding to switch over. Once this is complete, impulsive choice will be tested using a delay discounting procedure where one lever gives a small reinforcer after no delay and the other lever gives a larger reinforcer after a longer delay. David's interest is in how a drug prescribed to children and adolescents might affect their behaviors in the future, even after they are no longer taking it.

in early-intervention contexts. Her study involves identifying healthier alternatives to preferred snack foods commonly used as edible reinforcers for individuals with ASD.



The first goal is to identify effective alternatives to unhealthy preferred foods in young learners with ASD by assessing their substitutability. Sarah plans first to conduct a preference assessment of snack foods common in each participant's diet. Next, she will identify healthier candidate substitutes using two criteria: (1) formal similarity to the preferred snack food along several dimensions (e.g., flavor, texture, etc.) and (2) greater nutritional composition. Candidate substitutes will be assessed in a separate preference assessment. Finally, all snack items will be compared against all healthier candidate substitutes.

Following the preference assessments, to determine substitutability Sarah will conduct concurrent-schedule reinforcer assessments with the highly preferred snack foods and healthier alternatives. Both the formally similar and the most highly preferred healthier alternative (if different) will be assessed in this arrangement, as well as a non-indicated healthier alternative (i.e., not formally similar and less preferred). Thus, Sarah will determine whether formal similarity or preference rank better predicts substitutability for the less-healthy preferred item.

Once effective substitutes are identified, Sarah plans to compare the relative utility of the high-preference snack foods and the healthier substitutes in supporting instructional gains. If the proposed aims are achieved, Sarah hopes to have developed a brief, yet validated, assessment procedure that can be used in a clinical context to enhance nutritional status in children with ASD receiving edible reinforcers while maintaining academic progress.

Doctoral Dissertation Grants (Applied/ Translational): Substitutability of Healthier Alternatives for Edible Reinforcers in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

BY SARAH WEINSZTOK

Sarah Weinsztok is a fourth-year doctoral student at the University of Florida. Her dissertation research focuses on assessing and intervening in unhealthy eating habits of young learners with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

Doctoral Dissertation Grants (Basic): The Transfer of Persistence Through Relational Framing

BY RYAN BECKER

Ryan Becker earned a BS and MS in psychology at Arizona State University (ASU) under the mentorship of Drs. Federico Sanabria and Elias Robles. His research there with human participants focused on interval timing, delay discounting, and loss aversion.

At ASU he also served as a statistics consultant, tutor, and teaching assistant.



Ryan was a Ph.D. student at Utah State University under the guidance of Dr. Amy Odum, where he was involved in several research projects with animal subjects, investigating the effects of reinforcers on behavioral variability.

The research the SABA grant was awarded to support examines relational frame theory and behavioral momentum theory by testing whether behavioral persistence transfers with the use of relational framing. The long-term goal is to identify the theoretical link between the persistence of operant behavior and human language. Relational frame theory posits that language-able humans transfer the functions of stimuli to one another when they participate in an equivalence class, and empirical evidence supporting behavioral momentum theory indicates that the reinforcement rate predicted by a conditional stimulus is the primary determinant of response rate when an operant is disrupted (e.g., in extinction). These findings lead to the interesting prediction that persistence will be transferred through derived stimulus relations.

Seventy-five college students will learn to coordinately frame stimuli within several stimulus classes, and then one stimulus within each class will be trained to predict a certain rate of reinforcement. In a final test, a coordinately framed stimulus will be presented during extinction; the hypothesis is that quantitative models of behavioral momentum theory will be satisfied even though the relationally framed stimulus will never be paired with reinforcement.

Ryan and Dr. Odum transferred the project to Utah State University Ph.D. student Diana Perez, also known as D. D. is an Afro-Latinx student who is involved in several projects in the areas of delay discounting and animal research on behavior variability. Her interests are primarily response persistence, social discounting, and the effects of delayed reinforcement on behavior. She earned a BA in psychology at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) under the mentorship of Drs. Ellie Kazemi and Sara Berzenski, where her research focused on supervision, training, feedback, and clinical work. At CSUN she also served as a research assistant, lab supervisor, and behavior therapist, and she developed a passion for translational research.

International Development Grants: WOW I SEE

BY SUZIE REPOVA

Suzie Repova, MSED, and her community interest company, Catesbi, disseminate the science of behavior and its applications to improve socially significant behavior in Scotland.

The SABA International Development Grant will support a project to create animated ABA videos, in

collaboration with a university, for distribution among local influencers, university students, and parents. Video footage of behavior therapy sessions will be animated to ensure anonymity and privacy, and used as training tools. Funding will support discussions and training sessions, as well as the drafting of legal agreements for families. Accessible and comprehensive explanations of ABA techniques will be part of the videos.

Suzie trains parents in the basics of behavior and works with children as a behavior tutor under supervision of a BCBA. She also organizes workshops by BCBAs on varied topics. For this project she will manage the collaboration among all involved.



Sidney W. & Janet R. Bijou Grants: Evaluation of Contingent Imitation as a Reinforcer in Typically Developing Preschoolers and Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

BY LESLIE QUIROZ



Leslie Quiroz received her MS in applied behavior analysis from Western New England University under the supervision of Dr. William Ahearn at the New England Center for Children. Currently, she is studying with Dr. Tina Sidener in the doctoral program in behavior analysis at Caldwell

University, where her research interests include observational learning, early intensive behavioral intervention, parent training, and verbal behavior. Leslie's doctoral dissertation is on contingent imitation (CI), a naturally occurring parent-child phenomenon that has been studied in children for more than 60 years. Also termed "contingent interactions and mirroring," CI is adult imitation of a child's motor and/or vocal behavior. Due to effects observed in typically developing children, researchers and clinicians became interested in how CI might be used to increase prosocial behaviors in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Most notably, CI has been included in naturalistic intervention packages for children with ASD, such as reciprocal imitation training. However, it is currently unknown how CI produces its effects, and children with ASD may respond differentially based on their skills and

characteristics. Therefore, the purpose of Leslie's study will be to evaluate the reinforcing effects of CI in typically developing children and children with ASD. First, a concurrent-operants zoned reinforcer assessment preparation will be used with typically developing preschoolers to determine whether previous research findings with typically developing infants can be replicated with this arrangement and this age group. Second, the reinforcer assessment will be conducted with preschoolers with ASD to evaluate the value of CI as a reinforcer. Last, participant characteristics obtained from a battery of skills assessments (i.e., imitation, joint attention, verbal skills) will be examined to identify any relations between specific skills and results of the reinforcer assessment. The Bijou grant will assist with expenses for skills assessments, session materials, participant travel, and a Pupil eye-tracking headset system.

Public Awareness Grants: Behavioral Skills Training in Schools for Children With Disabilities to Prepare for Active Shooter Incidents



BY LORRAINE BECERRA

Lorraine A. Becerra, Ph.D., BCBA-D, is an assistant professor of special education at the University of Missouri. Her research explores play variability in children, efficient staff training methods for educators who teach individuals with disabilities, systems-level organization, and emergency preparedness.

Per the U.S. Department of Homeland Security definition (2008), an active shooter is an individual engaged in killing or attempting to kill people using firearms in a confined and populated area. The occurrence of active shooter events is increasing, with the largest percentage taking place in commercial environments, followed by educational environments, and then healthcare facilities (U.S. Department of Justice, 2013).

In schools, educators may need to decide whether to prioritize actions that could lead to their own safety, or those that might help protect their students or patients. Issues related to student disabilities may create additional challenges; interactive computerized training (ICT) incorporates procedural descriptions, video models, competency questions, and interactive activities, and has been successful in teaching educators to implement academic and play instructions to individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

The SABA Public Awareness Grant will support Dr.

Becerra's research disseminating the efficient use of ICT to teach educators to use a Run, Hide, or Fight response (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2008) in active shooter situations. The funds will be used to disseminate these modularized trainings to organizations across the United States using online learning management systems. This project will be the first of its kind to apply behavior analytic technology to train individuals to respond to active shooters and will extend the literature on behavior skills training and ICT to assess the most efficacious components of such training.

Increasing Access to and Awareness of Effective Behavioral Practices in Israel



BY HEDDA MEADAN, SHIRI AYVAZO, AND HAGIT INBAR-FURST

Social-communication skills impact academic achievement, social-emotional development, and relationships with others. Therefore, early interventions that support and promote the development of these skills are needed for young children with disabilities who have communication delays or deficits. Furthermore, teaching caregivers to support language development is recommended as an effective early intervention.



In Israel, there are limited training materials for caregivers on evidence-based practices that support the development of social communication skills of young children with disabilities. Only a few resources are available in Hebrew, and there is very restricted access to quality training due to a shortage of Hebrew-speaking qualified experts and the cost of such training.

Drs. Hedda Meadan, Shiri Ayvazo, and Hagit Inbar-Furst designed a project to increase caregivers' access to evidence-based behavioral practices and promote public awareness of these practices in Israel. They will translate and culturally adapt online self-paced, self-directed training modules developed in the US by Dr. Meadan. The modules include information on evidence-based behavioral practices (e.g., environmental arrangement, modeling, mand-modeling) that can be used in the natural environment to promote children's social-communication skills. Also included are a flowchart with steps for using the practices and video examples of caregivers employing them with their children.

To evaluate the modules' effectiveness, researchers will pilot them with at least 10 families and 10 professionals.

Participants will complete checks for understanding at the beginning and end of each module. In addition, to assess the feasibility and acceptability of the online training, satisfaction questionnaires and in-depth interviews and focus groups will be conducted. Modules will be revised based on findings, and the revised versions will be made available to caregivers and professionals.

Increasing Awareness and Understanding of ABA Services in Mental Health, Substance Use Disorders, and Aging Across Missouri

BY TERESA RODGERS

Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is infrequently associated with services provided in the fields of mental health (MH), substance use disorders (SUD), and aging. The goal of the current project is to increase understanding of the basic elements of ABA and specific information about its application to MH, SUD, and aging by a minimum of 35% from baseline among personnel at community mental health centers and area agencies on aging. Changes in participant knowledge will be measured using a pretest-posttest model.



Four Missouri-area behavior analysts (Teresa Rodgers, Rita Cooper, Lucas Evans, and Melantha Witherspoon) will conduct the project, which will include messaging in multiple formats. Initial participant presentation will be via live teleconference, which will be recorded and saved on the Missouri Department of Mental Health website. The investigators will conduct site visits for more focused presentations and question-and-answer sessions, and will also create and distribute brochures. These methods will allow multiple exposures to ABA and its usefulness for various problems. The investigators hope the messaging will encourage further exploration of ABA, as well as expand existing multidisciplinary networks in the state and facilitate collaboration across organizations.

Multimedia Campaign to Publicize the Versatility of Behavior Analysis to Non-Behavior Analytic Communities

BY MARI WATANABE



As professional behavior analysts, we fully understand the versatility of behavior analysis. Our work, however, is best known and most frequently represented as a treatment method for autism spectrum disorder. In fact, the current education law enforced in New

York State limits the practice of licensed behavior analysts to “providing behavioral health treatment for persons with autism and autism spectrum disorders and related disorders,” which deprives many other populations from the benefit of behavior analytic practices and services. It is therefore crucial, especially for behavior analysts in New York State, to increase public awareness of how useful behavior analysis can be in different areas; such awareness will potentially aid efforts to remove the aforementioned scope restriction in New York State.

The SABA Public Awareness Grant will help the New York State Association for Behavior Analysis (NYSABA) launch a multimedia campaign, “ABA Is Everywhere” (title tentative), with the goal of publicizing the versatility of behavior analysis to non-behavior analytic communities. The funds will be used for campaign activities, including producing short videos, sponsoring regional non-behavior analytic conferences and meetings aimed at traditionally non-behavior analytic audiences, and creating materials to promote the versatility of behavior analysis to be disseminated at those meetings. The target audience comprises potential consumers of behavior analysis services, including individuals with Down Syndrome, ADHD, learning disabilities, Alzheimer’s disease, obesity, traumatic brain injury, and addictions—and their family members. Those experiencing more “everyday” issues such as parenting and dieting challenges will also be targeted. The overarching message of the campaign will be that ABA is grounded in scientific principles that can lead to improved quality of life for all people, with or without disabilities.

NYSABA is a not-for-profit organization that advocates for scientists and practitioners in behavior analysis and related fields in New York State. Mari Watanabe, the organization’s Executive Director, will manage the SABA-funded project. ❖

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Updates From ABAI's U.S.A. Affiliated Chapters

Arizona ABA

BY BRIAN VAN MEERTEN

The Arizona Association for Behavior Analysis (AzABA) 2018 efforts were guided by a number of organizational values: core membership value, professional development, facilitating collaboration, industry representation, field advancement, member support, administrative continuity and sustainability, statewide participation, and member engagement.

We sought to accrue data in support of those values, and the data below support the board's and community efforts. Our values are many, but we truly believe that we can be an exemplary state-level behavior analysis organization. Because we've targeted our values in an OBM fashion and created strategic plans as to how to engage in behavior in line with those values, the data below represent our targeted efforts and related successes over the past year.

Core Membership Value

- **Goal:** Offer 16+ CEUs per year (enough to re-certify), including ethics and supervision.
- **Year-end data:** We exceeded this goal in that we finished with 38.75 CEUs made available to AzABA members (over double the original goal).

Professional Development

- **Goal:** CEU workshop with out-of-state speaker.
- **Year-end data:** We exceeded this goal as well in that we had four events featuring out-of-state speakers.

Facilitating Collaboration

- **Goal:** Monthly networking events
- **Year-end data:** Networking events have stalled in 2018. The board has discussed plans to increase turnout through increased opportunities to attend and pairing high-preferred activities with networking events in 2019.

Industry Representation

- **Goal:** Encourage as many BCBAs and ABA companies in AZ to join our organization as possible.
- **Year-end data:** According to the BACB registry, the number of BCBAs and BCBA-Ds in Arizona has increased from 283 last year to 385 this year. AzABA currently has 246 full members (64%; goal was 80%). According to Jim Carr, the average for state associations is 30%. Additionally, we now have 43 sponsor agencies.

Field Advancement

- **Goal:** Support self-governance efforts for licensure.
- **Year-end data:** We currently have one BCBA-D as a member of the board for LBA licensure and two BCBA-Ds on committees of the Arizona Board of Psychology

Examiners. AzABA has been directly involved with the Arizona Medicaid program (AHCCCS) in the development of a medical policy manual for ABA services in Arizona.

Member Support

- **Goal:** Available guidance for ethical dilemmas.
- **Year-end data:** Our website now has an ethics portal to submit questions, and a separate Facebook group has been developed for discussion around ethical questions. We have received consistent participation in the ethics portal including questions anonymously posed by supervisors and supervisees.

Administrative Continuity and Sustainability

- **Goal:** Integration of KCA (our event management company).
- **Year-end data:** We have renewed our contract with KCA, which provides double the monthly hours and a wide range of additional supports. We continue to transfer all administrative and member communication functions to KCA.

Statewide Participation

- **Goal:** Webcasts for CEUs and board member additions.
- **Year-end data:** Two new members will join the board in 2019. Whenever possible, 2019 events are to be webcasted such that members in other areas of the state are able to access the CEU events.

Member Engagement

- **Goal:** Special interest groups and an annual meeting with SIG presentations
- **Year-end data:** 2018 Year End: 116 AzABA members involved in one or more of the five SIGs (ACT/RFT, Coordination of Care, Expanding the Scope of ABA, Feeding, Practice of ABA in Schools).

We view these values in a holistic fashion, in that all play a role in the betterment of behavior analysis in our state. To that end, our 2019 goals will be to maintain the successes of 2018, while shoring up the areas in which we showed less growth. Additional goals will include supporting increased access to ABA services and the utilization of technology in providing training, supervision, and consultation of ABA services. Per our previous report, the aim of 2018 was to evolve into a mature organization. It is our hope that the sustained efforts of the aforementioned values and development in other underdeveloped value areas will serve to aid in our efforts to support the expansion of ABA in Arizona and offer a supportive and stable professional association.

Arkansas ABA

BY TIFFANY MRLA

The Arkansas Association for Behavior Analysis maintained and expanded its growth during its third year since reestablishment. Membership continues to grow with additional students in the field of behavior analysis joining our association and an increasing number of behavior analysts from across the state. Within our state, the number of certified behavior analysts continues to grow, and all board members continue to work to disseminate information regarding our field, supervising and mentoring new behavior analysts alongside students of behavior analysis, recruiting new practitioners into the field, and collaborating with educational and healthcare practitioners. The board brainstormed ideas for increasing resources relevant to our members, collaboration with universities, and access to services for children and families across the state.

The association was honored to have Dr. Rick Kubina join us for our annual conference. Dr. Kubina disseminated information regarding visual analysis and the importance of a reliable and accurate system of measurement in practice, bringing invaluable insight and knowledge to participants. Conference attendees spanned from certified behavior analysts to students to other relevant practitioners in the service of individuals with autism and related disorders. All board members, as well as committee representatives, worked collaboratively to ensure the conference was a successful venue for dissemination.

Throughout the year, board members provided time and resources to ensure the association's values and mission were carried through in all activities. Beth McKee, M.Ed., BCBA, served as president during 2018, providing necessary organization and leadership to ensure all relevant issues were addressed for the association, as well as for the annual conference. Past-president, Jennifer Kirby, MS, BCBA, continued to provide valuable insight into the needs of practitioners, the association, and conference development, in addition to resources necessary for a productive conference experience. President-elect, Tiffany K. Mrla, Ph.D., BCBA, assisted with communication and organization leading up to and during the event, while vice-president, Lindsey Lovelady, MS, BCBA, assisted with essential marketing and dissemination of conference details.

Brandon Thurman, MS, BCBA, served an additional term as treasurer for 2018. Mr. Thurman's time and expertise ensured that decisions of the organization were fiscally sound, and all obligations were met in a timely manner. Katrina Lawson, BCaBA, served an additional term as secretary and continued to disseminate meeting minutes that were informative and accurate. Events coordinator, Lana Nelson, BCaBA, ensured that necessary conference details were addressed, while social media manager, Karlin McKee, continued to expend great effort and expertise to coordinate social media posts, website

updates, and correspondence with members.

Furthermore, the Legislative and Ethics Committee co-chairs, Dr. Sheila Barnes, BCBA-D, and Dr. Tiffany Mrla, Ph.D., BCBA, attended meetings of the Arkansas Autism Legislative Task Force and meetings with leaders from the Arkansas Department of Human Services regarding access to services through Medicaid, and worked with Disability Rights Arkansas to advocate for access to services. The co-chairs also spent time and personal resources attending conferences to acquire information regarding critical issues of insurance reform, state licensure, and access to services across settings among other critical legal and ethical issues while networking with national leaders in these efforts.

In an effort to adhere to our goal of increasing access to pertinent information for association members, board members requested information from constituents regarding interest in continuing education, ideas for the annual conference, and the development of special interest groups and/or committees to increase participation and advocate for the clients our members serve in all areas in the field of behavior analysis.

Behavior Analysis Association of Michigan

BY JAMES T. TODD

Behavior Analysis Association of Michigan (BAAM) members continue to make many positive contributions to the effective, ethical, and science-based treatment of problems associated with autism, traumatic brain injury, addiction, and other conditions. We can add to that the important work of those in organizational behavior management, behavioral medicine, education, behavioral research, university and college instruction, animal training, and other areas. We are in an interim period in terms of legislative activity. The passage of behavior analysis licensure means the formulation and promulgation of licensing rules, after which licensing will become official.

The 2019 Annual BAAM Convention was an incredible success. It was held February 21–22 at the Student Center on the campus of Eastern Michigan University (EMU). We again had more than 700 attendees, down slightly in number from 2018. Those attendees came from more than two dozen universities and colleges, over a dozen states, and Ontario. This year, we once again had a record number of poster presentations, mostly by student contributors.

Many local and regional agencies sent staff and administrators, reflecting the expansion of behavior analysis opportunities in the state. The growing participation of faculty and students from Central Michigan University, Michigan State University, Oakland University, and Wayne State University did not go unnoticed. BAAM scheduled all regular sessions in meeting rooms overlooking EMU's Lake House area.

BAAM extends special thanks to the staff of the EMU Event Planning Office, especially Meg Castro, the Catering Department, and all the workers in the Student Center for their contributions to making the conference run smoothly. The support of the EMU Psychology Department, BAAM's sponsor, was again essential to our success. Special thanks go to the Psychology Department head, Carol (Ketl) R. Freedman-Doan. As always, the BAAM staff and volunteers, led by EMU students Elise Pearl, Eleah Sunde, Morgan Wright, and Caitlyn Sorensen-Kowalski, did excellent work planning and managing the convention.

BAAM once again had two keynote addresses. The Thursday keynote, "Can the Experimental Analysis of Behavior Adapt to the Environment?" was delivered by Stuart Vyse, author of *Believing in Magic: The Psychology of Superstition*. Vyse's presentation discussed some fundamental issues facing our field as it moves toward being primarily a profession rather than an academic endeavor. The Friday keynote, "Can't Escape Them So We Must Address Them: Psychotropic Medication and Challenging Behavior," by Maria Valdovinos of Drake University discussed the need for behavior analysts to understand and effectively deal with the psychotropic medications that their clients are often prescribed, and sometimes overprescribed by other medical and mental health professionals. The many other convention sessions and presenters are too numerous to fully list. Their important and interesting contributions can be seen in the 2019 convention schedule on the BAAM website.

BAAM will hold its 2020 Annual Convention February 20–21, again in the award-winning Student Center at EMU. BAAM intends to continue to offer a mix of basic, applied, and theoretical presentations and workshops. Online program submission and registration will again be available, and we look forward to even greater attendance and will add some new convention features to

accommodate the growth. For more information, visit the BAAM website at www.baam.emich.edu.

Behavior Analysis Association of Mississippi

BY MELEAH M. ACKLEY

The Behavior Analysis Association of Mississippi (BAAMS) celebrated its fourth anniversary in February 2019. BAAMS continues to grow as an organization and has accomplished much in the course of three years. BAAMS currently has 117 total members, with 66 Full members, 44 Student members, and 7 Affiliate members. Our current Executive Council includes Breanna Newborne (president), DeTerrence Allen (president-elect), Chris Furlow (secretary), Crystal Toche (treasurer), Meleah Ackley (ABAI representative), Kimberly Bellipanni (APBA representative), Bailey King (Region 1 representative), Brittany Bell (Region 2 representative), Katie Boozer (Region 3 representative), Walter Chamberlain (Region 4 representative), Emily Mathis (student representative), and Dannel Roberts (past president).

The Mississippi Autism Board (MAB), the state licensing agency for behavior analysts, has thus far licensed 67 behavior analysts and 2 associate behavior analysts.

During the First Extraordinary Session of 2017, the Mississippi Legislature approved Senate Bill No. 2001. Within this bill, the legislative body amended Sections 73-31-7, 73-75-11, and 97 73-75-27 of the MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972. These amendments stated that effective July 1, 2018, the MAB is to be assigned to the State Board of Psychology for administrative and ministerial support and that it will no longer be assigned to the Secretary of State's office. These amendments did not change the composition of the board or its responsibilities. As presented during the BAAMS conference to the membership, the MAB is working with the Board of Psychology and the

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Secretary of State so that the Secretary of State may assume its statutory requirements through July 1, 2019.

BAAMS and the MS Autism Board hosted a Day at the Capitol during the legislative session on March 19, 2019. This day was about promoting ABA in the state and was a huge success among state officials. At this event, 15 scholarships were awarded by the Hosemann Family Autism Foundation, allowing teachers to take a course at Holmes Community College this semester to develop applied behavior analysis skills to bring into their classrooms.

We just recently concluded the third annual conference March 20–21, 2019. We had 135 attendees at the conference, which was at Table 100 in Flowood, Mississippi. The 2019 conference was a two-day event with a full day of sessions on Wednesday and two workshops on Thursday. Sarah Trautman-Eslinger presented our keynote address, with Dr. James Meindl speaking on how generalized imitation contributes to mass killing behavior, Dr. Melissa Nosik on BACB ethics updates, Dr. Dan Gadke and MSU graduate students on their current research, Dr. Gina Green on scope of practice, and the MS Autism Board on ethics within MS. On Thursday, Sarah Trautman-Eslinger presented a workshop on ABA business, and Dr. Valerie Volkert presented a workshop on feeding disorders. BAAMS is an Approved Continuing Education (ACE) provider through the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) and was able to offer 13 continuing education (CE) hours at the conference. BAAMS was also able to offer psychology CE units through the USM Department of Psychology and CEs for educators in the state of Mississippi through Mississippi College's CE program.

California ABA

BY JENNIFER HARRIS

The California Association for Behavior Analysis remains committed to actively serving our membership and consumers of ABA. Annual highlights include another record-setting attendance of nearly 3,000 at our Regional Conference in Long Beach, California, and significant increases in our membership, with just over 2,600 current members. Further, we have continued to support both behavior analysts working in academia and those practicing in clinical settings. Our annual Science Retreat for university faculty led by our Academic Liaisons was productive and, per usual, has set in motion many new initiatives. We also held numerous Town Hall Meetings, “Listen and Lunch” gatherings, and webinars for our members throughout the year. Furthermore, we partnered with APBA and headed to Atlanta to support new ABA providers with another ABA Business Bootcamp. Our public policy committee has also been active this year. To that end, outreach has been a priority for our organization. We have established a separate Stakeholder Advisory Committee to increase communication and opportunities for dialogue regarding the importance of evidence-based treatment plans and ensuring access to quality ABA intervention services. Additionally, this committee has provided an optimal forum for networking with those outside of behavior analysis including professionals who are commonly part of our clients' interdisciplinary treatment teams. Looking ahead, our Board is already planning the association's 2020 Western Regional Conference, which will take place March 6–8 in Santa Clara, California. Additionally, we are planning member events for the upcoming year and are continuing our efforts to disseminate our science to a wider population, including the general public. Ultimately, we remain guided by our founding mission to advance, promote, and protect the science and practice of behavior analysis.



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Colorado ABA

BY LINDA LEBLANC

The Colorado Association for Behavior Analysis (COABA) was founded as a nonprofit Colorado corporation in June 2014. It is both a chapter of ABAI and an affiliate of the Association of Professional Behavior Analysts. COABA's mission is to advance awareness about, the development of, and access to the science and practice of behavior analysis in the state of Colorado.

COABA held its fifth election of officers in October 2018, and its resulting executive board is as follows: president, Linda LeBlanc (2018–2020); secretary, Jessica Juanico (2018–2019); treasurer, Shasta Brenske (2017–2019); director, Melissa Nosik (2017–2019); director, Jonathan Miller (2018–2020), director, Patrick Romani (2019–2021) and director, David Hatfield (2019–2021).

COABA accepts members in three categories: full, affiliate, and student. By the end of 2018, there were over 200 members.

Recent activities include conducting our third annual convention, which offered members six sessions with invited speakers from diverse practice areas. In 2019, COABA will be sponsoring a variety of professional development events to educate our membership on public policy issues. In 2015, COABA received Approved Continuing Education (ACE) provider status by the BACB and 501(c)(6) tax-exempt status from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. More information about COABA can be found at www.coaba.org and www.facebook.com/groups/COABA.

District of Columbia ABA

BY MARY CARUSO-ANDERSON, BARBARA KAMINSKI, LERA JOYCE JOHNSON, JOSEPH CLEM, DAVID MITTERMAIER, AND TAMARA MARDER

District ABA (DC ABA) has celebrated its inaugural year. Although the District of Columbia is actually quite small geographically, its metropolitan area extends to nearby states Maryland and Virginia (aka, the DMV). As currently there is no licensing of behavior analysts in DC, insurance companies that will only reimburse licensed behavior analysts will not contract with behavior analysts in DC. The District of Columbia also has a different political structure than the 50 states. It has a city council and mayor, but is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the U.S. Congress. Our neighbor affiliate chapters (VABA and MABA) have graciously supported the establishment of DC ABA to focus on the specific needs of families and ABA providers in the District and the surrounding metropolitan area. DC ABA has greatly benefited from partnership with two ABA academic training programs in DC: the Chicago School of Professional Psychology and Johns Hopkins University.

Mission

To promote the professional practice, ethics, research, and dissemination of behavior analysis and its associated technologies, serving the Washington Metropolitan area (aka DMV) of Washington, DC, and to provide its members with support and continuing education opportunities in the field of behavior analysis.

Executive Board

DC ABA is governed by an Executive Committee comprising the elected offices of president, past president, president-elect/vice president, and three at-large representatives. The Committee is completed by the appointed positions of secretary, communication officer, and treasurer. The 2019 Executive Board consists of Mary Caruso-Anderson, Ph.D., BCBA-D (president); Barbara Kaminski, Ph.D., BCBA-D (president-elect/vice president); Lera Joyce Johnson, Ph.D., BCBA-D (past president); David Mittermaier, MA, BCBA (at large); Joseph Clem, MEd, BCBA (at large); Tamara Marder, Ph.D., BCBA-D (at large); Colleen Williams, MEd, BCBA (communication officer); Robin Moyher, Ph.D., BCBA-D (secretary); and Jacquelin Jackson, MS, BCBA (treasurer). The Executive Board meets biweekly.

Working Committees

In order to meet the goals and initiatives of the organization, DC ABA has working committees headed by a representative of the Executive Board. Other members of each working committee are drawn from the general membership. The Membership Committee (chair: Joseph Clem) focuses on supporting members of DC ABA (e.g., trainings, resources, socializing) and growing the number of members, which includes behavior analysts, other professionals, RBTs, parents, allies, etc. The Program/Conference Committee (chair: Mary Caruso-Anderson) focuses on organizing events (e.g., annual conference, special events, etc.). The Marketing/Publications Committee (chair: David Mittermaier) focuses on creating and maintaining all printed and online publications, including social media posts, blogs, and resources for membership and public educational purposes. The Public Policy Committee (chair: Lera Joyce Johnson) focuses on furthering the regulated practice of behavior analysis in Washington, DC, including research of licensure initiatives across the country, drafting ABA licensure laws for DC, and working for their ratification.

Membership

DC ABA offers four categories of membership: Full Membership, Professional Membership, Affiliate Membership, and Student Membership. Full membership is available to any individual holding a graduate degree in a discipline directly related to or involving behavior analysis,

who is an active behavior analyst in good standing and whose professional commitment includes teaching, research, and/or practice in behavior analysis. Full membership may include BCBAs, BCBA-Ds, or other credentialed behavior analysts. Full members may vote on membership decisions of the chapter. Professional membership is available to any individual holding a bachelor's degree or any individual holding a graduate or higher degree, but who does not meet criteria for Full membership. Professional membership includes those with coursework or experience directly related to or involving behavior analysis and who have at least one year of experience in professional commitments, such as teaching, research, and/or practice in behavior analysis. This may include BCaBAs or RBTs with a bachelor's degree. Affiliate membership is available to any individual who has evidenced interest in the discipline of behavior analysis. This membership category may include parents or family members of clients, community members, teachers, individuals in related services, or providers of services to mutual clients of behavior analysts. Student membership is available to any individual pursuing formal training in the discipline of behavior analysis. Currently, benefits at each level include discounted CEUs and event registrations.

This first year, DC ABA has enrolled 44 members, of which 34 hold Full membership, 4 Professional, 3 Affiliate, and 3 Student membership.

Events and Activities

DC ABA became incorporated in February 2018 and became an affiliated chapter of ABAI in March 2018. Dechert law firm assisted DC ABA (pro bono) with the complicated process to apply for nonprofit status in DC and we are awaiting the response.

In June 2018, DC ABA offered its first workshop CEU event in collaboration with the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, DC Campus. Topics included developing cultural awareness in applied behavior analysis training, supervision, and service to children with ASD and ethical obligation for such training. In March 2019, DC ABA hosted a workshop on the newly adopted CPT 1 codes for ABA services. Emphasis was on development of ethical billing practices at the intersection of best clinical practice and insurance payor requirements.

Current goals include obtaining nonprofit status, increasing resources for professionals and parents, increased membership, recruiting parent members, active dissemination of behavior analysis, becoming a CEU provider, and licensure of applied behavior analysts in the District of Columbia.

Visit us online! DC ABA has established an online presence through its website, districtaba.org, Facebook, DC ABA, and Twitter, @districtaba.

Four Corners ABA

BY NICOLE L. BANK

The mission of Four Corners ABA (4CABA) is to promote the science of behavior and evidence-based technologies derived from the basic science in the Four Corners region (Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico). Four Corners ABA had another strong year of providing behavior analysts in the Four Corners region with an intellectual home. Anthony DeFulio, BCBA-D (Western Michigan University) is now the past president of 4CABA and organized our 12th Annual Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico in March 2019.

Surrounded by high desert mountains and amazing art, the convention was at the historic La Fonda on the Plaza hotel. Consistent with 4CABA's focus on balancing basic and applied research, we had an outstanding lineup of speakers from both areas. This year's speakers included Heather McGee (Western Michigan University), Matthew Bell (Santa Clara University), Sarah Lechago (University of Houston-Clear Lake), Kathryn Peterson (Munroe-Meyer Institute, University of Nebraska Medical Center), Kimberly Kirkpatrick (Kansas State University), Kenneth Silverman (Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine), Patrick M. Ghezzi (University of Nevada, Reno), Anthony DeFulio (Western Michigan University), and Kevin Vowles (University of New Mexico).

Each year, we give a Best Poster Award to a student based on the quality of his or her poster presentation. The poster competition takes place on the first night of our annual conference and is judged by some of our invited presenters. The title of this year's winning poster was "Monetary and Food Discounting Across the Academic Semester" presented by Joy Lee, Luis Rodriguez, and Erin Rasmussen (Idaho State University). Joy has won free membership and registration for next year's conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

In our ongoing efforts to increase membership and let other behavior analysts know what we've been up to, 4CABA will host a booth at the Expo at the 45th ABAI Annual Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

4CABA is also very happy to announce recent additions to our governing board: our new board member is Alison Betz (Behavior Service of the Rockies), our new treasurer is David Cole (Utah State University), our new secretary is Megan Mann (Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center) and our new president-elect is Casey Clay (University of Missouri). Congratulations to all our new officers!

Heartland ABA

BY ANDREA CLEMENTS

Heartland ABA (HLABA) will hold its 13th annual conference March 21–22 in Omaha, Nebraska. The conference will offer information on the implementation of ABA across a variety of target areas, including pediatric feeding, reduction of severe behavior, and improving verbal behavior. Our full-day workshop will provide an overview of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. We are excited that Dr. John Borrero accepted our invitation to serve as our keynote speaker, with a presentation called “Developmental Pediatrics and Behavior Analysis: A Mutually Beneficial Relationship.” Drs. Michelle Woidneck Kieffe and Lucas Broten will also conduct a workshop on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) to help teach the HLABA membership about this exciting extension of applied science. During the conference the following day, Drs. Woidneck Kieffe and Broten will present on the application of ACT in a presentation called “Utilizing Acceptance and Commitment Therapy: Strategies to Promote Well-Being Across Personal and Professional Domains.” We expect the conference to be well attended by RBTs, BCBAs, BCaBAs, BCBA-Ds, and other ABA service professionals in the area.

We also invited Dr. Brian Greer, who will present “Using Quantitative Theories of Relapse to Improve Functional Communication Training.” Dr. Bethany Hansen will present pediatric feeding research in her talk called, “Advancement in Assessment and Treatment of Pediatric Feeding Disorders.” Finally, Dr. Nicole Rodriguez was invited to provide her excellent presentation on verbal behavior called “When Practice Informs Research: The Road to Teaching Complex Verbal Discriminations.” Our invited speakers represent the application of ABA across a number of different domains and populations. We are excited to provide topics of interest to suit varied applications of ABA.

This year we have decided to dissolve this regional chapter. In the years that HLABA has been in operation, area states have started their own state chapters. Nebraska also started its own state chapter, NEABA. Given that nearly 100% of HLABA’s members were also members of NEABA and almost no members lived in surrounding states, it made sense to bring the HLABA chapter to a close. We worked with the board of NEABA to join the two chapters into one, maintaining the name of NEABA. New bylaws were drafted to help meld the two chapters so that NEABA can continue to protect the rights and privileges of ABA providers and recipients in the state of Nebraska, while adding committees to increase CEU events and improve caregiver involvement in chapter events.

Hoosier ABA

BY DANYL M. H. EPPERHEIMER

2018 was amazing! We successfully had our 10th annual conference, underwent a governance project, and created our very first strategic plan. Our governance project outlined areas of growth that were most needed. One of those items was to change our current one-year executive board positions to two-year positions. It was voted to instate that change immediately. The president voted in as the vice president in 2017 will be the president for 2018 and 2019. The executive board outlined the next five years to ensure that when new members were voted onto the board the majority of board members would be in their positions for a minimum of one year. The strategic plan would run for the two terms of the presidency. The current strategic plan is for 2018 and 2019.

Another goal of the strategic plan was to increase the executive board with expert subject matter consultants. HABA members voted in a Marketing Subject Matter Expert and an Insurance and Practice Manager Subject Matter Expert. We also wanted to add a Financial Subject Matter Expert but no one was recommended at the time. Another goal from the strategic plan was to update our website, as well as link the website, social media, and emails that our members receive. Our logo was updated with a graphic designer, and a web developer updated our website. The Executive Board made sure that the website is where all the information is posted first, then social media, and lastly emails to our members. The three events can occur within minutes of each other but should occur in that sequence to ensure our website becomes the location where members can go to receive the most accurate, current information.

2018 Strategic Plan Goals

- Governance Assessment—Accomplished
- Strategic Planning—Accomplished Strategic Planning/Goals Identified—Accomplished
- Live Streaming of Quarterly Meetings—Accomplished
- New, Updated Website—Accomplished
- 10th Annual Conference in October—Accomplished
- Collaboration with InPEAT for BCBA Licensure in IN—Accomplished
- Hire a Lobbyist for the 2019 Session—Accomplished

2019 Strategic Plan Goals

- BCBA Licensure—in progress
- Introduce the new Subject Matter Experts into the Executive Board—Accomplished
- Onboarding ToolKit created and disseminated to all new Executive Board Members—Accomplished
- Incorporating the Committee Chairs in the monthly executive board meeting—Accomplished
- Become ABAI Associate Chapter—In Progress

- Increase membership
- Increase participation within our membership
- Quarterly Newsletter to HABA members—1st newsletter was a success (January 2019)

Executive Committee:

- Melany Shampo, MA, BCBA: Past President
- Danyl MH Epperheimer, MS, BCBA: President
- Amber Badgett, MA, BCBA: Vice President
- Anne Drew, BCBA: Treasurer
- Shawwna Sungberg, MA, BCBA: Secretary
- Ann Dorlet, MS, BCBA: Member at Large
- Jordan DeBoy: Student Representative
- Kacie Langham: RBT representative
- Michele Trivedi: Insurance and Practice Manager Subject Matter Expert
- Melissa Chevalier: Marketing Subject Matter Expert

Illinois ABA

BY JANA SARNO

The Illinois Association for Behavior Analysis (ILABA) is a state organization whose purpose is to promote behavior analysis through education and advocacy of the science and practice. The goals of the organization include encouraging collaboration among behavior analysts in Illinois, fostering relations between practices and universities in Illinois, and keeping behavior analysts informed about licensure and certification, being responsive to changes to insurance provision, continuing education opportunities, and public policy.

For the past year, the Board of Directors for ILABA has comprised Jennifer Klapatch-Totsch (president), Jana Sarno (operations coordinator), Candice Gizweski (operations coordinator-elect), Rana Ali (treasurer), Rocco Catrone (student representative), and Sara Baillie, Ashley Whittington-Barnish, Brigid McCormick, and Scott Herbst (members at large).

In an effort to impact greater change in the state of Illinois, ILABA has eight sub-committees and/or task forces: (1) Conference Planning, (2) Client Rights, (3) Practitioner Education, (4) Legislative Affairs, (5) Membership, (6) Sponsorship, (7) Academic Programs, and (8) Insurance Task Force. The following are selected highlights from some of the ILABA committees.

ILABA's eighth annual convention was in Springfield, Illinois, March 21–22, 2019. Presentations covered a range of issues related to practice, science, and theory, along with diverse settings and populations (e.g., behavior analysis in zoos, working with adult populations, and feeding disorders). The conference was preceded by a poster session, social, and a workshop on the Essentials for Living assessment and curriculum.

In addition, on March 21, ILABA held a Lobby Day, where behavior analysts and stakeholders met with legislators in Springfield to advocate for the passage of the Behavior Analyst Licensing Act. During the conference, ILABA's annual business meeting included announcements of the board's new operations coordinator-elect, president-elect, student representative, and member-at-large positions. Every year, conference attendees attain continuing education credits at no additional cost.

The chapter's Membership and Sponsorship Committee has continued to develop opportunities for tangible benefits to members as well as agency sponsors of ILABA. In addition to the annual conference, ILABA provides other continuing education opportunities and hosts town hall meetings/networking events for discussion of current topics. Members may access a membership and agency directory along with other member-exclusive resources on the website. Illinois agencies may choose to support ILABA with sustaining contributions or become agency sponsors with benefits including spotlights in quarterly newsletters and on social media, the ability to make posts to the ILABA job board, and vendor tables at the annual conference.



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ILABA's Client Rights Committee hosted a parent-focused information session titled, "Importance of Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention." The presentation was designed to share information regarding child development, the importance of monitoring outcomes, and resources available to stakeholders to support young children. The event was free and open to the public, with additional events planned for the future.

Throughout the 2018–2019 membership year, ILABA's Legislative Affairs Committee has continued to work closely with state legislators to make progress on the Behavior Analyst Licensing Act in Illinois (House Bill 2710). All board members continue to advocate for the bill and gain support from other behavior analysts, legislators, and professionals in the state; ongoing updates on this topic can be found via ILABA's website and social media outlets.

ILABA members are contacted by the board via email, and can also access regular updates through the ILABA Facebook page and updates on <https://ilaba.clubexpress.com>. If you have additional questions or would like to learn more about ILABA, visit our website!

Maryland ABA

BY CARRIE S. W. BORRERO

The Maryland Association for Behavior Analysis (MABA) held its 21st Annual Meeting in Baltimore, December 6–7, 2018. Our conference is devoted to the dissemination of behavior analysis, both basic and applied, to our members from the Mid-Atlantic area. We had record-breaking attendance this year, with more than 400 members. This year, we celebrated Women in Behavior Analysis and were able to offer a lineup of prominent women in the field. Presenters included Dorothea Lerman (University of Houston–Clear Lake), Carol Pilgrim (University of North Carolina Wilmington), Claire St. Peter (West Virginia University), Janet Twyman (Center on Innovations in Learning), and Carole Van Camp (University of North Carolina Wilmington). We also hosted a panel, "Women as Leaders in Behavior Analysis," moderated by Jennifer Zarcone (May Institute). We continued offering two workshops, with Ruth DeBar (Caldwell University) presenting on verbal behavior, and Claudia Dozier (University of Kansas) presenting on functional assessment. Our reception including an expo for sponsors and poster presentations. Poster presenters included staff and students from organizations such as UMBC, Shafer Center, Rowan University, Kennedy Krieger Institute, and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. We would like to thank our sponsors for continuing to support the efforts of MABA.

At the conclusion of the conference, Jolene Sy (UMBC) stepped down as president, Lynn Bowman (Kennedy Krieger Institute) assumed the office of

president, and Meagan Gregory (Kennedy Krieger Institute) was elected president-elect. Aaron Lesser (Kennedy Krieger Institute) was elected member at large, and Cara Phillips (May Institute) completed her term as member at large. We would like to thank our executive committee for their time and dedication.

Plans are currently underway for the 22nd Annual Meeting, to be held December 5–6, 2019, in Baltimore. We have a lineup of distinguished behavior analysts expected to present. For more information about our upcoming conference, please go to www.mdaba.org.

Massachusetts ABA

BY ROBERT PUTNAM

Massachusetts ABA (MassABA) was established in 2010 to support the science and practice of behavior analysis in Massachusetts. As the home of over 2,300 BCBAs and 17 Verified Course Sequences, Massachusetts boasts the highest per capita concentration of behavior analysts in the world. MassABA has focused its efforts to support the growth of our field by:

- Supporting behavior analysts seeking licensure and advocating on their behalf to ensure applications are processed in a timely manner.
- Assisting with the development of a bill that would create a separate licensing board for behavior analysts.
- Supporting the expansion of insurance coverage for ABA services.
- Advocating for timely reimbursement of ABA services by state funding sources.
- Hosting an annual conference and other events that brings diverse behavior analytic voices and applications to our membership.

Over the past year, we have continued to work with our state government leaders to keep them abreast of issues of importance to our membership. This included assisting with the development of a bill that would create a separate licensing board for behavior analysts. Such a board would be composed of behavior analysts and would focus solely on the licensure of behavior analysts rather than multiple disciplines under the mental health board. We are happy to share that bills S.135 and H.1998 were reported favorably out of the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure and reported to their respective chambers (House and Senate). However, these bills died in session. In January 2019 we refiled new bills, HD2538 and SD1956, supported by our sister organization, the Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy. In addition to the separate licensing board for behavior analysts these bills would align eligibility for licensing with BACB standards.

MassABA has several active committees that address

specific areas of interest to our members:

- **The Annual Conference and Events Committee:** MassABA has hosted a conference for each of the past 8 years. The conference has grown steadily in attendance and quality. Last year over 25 presenters and 700 attendees made it a tremendous success. The 2018 conference featured keynotes by Drs. Linda LeBlanc (“Establishing Clinical Standards and an Ethics Network”), Janet Twyman (“Teaching ‘Technologies’ to Support Literacy Instruction”), and Michael Perone (“Higher Education in Behavior Analysis: Today and Tomorrow”). There were also numerous notable invited speakers including Laura Grow, Einar Ingvarsson, Mary Jane Weiss, and Missy Olive. The conference was sold out for the fifth year in a row. The 2019 conference has sold out already and features several keynote speakers including Dr. Dorothea Lerman and Dr. Justin Leaf. Dr. Wayne Fisher provided an all-day workshop entitled “Ensuring Procedural Integrity When Billing for Applied Behavior Analysis Services Using CPT Codes.” The workshop was to prepare behavior analysts for the changes in the CPT codes. The event was well attended with over 100 participants.
- **Strategic Planning Committee:** MassABA completed a strategic plan based on a review of our current status. The strategic plan includes measurable goals to (a) provide direction to the organization over the next several years; (b) ensure the sustainability of the association; and (c) ensure we continue to meet the needs of our members.
- **The School Based BCBA Committee:** This committee is focusing on a broad range of issues of concern to BCBAs who work for or in public school settings. The committee has been hosting regular CEU events for behavior analysts working in public school settings. Ann Donovan and Bob Ross co-chair the committee.
- **The Legislative Committee:** This committee continues to monitor legislative activity of interest to our members and attends relevant political events to maintain a high level of visibility for MassABA. This group has also worked to develop an ongoing dialogue with some of the key insurance companies in Massachusetts and serves to advise them on the positions relating to provision and oversight of ABA-based treatment services. This dialogue has helped ensure that these companies are familiar with best practice research in areas of ABA treatment services and shaped policies consistent with the provision of high-quality ABA treatment.

MassABA looks forward to continuing to be at the forefront of policy making and professionalization of service provision in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We recognize that the rapid growth of providers of ABA services requires that the field step up to meet the challenge

of supporting these new practitioners with resources to help ensure they are providing high-quality and effective ABA services. MassABA will continue to focus its efforts to ensure that we strengthen the science and practice behavior analysis.

Mass ABA also received the Autism Insurance Resource Center’s 2017 Champion Award. The Autism Insurance Resource Center provides information, technical assistance, trainings, webinars, and other resources on issues related to medical insurance for autism treatment. The award was given to Mass ABA for its support of the Center and families who need help accessing ABA treatment.

Nebraska ABA

BY THERESA NEWTON

The Nebraska Association for Behavior Analysis (NEABA) held its fourth annual convention November 9, 2018. The convention opened with Ed Daly, PhD, BCBA-D, presenting “School-Based Consultation: Principles and Practices.” Additional presentations were “Lying Is Behavior We Can Change,” by Corey Stocco, PhD, BCBA, and “Assessment and Treatment of Food Selectivity in Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder,” by Kate Peterson, PhD, BCBA-D. Attendees were provided a networking opportunity during the lunch break. The afternoon started off with Terri Newton, MSEd, BCBA/President of NEABA, providing the presidential address and NEABA updates. Afternoon presentations were “Licensure and Other Regulation of ABA Practitioners,” by Gina Green, PhD, BCBA-D, and a panel discussion with Jim Carr, PhD, BCBA-D, Gina Green, and NEABA legislative committee members.

NEABA continues to collaborate with NE stakeholders regarding the need for licensure in the state. Currently BCBAs are able to bill for services under the NE ASD mandate; however, there are limitations for populations outside of ASD. Board members continue to meet four times per year, with the legislative committee meeting monthly.

Currently, NE has two organizations representing behavior analysis: NEABA and the Heartland Association for Behavior Analysis (HLABA). HLABA has been a long-standing organization providing exceptional conferences and CE opportunities for practitioners across the state.

In March 2018, NEABA initiated discussions with the HLABA board to merge the two organizations under NEABA. Both organizations were in agreement. In September, a few members from each met frequently to merge the bylaws. Once completed, the bylaws were sent to the members of each organization for comment. Board members from both groups voted unanimously in favor of the merger.

Merger transition timeline: HLABA will cease as an organization at the end of their conference, March 22,

2019. A temporary board consisting of members from each organization was determined and voted upon. The temporary board will remain in place until spring of 2020 at which time a call for nominees will occur. NEABA will host its fifth annual conference in spring of 2020 and a new board will be elected.

In fall of 2018, NEABA reached out to David Montgomery, a private consultant assisting organizations interested in starting the 407 process. Several meetings with Mr. Montgomery and the legislative committee occurred, and the board voted to engage in a professional contract with Mr. Montgomery. Mr. Montgomery's role will be to guide, facilitate, support, and direct the legislative team in proposing a bill to the NE legislature for licensure of behavior analysts. We are in the beginning phases and do not plan to submit a final proposal until January 2021. NEABA will also continue to seek out support from APBA and ABAI.

Colby Coash, former Nebraska state senator, will no longer provide contracted services to NEABA as he did in 2018, given the contract with David Montgomery.

Membership Update

NEABA's membership continues to grow, and to date we have 170 members. At this time, we do not have data indicating how many of our members are also members of ABAI.

2019 Goals

NEABA is committed to promoting the science and practice of applied behavior analysis in the state of Nebraska. We will continue to focus on providing educational resources identified by our membership, expanding ABA services across the state, and educating stakeholders about the fundamental principles of ABA and its application in areas beyond autism (e.g., intellectual disabilities, education, rehabilitation, business, and government).

New Jersey ABA

BY KATE BRITTON

The New Jersey Association for Behavior Analysis (NJABA) enjoyed another successful year in 2018. Dr. Sandra Gomes's presidential term will end June 30, 2019. Dr. Kate Britton, last year's president-elect, will assume the role of president on July 1, 2019, and Dr. Marylouise Kerwin will assume the position of president-elect. The rest of the Board of Directors remained consistent, thereby maintaining stability. In 2018, one new Representative-at-Large position was up for election. We are pleased to announce that Kelly Della Rosa, MA, BCBA, won the election and assumed her new role beginning July 1, 2018. We are lucky to have such dedicated professionals on the Board of Directors of NJABA.

Since its inception, NJABA has consistently held an annual conference. Our annual conference is now routinely attended by over 350 people. In 2018, the 13th Annual Conference, which was held March 23, had attendance of approximately 400 people and 26 exhibiting companies. We were honored to have Dr. Wayne Fisher deliver the keynote address, "Using Behavioral Momentum Theory to Behaviorally Inoculate Children With Severe Behavior Disorders Against Relapse Following Treatment With Functional Communication Training." In addition, there were several workshops and symposia on topics including, but not limited to, stimulus equivalence-based instruction; mental health issues facing 21st-century learners; assessment and treatment of challenging behavior in adolescents and adults with ASD; maintaining interprofessional partnerships; how are we acquiring and responding to consumer feedback; experimental evaluation of the verbal behavior model of early intervention; and licensure for behavior analysts. We also conducted a poster session that included posters on a wide array of topics. All presentations were required to be data-based with demonstrations of experimental control. We have continued to improve our conference based on evaluation feedback.



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The 14th annual conference will be April 5, 2019, and our keynote speaker will be Dr. Wayne Fuqua, professor of psychology at Western Michigan University, where he served as chair of that department for 14 years. His research and scholarly interests span a range of topics including autism, health psychology, gerontology, evidence-based practice, dissemination of behavior analysis, ethics, and behavioral approaches to sustainability and climate change. Dr. Fuqua's contributions have been recognized with several appointments and awards including election as a Fellow of the Association for Behavior Analysis International; a Distinguished Service Award at WMU; the Jacobson Award from New York State ABA; and a term on the Michigan Autism Council. He has produced a series of training videos that feature interviews and demonstrations with leaders in behavior analysis. His keynote is "Evidence-Based Practice in ABA: Detecting and Troubleshooting Treatment Failures." Among other workshops and symposia, we will be featuring a supervision presentation, "When the Mentee Becomes the Mentor: How to Use Behavior Analysis to Train Future BCBA's" and an ethics presentation, "Daily Ethical Challenges of a Behavior Analyst." We will also be conducting a poster session on a variety of topics. We are expecting another great turnout at this year's conference and anticipate greater participation.

A large initiative of the organization over the past year was to increase membership and member participation through our new website, social media postings, and increased interactions with students of New Jersey colleges and universities with approved applied behavior analysis course sequences. Through this plan, NJABA can be an even more influential resource for current and future New Jersey behavior analysts. We continue to explore state-regulated professional credentialing processes, as we have learned a great deal from other states' experiences.

The commitment and dedication of the NJABA Board of Directors certainly does not go unnoticed. These individuals continue to volunteer their time to promote the effective and ethical practice of behavior analysis. Without the individuals listed below, NJABA would not be the organization it is today.

Executive Committee

- Sandra Gomes, Ph.D., BCBA-D, President
- Kate Britton, Ed.D., BCBA, President-Elect
- Kevin Brothers, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Treasurer
- Lauren Besante, MA, LDT-C, BCBA, Secretary

Board of Directors

- Alexis Higgins-Battaglia, M.Ed., BCBA, Representative-at-Large/Communications Chair
- Robert LaRue, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Events Chair
- Elena Garcia-Albea, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Representative at Large

- Suzanne Buchanan, Psy.D., BCBA-D, Government Affairs Chair
- Emily Gallant, Ph.D., Student Representative/Membership Chair
- Marylouise E. Kerwin, Ph.D., BCBA-D, University Program Liaison Chair
- Erin Richard White, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Continuing Education Chair
- Kelly Della Rosa, MA, BCBA, Representative at Large

We greatly appreciate the support of ABAAI.

North Carolina ABA

BY SELENE JOHNSON AND RUTH HURST

The North Carolina Association for Behavior Analysis (NCABA) held its 30th anniversary conference in Winston-Salem, NC, February 20–22, 2019. The conference was a great success thanks to the leadership of Selene Johnson, president (ABC of NC), as well the rest of our Executive Council including Whitney Luffman, past president (Autism Society of NC), Kristi Toward, president elect (Effective Interventions NC), Callie Plattner, vice president (Access Family Services), Leigh Ann Strain, secretary (Effective Interventions NC), Nancy Poteet, treasurer (private consultant), Monique Baker, member at large (Effective Interventions NC), Aleck Myers, member at large (Autism Society of NC), Sydney Batchelder, student representative (UNC Wilmington), Jamie Clary, publications editor (Riddle Developmental Center), Fred Spooner, senior NCABA advisor (UNC-Charlotte), Duke Schell, liaison to ABAAI (Riddle Developmental Center), Ruth Hurst, liaison to NC Psychological Association (Murdoch Developmental Center), and a host of other NCABA volunteers.

Our nine invited speakers traveled from across the state and country to present on topics such as interdisciplinary behavior analysis and the future of our field (Susan Schneider, Ph.D., University of the Pacific); multiple exemplar training and derived stimulus relations in animals and people (Mark Galizio, Ph.D., University of North Carolina Wilmington); the role of organizational coaching systems in culture change (Nicholas Weatherly, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA, Florida Institute of Technology); women in leadership in behavior analysis (Carol Pilgrim, Ph.D., University of North Carolina Wilmington); Judith E. Favell, Ph.D., BCBA-D; Susan Schneider, Ph.D., University of the Pacific; and Gina Green, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Association of Professional Behavior Analysts); life lessons from humanistic behaviorism (E. Scott Geller, Ph.D., Virginia Tech); best practices in autism treatment (William H. Ahearn, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LABA, The New England Center for Children); operating an ethical ABA practice (Gina Green, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Association of

Professional Behavior Analysts); a pragmatic approach to functional assessment (Gregory P. Hanley, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Western New England University); and behavior analyst licensure (Selene Johnson, M.Ed., BCBA, ABC of NC; William H. Ahearn, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LABA, The New England Center for Children; Michael Dorsey, Ph.D., LABA, BCBA-D, Amego Inc.; Gina Green, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Association of Professional Behavior Analysts; and Daniel Unumb, Esq., Autism Legal Resources Center, LLC). Drs. Geller, Schneider, and Weatherly also participated in a book signing.

We had a total of 82 pre-conference workshop attendees for presentations on why OBMers should consider board certification (Nicholas Weatherly, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA, Florida Institute of Technology) and turning supervisees into supervisors (Callie Plattner, MS, LPA, BCBA; Rachel Gwin, Ph.D., BCBA; and Samantha Anderson, MS, BCBA, Access Family Services) and 138 attendees at our post-conference workshops on ethics in the age of certification and licensure (William H. Ahearn, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LABA, The New England Center for Children) and practical functional assessment and treatment in an enhanced choice model (Gregory P. Hanley, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Western New England University).

Our nine concurrent sessions also covered a breadth of topics presented by local and national experts: Becca Tagg (Del Mar Center for Behavioral Health); Michele Silcox (ABA Therapy Billing and Insurance Services); Jeannie Golden, Alicia Day, and Chelsea Forest (East Carolina University); Rachel Gwin, Ellen Banning, and Matthew Henderson (Access Family Services); John V. Keller (GerBL—The Geriatric Behavior Laboratory); Anne Overcash and Jaime Wedel (Pyramid Educational Consultants); Erin Moran (UCL Institute of Education); Cary Trump, Karla A. Zabala, and Kadajah K. Quinland (University of Georgia); and Thomas J. Thompson and Michael W. Walker (Behavior Intervention Professionals of the Triangle, PLLC).

A total of 412 people registered for the 2019 conference, which was a record high for our organization. Each of the invited and concurrent talks were well-attended, and our speakers did an outstanding job delivering meaningful and important content to our attendees. This year, NCABA was able to offer both NCPA and BACB continuing education credits, including supervision and ethics credits, for each of the invited and concurrent presentations as well as for the pre-and post-conference workshops. More than 3,000 BACB continuing education credits were awarded.

At the opening of the conference, Selene Johnson gave thanks to the members of the NCABA Executive Council and acknowledged their continued efforts with supporting and growing this vibrant organization, putting together the 2019 conference, and continuing to work on behavior analyst practice issues in our state. Awards were given to several very

deserving individuals during the opening remarks. Casey Raymer (ABC of NC) was awarded the NCABA “Do Things” Award; Rachael Cushing Cook (St. Gerard House) was awarded the Fred Keller Excellence in Behavior Analysis Award, given this year by Dr. Keller’s son, Dr. John Keller; Heather Young (J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center) received the Technical Utilization Award, and Dottie Dator (East Carolina University) was awarded the J. Iverson Riddle Student Scholarship. The NCABA Student Representative, Sydney Ramsey Batchelder from the University of North Carolina Wilmington, organized an excellent student symposium for this year’s conference, including presentations by Annie Eick (Virginia Tech), Rhiannon Takemoto-Jennings (Virginia Tech), Megan Carpenter (University of North Carolina Charlotte), and Elizabeth Reyes (University of North Carolina Charlotte).

The poster session included research conducted by undergraduate and graduate students, as well as from professionals. Prizes were awarded to presenters across three categories: (1) undergraduate went to Keliyah Killian, A. Tamlyn Shields, Kari Bishop, Kelsey Bryan, and Krista Holland (University of North Carolina Wilmington); (2) graduate went to Reem Muharib, Robert Pennington, Ya-yu Lo, and Megan Carpenter (University of North Carolina Charlotte); and (3) professional went to Margaret Zoller, Whitney Sukonick, Ema Auten, and Amelia Currie (Autism Society of North Carolina).

This year’s annual business meeting was, for the second year in a row, exceptionally well-attended. The meeting centered primarily on the discussion of practice issues for behavior analysts in our state. Selene Johnson provided an update from the Public and Professional Relations Committee on fundraising efforts and an update from the attorneys representing NCABA in determining the rights and status of board certified behavior analysts to provide applied behavior analysis services in North Carolina in accordance with their BACB certification. The newly elected officers were announced and are listed on our website, along with a link members can use to contact them by email. The Board welcomes Monique Baker into the position of vice president, Leica Anzaldo into the position of member at large, Erin Moran into the position of student representative, and Nancy Poteet into the position of treasurer.

Deserving a special thank you and acknowledgement are Jamie Clary, Ruth Hurst, Fred Spooner, and Duke Schell, who serve non-voting but essential functions for the NCABA Board. Jamie Clary serves as our NCABA web editor, Ruth Hurst serves as our liaison to ABAI and other related groups, and Fred Spooner and Duke Schell will continue to serve as senior NCABA board advisors. We want to sincerely thank board members Whitney Sukonick (past president) and Sydney Ramsey Batchelder (student representative) for all they have done to support and advance NCABA during their terms.

At the 45th annual ABAI convention in Chicago in May, NCABA's president, Kristi Toward, hosted the NCABA poster at the Expo session. For the fourth year the NCABA Executive Council approved partial financial assistance in order to send the president or another designated board member to the national conference and annual chapter leadership training. This opportunity for financial assistance for an NCABA officer to attend the ABAI convention is reviewed annually by the Executive Council.

Please visit our website at www.nc-aba.com and see additional highlights from the 30th anniversary NCABA conference, including photos of award and poster winners this year and in years past and find information on becoming an NCABA member. The NCABA website also provides information about our history since 1989, including the "25 Year History" slide show, links to newsletters, and information about the conference and upcoming events, including our NCABA summer autism conference and planning for our 31st annual conference to be held February 2020 in Winston-Salem, NC.

Ohio ABA

BY JANET HANSEN AND JENNIFER SWEENEY

The mission of the Ohio Association for Behavior Analysis (OHABA) is to support the growth and dissemination of applied behavior analysis in the public and private sectors, with special emphasis on application in educational settings. Objectives include providing professional development in the form of a yearly conference; supporting the certification of BCBAs, especially in Ohio; and providing an informational website as a portal to support behavior analysis for businesses, schools, and clinics. The website also provides up-to-date information from legislative agencies and advocacy groups related to the practice of behavior analysis in Ohio.

OHABA is primarily an interest group and works to further behavior analysis by (1) promoting it in educational settings, (2) promoting university programs that specialize in applied behavior analysis, (3) providing a forum for the discussion of research and conceptual issues, (4) maintaining a website containing information about the organization and about behavior analysis in Ohio and elsewhere, and (5) functioning as the Ohio contact for and affiliate of ABAI.

The OHABA Executive Board members as of March 2019 included the president, Nicole Powell, Psy.D., BCBA-D, COBA; past president, Bryan Droesch, MSED, BCBA, PC, COBA; president-elect, Jennifer Sweeney, Ph.D., BCBA-D, COBA; secretary, Janet Hansen, Ph.D., BCBA-D, COBA; and treasurer, Nichole Williams, BCBA, COBA. The OHABA Board is committed to making the organization a resource for members across the state. The 2019 OHABA Board includes Marketing and Technology

co-chairs, Ron DeMuesy, MEd, BCBA, COBA, and Lee Geer, BCBA, COBA; Membership chair, Melissa Lawrence, BCBA, COBA; Professional Standards chair, (currently open); Education chair, Dacia McCoy, Ph.D., BCBA-D, COBA; Program co-chairs, Sarah Prochak, MA, BCBA, COBA, and Andrew Penner, M.Ed. BCBA, COBA; Public Policy chair, Jen Gonda, M.Ed., BCBA, COBA; and student representative, Jolanda Marx, MA.

In 2018–2019, the full board and committees worked hard to coordinate increased opportunities for members. Our board continues to expand representation from all parts of Ohio. We had increased presence on social media including a members-only Facebook group. In April of 2018, OHABA was proud to offer a two-day conference at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. In addition, we offered town hall meetings in multiple areas across the state that included ethics CE opportunities for members. We offered supervision CEs as well. We participated as exhibitors in multiple conferences across Ohio and neighboring states. In February 2019, OHABA was proud to offer a two-day conference at the Marriott Columbus University Area.

Membership Information

Increasing membership across the state has been a primary focus for OHABA. Membership as of March 2019 is at an all-time high of 276.

OHABA is intent on continuing to increase its membership by offering CE opportunities to members across the state. Individuals interested in joining OHABA can find a membership form on our website, www.ohaba.org. Fees are \$30 for full members, \$25 for affiliate members, and \$15 for student members. Benefits of membership include a reduced registration fee for OHABA conferences with CEs included; free ethics CE opportunities at town hall meetings held in different regions of the state four times per year; the opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss job leads, and share the results of research and practice efforts; upcoming access to various workshops and webinar opportunities; and updates on changes affecting the practice of applied behavior analysis. Individuals interested in becoming members, or any members interested in serving on the board or a committee, should contact OHABA at ohaba@ohaba.org.

Annual Conference 2019

The 2019 conference was February 8–9 at the Marriott Columbus University Area. We had over 350 attendees. Invited speakers included Bill Heward, Cathleen Piazza, Wayne Fisher, Aaron Fischer, and Shannon Biagi. Fees for our annual conference were \$150 (full members), \$200 (nonmembers), and \$65 (student members). From April 2017 through the beginning of 2018, planning was underway for our eighth annual conference, held April 6–7, 2018, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center,

in partnership with the Hyatt Regency Columbus. Our invited speakers in 2018 included Patrick Friman, Sheila Morgan, Janet Twyman, Nicolas Weatherly, and Matthew Normand. Fees for our annual conference remained the same as last year.

Certification in the State of Ohio

Over the past four years, the OHABA board has worked closely with the Ohio State Board of Psychology to educate BCBAs on the process and importance of becoming Certified Ohio Behavior Analysts (COBAs). Only individuals who have the COBA designation can practice behavior analysis in the state, except in exempt settings. The last step in obtaining the certification requires candidates to attend a half-day workshop and pass an exam covering the rules and regulations regarding behavior analytic practice in Ohio. The board has committed to having representation at each of these workshops to assist in answering questions and to ensure newly certified members are aware of OHABA as a resource.

Future Direction

The OHABA Board is committed to making the organization a resource for members. The board continues to add additional positions and develop committees to assist chairs in completion of their duties. The board continues to promote the town hall series with the goal of reaching ABA professionals across the state by regions: Cleveland/Akron/Youngstown, Columbus, Toledo, and Dayton/Cincinnati. We would like to continue to offer continuing education opportunities. The board would like to see membership and participation from members increase in each area.

Oregon ABA

BY SOPHIE MILLON

ORABA has seen large-scale growth in membership and BACB certificants in the state over the last year. ORABA hosted its second annual conference, participated in the state legislature, and continued to provide continuing education to members across the state. Notably, Oregon's largest school district, Portland Public Schools, contracted with an ABA agency in order to bring the state's first school-based board certified behavior analysts on board.

Since the passage of SB365, Oregon has seen incredible growth in the number of ABA providers. As of the end of 2018, there are 236 active Licensed Behavior Analysts (LBAs), 15 active Licensed Assistant Behavior Analysts (LABAs), and 240 active Registered Behavior Analysis Interventionists in Oregon. ORABA has closely followed the activities of the Behavior Analyst Regulatory Board this year, and will continue to advocate for the practice of behavior analysis in our state. Specifically, we will prepare for legislative activities that will take place when SB395 sunsets in 2022. All LBAs and LABAs in Oregon now hold BACB certification.

Given the American Medical Association's approval of eight new Category I and two revised Category III CPT codes for ABA services for 2019, ORABA has encouraged members to use resources provided by APBA, the BACB, ABAT, and other members of the steering committee for the coding changes. In addition, ORABA will host an event for members this spring regarding use of the new CPT codes and working with our state insurance providers.

ORABA's second conference, ABA in Oregon: Striving for Excellence, was a success. The conference was sold out and we have already begun planning next year's conference. We had a great line-up of guest speakers: Dr. Francesca degli Espinosa, Dr. Tyra Sellers, and Dr. Wendy Machalicek. Several of our local ABA providers



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participated in the conference, and many professionals had the chance to socialize and network.

Dr. Espinosa enlightened us with a behavior analytic interpretation of theory of mind and shared how she uses the false-belief test and teaches perspective taking. Dr. Sellers shared her practical approaches to teaching ethics and presented strategies for performance management of supervisees. Dr. Machalicek shared her experiences with telehealth applications for supervision and coaching. She highlighted the technical challenges and ethics to be aware of when venturing into this newer way to deliver care.

We were pleased to have participation from our local ABA providers through symposia, paper presentations, and posters. Several agencies collaborated to create a symposium on applications of functional analyses and how they may be adapted for use in different settings. Dr. Dawn Bailey, our president, wrapped up the conference with a powerful and enlightening presentation on her over 20 years of experience and how ABA is changing nationwide.

In addition to our conference, ORABA offered several continuing education events to members last year. Topics included reduction of problem behaviors in the classroom and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders. These events were offered in person as well as via Zoom so that participants in Oregon outside of the Portland area could participate.

As of 2018, the Oregon Institute of Technology, with campuses in Wilsonville and Klamath Falls, is offering a master of science in applied behavior analysis in addition to the nine-course sequence for certification that was previously offered. This graduate program is the first stand-alone master's degree in applied behavior analysis in Oregon. Students in this program can now take an additional six elective courses and participate in a paid practicum.

Portland Public Schools officially began to offer ABA services to some students in the district through a contract with an outside provider and two BCBAs with a team of Registered Behavior Analysis Interventionists. This is an exciting change for our clients in the public school system, and we look forward to the expansion of ABA services to public schools in the state and an increase in collaboration to meet their needs.

Pennsylvania ABA

BY JIM CHOK AND JONATHAN IVY

The Pennsylvania Association for Behavior Analysis (PennABA) is pleased to share our annual update.

Mission and Vision

PennABA seeks to promote high-quality behavior analysis in the region, maintain the scientific integrity of the discipline, and advocate on behalf of behavior analysts and consumers of behavior analysis.

History

PennABA was incorporated in 1998. Richard Foxx and William Helsel saw a need to support behavior analysis in the state of Pennsylvania. In 2000, Richard Kubina chaired a meeting at the ABAI annual convention to help elect PennABA's first set of officers. With the creation of PennABA, service providers, teachers, students, and families in Pennsylvania gained a resource that fosters the application and growth of behavior analysis.

PennABA Updates

The PennABA Executive Council welcomed Keith Williams, Ph.D., BCBA, to its team over the last year. Dr. Williams will be serving as the interim executive director for PennABA under the counsel of current executive director, Richard Foxx, Ph.D., BCBA, who will assist Dr. Williams in learning the responsibilities of the position until a transition date is determined.

The PennABA Executive Council has also been working to support advocates and legislators in Pennsylvania to help shape the licensure laws for behavior analysts working in the state. PennABA has provided a letter of support for the Better Access to Treatment Act, legislation that has been proposed by state representatives Thomas Mehaffie and Thomas Murt. This act seeks to improve access to treatment for individuals suffering from a variety of mental health conditions, provide training standards for behavior analysts to become licensed in Pennsylvania, and allow for regulatory oversight to ensure best practices. We would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Cheryl Tierney-Aves, president of the ABA in PA initiative, for her efforts and leadership in this area.

PennABA held its annual conference this year in Hershey, PA, March 21 through March 23. This year, we were able to assemble a series of workshops and presentations that allowed BCBAs to earn continuing education credits to satisfy the ethics and supervision requirements outlined by the BACB. We were fortunate to have an esteemed panel of presenters this year, including Dr. Jon Bailey, Dr. Mary Jane Weiss, Dr. Tom Zane, Dr. Shawn Quigley, Dr. Patrick McGreevey, Dr. Jaimie DeQuinzo, Ms. Anna Marie DiPietro, and Dr. James Chok. The conference concluded with a lively discussion regarding ethical behavior by Drs. Bailey, Weiss, and Zane. Other presentation topics included extending the lens of behavior analysis by conceptualizing areas of study such as social referencing, cognition, and emotional states. A workshop examining the role of psychiatric medication in the treatment of challenging behavior and how behavior analysts can evaluate such interventions within a behavior analytic framework was offered. The conference was rounded out with talks on teaching practical, functional skills, and a review of how to conceptualize observational learning from a behavior analytic perspective, while also

understanding how to teach skills using this method in a practical manner.

Membership and event registration was strong again this year. We hosted over 200 attendees during the three-day conference, which also included a poster session highlighting emerging research from our region and a forum for exhibitors promoting the practice of behavior analysis in our area. We are considering adding other opportunities for continuing education across a wider region of the state in the upcoming year.

Closing

PennABA will continue to serve behavior analysts and consumers of behavior analysis in the region through continuing education and advocacy. We thank the members of PennABA, whose continued support is integral to all that PennABA has accomplished.

Philadelphia Metropolitan ABA

BY AMANDA FISHER

The Philadelphia Metropolitan Association for Behavior Analysis (PMABA) is the regional chapter of Philadelphia and surrounding areas, formerly known as the Delaware Valley Association for Behavior Analysis. The objective of PMABA is to provide continuing education and networking for behavior analysts in an informal setting that has the atmosphere of a social gathering. Another primary goal of PMABA is to increase cohesiveness among local behavior analysts who might otherwise be isolated as a result of working in diverse settings with service providers and researchers who are not behavior analytic, as many of our members are the only behavior analysts at their places of employment. Our email listserv provides announcements on local workshops, conferences, events, as well as employment opportunities and recent legislative or advocacy issues relevant to local behavior analysts.

PMABA seeks to better serve as a scientific and professional reference and networking group for its members by making a number of changes this year. This year PMABA has increased its board membership, held business meetings, continued membership efforts, revised bylaws, formalized financial procedures, revised the website, created online paying options, and is renewing its commitment to dissemination of information relevant to local behavior analysts as well as providing continuing education events each year. The chapter is led by the following executive council members: Amanda Guld Fisher, President; Beth Rosenwasser, Information Officer; Jessica Kendorski, Secretary; and Arthur Dowdy, Treasurer and Website and Membership Coordinator. We are always looking for members interested in getting involved in the organization and taking leadership positions. Please contact us if interested!

PMABA has recently become involved in supporting the ABA in PA initiative to support the proposed bill to license behavior analysts in Pennsylvania. PMABA has issued a formal letter of support for the bill, and members of the board have advocated with legislators and helped to edit the bill language. We also held a joint CEU event between the ABA in PA initiative and PMABA about the licensure act and ethical issues. PMABA is also sponsoring BACB CEUs for the ABA in PA annual conference including speakers Dr. Gina Green and Rick Murray.

We have continued regular Black Scorpion Society meetings, originally facilitated by Drs. Phil Hiline and Charles Catania. We've held five Black Scorpion meetings over the last year in which behavior analysts get together and discuss journal articles at a local watering hole. Dr. Phil Hiline often selects an article and leads discussion in these events, which is always a great way to satisfy our cravings for fun and intellectual conceptual debates and discussions. Dr. Don Hantula and Dr. Saul Axelrod have led discussions as well, facilitating a wide array of topics from consumer choice, to the double agent robot procedure, to deviancy training, to the future of behavior analysis.

The chapter has continued work to revise its bylaws and administrative procedures and updated its website (<http://pmabainfo.wixsite.com/pmaba>), which acts as a resource for local behavior analysts providing membership, event, and other important information. We added an online payment option for membership and CEUs. We held a membership drive in the fall and are planning future CEU events as well.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of PMABA should visit our website for membership information and contact Beth Rosenwasser at beth.rosenwasser@gmail.com to be added to our email listserv to receive information about upcoming events, job opportunities, and other local behavior analytic information.

Rhode Island ABA

BY ANAMARIA ARTEAGA

Rhode Island Association for Behavior Analysis (RIABA) has focused on the primary issue of state legislation that restricts funding for ABA services based on age, money, and diagnosis, and licensure laws for behavior analysts that will be outdated when the new BACB regulations are in place in 2022. Our members will continue to work on these issues in the upcoming year. We invited Judith Ursitti from Autism Speaks to educate our board members on the history of autism legislation efforts and the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA). She also presented to our members as part of a CEU event ("The Impact of BACB changes on Rhode Island's Rules and Regulations for Licensing Applied Behavior Analysts and Applied Behavior Assistant Analysts") to educate all our members on how to change legislation in the state. RIABA hosted

two other CEU events this past year, “Using Evidence-Based Technology for Assessment and Skills Acquisition Within a Classroom Setting” and “The Development of an Alternative Agency-Wide PBS Model for Adults and Students With Severe and Profound ID.” The group has prioritized efforts to be active on social media (Facebook) and has developed a website for dissemination of events, applied behavior analysis, legislation, and resources. The group will continue to prioritize legislative efforts, CEU events for professional development, and dissemination through social media this upcoming year. To become a member or to collaborate with RIABA please visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/RhodeIslandABA) and our website (www.rhodeislandaba.com) or send us an email (rhodeislandaba@gmail.com).

Texas ABA

BY SARAH LECHAGO

TxABA Executive Council

The 2018–2019 Executive Council consisted of president Sarah Lechago, past-president Dorothea Lerman, and present-elect Kate Johnson-Patagoc. The Executive Council voted to consolidate the position of treasurer and secretary, currently occupied by Rachel Kramer. During the 2018 TxABA annual regional conference, a new student representative, Kenya Myles from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, was elected. A new student representative will be elected during the 2019 TxABA annual regional conference (March 14–17). Additionally, at the 2018 conference Heather Barahona stepped down and the Executive Council appointed a new executive director, Zachary Morford. Heather trained Zachary for the past year, and she has officially stepped down from the position. Sarah Lechago will serve as president until May 31, 2019, at which point she will step into the role of past-president, and Kate Johnson-Patagoc will assume the role of president. The Executive Council members included Regina Crone, Tashenna Gillmore, Jeffrey Dillen, and Lee Mason. Tashenna Gillmore and Lee Mason will step down May 31, 2019. An election for two Executive Council members was held in March 2019. The two new council members will be Karen Toussaint and Tashenna Gillmore (re-elected). Their terms will officially begin April 1, 2019. The TxABA website has been updated, and it is newly organized and offers additional resources including journals, access to the TxABA bylaws, and a list of the TxABA affiliations (ABAI and APBA).

Committees

TxABA's Public Policy Committee (PPG) includes president Gordon Bourland, vice-president Kate Johnson-Patagoc, secretary Jennifer Fritz, and treasurer Regina Crone. The TxABA president, Sarah Lechago, is a member

of the TxABA PPG and attends the PPG meetings as a representative of TxABA. The PPG played a critical role in monitoring legislative activities and was instrumental in establishing licensure for behavior analysts (BCBAs and BCaBAs) in the state. Licensure was enacted June 15, 2017. Practitioners were required to be licensed by September 1, 2018, in order to practice in Texas. Gordon Bourland is part of the ABAI Licensing Committee and works with other members of this committee to monitor licensing in Texas. In addition, Dr. Bourland is a member of the Behavior Analysis Advisory Board and is currently the presiding officer. The PPG will continue to focus on monitoring licensure in Texas, and it has turned its efforts to expansion of insurance coverage for ABA services.

Currently, the PPG is focusing on pursuing Medicaid funding for intensive behavioral intervention (IBI) ABA services. Texas's Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has placed IBI services into their Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) as an Exceptional Item (EI) the past two legislative sessions. Unfortunately in 2017, it didn't make the final LAR but it's currently EI#45 in the current LAR for the 2019 session. The PPG representatives and members have been steadfast in attending legislative sessions and educating legislators about the importance of obtaining Medicaid coverage for IBI ABA services. The PPG has its first Leadership Circle sponsors of 2019: (1) Blue Spring Autism, (2) Spectrum of Hope, and (3) sustaining sponsors Panhandle ABA Resource Association and Stable Life Concepts. Supporting sponsors include (1) Children's Autism Center, (2) Behavioral Perspective Inc., and (3) Central Texas Autism Center. As you can see, the PPG is very active with our state government, representing and protecting ABA practitioners and consumers of ABA services in the state of Texas.

The Professional Issues Committee focuses on professional development strategies for TxABA membership, and is chaired by Jennifer Kaut-Hines. During the summer of 2018, Jennifer reached out to Sarah and Zach regarding refining the focus of their committee. The committee had suggested that they focus on making it easier for Texas practitioners to find important information, like updates to insurance requirements. They suggested adding a page for their committee to the TxABA website where they would post updates on important information and resources. Zachary is currently working with Jennifer on this.

Special Interest Groups

In 2018–2019, TxABA had five active special interest groups (SIGs). Traci Cihon served as president of Behaviorists for Social Responsibility. Kimberlee Flatt served as president of the DFW Area Autism SIG. Domonique Randall served as president of the OBM SIG. Erika Hamer served as the president of the Behavior

Analysis in Public Education SIG. Alison Baucom served as the President of the Austin SIG.

Annual Conference and TxABA Awards

The TxABA 33rd Regional Conference will be March 14–17 at the Worthington Renaissance Forth Worth Hotel. There are approximately 1,200 registrants. Attendees typically include professional behavior analysts, faculty, students, teachers, caregivers of individuals with development disabilities, and service providers from related disciplines. Sponsors include Butterfly Effects, Behavioral Innovations, Central Texas Autism Center, Children's Autism Center, DataFinch Technologies, First Leap Pediatric Therapy, Pathfinder Health Innovations, Therapy & Beyond, and The Shape of Behavior.

The conference will include eight tracks. The General Track includes speakers Dr. Traci Cihon (University of North Texas), Dr. Aecio Borba (Universidade Federal do Pará and University of North Texas), Dr. Jeff Danforth (Eastern Connecticut State University), Dr. Lynn Bowman (Kennedy Krieger Institute), Dr. Richard Smith (University of North Texas), Dr. Daniele Ortu (University of North Texas), and Dr. Adam Brewer (Florida Institute of Technology). Topics will include reinforcer contrast, OBM strategies in human service settings, behavior analytic perspective on values, and anterograde amnesia.

Invited speakers in the Autism Track 1 include Drs. Louis Hagopian (Kennedy Krieger Institute), Shahla Ala'i-Rosales (University of North Texas), Christopher Podlesnik (Florida Institute of Technology), Carla Smith (University of North Texas), Richard Smith (University North Texas), Einar Ingvarsson (Virginia Institute of Autism), Kerri Peters (University of Florida), and Allison Berard (Behavior Launch). Topics include practical functional assessment, life skills instruction, improving quality of care, and predictive behavioral markers.

Invited speakers in the Autism Track 2 include Drs. Kathryn Peterson (University of Nebraska Medical Center, Munroe-Meyer Institute), Mark Dixon (Southern Illinois


University), Adel Najdowski (Pepperdine University), Corey Stocco (University of the Pacific), and Tamara Kasper (The Center for Autism Treatment). Topics include lying behavior, PEAK curriculum, derived relational responding, and teaching executive functioning.

Invited speakers in the Professional Track include Dr. Sarah Lechago (University of Houston–Clear Lake), Kenya Myles (University of Houston–Clear Lake), Jelisa Scott (ABA Sensei, PLLC), Dr. Andrew Gardner (University of Arizona), Dr. Bridget Taylor (Alpine Learning Group), Dr. Eileen Roscoe (New England Center for Children), Dr. Pamela Neidert (University of Kansas), and Rachel Hoffman (University of Houston–Clear Lake). Topics include models of ABA service delivery, child compliance with healthcare routines, increasing ally self-awareness and advocating for inclusion, and assessment and treatment of feeding disorders.

Invited speakers in the Education Track include Drs. Christopher Perrin (Georgian Court University), Laurilyn Jones (The Mechner Foundation), Jennifer Hamrick (Texas Tech University), Lee Mason (University of Texas at San Antonio), Dorothea Lerman (University of Houston–Clear Lake), Andrew Kieta (Morningside Academy), and Kendra Newsome (FIT Learning). Topics include social-emotional learning, early intervention, bringing behavior analysis to low-SES schools, and ABA in college.

Invited speakers in the OBM Track include Dr. Terry McSween (Quality Safety Edge), Dr. Aubrey Daniels (Aubrey Daniels International), Dr. Carl Binder (The Performance Thinking Network, LLC), Dr. Summer Adami (Blue Sprig Pediatrics), Dr. Jennifer Dantzler (Including Kids), and Dr. Morgan Stockdale (Central Texas Autism Center). Topics include visible leadership, accomplishment-based performance management, and OBM in ABA clinics.

The Research Track speakers include Drs. Kenneth Leising (Texas Christian University), Elizabeth Kyonka (University of New England, Australia), Christa McIntyre (University of Texas at Dallas), Caio Miguel (California State University, Sacramento), and Kristen Rost (Troy



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University). Topics include vagus nerve stimulation and conditioned fear extinction, successive matching to sample, and studying the value of choice.

The Social Issues Track speakers include Drs. Neil Martin (Behavior Analyst Certification Board), Molly Ola Pinney (Global Autism Project), Kathleen Ryan Jackson (National Implementation Research Network), Claudia Drossel (Eastern Michigan University), and Aecio Borba (Universidade Federal do Pará and University of North Texas). Topics include training behavior analysts around the world; culture, behavior, and common pool resources; and lessons learned from international service delivery.

TxABA will also present the following awards at the 2019 conference: (1) Laurie Snyder for Public Service Contributions to Behavior Analysis in Texas, (2) Carl Sloan for Public Service Contributions to Behavior Analysis in Texas, (3) Shahla Ala'i-Rosales for Career Contributions to Behavior Analysis in Texas, (4) Heather Barahona for Distinguished Service to TxABA, and (5) the Hemingway Award to Dr. Richard Smith. Each year, if revenue permits, TxABA awards James L. Kopp Memorial Scholarships to students of behavior analysis who plan to present their research at the upcoming ABAI convention. These competitive scholarships of \$500 each are intended to help defray the cost of attending the convention. A student must be listed as the presenting author of an accepted poster or symposium presentation to be eligible to apply. Additionally, TxABA also awards the TxABA Student Scholarship. This scholarship provides financial support to full-time students to attend the annual TxABA conference, but are unable to pay conference registration fees due to financial hardship. The poster session will feature TxABA's annual student poster competition. We look forward to all the quality research posters at this year's session and giving awards to two students.

The outstanding 2019 conference committee consists

of conference coordinator and executive director Zachary Morford, staffing director Mariah Hope, transportation coordinator Kenya Myles, BACB ACE provider Rachel Kramer, TSHA ACE provider Christina Martin, tech/media coordinator Evan Stone, and program chairs Carla Smith, Joe Dracoby, Jennifer Fritz, Domonique Randall, Wes Dotson, Karen Toussaint, Lee Mason, and Anna Petursdottir. PowerPoint slides many presentations will be accessible through the TxABA website.

Upcoming Activity


The upcoming year is an extremely busy one for TxABA. We, along with the TxABA PPG, will continue to work with a lobbyist to obtain Medicaid coverage for IBI ABA services in Texas. Additionally, we will hire a PR professional and will hold the first annual retreat meeting, in August 2019. TxABA has been invited to play a pivotal role in developing the newly formed state ABA association summit. The first meeting will be in June 2019 in New Orleans, LA. The 2020 conference will be April 23–26 at the Hyatt Regency San Antonio.

Vermont ABA

BY AUDREY HOFFMANN

Vermont ABA (VtABA), established in 2004, has continued fulfilling its mission to support the growth of behavior analysis in the state of Vermont. The current board consists of 12 members, including one student member.

VtABA organized and hosted two recent events. We held a free ethics training January 11, 2019, in conjunction with our annual business meeting. Over 70 people attended the meeting, and Dr. Matthew Brodhead presented on taking a systems approach to ethical training. This meeting was a great opportunity for current members to obtain free CEUs. We also hosted an annual conference on April 12 in



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Burlington. Over 100 members attended presentations by Dr. Greg Hanley and Dr. Mary Jane Weiss.

This year our board voted on the creation of new subcommittees that took a role in improving our chapter. The social media committee has been thoughtfully drafting guidelines and increasing dissemination through various platforms. Our event committee organized and executed our first networking and collaboration event specifically targeting practitioners in southern Vermont. We intend to host other events in future months and are also planning to offer discounted and free CEU online/webinar events to members. Our website committee worked on necessary updates and improvements to the VtABA website to streamline membership, registration, and event processes. In the future this committee intends to increase the resource section of the website and examine creation of an employment section to post Vermont opportunities to members.

The board has spent considerable time updating systems and procedures, including updating and revising financial records and processes, reviewing the chapter's governance and bylaws, improving yearly timelines for board functioning, and operationalizing board member roles and responsibilities. For more information please visit us:

- Website: www.vtaba.org
- Facebook: VT ABA
- Twitter: @Vt_ABA
- Instagram: #vt_aba

Virginia ABA

BY CHRISTY EVANKO

The Virginia Association for Behavior Analysis (VABA) boasts almost 700 members! Last year, we increased membership by 35%. The Commonwealth of Virginia has the eighth-largest number of BCBA-Ds, BCBAs, and BCaBAs (combined) in the United States. The association has been in existence since 2003 and is a 501(c)(6) organization. VABA contracts with a lobbyist and an administrative director.

This year we worked with our lobbyist to introduce a bill to include Licensed Behavior Analysts (LBAs) and Licensed Assistant Behavior Analysts as support staff in public schools. That bill did not pass; however, language was included in the budget to allow for the hiring of LBAs to help school counselors with their workloads. We have an active Policy Committee and are continually looking for areas to facilitate and disseminate behavior analysis in Virginia. We are currently focused on Virginia Medicaid's behavioral health redesign and ensuring that behavior analysts are included in the workforce as appropriate.

Last fiscal year, VABA distributed four newsletters that were each opened by more than half of members. We published blog posts with information that affects practitioners in Virginia, including public comment recommendations. We communicated to over 1,000 people via Facebook and over 800 via Twitter. We held an annual conference in Roanoke that had over 300 attendees and 26




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sponsors. We held two continuing education events (apart from the conference) and a happy hour. Non-conference income comprised 29% of our budget. Our annual report can be found on our website, www.virginiaaba.org/about.

To make sure we are meeting our members' needs, we produce a survey annually. Survey data are used to help create our strategic plan. This year, we continued our goals from the prior year: Goal 1—Improve Viability and Sustainability of the Organization; Goal 2—Provide Quality Service to Our Members; Goal 3—Advocate for the Science of Behavior Analysis in the Commonwealth.

We are set to hold a conference in Reston in April of 2019 and are on track to exceed last year's numbers. We have over 1,000 likes on Facebook and continue to communicate to our followers on a regular basis. We are frequently monitoring our strategic plan to find better ways of serving our members. We hope to hold more networking events, including a student exam prep event, and offer more continuing education opportunities beyond our conference. In August we began a monthly webinar series with continuing education credits. We also will be launching a new and improved website in spring of 2019.

VABA membership offers many benefits, including an annual conference, networking opportunities, quarterly newsletters, CEU offerings (including the conference and

beyond), members-only resources, lobbying and policy efforts, and discounts on a variety of outside products. The VABA Board of Directors works diligently to make sure we are relevant to behavior analysts in Virginia. We meet quarterly and stay in continual contact to provide benefits that our members need and ask for. We are proud to represent behavior analysis in Virginia.

West Virginia BAA

BY CLAIRE ST. PETER

This year, we expanded our annual meeting to include the provision of continuing education units (in collaboration with West Virginia University). The annual meeting was a great chance for behavior analysts across the state to catch up and discuss issues impacting the science and practice of behavior analysis in West Virginia. We also continued to collaborate with the Mountaineer Autism Project to enhance behavior analytic services for West Virginians diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. We are in the process of updating our website and membership forms to make it easier for interested parties to find and join us. ❖



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Updates From ABAI's Non-U.S.A. Affiliated Chapters

ABA Saudi Arabia

BY MONA ALHADDAD AND FAISAL ALNEMARY

ABA Saudi Arabia was accepted as an affiliated chapter of ABAI on May 31, 2013. Five years since the establishment of the chapter, ABA Saudi Arabia is taking responsibility to commit to its mission statement.

ABA Saudi Arabia was established with the mission to disseminate information about the science of behavior analysis and support the development of and access to behavior analytic services for people in need. To accomplish this mission, the chapter seeks to support the development of graduate opportunities for appropriate candidates in Saudi Arabia, plan and support continuing education (CE) for practicing behavior analysts, and advocate for the right to community-based access to behavior analytic services through governmental and regulatory channels.

The founding and current officers are Faisal Alnemary, Ph.D., BCBA, president; Mona AlHaddad, MA, BCBA, vice president; Shayma Omar, Ph.D., secretary; Shumaila Jaffrey, treasurer; and Amal Abulayiah, BS, BCaBA, publications and marketing officer.

ABA Saudi Arabia currently has a membership of around 70, consisting of practicing behavior analysts, students (graduate and undergraduate), speech pathologists, and community-based individuals interested in behavior analysis in Saudi Arabia. As one aim of our mission is to disseminate the science of ABA to different communities in Saudi Arabia, the chapter continues to provide workshops to people in the community including parents, practitioners at intervention centers (e.g., Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, HRH Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Autism Centers, Jeddah Autism Center, Saudi Association for Autism, Jeddah Institute for Speech and Hearing), and school teachers. Many who attend these workshops are looking for certification in ABA through accredited short courses or intense seminars (e.g., RBTs). Due to this fact, the chapter's mission is to keep spreading awareness of ABA and credentialed people who are qualified to provide ABA services.

In addition, this year the chapter is committed to regulating the practice of ABA and its profession through the Saudi Health Council (SHC) and the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCHS). The chapter is continuing the efforts that were taken last year (mentioned in the previous report), when Dr. Alnemary and Al Anoud Al Saud, BCBA, on behalf of all practicing behavior analysts in Saudi Arabia, presented a proposal to the SHC to establish the Saudi Board for Behavior Analysis, and when Dr. Alnemary along with Al Anoud Al Saud and Dr. Nouf Alzrayer, BCBA, met with officials

at the SCHS asking for a committee to be formed. That is, the chapter prepared a mini-proposal that was presented to representatives of the SCHS. Their feedback was that the submitted version needed additional information about the ranks, points of entry, curriculum, supervision description, competencies and CEUs, etc.

Also, we have a great commitment to inform members about the chapter's activities, and in most meetings that involves taking the chapter forward. For example, on April 12, 2018, the chapter held a virtual meeting and invited members to participate in developing a proposal to SCHS and discussed the current status of the board. This meeting was headed by Dr. Alnemary, with participation by Dr. Shayma Omar and Shumaila Jaffrey, chapter members, and others interested in ABA. One of the major decisions made at this meeting was following up with the SHC about licensure for certified behavior analysts to legalize the practice of ABA in Saudi Arabia and finalize the application to SCHS.

The chapter plans collaborative work with educational, governmental, and regulatory channels and also carries on with its mission and participating in major related conferences in Saudi Arabia (e.g., the First National Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics Conference in Riyadh, April 15–16, and The BLUE DAY: Autism Awareness Campaign in Jeddah, April 25–28).

Carrying out its mission to disseminate ABA to the Arabic-speaking community, ABA Saudi Arabia is heavily involved in translating ABA-related documents. This year, we added the BACB Experience Standards and Forms, in addition to previously translated documents:

- Compliance code
- Glossary version 1
- Glossary version 2
- 4th edition task list
- RBT task list
- RBT competency assessment

Furthermore, Dar Al-Hekma University just started a Master of Science Program in ABA, where Dr. Lamis Baowidan, BCBA-D, is the program director, who is an active member of our chapter. The chapter aims to add more members from this program to be actively involved in meeting the chapter's objectives.

In addition, the chapter is focusing on collaborating with designated sectors in health and education to provide short courses and training for their employees in addition to designing an accredited degree in ABA.

Finally, we are planning to recruit new officers due to the relocation of the previous chapter officers, followed by marketing the chapter and recruiting new members and increasing training to promote awareness about ABA.

ABA Saudi Arabia welcomes members at the full, affiliate, and student levels. Membership is open to all individuals interested or actively engaged in behavior analysis. For the time being until we become an associate chapter, any person wishing to become a member must submit a completed application form and pay annual membership dues. Contact abasaudiarabia@gmail.com or malhaddad@dah.edu.sa for membership information.

ABA Switzerland

BY AMANDA REBERT

In 2018, our committee members remained in the same roles. We welcomed a webmaster to create and re-launch our website.

In an effort to help disseminate our wonderful science amongst the autism community, ABA Switzerland participated in the World Autism Awareness day event organized by the 2nd of April Committee in Lausanne this year. These events comprised a month-long showcase of adult artists at the University Hospitals of Lausanne and Geneva as well as information sessions on all the various aspects of autism spectrum disorders. Members of ABA Switzerland were on hand to respond to the public's questions regarding services and interventions available. The artwork and sale of books were displayed for the month of April to raise awareness among all visitors of the hospital.

Another activity of our organization is to provide behavior analytic professionals with opportunities to enrich their practice. In March 2018, ABA Switzerland hosted a webinar titled "OBM and Leadership: What Behaviour Science Has Taught Us About Leadership" with Manny Rodriguez, BCBA. He provided an engaging discussion with an intimate group of our members practicing in Switzerland, France, and Germany. His resources were well received by all attendees. In June 2018, we welcomed Ruth Anne Rehfeldt, BCBA-D, to speak about Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and its implications in an ABA program. The 12 attendees enjoyed her presentation as well as the question and answer session that followed.

In 2018 we attempted to reestablish "Coffee Time" (i.e., a regular group meeting) to lead discussions regarding areas of concern in our profession across Switzerland. As a group we came together to discuss a PEAK Relational Training System training that our members participated in. They were looking to create a support network within Switzerland in order to properly assess and implement skills and objectives.

Our goals for 2019 are to re-launch our website in order to provide more information for both behavior analytic and non-behavior analytic professionals, parents, and anyone interested in behavior analysis in Switzerland. Our hope is that it will be launched in March 2019. We will also continue to research and contact professionals abroad in

order to offer free webinars with CEUs for our members. We would also like to continue working on establishing focus groups in order to allow for collaboration across the various regions of Switzerland. As the various cantons and regions approve and advance at different stages, this will allow members to become a closer-knit group as well as to spread our news and advances in the field of behavior analysis. We would also like to streamline processes and systems for the committee members for future professionals wishing to become a part of the committee. We will continue to support neighboring countries in translation projects.

ABA Turkey

BY ELIF TEKIN-IFTAR

ABA Turkey enjoyed a successful 2018. We organized our first national workshop and conference with international participation on June 8, 2018, in Eskisehir, Turkey. The conference focused on functional analysis and managing challenging behaviors of individual with autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disabilities. This conference was a collaboration between ABA Turkey and the Department of Applied Behavior Analysis, Graduate School of Social Science, Anadolu University. There was a workshop called "Functional Analysis: Tips and Guidelines for Practitioners," and the conference theme was Current Research in Trial-Based Functional Analysis. We invited Dr. Sarah Bloom from the University of South Florida and Dr. Joseph Michael Lambert from Vanderbilt University. More than 250 participants attended from across Turkey. The participants were from special education and other related areas. There was no fee for registration. We conducted this conference with funds from our 2014 conference, and Anadolu University provided the venue.

In addition, we developed an ABA Turkey website in Turkish, the chapter leader and secretary remained same, and in 2019 we plan to make sure the chapter adheres to Turkish laws and regulations.

Alberta ABA

BY NICOLE JEDRZEJEWSKI, MIRANDA MACAULEY, AND RENAI SVEINSON

The Alberta Association for Behaviour Analysis (AltaABA) enjoyed a successful second year as an affiliated chapter. Our membership grew from its initial six board members to a current total of 30 members. The profession also continues to grow in Alberta, Canada, from our last report of 30 certificants in the province to 41 in March 2019! AltaABA has been engaging with our community of individuals interested in behavior analysis by hosting four social events over the past year. In addition, our members benefited from free access to the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* to keep them informed of current research.

In May 2018, following our second annual general meeting, AltaABA's board of directors welcomed new members into the positions of president, president-elect, member at large, and student member at large. At that time, the new members of the board were nominated for their positions uncontested.

In November 2018, AltaABA officially became recognized as an incorporated society under the Societies Act of Alberta. Incorporation signaled a formal beginning for AltaABA as it became an independent legal entity with a protected name in the province.

In December 2018, the board of directors renewed its commitment to developing and strengthening governance practices to better serve our membership by attending a governance workshop hosted by the Government of Alberta Board Development Program.

As of May 2019, AltaABA's board of directors consists of 10 elected members: president, president-elect, treasurer, public relations, secretary, student member at large, and four members at large. Furthermore, a member of the board of directors attended the leadership training at the ABAI annual convention in May 2019, to network with other chapters and better support the future development of AltaABA.

For more information about AltaABA or to join please visit our website, Altaaba.ca, or follow us on Facebook or Twitter!

Association for the Advancement of Radical Behavior Analysis

BY PAOLA SILVA AND FABIO TOSOLIN

Each year, the Association for the Advancement of Radical Behavior Analysis (AARBA) works to disseminate behavior analysis thought Italy and Europe and supports research and collaboration in order to fulfill its mission. We are happy and proud to highlight many of the major achievements from the 2018–2019:

Thanks to our coordinator, Dr. Leasha Barry, for helping the chapter get its 5th Edition Verified Course Sequence (VCS) application approved. We hope to set up a 2-year academic behavior analysis course that will help prepare students for the BCBA exam. The recent need for a valid international certification in our field, like the BCBA, is evident considering how many ABA-like courses have formed—and prospered—in the last few years. Italians are finally giving behavior analysis a chance to do what other methods and disciplines have failed at: provide their children with equitable and measurable learning opportunities. We are happy and eager to offer Italian professionals and families an alternative to fake, useless, and often detrimental, courses that are all too common.

Starting a VCS, supported and directly supervised by the main authority in the field (ABAI), we will offer Italy what is really needed: a competent and trustworthy new class of behavior analysts.

In March 2019, our president, Fabio Tosolin, was asked to serve as a member of the ABAI Affiliated Chapters Board. We are happy and proud to bring our perspective as a non-U.S. chapter to the board, for the term 2019–2022.

During the 45th Annual Convention, Dr. Michael Dougher presented Dr. Tosolin with the SABA Award for International Dissemination.

One of the companies we have helped in the realization and maintenance of behavior-based safety processes received the Gold Behavioral Safety Accreditation from the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies (CCBS). This is the first such accomplishment for an Italian firm and for this reason, we consider it more than personal pride or good news for Italian behavior-based safety: It's a milestone for our whole country. In fact, because of the stringent criteria for accreditation and the amazing results attained, this will help us fight against skeptics and imposters and provide a powerful marketing tool for the spread of our science.

Our small association puts great effort toward the progress and dissemination of ABA in our country. In order to achieve significant results, in 2018–2019 our main activities were the following:

The organization and participation in national and international events. First, we joined the CCBS Board of Directors and Trustees Meeting (San Diego, May 29, 2018), to report on progress in the advancement of ABA applications in Italy.

Second, in partnership with AIAMC, we hosted the Applied Behavior Analysis Conference (Como, Italy, June 14–15, 2018), covering many of the applications of the field. More than 350 attendees (psychologists, psychotherapists, psychiatrist, HSE managers, HR managers, consultants, and more) participated. There were two sessions dedicated to behavior-based safety and performance management (it was the 12th edition of our European conference on these subjects), and two dedicated to behavioral therapy and behavioral medicine. International speakers were the CCBS executive director Rob Holdsambeck, Jonathan Krispin, Steve Roberts, Michael McCarthy, and Janis Allen. For the occupational session, we worked together with the local employers' federation and hosted CEOs and HSE managers from companies that have implemented behavioral management systems. The focus of the conference was on the “dark side” of the application of behavior analysis.

Third, we took part in Ambiente Lavoro (Bologna, Italy, October 17–18, 2018), the national fair dedicated to occupational safety and health. We had a booth and three meetings in order to promote behavior-based safety in organizations and keep saving workers' lives.

AARBA works to assist companies that have problems with their behavior management programs. In 2018, for example, we went to Southern Italy because the safety manager at a production site of a multinational company realized that their safety program was far from the principles of behavior analysis, and they were having problems with safety incidents. First, we assessed their process following the Italian certification guidelines (shared with CCBS), and second we helped them re-organize their behavioral safety program, with great results.

One of the activities we are carrying out for preserving the integrity of behavior analysis interventions is teaching behavior analysis principles to safety professionals, explaining how to train and motivate safe behaviors. In 2018, we organized the 35th and 36th editions of our 80-hour behavior-based safety master course, and at the beginning of 2019, we prepared and realized a 4-day course to teach state safety inspectors the value of a BBS program and how to distinguish a good behavioral safety program in a company. Moreover, our president and the director of our BBS area are professors of human factors with the Safety Engineering Department at Milan Polytechnic University.

Because of our involvement with Milan Polytechnic University, some students ask for our support for their experiments and dissertation research. At the moment, we are supporting two student projects: one dedicated to the role of the “preposto” (a role required by the Italian safety laws) and its involvement and influence in the BBS process, and another dedicated to the impact of immediate and delayed feedback on safety behaviors. Details and results will be available for the next report.

Association Française— Les Professionnels de l'Analyse du Comportement

BY DIANE FRASER

Association Française—Les Professionnels de l'Analyse du Comportement (AFLPA) is pleased to announce the status of a new online program—the first VCS completely in French. Textbooks and journal articles will be translated, as will all lectures given by anglophones. This program launched in September 2019. There are already many inquiries. Dr. Fraser, AFLPA's coordinator, has a new administrative partner, Helene Abdenour.

Atlantic Provinces ABA

BY KIMBERLY MAICH

The Atlantic Provinces Association for Behaviour Analysis (APABA) serves behavior analysts, educators, interventionists, partner professionals, and others interested in behavioral science and its application in the four Atlantic Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island.

APABA recently marked our fourth anniversary as an affiliated chapter of ABAA. We are amazed by the growth in membership since our inception in 2014, from 44 members in our first year to a slightly decreased membership of 64 at 2018's AGM. We have 55 full members, 6 student members, 2 affiliate members, and 1 honorary member; 11 of these are new members. Although the wide geographical region served by APABA poses some unique challenges, we also recognize the benefits and opportunities we are



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afforded by drawing together behavior analysts, educators, interventionists, partner professionals, and others interested in behavioral science and its application in the Atlantic provinces. We've also seen a continued increase in the number of members and partner professionals completing the requirements to become certified by the BACB since the inception of APABA. While there were 16 board certified behavior analysts or board certified assistant behavior analysts in Atlantic Canada in 2014, and 26 in 2017, we now have 51 (NB=29; NL=3; NS=15; PEI=4; www.bacb.com).

A primary goal of APABA is to promote and encourage the development and awareness of the science of behavior analysis through research, education, and practice within our region. We also seek to facilitate networking and expand opportunities for professional connection and collaboration among and between our members and others in the field. To that end, APABA has participated in multiple ABAI annual conventions, presenting posters in San Antonio (2015), Chicago (2016), Denver (2017), San Diego (2018), and again in Chicago (2019). In order to support the professional learning needs of our members, we dedicate a portion of our annual general meeting each fall to continuing education, focusing on areas of emerging need and interest among members. Past keynote presenters have included Drs. Robyn Catagnus and Elizabeth Fong, who shared their work on increasing cultural competence in behavior analysts, supporting APABA members to engage in more culturally proficient professional practice. Our 2018 AGM professional development was led by Drs. Kelly Schieltz, Matthew O'Briend, and Todd Kopelman, who trained attendees on the use of telehealth to train and coach interventionists supporting learners with ASD. Our members have also presented at other ABAI conferences, such as in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Paris, France. Our members are delivering training throughout and beyond the Atlantic provinces and at times internationally, such as in Switzerland and France.

Since APABA serves such a broad geographical region, it is essential that we make effective and efficient use of electronic media and web-based platforms as we seek to support current members and reach prospective new members. The APABA Executive Council, along with the Communications and Public Education Committees, release newsletters each year to share information about recent and upcoming events. The APABA website (www.atlanticprovincesaba.com), which continues to evolve, is also an integral tool for communicating with members. Not only does it provide a central location for sharing information and resources, it has also been expanded this year to allow for online registration and payment for APABA events (as well as online donations to our local awards) and to provide a gateway to APABA's social media presence through our Facebook page and Twitter account.

Online study groups have also become a valuable

addition to APABA's professional development and continuing education efforts. We have completed a range of highly successful web-based study groups through which members have had the opportunity to critically evaluate and discuss selections from the scholarly literature in the field. Our most recent topic was a supervision framework.

In 2017, APABA began "Behaviour Bits," a blog featuring submissions from members on topics highlighting the application of behavioral science to everyday situations (<https://behaviourbits.com>). Recently, members have provided insight for readers into self-monitoring using apps, understanding time-outs and considering alternatives, and getting ahead of selective listening.

APABA continues to provide awards to its members, including the recently established Verna O'Coin Memorial Bursary, the Marlene Breitenbach Award, and the William L. Heward Behaviour Change Award for a Sustainable Future.

Last year, we created a Membership & Engagement Committee. We also recently updated our status as an ACE provider. Another major activity led with success by our now-past president Isabelle Cowan was the development of our strategic plan (2018–2020), a lengthy and involved process.

APABA has been the beneficiary of a host of gracious gestures and an abundance of support from behavior analysts and partner professionals since we first set out on this journey four years ago. We continue to extend our sincere appreciation to all who have helped us along the way. As our membership continues to grow and as we extend our reach across Atlantic Canada, our goal is to continue and build upon the initiatives that we have begun and to create new opportunities and pathways to share the value of behavioral science throughout our region. As part of this movement, we have been encouraging social get-togethers in our varied geographic regions. We also look forward to and welcome opportunities to connect with other ABAI-affiliated chapters across Canada and beyond to expand opportunities for professional learning, networking, and collaboration. Such collaboration currently includes consideration around non-monetary sponsorship of Newfoundland & Labrador's first local one-day ASD-focused conference entitled "Straight Talk About ASD" (October 2019) (St. John's, NL) and collaborating with UNB for the two-day Atlantic Provinces Autism Conference "Breaking Barriers, Building Understanding" (November 2019; Fredericton, NB).

Australian Association for Cognitive Behaviour Therapy

BY PETER POHLMAN

Throughout 2018, AACBT hosted two national speaking tours and a further 25 branch events; the format of these events varied between master classes, workshops, and informal pub discussions. Examples of some of the topics covered include mindfulness, art therapy, grief, autism, neuropsychotherapy, gender issues, PTSD, psychosis, and exposure therapy.

The president of AACBT is the 2014 AACBT Distinguished Career Award winner, Professor Amanda Baker. Professor Baker (BArts, M.Psych, Ph.D.) is a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Senior Research Fellow employed as a research academic in the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Newcastle, NSW. Amanda has over 20 years of research experience and has also worked as a clinical psychologist in both mental health and substance abuse treatment settings. She leads a team trialing novel psychological interventions for co-existing mental health and tobacco, alcohol, and other drug problems.

Our activities in 2019 included more than 35 events, including two national speaking tours (Matthew Flinders and distinguished professor Tracey Wade, and Rachel E. Menzies and professor Ross G. Menzies), two visiting international speakers (professor Susan Bogels and professor emeritus David A. Clark), and the 40th National AACBT Conference. Some of the topics to be covered throughout 2019 include chronic pain, compassion-focused therapy, sleep, childhood trauma, perfectionism, dread of death, gender-diverse clients, and anxiety. State-based branches perform many hours of voluntary work to prepare and host events held within their jurisdiction, and the National Board thanks them and the National Workshops Coordinator for their ongoing time and effort.

AACBT is hosting our National Conference this year in Adelaide, South Australia. AACBT is continuing our Early–Mid Career Travel Grants available to AACBT members to support travel to the conference following acceptance of either an oral or poster presentation. AACBT will award complimentary scientific program registration, plus up to \$1,000 to help cover eligible travel expenses for the applicant to attend the conference. This initiative invests in the CBT community of Australia and encourages ongoing research into CBT. The board thanks our National Conference Coordinator for their service in supervising our largest annual event.

In 2016 we moved to our new web portal, and improvements to this portal have continued, with the addition in 2019 of conference abstract submissions. Members have access to an exclusive area of the website, which includes access to our annual reports and our

journal (*Behaviour Change*).

The board recognizes the work of the editor and editorial board of *Behaviour Change*, who are overseeing the growth and improvements for our journal.

Members of AACBT based in Australia and who meet the AACBT's national standards for CBT training and practice can apply for National Accreditation as a Cognitive Behavioural Therapist. This service to members is continuing in 2019, and the board thanks the Director of Memberships and Accreditation for their ongoing work.

AACBT offers two annual awards to recognize achievements in the field of cognitive and behavior therapy. These are awarded at the National Conference, and the recipients are invited to address the conference being held during the year of their award. These awards are “The Tracy Goodall Early Career Award” (the 2018 winner was Dr. Carly Johnco) and the “Distinguished Career Award for Contribution to Cognitive or Behavioural Research and Therapy” (won in 2018 by Emeritus Professor Sue Spence).

AACBT would like to acknowledge our Fellows: Professor Peter Lovibond, Professor Michael Kyrios, Professor Matthew Sanders, Professor Colin MacLeod, Professor Tracey Wade, Professor Ross Young, Professor Mark Dadds, Professor Mark Creamer, Professor Kim Halford, Professor Nicole Lee, and Dr. Sarah Egan as they continue to contribute to the CBT community in Australia and assist AACBT throughout the year.

Behaviour Analysis in Ireland

BY HELENA LYDON

Conference Reviews 2017–2018

The 12th Annual Conference of the Division of Behavior Analysis (DBA), Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI), was April 27–28 in Galway. The DBA are delighted that this meeting is growing in attendance year on year. As in previous years, the meeting was well supported by the behavior analysis community, with leading experts from Ireland and the US.

Twelfth Annual Conference at Trinity College Dublin

The conference commenced on Friday 27 April with a series of three workshops: (1) Dr. Aoife McTiernan (University of South Wales) and Dr. Claire McDowell (Ulster University) entitled “An Introduction to Precision Teaching in Practice,” (2) Dr. Keith Williams called “My Child Will Not Eat! Identifying, Evaluating, and Managing Feeding Problems,” and (3) Dr. Ian Stewart (National University of Ireland Galway), Dr. Diana Ferroni Bast (Federal University of Sao Carlos, Brazil), and Ms. Elle Kristen (National University of Ireland Galway) titled “Assessing and Training Young Children Using Relational Frame Theory.” The day concluded with an update by Prof. Julian C. Leslie (Chair, DBA, PSI): “Professional

Recognition Through Psychological Society of Ireland.”

The second day of the conference consisted of four parallel sessions, with a wide variety of both experimental and applied research. The expansion of the program from three to four parallel sessions has facilitated presentations on a wider range of topics and diverse areas such as professional issues and program evaluation, an exploration of programmed instruction for reading with individuals with autism spectrum disorder, assistive technologies in autism and intellectual disability, and positive behavior support. Sessions were interspersed by three keynote speeches: (1) from Dr. Ian Stewart called “Teaching Key Cognitive Skills With Relational Frame Theory,” (2) from Gerry Dawson titled “P1Vital & Oxford University: Better Drug Treatments for Anxiety—Not Quite There Yet,” and (3) from Dr. Keith Williams entitled “Helping Children Learn to Eat: Opportunities for Behavior Analysts.”

Professional Accreditation for Behavior Analysts Within PSI

In 2018, the DBA formed a register of those with a specialization in behavioral psychology and who hold the title of chartered behavioural psychologist. The DBA invites all eligible chartered members of the PSI to join the registry.

In February 2018, the DBA committee established a subcommittee to develop recommendations for a title to be protected for exclusive use of registrants. The subcommittee has undertaken a tiered consultative process with those working in behavior analytic roles in the Republic of Ireland. The aim of the current consultative process is to gather information on (i) titles which ought to be protected for the exclusive use of registrants, (ii) appropriate qualifications, (iii) appropriate pay scales, and (iv) roles and responsibilities. Tier 1 involved a series of focus groups carried out across Ireland to gather the perspectives of individuals working in the field. Tier 2 is currently underway and aims to use a survey involving the Delphi

method to gather the perspectives of the greater behavior analytic community in Ireland on these issues.

Upcoming Events

DBA will host its 13th Annual Conference at Trinity College Dublin May 10–11. The committee is excited to have Pat Friman (professor at University of Nebraska School of Medicine), Dr. Andy Lattal (professor of Psychology at West Virginia University), and Dr. Darnell Lattal (president and co-founder of Context Management; Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies).

DBA Membership

PSI is the body representing professional psychologists in Ireland. The DBA represents recognized qualified professionals in the science of behavior analysis. Those wishing to apply for membership must be members of PSI and hold a postgraduate qualification in behavior analysis recognized by the Division Committee. Relevant experience will also be considered.

Membership application forms can be found on the PSI website, www.psychologicalsociety.ie/join-us. For queries regarding affiliated membership, contact the committee at behaviouranalysis@psychologicalsociety.ie. Membership benefits include the following:

- access to our network of members working in behavioral psychology,
- information about training events at our annual scientific meetings,
- access to our continuous notification of relevant job opportunities, and
- reduced admission costs to DBA events.



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Bermuda ABA

BY THEA FURBERT AND ERICA SMITH

It was another milestone year for Bermuda ABA (BABA) and the behavior analyst profession in Bermuda! Through the continued partnership with Tomorrow's Voices—Bermuda Autism Early Intervention Centre, Bermuda's first and only autism early intervention center, BABA continues to expand its members' skills, experiences, and numbers.

BABA's membership in 2018 grew! The growth in the awareness and use of ABA in Bermuda continues to be directly linked to the development and continued sustainability of Tomorrow's Voices.

In 2018, Tomorrow's Voices celebrated its 11th year in Bermuda. Since its inception, the clinical center has hired and trained 45 staff in the use of ABA/VB, not to mention the hundreds of parents, volunteers, students, educators, and allied health professionals trained through workshops, seminars, internships, and work shadows. The formation of BABA in fall 2011 was due in part to the ongoing work by Tomorrow's Voices and continues to be sustained through this synergistic partnership, as most who practice ABA in Bermuda are employed by Tomorrow's Voices.

In 2018, the partnership between Tomorrow's Voices and BABA resulted in the following training workshops being presented by BABA members, Tomorrow's Voices senior verbal behavior therapists, and BCBAs Natasha Pedro-Petty and Jahnae Harvey, as well as therapists Melissa Myers and Vurnell Smith on subjects related to ABA and special needs:

- February 21, 2018: "Show Me What You Know—Assessment & Programming for Individuals With Autism"
- May 17, 2018: "All About Reinforcement" (free workshop to teachers and partners)
- June 20, 2018: "All About Reinforcement"
- September 19, 2018: "Lending a Helping Hand—A Workshop on How to Assist Using Prompting"
- October 22, 2018: Workshop for the Bermuda Union of Teachers—35th Annual Conference
- November 21, 2018: "Catching Behavior on the Flip Side"

A total of 103 persons attended the trainings, which included parents, teachers, health professionals, government officials, and others in the community. Workshops planned for 2019 will focus on the following topics:

- February 20, 2019: "The Verbal Behavior Approach"
- "Natural Environment Teaching (Play, Daily Living, and Leisure Skills)—We Can't Have All Work & No Play"
- "Inclusion—Together We Unite"
- "Food Fights? How To Handle Picky Eaters"

In 2018, BABA member representatives met with representatives of the Argus Insurance Group to discuss insurance coverage of behavioral services. We were able

to provide them with a wealth of information on why the therapy was necessary to clients and their families. In June 2018, Argus Insurance Group officially started covering behavioral therapy for autism and ADHD, which is a huge accomplishment!

Tomorrow's Voices and BABA continue to lead the way with regard to growing the ABA profession in Bermuda. BABA members continue to serve on the government's ASD taskforce. In May 2018, BABA member and Tomorrow's Voices senior therapist Jahnae Harvey traveled to San Diego to present her research on selective liquid refusal at the ABAI 44th Annual Convention. Jahnae was the first Bermudian ever to present her research poster at ABAI. This was a significant achievement and we were very proud of her commitment to research in the field of behavior analysis. The poster was well received and Jahnae received great feedback, including encouragement to publish her research, as there is not much published research in this area. The poster featured client data from Tomorrow's Voices.

As a direct result of the leadership of BABA members Thea Furbert, Natasha Pedro-Petty, and Jahnae Harvey, who have been at the forefront of growing the ABA profession in Bermuda, Tomorrow's Voices won the 2018 Global Health & Pharma Social Care Award for Best Early Autism Intervention Program—Caribbean.

Looking ahead, we will continue to grow the profession in 2019. In doing so, we will increase the number of BCBAs practicing on the island.

Given the very small size and relative isolation of Bermuda, we see this continual growth as validation of our commitment to advancing ABA in Bermuda. Anyone interested in becoming a member of BABA or finding out more information should contact Erica Smith at (441) 297-4342 or info@tomorrowvoices.bm.

Chinese ABA

BY KARINA CHEUNG

2018 was a busy and fruitful year for the China Association for Behavior Analysis (CABA); the chapter focused on promoting the science of behavior analysis in mainland China by (a) providing an applied behavior analysis professional training course sequence for local therapists; (b) taking part in writing both professional and parental training books about ABA, autism, verbal behavior, and life-long intervention; and (c) organizing its fifth annual conference and sixth ABA nationwide workshop.

On June 23, 2018, we held our fourth annual conference in Beijing. Scholars, practitioners, and interested individuals from all around the country attended. This year's conference had support from both the China Association of Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons and the Ai You Foundation. We had Ms. Huang Yueqin (vice president of

China Disabled Persons' Federation), Prof. Lu Lin (dean of Peking University Sixth Hospital), Ms. Xu XiaoMing (secretary of China Association of Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons), and Ms. Geng Yuan (director of Ai You Foundation) attend our opening ceremony.

A highlight of this year's conference was that we held an authorization ceremony for B. F. Skinner's work to be translated to Chinese. Although Dr. Julie Vargas was unable to come to the event in person, she sent her regards through video.

Ms. Ivy Chong from the May Institute, Dr. Guo YanQing from Peking University Sixth Hospital, Ms. Sarah Lamber from the National Autistic Society UK, Prof. Wang Mian from University of California, Santa Barbara, Mr. Mike Robinson, CEO of Prior's Court, and Ms. Cheung Miao from Starrysky Education and Research Centre gave the audience different aspects of support and research about ABA and autism.

For this year's conference workshop, we had Mr. Mike Robinson and his colleges from Prior's Court share what they are doing to support teenage and adults with ASD. We also had Dr. Zhang Dorothy Xuan on executive functioning.

Besides our annual conference. CABA has been working closely with the Ai You Foundation; this year we provided four training workshops in different part of China, including Yunnan Province, Liaoning Province, and Tian Jin. The workshops focused on ABA and verbal behavior.

CABA has been invited by the Beijing Ivy Medical Expert League (BIMEL) to provide ABA training for Chinese parents. BIMEL is a nonprofit organization. In 2018, they organized three ABA trainings for Chinese parents, one in Beijing, the other two in HaiKou and He Gang. CABA provided training on life-long coaching, verbal behavior, and social skills training. Each workshop had more than 100 parents attend.

Our bustling year ended with a committee discussion on the future development of ABA in China. Dr. Guo's concept of Professional-Elite Training series (PETs), Professional-General Training series (PGTs), and Public Awareness Training series (PATs) was well accepted by the CABA/ABA-CARDP committee members, and some training has already started. Further details were discussed during the meeting. Our PETs training focuses on training ABA specialists for the special education field in mainland China; for this training, we've invited Chinese-speaking BCBA-Ds and BCBAs to provide systematic training programs for local therapists who hold at least a bachelor's degree and have been working in an educational setting for more than three years. PGTs programs aim to invite qualified speakers to provide year-long training programs to both local therapists and parents. PATs training, provided by trained therapists, focuses on public awareness of how powerful ABA is, and to stresses the fact that the principles of ABA are not only evidence based

for ASDs but also can be used in school settings and any other settings that include human behavior.

In 2019, we will continue working toward the goal to provide high-quality professional services to the Chinese public in the above-mentioned ways.

Experimental Analysis of Behaviour Group UK and Europe

BY J. CARL HUGHES

As we near the 2019 conference on 15–17 April, it's hard to believe that it is almost two years since the last EABG biennial meeting at University College London. In attendance were an encouraging mix of more than 200 delegates, including academics, applied researchers, parents, and non-academics who work in the field of ABA, many of whom had traveled internationally. EABG welcomed presenters from all backgrounds in behavior analysis covering conceptual papers, basic research, applied research, and service provision.

It was a great privilege to have Dr. Anthony Biglan present the Professor Fergus Lowe Memorial Keynote Address. Dr. Biglan, a leading figure in the development of prevention science, set the precedent for the year ahead. I can personally say that Dr. Biglan's talk inspired me to consider how we can use behavior analysis to encourage nurturing environments across all areas of our society, a wonderfully powerful idea.

It was a great honor to host so many distinguished invited addresses at the 2017 conference. Two of the leading applied practitioners in the UK, Dr. Corinna Grindle (Bangor University, Positive Behavioural Solutions) and Dr. Jenn Austin (University of South Wales), participated. Dr. Grindle gave the first Sharland Foundation, SFDDARIN Invited Talk on using behavior analysis to teach reading, math, and writing to children with autism. Dr. Austin gave our second invited address, focused on the use of behavior analytic assessments and interventions with typically developing children in schools. Dr. Austin's talk inspired us to think about how important our skills are and how behavior analysts can offer a great deal to mainstream education settings. Dr. Austin also provided an update from the UK Society for Behaviour Analysis on behalf of the current board members.

We were also very pleased to host the First UK SBA Operational Behaviour Management SIG invited talk at EABG, titled "OBM Applied! Lessons Learned From the Lab to the Board Room," by Manuel Rodriguez, Daniel Sundberg, and Shannon Biagi (ABA Technologies, Inc.). They gave an entertaining talk that introduced the delegates to the power and importance of adopting an OBM approach in any organization.

For the first time at a European behavior analysis conference, the Royal Speech and Language Therapists' clinical excellence network (CEN) for speech and language therapists (s/lts) with an interest in ABA attended. Three s/lts, headed by Bethan Mair Williams, BCBA, contributed to a symposium on disseminating behavior analysis. They also held their AGM at EABG and hosted a one-day workshop on precision teaching and TAGteach, also led by Bethan Mair Williams, Dr. Mike Beverley, and Kaydee Owen of Bangor University. There are currently 26 s/lts in the CEN as well as six other behavioral professionals. Three s/lts and one s/lt student in the UK currently have BCBA status. This is an exciting time for collaboration between the two professions, which have so much to offer when their areas of expertise are combined.

Continuing Education Units

EABG's meetings reflect the position that prevails in the UK and Europe in providing a large proportion of the CEUs for Board Certified Behavior Analysts for no additional charge. We offered 26 events, including symposia, invited addresses/tutorials, panel discussions, and workshops, for a total of 48.5 CEUs. The number of free CEUs awarded to BCBA and BCaBA delegates this year was 705 (see figure 1). Likewise, the number of delegates collecting CEUs increased this year, to 72.

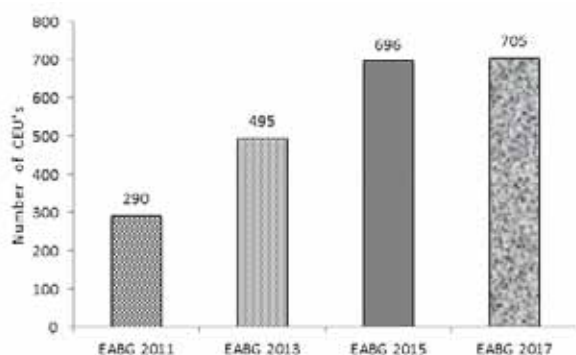


Figure 1. Comparison of total number of CEUs awarded at the 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017 EABG conferences.

The EABG team wishes to thank all the delegates and presenters at the conference, as well as our invited speakers, who delivered truly inspiring and thought-provoking talks. Special thanks are due to students from Bangor University, Wales, who volunteered and worked hard to facilitate the smooth running of the conference. A huge thank you also must be given to John Draper and the support team at University College London for assisting with and hosting the event yet again.

As we look toward to the 2019 EABG conference, it is our hope to equal the high quality and wide range of presentations and presenters we have seen in previous

years. The upward trend in delegate numbers and paper submissions is an encouraging reflection of the strength and continued evolution of behavior analysis in Europe.

French ABA

BY ARTHUR PRÉVEL

The French Association for Behavior Analysis (French ABA) promotes the development of behavior analysis in France and the Maghreb. French ABA aims to support the national and international development of the research program in experimental and applied behavior analysis at the University of Lille, with current collaborations with researchers in the United States, Brazil, the United Kingdom, and most recently Belgium. French ABA supports research on several topics, including human development, motor learning, associative learning, discrimination, aversive learning, and interventions for patients with anxiety disorders or autism. In addition to being involved in research programs, the chapter also supports the University of Lille's master's program in experimental and applied behavior analysis, the only program in France that trains new researchers and professionals (e.g., psychologists) in applied behavior analysis. Finally, French ABA supports a network of French associations of professionals and parents devoted to the development of applied behavior analysis to help individuals with autism.

In 2017, French ABA helped to organize ABAI's Ninth International Conference in Paris, an important opportunity for French researchers from Lille and other universities (e.g., Paris, Amiens, Strasbourg) to present their work to an international community and report on the current state of behavior analysis in France, including progress promoting applied behavior analysis, particularly for the treatment of children and adults with autism. Following this, French ABA in 2018 continued to invest in ABAI events, participating in the 12th Annual Autism Conference in Miami and the 44th Annual Convention in San Diego, as well as in other international conferences (e.g., in the United States, Spain, and the UK). French ABA researchers also continued the international collaborations initiated in past years, resulting in recent publications of articles in international scientific journals, and also started new international collaborations, notably with young French ABA researchers moving to other universities, opening up new topics of research related to human behavior analysis.

Despite these successes in the research domain, the situation in France is still difficult for applied behavior analysts. Consequently, and as in past years, one of the main objectives for French ABA members is to participate in and collaborate on the promotion and development of applied programs for individuals with autism and in

other areas as well, and to continue training students and professionals in behavior analysis.

Israel ABA

BY MICHAL HIRSCHMANN, EINAV COHEN, AND JUDY LAZAR-ROSENZWEIG

In 2018, IABA marked its 15th year of promoting behavior analysis in Israel. Characterized by continuous growth and prosperity, in 2018 IABA continued expanding its activities in numerous domains leading to successful corporations with various organizations and populations. The first conference held in 2018 was the annual meeting, which focused on cooperation between school and home behavior analysts. It included lectures, case analyses, and roundtable discussions. Other workshops in 2018 expanded on issues relating to parental guidance, what paraprofessional teams should do when “all hope is lost,” and explaining what behavior analysis is. In addition, we held several conferences, one focused on ethical issues, and the other on the assessment and treatment of self-injurious behavior. The latter was conducted in cooperation with Alut, which is the largest non-for profit-organization in Israel representing the autistic population.

A major breakthrough was marked in March 2018, with IABA initiating a meeting of leading forces in the field in Israel. This meeting included representatives from different behavior analysis programs and representatives of the two behavior analysis organizations in Israel, IABA and Menthia. This meeting was gathered to promote unified attempts to promote licensure and accreditation of behavior analysis as a profession in Israel. The meeting led to the establishment of the Israeli Committee of Behavior Analysis.

Following this meeting and in preparation for licensure and certification, IABA launched a project to organize and gather documentation of veteran behavior analysts. This project will continue in 2019.

Other activities in 2018 included the issuance of the first ethics newsletter in Israel. A hard copy of this issue was delivered, free of charge, to IABA members at the annual meeting and is also available online to members. This initiative received rave reviews. IABA's website and Facebook committees continued to provide members with valuable information and function as a professional platform. This resulted in an increase in the number of IABA Facebook page followers. In addition, IABA holds a Facebook group that offers an option to advertise employment opportunities in the field. A special committee was established to update the IABA logo. The new logo reflects IABA's identity as a professional organization that is a home for behavior analysts.

In an effort to professionally foster the next generation of behavior analysts in Israel, IABA's managing board voted in favor of allowing students of various behavior

analysis programs in Israel entrance free of charge to workshops offered throughout the year.

Looking ahead, in 2019 IABA plans to restructure its vision and goals to match the growing needs of the professional community. The organization will also consider different strategies for fundraising. An updated website will be launched in 2019. The new site will offer members access to professional resources and an opportunity to post their contact information as a virtual business card. We encourage various sectors and groups in Israel to join our professional community and form different corporations to further disseminate the field.

Jordanian ABA

BY MAHMOUD SHEYAB

Ensuring the effectiveness and social validity of applied behavior analysis (ABA) services is not a new concern; effectiveness and social validity are some of the most important dimensions of ABA (Baer, Wolf, & Risley, 1968). Along with the global mission of the BACB to “protect consumers of behavior analysis services worldwide by systematically establishing, promoting, and disseminating professional standards” (2015), the Jordanian ABA (Jor-ABA) attempts to disseminate ABA, provide quality control, set standards of competency, set standards in training, and help protect consumers from individuals not qualified to provide behavior analytic services.

Recently, along with the positive benefits of the expansion of ABA treatment to individuals diagnosed with ASD, there were also some negative consequences (many of which the BACB attempted to address). For one, it became difficult to keep up with demand, leading to a shortage of trained professionals able to implement quality ABA programs worldwide (Hughes & Shook, 2007; McGee & Morrier, 2005). This may have resulted in pseudo-experts implementing and supervising ABA-based programs (Dawson, 2001; Hughes & Shook, 2007) as well as the commercialization of ABA (Keenan, Dillenburger, Moderato, & Rottgers, 2010; Lovaas, 2002), which gave rise to notoriety and misconceptions about the field as it applies to individuals diagnosed with ASD (Gernsbacher, 2003, 2006; Morris, 2009). BACB certification is indicative of an advanced level of knowledge and experience and is now a requirement common among most employers.

A new report by the Scientific Center of Autism and Developmental Disabilities (SCADD; Tawalbeh & Sheyab, in press), based in Amman, Jordan, predicts a huge shortage of certified providers in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), which is going to get worse as the incidence of ASD and related disorders increases. A future shortage of ABA professionals could have an enormous effect on ASD care and complicate the situation. As our ASD population continues to grow and age, we must begin to train more

professionals. In addition, we'd like to share the following:

- There are an estimated 70 million people in the world with autism, 85% of whom live in developing countries where resources are scarce. In many countries, including Jordan, resources are so scarce for children with autism that parents are often their only therapists. They are exhausted, over-burdened, and isolated.
- There is no BACB Approved Course Sequence currently available in Jordan. And there are only two or three course sequences in the Middle East and North Africa provided by English speakers.
- The demand for services far outweighs the ability of current qualified staff to meet the need. This will continue to increase (Kelly et al., 2016). With a severe deficit in local professionals trained in ABA, the provision of ABA services is significantly restricted within MENA. This situation tends to attract persons of varying qualifications (mostly unqualified) to establish autism treatment programs.
- Licensing and regulating behavior analysis services is necessary, and it has begun. These regulations of ABA services will need to rely on international standards set by the BACB to increase the number of qualified personnel.
- An increase in local university training programs will be necessary to ensure improved services.
- There is a severe lack of fluent Arabic-speaking BCBAs and therefore many children go unserved.
- Research that demonstrates the effectiveness of ABA with children in the region will be necessary for the dissemination of the science (Malott et al., 2003).
- Parent awareness of the effectiveness of ABA as a treatment method is limited.
- There are currently no BCBAs in government positions
- Very few school programs provide ABA services to children with autism, and adults with autism receive very limited services.
- The BCBA announced that the credentialing exam would be available in Arabic in 2019.

Though the numbers of BCBAs, BCaBAs, and RBTs are on the rise, it's not enough to alleviate the severe shortage of BACB certificants over the next decade, as data indicate there are currently only 54 countries in which BCBAs live and work. That means 139 countries don't have BCBAs. Help us change that!

Jor-ABA, which has a vested interest in seeing more certificants, has new data to bolster its contention that the education and health systems at large aren't doing enough to supply the nation with qualified ABA providers as the population of individuals with ASD grows.

What We Need!

We need all kinds of support from all of you to start working toward a better future for individuals who need ABA services (all people I believe) in this part of the world. Let's save the world with ABA.

SCADD has started offering the RBT training program in Arabic, and on behalf of Jor-ABA we are asking for contributions to support our efforts. Specifically, we hope you support us in the process of developing BCaBA and BCBA VCSs. Your contribution would make a big difference in the success of our efforts to disseminate ABA in this part of the world.

We truly appreciate your dedication and hope you recognize, as we do, the valuable role you play in building brighter futures for Jordanian behavior analysts. Thank you for your continuing support. It is through the positive efforts of people like you that we can change a life for better forever.

Kenya ABA

BY POOJA PANESAR

The Kenya Association for Behaviour Analysis (KABA) is happy to share the annual report. We were involved in an annual autism fun day at Bomas of Kenya, a cultural hub. The event was organized by Kaizora Centre for

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Neurodevelopmental Therapies (previously known as Kaizora Institute) on April 7. KABA invited a BCBA-D to join Pooja Panesar (the only BCBA living and working in East Africa) to speak about evidence-based interventions at the event to the parents attending. The event was a great success.

Earlier in the year, the chair of KABA was able to present on various topics on inclusion and how principles of ABA in inclusion classrooms can be beneficial. This was done for several schools and directors of schools to equip them in handling individuals with developmental delays. This was received very well.

KABA was also present at the Panafrican Congress on Autism's first-ever African autism conference. The budget did not allow for an exhibition stall, but as we grow this will eventually happen. It has been a good year and we hope to do more in 2019.

Korean Association of Child and Adolescent Behavior Therapy

BY YUNHEE SHIN

Founded in 2008, the Korean Association of Child and Adolescent Behavior Therapy (KACBT) is an affiliated chapter of ABAI covering the Republic of Korea.

The mission of KACBT is to support practitioners of applied behavior analysis in the region and to promote evidence-based behavioral practices in Korea. With more than 600 current members, KACBT consists of not only college members, including professors and undergraduate students, but practitioners, special education teachers, and behavior analysts.

Supporting members with practicum placements, KACBT has many officially affiliated institutions and partners. KACBT holds many events, including periodic regional meetings, monthly group studies, annual conferences, biannual workshops, and seminars. In 2018, KACBT completed many activities, as follows:

- March 2018: Held research seminars and supported many local study groups.
- April, September 2018: Held workshops for behavior therapists.
- June 2018: Opened a special lecture course to support behavior therapists.
- September 2018: Participated in the Oeullim Festival hosted by Daegu Cyber University.
- November 2018: Opened a case conference.

We are planning these upcoming events:

- April 2019: Workshop for behavior therapists.
- May 2019: Special lecture course for preliminary behavior therapists.

New Zealand ABA

BY ANNE MACASKILL

The New Zealand Association for Behaviour Analysis (NZABA) is a community of people working, teaching, and researching in behavior analysis in, or with a connection to, Aotearoa-New Zealand. To connect with NZABA, you can like our Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/newzealandaba](https://www.facebook.com/newzealandaba) or sign up to join via our website at www.nzaba.org. We do not charge a membership fee.

The NZABA conference is held every year in late August and is the highlight of our calendar. In 2018, we were very ably hosted by Auckland University. NZABA is a student-centered conference and we pride ourselves on supporting students to share their research and develop their presentation skills in a welcoming, constructive community environment. We recognize particularly outstanding student talks with NZABA prizes. Stephanie Gomes-Ng from the University of Auckland won the prize for best talk on a topic in the experimental analysis of behavior for her paper "Control by past experience and external stimuli in uncertain environments." Stephanie is a repeat winner of this prize. Rhian Collings, also from the University of Auckland, won a prize for the best talk on a topic in applied behavior analysis for her paper "Behavioural Skills Training package: Teaching teachers to implement the IISCA." Bradley Drysdale of Australia's Monash University won the prize for the best talk describing a translational research project for his presentation "Using eye-tracking to explore gaze behaviour of primary school children to text: How do they locate relevant information?" Zoe Walsh from Victoria University of Wellington won the prize for best poster for her presentation "Thinking about our past does not impact self-control." At NZABA, researchers and practitioners share their work from across the basic-translational-applied continuum; the presentations awarded prizes illustrate the breadth of the excellent work presented.

In 2019, our conference will be at the University of Canterbury. Christchurch is a convenient location for international visitors as it has an international airport. We hope you will consider attending. Information about the conference will be posted at our website and Facebook page.

NZABA has been an approved continuing education provider for the Behavior Analyst Certification Board since 2006. Many conference papers provide opportunities for board certified behavior analysts to receive continuing education units. We are proud to support the professional development of practicing behavior analysts in this way. Auckland and Waikato University each offer programs that allow students to train to become board certified behavior analysts. Contact information for people working in behavior analysis at each New Zealand University is available via our website.

Philippines ABA

BY MARIA TERESA COJUANGCO

The Philippine ABA (PABA) awareness program was expanded to various local government health agencies in the region. In 2018, PABA conducted more training programs as a joint project with more local government agencies interested in the program as well as continued staff training of existing government intervention centers in sustaining care for special needs children. Several government-sponsored health agencies were assisted in creating behavioral assessment and intervention programs to include in their health programs. There was an increase in the number of local health agencies providing training for families to help address problems in handling their special needs children. PABA affiliate centers expanded their assistance in facilitating support in more identified areas.

PABA affiliate centers conducted several presentations on ABA for parents and caregivers of schools with special needs children included in their system. They gave assistance to some groups coming from the other regions for a more organized and comprehensive program to implement.

PABA continued its campaign to gain training for ABA practitioners to improve their practice and obtain registered behavior technician or board certified behavior analyst credentials. A few local practitioners had gained their BCBA credentials and started assisting those in need for a more comprehensive practice in their areas. More practitioners want to follow the correct standards and prefer to have more supervisors or mentors to check on their practice. Likewise, more medical professionals recommend families to seek the services of practitioners who are certified and working within the standards of ABA.

PABA continued its collaboration with local universities, government health agencies, and medical professionals in giving updated information on ABA through the assistance of BCBA professionals from the USA and Singapore. PABA's commitment to these agencies to participate in their various activities was not limited to lectures but included trainings and workshops. More medical professionals participated in these lectures and a more comprehensive awareness program was created for a particular hospital's needs to benefit their own research studies.

Polish Association of Behavioral Therapy

BY EWA KULIGA

Polskie Stowarzyszenie Terapii Behawioralnej (Polish Association of Behavioral Therapy; PABT) is a countrywide nonprofit organization, organizing active practitioners of behavioral therapy. PABT's mission is to provide multidirectional, comprehensive, and professional help to the disabled—in particular to persons suffering from emotional and intellectual disabilities—and to their

families. Another vital purpose of PABT is promoting behavioral therapy among therapists and academics.

Currently, PABT has more than 42 registered members from every significant behavioral therapy center in Poland, as well as the parents of persons undergoing behavioral therapy and other concerned experts (physicians, academics, and students). It cooperates with a number of Polish centers and institutions focused on providing effective help to persons with autism and publishes the informational periodical *Krok za krokiem (Step by Step)*, which contains articles by world-renowned experts on teaching persons with autism.

PABT has promoted behavioral therapy by organizing specialist trainings for a wide range of attendees (mainly the teachers and parents of the emotionally and developmentally disabled). Over 900 participants attended such trainings in 2018.

In 2014 the association formed non-public schools, "UMIEM" ("I can"). Two are located in Krakow, and one opened in September 2017 in Raciborz. In total, UMIEM schools provide education to 33 students with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual disabilities.

Since 2010, the boards of two Polish chapters of ABAI (i.e., PABT and Polish Society of Behavioral Psychology) have been working on a joint program, Polish License of Behavioral Therapist. The purpose of these activities is to consolidate and formalize professional training for behavioral therapists in Poland, and thus define the requirements for practicing therapists to make behavioral therapy clearly identifiable by the highest quality of therapeutic services. Polish License of Behavioral Therapist runs an integrated system of theoretical and practical training to enable trainees to gain the title of behavioral therapist. At present, 231 people in Poland have been granted the title of licensed behavioral therapist, 29 people have the title of behavioral supervisor, and 2,450 are in the process of acquiring qualifications.

A set of theoretical and practical trainings framed as six preparatory routes, as well as the appropriate examination criteria, have been prepared for persons applying for the granting of the occupational title of behavioral therapist:

- Route I (for practicing therapists) includes completion of a three-level course in behavioral therapy and at least five specialization courses, no less than 2 years of professional practice under supervision, completion of no less than 50 hours of internships at any of the collaborating centers, and a positive reference from the head of the relevant therapy center.
- Route II includes completion of a three-level course in behavioral therapy and at least five specialization courses, completion of no less than 120 hours of internships at any of the collaborating centers, professional practice under supervision (a minimum of 50 hours of supervision), and a positive reference from

the supervisor.

- Route III includes completion of the following courses from the Institute of Psychology at Jagiellonian University: “Analiza zachowania (Behavior Analysis)” and “Stosowana analiza zachowania (Applied Behavior Analysis),” completion of at least five specialization courses, no less than 100 hours of internships at any of the collaborating centers, professional practice under supervision, and a positive reference from the supervisor.
- Route IV includes completion of postgraduate studies in applied behavior analysis at the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, completion of no less than 80 hours of internships at any of the collaborating centers, professional practice under supervision (a minimum of 50 hours of supervision per year), and a positive reference from the supervisor.
- Route V includes completing 2nd degree studies in the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Social Sciences and Humanities (also as a unified master’s degree): “the psychology of shaping and modifying behavior” master’s degree studies in psychology in the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Poznań, module “Application of behavior therapy in education for children of normal and disordered development, an introduction,” other relevant studies including a module covering applied behavior analysis lasting at least 60 didactic units, coursework to be presented to the Board of Polish License of Behavior Therapy system for official acceptance, at least five specialty courses, at least 100 hours of training in one of the collaborating facilities, including at least two training periods of minimum five consecutive days each (i.e. at least 20 hours each), and work under supervision of a current holder of a supervisor’s license (at least 50 hours of supervision).
- Route VI includes obtaining BCBA certification.

PABT has conducted practical trainings (training and observational internships) for pedagogy (the Pedagogical

University of Cracow, Jagiellonian University) and psychology (Jagiellonian University) students and tutors from other educational institutions. PABT continues to fulfill statutory activities in forms focused on helping the disabled:

- The Behavioral Therapy Clinic (BTC) in Cracow and a local branch of the BTC in Wroclaw, Rzeszow, and Raciborz provide therapeutic support for the families of developmentally and emotionally challenged persons from all over Poland. The BTC’s operations include diagnostic consultations for children with suspected developmental disorders (performed usually by a team consisting of a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a speech therapist, a special education teacher, and a rehabilitator) and conducting home therapy programs. The consultations are an opportunity to establish a program for therapy, and the parents are instructed on its implementation; during subsequent visits, such a program undergoes the necessary modifications and the parents’ skills are further improved. Currently PABT’s BTC oversees home therapy for almost 3,500 families throughout Poland.
- The Emergency Intervention Team (EIT) is a short-term (up to 2 weeks), intensive therapy for persons with developmental and behavioral disorders and their families facing material and other hardships. In 2018, several families from all over Poland used this form of therapy.
- The integration classes (IC) are aimed at younger children with disabilities identified as belonging to the spectrum of autism, but possessing basic group-work skills. The classes are conducted on the basis of preschool teaching methodology and the principles of applied behavior analysis. The objectives of the classes are to integrate the children within a group and develop their social competence. There are currently eight children participating in the classes.
- The social skills training (SST) are classes conducted in small groups and intended to develop positive social



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behaviors. The classes are aimed at older children with emotional disorders, Asperger's syndrome, and high functioning children with autism.

One of the most important achievements of 2018 was the implementation of the system of support for behavioral therapy centers working with people affected by developmental disorders (SYSABA IT system), which is the result of a consortium consisting of PABT, training and consulting company NADAM, and the University of West Pomeranian in Szczecin. Funds for implementing the program were obtained from the National Center for Research and Development. PABT is a consortium leader. The aim of SYSABA was to develop and create a unique computer system for comprehensive support of a behavioral therapist working mainly with people with developmental disorders. At present, 25 therapeutic centers use SYSABA. The most important functions of the system are the following:

- keeping electronic files with controlled access, creating a tool for fast data entry during therapy,
- creating analysis of conducted therapies in real time,
- support of the therapist's decision about the next steps for therapy,
- support for some forms of training for future therapists,
- and detection of knowledge in patient data and therapy.

PABT works to obtain resources that allow further development of the organization and introduce new statutory activities (including research programs).

Polish Society for Behavioral Psychology

BY BARTŁOMIEJ J. SWEBODZINSKI

The most important accomplishment of 2018 was the 12th International Scientific Symposium of PSBP in Poznań. It was co-organized by the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Poznań. The special participants in the symposium were Dr. Niklas Törneke (Sweden) and Dr. Rebecca Sharp (Bangor University). The theme was "From theory to practice: different areas of application of behavioral therapy."

During 2018, the chapter continuously worked on development of the Polish certification system (license) for behavior analysts. This system was created and introduced in 2010 together with partner organization Polish Society of Behavioral Therapy (www.terapeutabehawioralny.pl). Its aim was to improve the quality of work of behavior analysts in Poland by establishing professional standards of good work and proper conduct. Two members of PSBP participate on a regular basis in meetings of the executive committee of the system. The main responsibilities are the following:

- evaluating applications of candidates to the title of

behavior analyst according to standards of the Polish certification system,

- developing standards for training programs and evaluating new training courses proposed by supervisors within the system,
- answering ongoing questions concerning the certification system and providing consistent interpretation of its rules,
- and propagating knowledge about the certification system and behavioral therapy in Poland.

In 2018 we took patronage of books published in Poland:

- John D. Otis: *Przewlekły ból. Terapia poznawczo-behawioralna (Managing Chronic Pain: A Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Approach Workbook)*
- Steven C. Hayes & Spencer Smith: *W pułapce myśli. Jak skutecznie poradzić sobie z depresją, stresem i lękiem (Get Out of Your Mind and Into Your Life. The New Acceptance and Commitment Therapy)*
- Russ Harris: *Zrozumieć ACT. Terapia akceptacji i zaangażowania w praktyce (ACT Made Simple. An Easy-To-Read Primer on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy)*
- Kelly G. Wilson & Troy DuFrene: *W sieci natrętnych myśli. Jak uwolnić się od bezustannej walki z lękiem i niepokojem (Things Might Go Terribly, Horribly Wrong. A Guide to Life Liberated From Anxiety)*

Works on the scientific editing of the book *Applied Behavior Analysis*, 2nd edition by John O. Cooper, Timothy E. Heron, and William L. Heward, are in progress from 2018. Three members of the PSBP board are engaged in it: Przemysław Bąbel, Paweł Ostaszewski, and Krystyna Pomorska. We are also working on the Polish edition of *Skinnerian Science and Human Behavior* and Przemysław Bąbel, the president of PSBP, is preparing the scientific editing.

In 2018, we obtained a new logo and almost completed a new website.

Québec ABA

BY MYRA-JADE LUI

Quebec ABA (QcABA) had a relatively quiet 2018. The past president, Sylvie Donais, decided to take a well-deserved break from the board of directors after having served for 8 years as both the vice president and president twice during this time. The association owes a great debt to Dr. Donais for effectively putting us on the map amongst the Francophone behavioral practitioners in Quebec, for teaching several of the verified course sequences offered by QcABA from 2014–2017, and for generally being a wonderful ambassador for our field. She intends to continue to represent QcABA in discussions with the research group responsible for developing guidelines for intensive behavioral intervention in Quebec once these discussions resume.

The 2018 conference surpassed all other years in size, with 120 in attendance on the 23rd of March. We were fortunate to host Dr. Peter Gerhardt, who graciously gave two presentations and took part in our discussion panel. The feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive, especially in regard to the content presented by Dr. Gerhardt regarding the role of the behavior analyst in sexuality education for individuals with autism. It was the first year simultaneous translation was offered, and although we noted some difficulties with translation of specific comments (usually the funniest ones), QcABA will continue to offer this service in future events in order to ensure accessibility of current behavior analytic content to our Francophone population. In 2019 our conference will be held March 15, and we are excited to welcome Dr. Merrill Winston from PCMA. We will likely come across similar issues with the translation of certain phrases, and luckily for our translators this year Dr. Winston does not have a prepared musical number to complement the presentations we have selected.

In January 2019 after a brief hiatus, the latest edition of our newsletter was published. As it had been a while since the last publication, the 2019 edition had noticeably more content than previous ones as we tried to update our practitioners with information that would be relevant to them on the local and international level. Included were interviews with Adam Ventura from COEBO, Dr. Tom Szabo from the Florida Institute of Technology, and a previously unpublished interview with Dr. Tristram Smith. As many in the ABA community are aware, Dr. Smith passed away in August of 2018, and he was our keynote presenter in 2017. We were grateful for permission from his family to publish this interview as a tribute to him and all that he has done for the field.

Internally, QcABA continues to try to improve its functioning as a nonprofit organization. As with most chapters there is quick turnover in the board of directors, and procedural drift is a significant problem as tasks and responsibilities are handed over from year to year. Thus, we have started working on an internal instructional document that lists each responsibility of each board member, the frequency at which it should occur, and the task analysis of each component needed to execute each task. This is a work in progress as each board member has been asked to complete this exercise with each of their responsibilities. Further, at the 2018 AGM the board of directors voted to increase the number of board members from seven to nine, adding another Regular Member representative (2-year term) and another Student Member (1-year term), and we believe these changes will improve the internal functioning of our association in future years.

The number of certified individuals in the province continues to grow steadily. 2007 was the first year that any certified behavior analysts appeared in Quebec (two

BCBAs and one BCaBA), and at the time of this writing (early 2019) the province is now home to 46 certificants. Although these numbers may seem modest to our counterparts in the US, or even from BC or Ontario, it is important to remember the barriers that face our professionals that are unique to our conditions. Specifically, in addition to being a primarily Francophone province, there are no third parties (e.g., government or insurance companies) that pay for services by certified individuals, nor any local educational institutions that offer the course content. In other words, becoming a certified professional in Quebec is an endeavour that is both difficult and carries little monetary incentive. QcABA is grateful that despite these barriers, our numbers continue to grow and recognition of board certification is on the rise. Our board is committed to offering CEUs for our regular events such as the conference and journal clubs at little or no cost in order to support our behavior analysts, just as they have supported us over the years.

Last but not least, QcABA has created an annual Honourable Mention Award for a young behavior analyst who lost her life very suddenly in 2018. She was an active member of our very small community and within the association, volunteering much time to be part of committees and to help with the laborious translation work that is required in a bilingual province. Although she had not yet achieved the accolades one might expect from having an award in her name, she had just recently achieved board certification and embodied all that we hope to instill in the next generation of behavior analysts. For this reason, the board of directors agreed that it was appropriate to send one aspiring behavior analyst to the annual conference every year on her behalf.

Thank you ABAI for your continued interest and support of our chapter over the years.

Sociedad Mexicana de Análisis de la Conducta

BY ROSALINDA ARROYO, RODRIGO BENAVIDES, ROGELIO ESCOBAR, KENNETH MADRIGAL, ABRAHAM ORTIZ, AND MARIO SERRANO

The Mexican Society for Behavior Analysis (MSBA) is a nonprofit organization established on May 9, 1975. For the past 44 years, MSBA has taken the lead on (a) disseminating behavior analysis among psychologists and other disciplines; (b) establishing bonds with similar associations in Mexico and foreign countries; (c) advising institutions and associations regarding behavior analysis issues; (d) publishing the *Mexican Journal of Behavior Analysis (MJBA)*; and (e) organizing seminars, scientific events, and annual meetings to promote communication among behavior analysts in Mexico. Specifically, for the past year MSBA has pursued these last two points.

MJBA, edited since 1975, is now published every 6 months (June and December). A special section in the December issue includes monographic papers (formerly the September special issue). The special section in 2018 included commentaries by Jay Moore, Emilio Ribes, William Baum, Jack Marr, and Dave Palmer on the topic of selectionism in Skinner's early work. The special section in 2019 will be on experimental analyses of non-human animal social behavior and will be edited by Kennon A. Lattal and Hiroto Okouchi. In accordance with its open-access policy, in 2018 and 2019 *MJBA* released all 1975–2015 print volumes and made them available to the public for free.

From October 22–26, the 28th Mexican Conference for Behavior Analysis (MCBA) took place at the Universidad Veracruzana. The event gathered 460 assistants and panelists from 15 public and private universities in Mexico and the United States of America. Among the workshops and symposia, and during the poster sessions, a total of 139 and 68 works were presented; philosophy of science, experimental and applied research, teaching, and technological applications of behavior analysis were among the topics discussed. Peter Killen and Charles Catania also participated in this event as guest speakers.

Behavior analysis courses are being excluded from academic curricula at Mexican universities, and it's by the joint effort of MSBA members, their teaching and research in grad schools, and events like the MCBA conference that contributions in our field are being made and shared within our country. In this sense, during the last conference MSBA awarded Edith Marlen Feregrino Nuñez, Rebeca Andrea Flores Zenón, and Jonnathan Eduardo Gudiño Solorio with the MSBA bachelor's thesis grant.

In 2018, MSBA also recognized individuals who have demonstrated sustained and valuable contributions in the fields of applied and experimental analysis of behavior. Juan José Sánchez Sosa, who received the MSBA Applied Behavior Analysis Award, is currently at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), while Carlos Javier Flores Aguirre, who is currently at the Centro de Estudios e Investigaciones en Comportamiento at Universidad de Guadalajara, received the MSBA Experimental Analysis of Behavior Award. The 29th Mexican Congress for Behavior Analysis will take place October 21 to 25, 2019, at UNAM's Facultad de Estudios Superiores Iztacala.

Along with the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis, MSBA matched funding for Kenneth Madrigal to promote behavior analysis in Mexico. His current project is aimed at raising interest among undergraduate students in behavior analysis courses. Through the use of MSBA social media, students are presented with news and announcements, which they can share and interact with. These announcements reached students who were not aware of *MJBA*, and also provided access to what could be their

first behavior analysis approach.

Swedish ABA

BY DAG STRÖMBERG

The Swedish Association for Behavior Analysis (SWABA) had 192 members in 2018, which was 22 more than in 2017. One objective this year was for the chapter to maintain its increased activity on social media, in the form of disseminating research and news concerning behavior analysis, as well as providing opportunities for discussion among members. At the end of the year, 985 people were following SWABA on Facebook, a 16% increase from 2017. The association also has accounts on Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Instagram.

SWABA's fall meeting in October 2018, in Stockholm, included five talks on the following topics: problem behavior, OBM, instructional design, ACT in diabetes type 1, and behavior analysis and team sports. Two other members' meetings took place in Gothenburg and in Karlstad, as part of our aim to spread interest in behavior analysis outside of the capital.

In March 2019, the annual meeting was in Stockholm. One talk was about the implementation of behavior-based safety and OBM to improve safety culture in the workplace. Two presenters described reinforcement-based training with animals. In addition, Dr. Jon-Arne Løkke from Norway gave a talk about supervision from a behavior analytic viewpoint.

SWABA was represented at the 2019 ABAI Annual Convention in Chicago. As usual, a poster was presented at the Expo. Numerous visitors became virtual members (those who support the association but do not live or work in Sweden) for free, or renewed their virtual membership from last year. Also, bids were accepted for a unique SWABA t-shirt, the proceeds of which were donated to the SABA Unrestricted Fund.

SWABA supports the formation of special interest groups (SIGs), providing information about each group on the website. This year the Animals SIG, the Certified Behavior Analysts SIG, and the PBS SIG had meetings, while some of the other groups had contacts through social media. The Animals SIG co-hosted a conference on animal behavior in January in Skara. In August, in collaboration with the OBM Network, the OBM SIG hosted an international two-day conference in Stockholm, with 98 attendees from different countries.

For 2019, SWABA members attended and contributed to the ABAI 10th International Conference, which took place in Stockholm, September 29–30. This event was a great opportunity for the development and dissemination of behavior analysis in Sweden.

SWABA would like to encourage anyone who plans to visit Sweden or other countries in Scandinavia to contact

the board (info@swaba.se) to explore the possibility of meeting and/or lecturing. SWABA holds its annual meeting during the first quarter of each year and a fall meeting/conference in October. The 2019 fall meeting took place on October 19 in Stockholm. Please visit the SWABA website for updates concerning the program.

Taiwan ABA

BY LI-TSUN WANG

In 2018 the Taiwan Association for Behavior Analysis (TABA) continued to promote behavior science to parents, special education teachers, private institutions, etc. Some activities are listed below:

- The annual conference was January 6, 2018, and focused on practice and research issues related to inclusion environments. We invited BCBA-Ds and professors to present on how to solve behavior problems in schools. To promote professional growth, we were glad to see 64 members at this conference.
- In 2018, we continued providing training for foster families about basic ABA techniques to solve behavior problems of children at home, and besides lectures, we also invited parents to apply techniques at home under

behavior consultant supervision.

- From February to July the Joyce McMillan Social Welfare Foundation provided teacher training regarding verbal behavior and decreasing behavior problems in individuals and groups.
- From September to November, TABA held three workshops about social skills training applications, including programs for preschool children, social skills at home, and social skills group programming. There were a total of 60 attendees, and who attended look forward to more training.
- We continue to prepare for the BACB task list V for our BCaBA course.

The first event of 2019, held February 16, was on the topic "Diversity Resolution in Inclusive Education Through ABA" by James King (BCBA, Program Director of the ABA Department, Seek Education, Inc.), who introduced treatment relapse issues. In addition, Dr. Wang Hui-Ting (BCBA-D, associate professor in the department of special education at NTNU) introduced the blocking model and masking assessment. There were 83 attendees, including those in speech therapy, occupational therapy, special education, and behavior analysis. We appreciate



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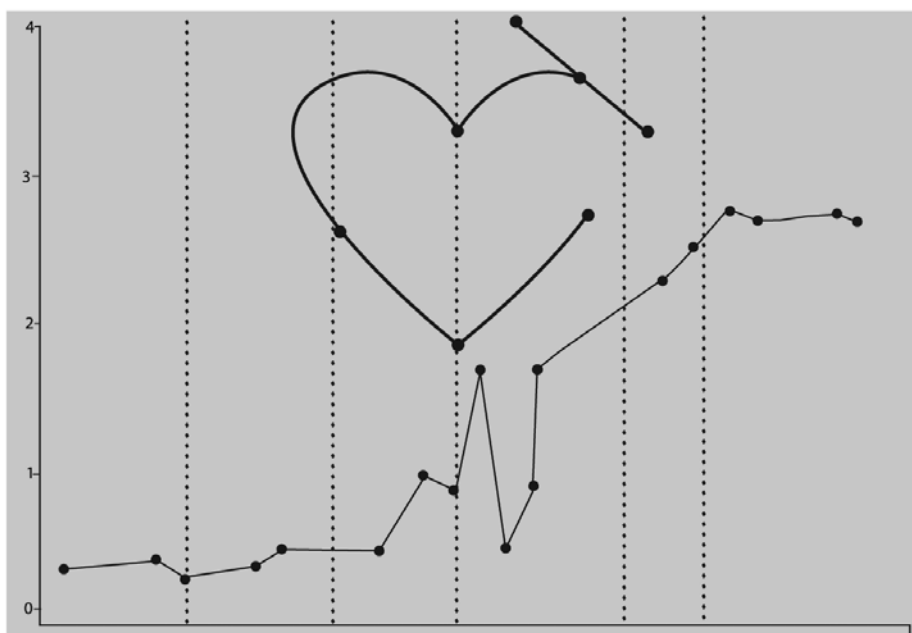
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We will also schedule some basic behavior science workshops for parents, such as on VB and social skills at home, and also FBA workshops for teachers and practitioners who work in schools or private institutions. We will introduce how to raise ethics issue, such as through nonviolent crisis intervention training, to teach safety strategies during behavioral treatment. We will continue our mission to spread knowledge of behavior analysis to professionals and parents, promote the science in Taiwan, and invite more members and professionals to join us in 2019. ❖



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Updates From ABAI's Special Interest Groups

Applied Animal Behavior SIG

BY KATHRYN KALAFUT

The mission of the Applied Animal Behavior (AAB) SIG is to promote applied animal behavior analytic research, set high standards in methods and techniques of animal training, support those in the applied animal behavior field, and promote the well-being of animals in applied settings wherever they are found.

In past years, we have spent a lot of time and effort building the group, reaching out to potential members, and working diligently to disseminate the principles of behavior analysis in the area of applied animal work. We are very proud to say that to date we have more than 140 members (and more than 380 followers on our Facebook page). Our members are researchers, publishing in scholarly journals including *Zoo Biology*, *Animal Learning and Cognition*, *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, *International Journal of Comparative Psychology*, and many others. Our members are teachers at competitive institutions, training future behavior analysts. Our members are in the field, consulting all over the world to help educate pet owners, animal trainers, veterinary staff, and caregivers at captive animal institutions (exotic and domestic). We are in animal shelters, classrooms, zoos, laboratories, and living rooms. Our members are actively engaged in the applied animal sciences, aiding veterans by training service dogs, increasing welfare of captive animals, and enhancing educational outcomes through animal interactions.

In addition to the impactful work our members engage in, we are also eager to support budding behavioral scientists. AAB continues to recognize excellent student scholarship in applied animal behavior with the Marian Breland-Bailey Award for Student Research and Scholarship. This award would not be possible without the gracious and generous support of Bob Bailey. The annual meetings also serve as a platform for collaboration among our members, extending into new areas, and creating new opportunities.

Our SIG is also very proud to contribute to the annual convention. At the 2019 ABAI Annual Convention in Chicago, the B. F. Skinner Lecture Series included researcher Dr. Marguerite O'Haire, an associate professor of human-animal interaction in the Center for the Human-Animal Bond at Purdue University. The AAB specialization included 15 posters, five symposia, one invited speaker, and two workshops.

If you are interested in joining or learning more about this SIG, or any of the specific applications/opportunities listed above, please contact the SIG's current president, Katie Kalafut, at kkalafut@gmail.com, or find us on Facebook or on our website: www.animalbehavioranalysis.org.

Behavioral Development SIG

BY JESSICA SINGER-DUDEK

The main mission of the Behavioral Development (DEV) SIG is to promote a behavioral developmental thrust within behavior analysis. We strive to bring behavior analysis to the wider world of child psychology and learning, comparative psychology, adult development and gerontology, sociobiology, education, behavioral economics, developmental disabilities and autism, and language development, among other fields. We do so by (a) incorporating theories and findings from other areas into our own research and (b) bringing professionals from outside traditional behavior analysis, including developmental psychology, to ABAI events and forming collaborations.

The DEV SIG's membership includes faculty, students, and practitioners, many of whom are also members of other SIGs (e.g., Autism) and are interested in the DEV SIG's mission, conference program, and discussions. Our membership stands at 35. We have a large international presence, with countries including Norway, Germany, Mexico, the US, Bosnia, Canada, and France represented. One primary focus of the upcoming year will be growing our membership. Students from programs affiliated with the SIG and others whose interests align with our mission will be encouraged to join.

In 2018–2019, the DEV SIG transitioned to new leadership. At its meeting at the ABAI convention in May 2018, two co-chairs, Jessica Dudek and JeanneMarie Speckman, were elected. Their first task was drafting and finalizing the bylaws and COI statements for the SIG. Now that the DEV SIG has enough funds (currently managed by ABAI), the co-chairs have been in the process of assessing the finances of the SIG and considering spending proposals. Research awards, student scholarships, a DEV conference, perhaps in conjunction with some of the larger-represented groups of the SIG, such as CABAS, and funding invited speakers are four proposed ideas. Our next task will be to elect a treasurer who can manage the money and a reconciler who can make financial transactions on behalf of the SIG.

DEV SIG members consistently serve as Human Development (DEV) program area coordinators who help bring exciting presentations on a variety of topics related to behavioral development to the annual convention. At the 2018 convention the DEV area was represented by 21 posters, 1 panel discussion, 5 paper presentations, and 10 symposia. The majority of these presentations focused on research related to verbal behavior development, acceleration of academic skills, and behavioral development across the lifespan. Program area co-chairs Doug Greer and Jessica Dudek also recruited some exciting invited talks, including one by Joanne Robbins titled "Why

Children Need to Talk to Themselves: The Foundation of Reasoning and Questioning,” an international invited talk by Julian Leslie titled “Developing Reading Skills in Mainstream Education,” and a B. F. Skinner Lecture by Peter Pohl from Germany titled “The Bidirectional Operant as Behavioral Metamorphosis.”

In 2019, we welcomed 15 posters, 1 panel, 2 papers, 16 symposia (a big increase over the previous year), and 3 invited talks, including an invited international talk by Nirvana Pistoljevic titled “ABA for All: Building Systems to Help Children Through a Transdisciplinary Behavioral Approach,” an invited paper by Jennifer Longano titled “An Analysis of the Components of Bidirectional Naming, the Naming Experiences to Occasion the Incidental Acquisition of Language, and Protocols to Induce Bidirectional and Complex Naming Repertoires,” and a very interesting B. F. Skinner Lecture by Kathleen O’Connell titled “The Urge to Smoke and the Urge to Urinate: Pavlovian Processes in Health-Related Behaviors.”

These sessions represented the breadth of research interests by members of the DEV SIG, particularly in terms of the population of participants studied (those with and without developmental disabilities; children and adults) and the focus on verbal, academic, and behavioral development across the lifespan. The contributions of all the session chairs, presenters, and discussants was very much appreciated.

In past years, one major activity of the DEV SIG has been its role in editing the *Behavioral Development Bulletin* (*BDB*), under co-editors, Michael Commons and Martha Pelaez. Beginning with the 2015 issue, the *BDB* has been published by the American Psychological Association and its name shortened to Behavioral Development; nevertheless, the SIG maintained a presence, at least through the end of 2017. At that point, the editorship was assumed by Dr. Henry Roane of Syracuse University. Although it was the intention of the members of the DEV SIG to work with Dr. Roane so as to maintain some

presence in that journal, the editorial board and consulting editors have been completely reformed, with no current members of the DEV SIG having any leadership role in the journal. A review of recent articles reveals that the journal is not focused on behavioral development as it is conceived by members of the DEV SIG (see our mission statement).

The DEV SIG has a poster at the ABAI Expo and holds a business meeting every year. All are welcome to attend. The DEV SIG also holds a no-host SIG dinner. This enjoyable occasion is also open to all. In addition to being friendly, interdisciplinary by our very nature, and interested in many different approaches, we have been a relatively informal SIG. Come find us at one of our presentations or invited talks, or attend our business meeting or the Expo. We look forward to welcoming new members!

Behavioral Medicine SIG

BY GRETCHEN A. DITTRICH

Within the science of behavior analysis, we recognize that all behavior is susceptible to conditioning, regardless of the complexity. Therefore, the field of behavior analysis is perfectly suited to identify and change behaviors related to health and disease states. The field of behavioral medicine focuses on using behavior analytic principles and procedures to identify and manipulate variables influencing behaviors associated with health and disease states. By changing specific behaviors (i.e., increasing behaviors associated with improved health and decreasing behaviors associated with disease states or decreased health), we can improve overall health status for individuals.

Behavioral medicine is an interdisciplinary field, which integrates behavioral science with biomedical science to improve overall health, increase adherence to medical regimens, and modify behaviors associated with the prevention of chronic illness. The role of behavior analysis is important in the field of behavioral medicine. It is the mission of the Behavioral Medicine Special Interest Group



(SIG) to encourage interdisciplinary research in the areas of behavioral health promotion and the prevention of chronic illness, emphasizing the need for function-based and empirically validated treatments for chronic health disorders.

The Behavioral Medicine SIG offers students, researchers, practitioners, and consumers opportunities to discuss issues related to public health promotion and disease prevention. All are welcome to join the Behavioral Medicine SIG. We hope that the SIG will help consumers and practitioners better understand the role of behavior analysis in the field of behavioral medicine, and provide an outlet for discussions of current and developing research within the field.

To learn more about the Behavioral Medicine SIG, visit our website at <https://sites.google.com/site/bmedsig/> or like our Facebook page (Behavioral Medicine SIG of ABAI). You may also contact us at bxmedsig@gmail.com to receive additional information about the SIG, or to become a member. The Behavioral Medicine SIG offers opportunities for members to engage in research collaboration and discussions about behavior analysis and health promotion. The Behavioral Medicine SIG supports student research in the area of behavioral medicine, and we are pleased to announce our newly established student research award, which was introduced this year at the ABAI annual convention.

The Behavioral Medicine SIG sponsored a special panel discussion at the ABAI convention in Chicago, titled "Securing Grant Funding for Behavioral Medicine Research." The panel comprised Dr. Gregory J. Madden, Dr. R. Wayne Fuqua, and Dr. Carla J. Rash, and Dr. Gretchen A. Dittrich served as chair. The panelists provided recommendations for identifying funding opportunities to support behavioral medicine research, discussed strategies to increase the probability of successful grant funding, and reviewed recommendations for responding to reviewer feedback.


The third annual Behavioral Medicine SIG Student Research Award was announced at the annual business meeting, held during the ABAI convention in Chicago. The award is made annually to a master's or doctoral student who has completed innovative research in the area of behavioral medicine. Applications and nominations may be submitted to bxmedsig@gmail.com. We encourage all students to apply.

During the annual business meeting, SIG members discussed strategies to enhance membership benefits and identified a new webmaster. Goals for the upcoming year include continuing to improve dissemination of behavioral medicine technologies and research among behavior analysts, consumers, and the medical community, and securing funding to support SIG efforts (e.g., Student Research Award). Additionally, the Behavioral Medicine SIG will be providing webinars and opportunities for CEUs for SIG members.

Behavior Analysis in Military and Veterans' Issues SIG

BY KENT A. CORSO AND ABIGAIL B. CALKIN

The Military and Veterans (MilVet) SIG is entering its eighth year of operation at ABAI. The SIG focuses on how the field of applied behavior analysis (ABA) can contribute to those who currently serve or previously served in the military. There are many issues that concern the military and veteran communities (e.g., suicide, PTSD, TBI, and autism). Co-chairs, Abigail Calkin and Kent Corso, and members remain excited about working on the issues and needs of this specific population. During its early years, the SIG devoted a significant amount of time to increasing membership, while also examining viable ways of accessing the military and veteran community. A few long-term projects are now well underway that have helped recruit additional members.




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The MilVet SIG currently has 75 members. When the co-chairs first applied to be a SIG there were 14 members. While the co-chairs are pleased with the SIG's membership growth, over the past two years we have seen a decreased rate of new members joining the SIG. As a result, the co-chairs commit to spending more time and effort this year increasing membership and stimulating more involvement by current members. With the current projects in motion, members will begin playing more active roles in the actual delivery of ABA to military and veteran communities.

One of the MilVet SIG members, Megan Miller, created a Facebook page on May 28, 2014: Behavior Analysis in Military and Veterans' Issues SIG. The site is a closed group, which grew to 86 members in its first year. At the end of its second year, it had 190 members. In its third year, membership was 252, and as of March 15, 2018, the SIG had 367 members.

Last year SIG members concluded a year-long project working on suicide prevention in the Air National Guard (ANG). Kent Corso led the team, including SIG members Jim Meador, Abigail Calkin, and Mike Kondis. In addition, five BCBA or BCBA-D professionals assisted with various aspects of data analysis for this project. This year the same team was granted the opportunity to contribute to a 3-year research study with the U.S. Air Force to build on and continue the work that was done with the ANG. Additionally, this team launched the only native application for the standard celeration chart (i.e., AimStar Lite), making the digital standard celeration chart accessible on iOS devices worldwide!

While these exciting developments keep our SIG motivated, our Facebook page contains requests every week about how to treat this population and where to gain such experience. The absence of formal systems of ABA care delivery within the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs continues to be a barrier to providing ABA providers access to helping this population.

There is much that the field of ABA can contribute to the military and veteran community. Despite the barriers, the SIG will continue to support this community, raise awareness, and build momentum through the ABA community at ABAAI and elsewhere. Professional conferences are great opportunities to meet prospective members of the MilVet SIG, current members, and the co-chairs. Any parties interested in the SIG, contact Dr. Corso at kentcorso@gmail.com or Dr. Calkin at abigailcalkin.com. Membership is free.

Behavior Analysis for Sustainable Societies SIG

BY JULIA H. FIEBIG

The Behavior Analysis for Sustainable Societies Special Interest Group (BASS SIG) is in its ninth year, and members have devoted time in the last year to clarifying and identifying what they most value about doing work in behavior analysis and sustainability and, specifically, how the SIG might best function for its members. In BASS business meetings over the last year, general actions related to group values identified include the following:

- Increasing awareness and applications of the science to sustainability through dissemination of ABA and sustainability practices in places of employment, other businesses, and in the community at large.
- Influencing legislation and public policy related to sustainable behavior change/participating in public policy initiatives.
- Re-establishing and/or creating groups online that are facilitated with the aim of addressing environmentally relevant behavior change.
- Developing research topics related to changing environmentally relevant behavior and/or verbal behavior on climate change.
- Developing undergraduate and graduate curriculum and coursework on psychology/behavior analysis of climate change.
- Supporting multiple student and/or practitioner community-based research projects each year.

At the most recent BASS SIG business meeting at the ABAAI 45th Annual Convention in Chicago, members' goals were revisited, progress was reviewed, and next steps were planned. Steps taken toward measurable action to accomplish the areas identified above over the last year include the following:

- Recruitment of two members to redesign and relaunch the BASS website as a platform that better serves the BASS community. While the BASS Facebook page reached 857 likes, communication on the Facebook page and Yahoo discussion group have been nonexistent, and these have not been forums that result in communication or collaboration.
- Facilitation of the Facebook page "ABA and the Earth" by a number of members with the result of increased interaction and sharing of resources. This is most frequently related to behavior change related to plastic use and consumption.
- Research project addressing experimental application of behavior principles to effective public policy changes by some BASS members and ABAAI's Climate Change Task Force members. This beginning work was presented in a panel presentation at the convention in

Chicago in May.

- Initial planning for fundraising/donation efforts to create a BASS research project fund that, through an application process, can award funding to research projects addressing sustainability and behavior change using applications of behavior analysis.

A summary of meeting notes and action items was posted to the member-accessible files on the website for reference. Contact information for all BASS liaisons and relevant sites and resources can be found on the ABAI BASS SIG page, as well as on the BASS blog website: <http://baforsustainablesocieties.blogspot.com/>.

Objectives of BASS continue to include supporting initiatives that directly contribute to applications of behavior analysis to environmental issues. The BASS SIG supports collaborative initiatives for multidisciplinary research and practical applications of behavioral solutions for environmental issues. Below are BASS SIG's target goals:

- Increase membership within ABAI and expand membership to include other scientists, researchers, professionals, and students interested in approaching behavior change and sustainability from a multidisciplinary perspective.
- Establish relationships with other ABAI SIGs and other organizations interested in collaborating on disseminating research and practical applications of behavioral solutions to climate change, pollution, overconsumption of resources, and imbalances in environmental sustainability.
- Develop resources for individuals interested in behavior change and environmental issues.
- Develop textbooks, curricula, and additional educational resources that address sustainability and the application of behavior analysis.
- Develop an information base of current effective practices/initiatives, government policies, and employment for behavior analysts interested in behavior change and environmental issues.

Additional information can be found by signing up for the Yahoo group (<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/behavioranalystsfor sustainablesocieties/>) or joining the BASS Facebook page (www.facebook.com/BASS-Behavior-Analysis-for-Sustainable-Societies#!/pages/BASS-Behavior-Analysis-for-Sustainable-Societies/115936941800586). Be sure to periodically check our ABAI web page for updates.

Behaviorists for Social Responsibility SIG

BY MOLLI LUKE

The Behaviorists for Social Responsibility (BFSR) SIG is composed of dedicated volunteers and a board of Planners (drawing on Skinner's *Walden Two*). The Planners, who meet monthly, currently consist of Jose Ardila, Kendra Combs, Traci Cihon, Molli Luke, Mark Mattaini, Richard Rakos, and Holly Seniuk. The Planner structure, active volunteers, the easy availability of digital communications, and the resulting mutual accountability continue to produce a high level of activity by the SIG. The following report summarizes only some of the SIG's activities for 2018–2019.

Matrix

BFSR has continued to focus on the Matrix Project (see <https://bfsr.abainternational.org/> for more information), which was first introduced in a *Behavior and Social Issues* editorial (Mattaini & Luke, 2014). The Matrix Project focuses on increasing the number of behavior analysts working on social issues (e.g., social justice, poverty, sustainability, public health) using behavioral systems analysis to identify interrelations and practical steps that may be taken across more than a dozen sectors/players (e.g., behavior analytic education programs, journals, students) who might have an impact. A significant amount of activity has continued to occur in the last year, so we will highlight a few recent initiatives.

- **Course Unit Group**—The goal for this group is to develop materials to increase the inclusion of cultural/behavioral systems-level content, particularly with emphasis on social issues, in university coursework. So far, the Course Unit Group has created multiple sample course units in the area of environmental sustainability. These units are freely available on the BFSR website and include links to the Behavior Analyst Certification Board's BCBA/BCaBA Task List (5th ed.) items, student learning objectives, activities, assessments, and relevant readings. The group is currently building course units in the area of poverty.
- **Regional BFSR Groups**—The goal for the regional groups is to create a network of BFSR SIGs in affiliated chapters of ABAI. To date, two affiliated state chapters of the BFSR SIG have been formed (TxABA in 2016 and KansABA in 2017). Another state chapter (Alabama ABA) and a non-US affiliated chapter (Brazil or ABPMZ) are in development.

The TxABA BFSR SIG council met several times between the 2018 and 2019 TxABA conferences. Over the course of the year, the TxABA BFSR SIG executive committee has updated the bylaws to move the governance toward a Planners' Committee, similar

to the BFSR SIG. The TxABA BFSR SIG has also continued to work with the program coordinator for the education and social issues tracks for the TxABA conference and coordinated with the BFSR SIG of ABAI and the KansABA BFSR SIG leadership. In addition, the TxABA BFSR SIG has developed a blog to increase member engagement through more frequent communication regarding topics of interest to the members and presented the ABAI BFSR SIG Matrix poster at this year's conference (see txaba.org/SIGs/BFSRSIG.php for additional information about the TxABA BFSR SIG).

- **Bibliography Group**—The Bibliography Group is currently working on putting together a list of resources to include seminal and recent articles published on topics such as sustainability, diversity, public policy, and public health. The goal of this project is to provide faculty who are interested in incorporating units on social issues into their courses with a reading list for that area. It is also a useful resource for students who are interested in pursuing these topics because it provides them with a starting point for their review of the literature. The sustainability bibliography is posted on the BFSR website and the readings have been integrated into the course units (see above). The group is currently working on developing bibliographies for diversity and poverty.

BFSR will continue to work on the Matrix Project over the coming year and encourages those who want to get involved to contact BFSR at bfsr@bfsr.org.

Infrastructure Improvements

To ensure that the SIG continues to make progress toward its mission, several infrastructure improvements were made in the last year. The SIG developed bylaws, which were reviewed at the annual business meeting, and became an ABAI Associate SIG. As a result of these improvements, ABAI members can now become annual members of the SIG. The membership structure includes student members (\$5), full members (\$20), supporting members (\$50), and sustaining members (\$100). The SIG has also developed a process for getting volunteers involved with SIG activities (email bfsr@bfsr.org if you are interested in volunteering) and will soon have an updated website.

Transition of *Behavior and Social Issues* to ABAI

After over 40 years of running the *Behavior and Social Issues* (BSI) journal, BFSR transitioned the journal over to ABAI at the end of 2018 (see Luke, Roose, Rakos, & Mattaini, 2017 for a history of the journal). This was an exciting change to ensure continued longevity and interest in BSI and will help place a greater spotlight on behavior analytic approaches to social issues. BFSR members will continue

to receive free access to the journal.

ABAI Annual Convention

BFSR held our annual business meeting at the ABAI convention. BFSR was also represented at the convention Expo and had a poster presenting further developments of the Matrix Project.

Crime, Delinquency, and Forensic Behavior Analysis SIG

BY TIMOTHY J. TEMPLIN AND ESTHER BUBB-MCKINNIE

The mission of this SIG is to ensure that those in the criminal justice fields have access to appropriate, evidence-based behavior analytic therapy to reduce crime and delinquency.

Behavioral interventions can reduce prison misconduct (French & Gendreau, 2006). SIG members have testified on behavioral intervention to reduce crime. Behavioral interventions can reduce crime by approximately 13–20% (Redondo-Illescas, Sánchez-Meca, & Garrido-Genovés, 2001) and prison misconduct (French & Gendreau, 2006).

The SIG plans to remain active in this area over the coming year. Behavioral parent training is a well-established treatment for oppositional defiant disorder and conduct disorder, which are often forerunners to adolescent delinquency (see O'Donohue & Ferguson, 2006).

Finally, behaviorally oriented residential treatment programs are listed by the Surgeon General as promising for children and adolescents with conduct disorders. Recent evaluations of the literature suggest that the program is even more effective on post-release recidivism than first thought (Kingsley, 2006), so the results are promising.

Elderly and Veterans Populations

The SIG has been active in sending letters to the state of Pennsylvania to support use of behavior analysis for addressing clinical issues of the elderly and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for veterans. Additionally, the group is currently exploring collaborations with the Practitioner Issue SIG and the Behavior Analysis in Military and Veterans' Issues SIG about ways to allow licensed behavior analysts to work in the VA system.

This SIG also has much to offer behavior analysts interested in the prevention and treatment of offenders to prevent recidivism, lessen the burden on our prison system, save society money, and overall reduce crime and the damage it does to families.

The SIG operates and maintains a listserv. We currently have 239 members. Discussion topics pertain to subjects such as providing consultation for veterans in prison, child medications, psychology of false confessions, risk assessments, and functional behavioral assessment. In addition, we have disseminated research on such topics

as eliminating spousal abuse (Myers, 1995), adult sex offenders with developmental disabilities (Reyes et al., 2006), contingency management programs in drug courts (Marlowe et al., 2008), high-probability request sequences in hostage negotiations (Hughes, 2009), and others. One member currently runs a podcast on behavior analysis and crime (anchor.fm/criminalbehaviorology and criminalbehaviorology.podomatic.com). Finally, the SIG also posts employment positions for members seeking employment or a career change.

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Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior SIG

BY J. ADAM BENNETT

Report of 2017–2018 activities

The SIG held its annual meeting at the ABAI convention in San Diego. At the meeting, Dr. Kathryn Kestner agreed to continue coordinating the annual student paper competition. The SIG is also grateful for the efforts of Dr. J. Adam Bennett, who continues to serve as chair, and Dr. Stephanie Jimenez, who now serves as treasurer.

In October 2017, the SIG selected Dr. Michael Perone to receive the EAHB SIG Distinguished Contributions Award for 2018. Dr. Mark Galizio introduced Dr. Perone, summarizing his many contributions to the experimental analysis of human behavior. Dr. Perone then gave an award address reflecting on his career with an eye toward the future. The session was chaired by Dr. J. Adam Bennett.

In 2018, the SIG recognized the work of one emerging

scholar with its annual Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior Student Paper Competition. Dr. Kathryn Kestner coordinated the competition. The award was presented to Charisse Ann Lantaya, a student in Caio Miguel's lab at California State University, for her work titled "An Evaluation of Successive Matching-to-Sample in the Development of Emergent Visual-Visual Stimulus Relations." Charisse gave a brief presentation, was presented with a certificate, and received reimbursement for her ABAI registration.

Finally, the SIG released its most recent issue of the *Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior Bulletin*, which can be downloaded at eahb.org.

Plans for 2019

Plans for the upcoming year will remain focused on promoting the experimental analysis of human behavior and basic behavioral research by three primary means: encouraging student research and scholarship in EAHB, recognizing outstanding career-long contributions to the field, and maintaining an outlet for publishing human operant research.

The 2019 EAHB SIG Distinguished Contributions Award will be presented to Dr. Kate Saunders, Senior Scientist at the University of Kansas Institute for Life Span Studies. Dr. Carol Pilgrim will introduce Dr. Saunders and provide a summary of her many contributions to understanding human behavior. Subsequently, Dr. Saunders will give an award address reflecting on her research career.

The EAHB SIG continues to increase the size of its membership (currently 120 ABAI members) by (i) presenting a poster at the ABAI Expo, (ii) promoting the annual Distinguished Contributions Award address, and (iii) increasing the visibility of the EAHB Bulletin.

During this year's meeting, we will also discuss business related to the EAHB Bulletin, including election and term limits of its editorial board and strategies for increasing its impact. We will also discuss possible nominees for next year's Distinguished Contributions Award.

Gambling SIG

BY GSIG OFFICERS

The Gambling Special Interest Group (GSIG) is a home base for behaviorists interested in gambling research and treatment. Our mission is to foster the growth of gambling research in behavior analysis through collaborative research efforts, the coordination of researchers and ideas, and the sharing of resources for the mutual benefit of the field, its adherents, and those who are impacted by such endeavors. Most of our business is online, through email chains and our message board. We invite interested parties to join the GSIG for free; whether your interest relates to research,

treatment, policy, all of the above, or more broadly about risk and choice, we bet you will find the GSIG resources and literature on the behavioral analysis of gambling rewarding. Our website (<http://gsig.squarespace.com>) is where prospective members can get information about the GSIG and join our group. The website also houses research software. Each program represents hours of work or finances staked by a behavioral researcher, and each program is completely free to our members. The programs simulate gambling with control over features of the games. As always, GSIG members are encouraged to download these programs, experiment with their features, and incorporate them into their own research. Also available through the website is our newsletter, *The Handle*, which is available to members with back issues archived online. We had a business meeting at ABAI this year that is summarized online. GSIG members and officers presented at the ABAI convention as well as other conferences in the past year. Join us at gsig.squarespace.com and on our discussion board, or at upcoming events. Persons interested in gambling should also visit *Analysis of Gambling Behavior* at <http://repository.stcloudstate.edu/agb> for a journal devoted to behavioral research. The GSIG has had a long relationship with *Analysis of Gambling Behavior*, as many GSIG members have supported the journal in various roles over the years.

History of Behavior Analysis SIG

BY EDWARD K. MORRIS

The History of Behavior Analysis (HoBA) Special Interest Group (SIG) was founded in 2011. Our listserv was established in 2012. Our first business meeting was held at the 2013 ABAI convention and has been held there annually since then. As of April 2019, we had 259 members, an increase of 13% from 2018.

Aim, Mission, Objectives, Purview, and Audience

Our aim is to advance behavior analysis nationally and internationally through its history and historiography. Our mission is to cultivate and nurture, enrich and improve, and disseminate the field's history and historiography. Our objectives are to enhance teaching—course content and pedagogy; research—presentations, publications, and workshops; and service—leadership, governance, and communications. Our purview is the field's long past, short history, and recent origins. Our audience includes behavior analysts, other scientists and humanists, and the public at large.

Reasons and Rationales

In addition to our aim, mission, and objectives, Jack Michael (2004) offers the following reasons and rationales for teaching, researching, and serving the field's history and historiography:

“Students of behavior analysis who know little of its history will be less than optimally effective in acquiring new knowledge. They will also be unaware of relations among various parts of their professional and scientific repertoires. In short, it is important to know where we came from.” (p. 93)

More specifically, the history and historiography of behavior analysis place the discipline, its sub-disciplines, and its practices in relation to each other. The field has breadth and depth beyond any one of them. Its history and historiography reveal the interdependence of the field's system, its sciences, and its practices. The field is more than the sum of its parts. Its history and historiography address the field's relations with other sciences and the humanities. The field is defined, in part, by its comparisons and contrasts with them.

History and historiography also have more general rationales. The Roman philosopher Marcus Tullius Cicero (106–43 BCE) offered among the first: “Those who know only their own generation remain children forever.” Perhaps the most common is attributed to the Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana (1863–1952): “Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” Another is based on an observation by American writer and humorist Mark Twain (1835–1910) about travel in *The Innocents Abroad*:

“[History] is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime.” (1869, p. 243)

Farrington (1949) summarizes these and other rationales in almost a behavior analytic idiom:

“History is the most fundamental science for there is no human knowledge which cannot lose its scientific character when men forget the conditioning under which it originated, the questions which it answered, and the function it was created to serve. A great part of the mysticism and superstition of educated men consist of knowledge which has broken base from its historical moorings.” (p. 173)

Membership

Our membership is open to anyone interested in the history and historiography of behavior analysis. This includes members of (a) ABAI; (b) other behavior analytic organizations, including Division 25 for Behavior Analysis of the American Psychological Association (APA), the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies, and the B. F. Skinner Foundation; (c) members of organizations outside of behavior analysis, including APA Division 26 for the Society for the History of Psychology, the International Society for the History of the Behavioral Sciences (aka Cheiron), and the History of Science Society; and (d) independent scholars. The SIG's members need not be members of ABAI. Joining the HoBA listserv is the same as joining the SIG and vice versa. We have no membership fees.

Governance

At present, our governance consists of a president, Edward K. Morris (University of Kansas); a vice-president, Karen Wagner (Behavior Service of Brevard, FL); a secretary-treasurer, Todd McKerchar (Jacksonville State University, AL); and our listserv owner and moderator, Pat Williams (University of Houston-Downtown). The near future of the HoBA SIG is to broaden its leadership and governance.

Business Meeting

Our main activities have been hosting a website (www.historyofbehavioranalysis.org) and holding an annual business meeting. To summarize the minutes of the 2018 meeting:

- Despite the SIG's increase in membership, attendance was low (Morris, McKerchar, Wagner, and ~8 members), compared to previous meetings (~20–25), perhaps due to the meeting's time and place.
- Ed Morris suggested that the low attendance may also reflect the SIG's lack of engagement with its members other than through its listserv. Its main activities have not changed since its founding—and neither has its leadership.
- The leadership and the audience then discussed changes in the SIG's structure and functions, the most fundamental of which would be to establish bylaws. This would formalize the SIG's structure (e.g., governance, Executive Council), expand its purview (e.g., committees, positions), and set a calendar for elections and the succession of leadership (e.g., positions, voting, terms)

In expanding the SIG's purview, the leadership and audience considered, further, the functions the SIG could address, in part, through a committee structure. This might include a membership committee (e.g., growth, diversity), finance committee (e.g., dues, donations, IRS status), website committee (e.g., management, communications), publications committee (e.g., a newsletter), program committee (e.g., conference posters, papers, symposia),

education committee (e.g., syllabus bank), dissemination committee (e.g., bibliographies, a YouTube directory), archival committee (e.g., listing and promoting archives), and an awards committee (e.g., for the best annual HoBA presentation or publication).

The bylaws and committee structure were addressed by the SIG leadership and then on the SIG listserv prior to the SIG's 2019 business meeting. At the business meeting, plans and proposals were made to move ahead. To join the SIG, log on to the HoBA website (www.historyofbehavioranalysis.org) or contact Pat Williams (University of Houston-Downtown) at WilliamsP@uhd.edu. To contribute to the plans and proposals, also log on to the website.

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Neuroscience SIG

BY SUZANNE MITCHELL

The Neuroscience SIG brings together researchers, academics, clinicians, and students interested in the intersections of behavior analysis and neuroscience and has four primary missions: (1) to introduce behavior analytic research to the neurosciences and introduce neuroscience research to behavior analysis; (2) to serve as both a meeting place and training environment for students and professionals alike interested in basic and applied neuroscience research; (3) to serve as a forum for collaborative relationships, funding applications, and the sharing of best practice; and (4) to advocate for and promote high standards in the application of behavior analytic treatments for individuals with neurological dysfunction.

A business meeting and presence at the Expo were included in the 2019 ABAI Annual Convention in Chicago.

Over the next 12 months, increasing the profile and relevance of the SIG to ABAI members is a major focus, and anyone interested in contributing to this effort or who has ideas for additional initiatives is encouraged to join and become involved in the SIG by contacting Suzanne Mitchell at mitchesu@ohsu.edu. Membership is open to all ABAI members, as well as academics, researchers, administrators, clinicians from other organizations, and consumers. We welcome anyone with an interest in the intersection of behavior analysis and neuroscience and look forward to an exciting year further enhancing the SIG and its place in ABAI.

Pediatric Feeding Disorders SIG

BY TESSA TAYLOR, CATHLEEN C. PIAZZA, KEITH E.

WILLIAMS, MICHAEL F. CATALDO, AND PETER A. GIROLAMI

The Pediatric Feeding Disorders Special Interest Group (SIG) now has more than 150 members, and new queries continue to be received. The mission of the Pediatric Feeding Disorders SIG is to generate interest; foster collaborative research; share clinical information; as well as impact training, practice, and reimbursement for evaluation and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders. As such, the SIG will attempt to tackle some tough issues that face clinicians who treat children with feeding disorders.

In previous business meetings, the SIG has discussed insurance reimbursement codes, standards and training requirements for best practice (training criteria, case severity, interdisciplinary team coordination needs, referrals to intensive behavior analytic hospital programs), international exchange options for training, social media and non-evidence-based practices, and disseminating and promoting empirically supported treatment.

In previous years, we took steps to form the Pediatric Feeding Disorders Consortium, a multi-site collaborative effort of programs providing feeding treatment services. The initial purpose of this effort is to better understand existing resources associated with the treatment of feeding disorders of young children, including the techniques employed, as well as costs and outcomes. With this information and the existence of a working consortium, the second objective would be for these programs to work together on improving treatment techniques and outcomes, as well as to help both parents and payers navigate the sometimes confusing process of identifying the best combination of treatment modalities for each individual child. We collected pilot survey data in two phases. In addition, we solicited input concerning interest in the consortium, feedback on the surveys, and scope of data to collect in future phases. Also, programs were encouraged to send supplemental materials such as program brochures and materials (e.g., intake forms, goal and outcome forms, data collection materials). Based on input from the group, we compiled information to share as resources regarding obtaining reimbursement.

We have discussed how the consortium members could collaborate to everyone's benefit. One area identified by many feeding clinics was approval and payment from insurance companies for services. Collaboration across sites would establish a mechanism on a scale that could not otherwise be conducted by a single clinic, as well as data that would be of particular interest to the payers for such services (e.g., insurance companies) and consumers. To do so would require knowledge about the range of outcomes of treatments and the variables that correlate with these outcomes, as well as which treatments work for

which patients. Important to the further development of this idea would be commonly accepted and economically implemented measures across sites, particularly outcome measures. In light of this, we wish to begin the collection of data across sites on the effectiveness of assessment and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders. We have requested input from the group regarding how they are currently collecting information and measuring outcomes.

The SIG has focused in the past on developing a draft of practice guidelines for behavior analysts working in the area of pediatric feeding disorders. A committee of SIG members has begun collaborating on an outline for these guidelines. The guidelines will cover the target population (e.g., age, comorbid conditions, specific feeding targets), severity level and corresponding intensity of treatment warranted, pre-treatment issues, assessment/intervention/implementation guidelines, and treatment follow-up guidelines. The SIG will coordinate with the ABAI Practice Board on these guidelines.

Anyone interested in these issues is encouraged to contact the SIG Consortium Coordinator, Tessa Taylor, at DrTaylor@PaediatricFeedingIntl.com and Dr. Cathleen Piazza at cpiazza@unmc.edu. Members were encouraged to exchange ideas throughout the year via email, telephone, and the SIG Yahoo Group. We also generated a list of the members with contact information and program affiliation. We will resume discussion of these issues next year. Input is welcome and appreciated from all interested parties.

Practitioner Issues in Behavior Analysis SIG

BY MICHAEL WEINBERG

The Practitioner Issues in Behavior Analysis (PIBA) SIG focuses on all areas of specialization for behavior analyst practitioners. This SIG developed a model licensing act for behavior analysts in 2007. The BACB's model licensing act drew heavily from the PIBA SIG's model act to meet the needs and concerns of BCBA and BCaBA practitioners. We currently have a membership of 75 and maintain a Yahoo listserv for communication among members.

This SIG provides a means of discussion, support, and potential for action if warranted among ABAI members. The SIG collaborates with other SIGs and boards of ABAI or external organizations as individual members on legal and ethical issues pertaining to the practice of behavior analysis. We promote and support means of ensuring the continued ability for behavior analysts to practice independently. The SIG provides a means of communicating about current trends and concerns pertaining to the practice of behavior analysis, licensing matters, legislation issues, insurance regulations, billing practices and updates, and efforts to place barriers to such practice by outside organizations or individuals. We help

support and promote the ability for behavior analysts to be on insurance panels to provide services to family members with autism and other areas of application of behavior analytic methods.

There are currently more than 30 states with licensure laws in place or pending for the practice of behavior analysis and 48 states as of this report with “autism insurance mandate” laws.

In the past year, the SIG has supported other SIGs working on the practice of behavior analysis in areas such as military/veterans’ issues; crime and delinquency, including juvenile justice and prisons; and substance use.

Given the growth in the number of states with licensure bills and ongoing expansion of this process, our SIG provides a place for practitioners to share information and discuss opportunities and strategies to promote the practice of behavior analysis as well as expansion of insurance coverage to areas outside of autism. Our listserv allows for communication and opportunities to interact and share relevant information.

PIBA SIG promotes the science of behavior and evidence-based practices, and sees the need to ensure this linkage continues.

We are seeking new members and involvement for the coming year. Please sign in and request to join the list (abapractice_group@yahoogroups.com) to post officer nominations. We welcome new members and hope to meet with those interested at the annual convention and other ABAI events.

Sexual Behavior: Research and Practice SIG

BY WORNER LELAND

The Sexual Behavior: Research and Practice SIG disseminates empirically verified information regarding sex education and therapy and supports basic and applied research on the emergence and maintenance of sexual behaviors. Members are professionals, teachers, direct service providers, parents, and consumers who are concerned with issues of sex therapy, sex education, and research. Check out our website: www.sbrpsig.org.

The Sexual Behavior: Research and Practice SIG was founded in 2007 and has been providing a symposium at ABAI’s annual convention since its inception. Past topics have included sex education for students with developmental disabilities, the ethical treatment of inappropriate sexual behavior, and scientific descriptions of basic processes involved in the formation of sexual behavior. At the 2018 convention, SIG interests were demonstrated during three symposia. Topics included cultural contingencies and perceptions of sexual behavior, sexual behavior assessments, sex education, and sexual behavior delay discounting. The SIG also continued to provide access to information and support via our website, as well as dissemination of sexual behavior research as a core component of our online presence. Check our website for upcoming events!

In the upcoming year, the Sexual Behavior: Research and Practice SIG plans to streamline facilitation for consultation on sexual behavior and research with leaders in the field. We will also continue to release the annual newsletter to spread information about sexual education and research. We’re looking forward to the year ahead!



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Speech Pathology SIG

BY NIKIA DOWER

The Speech Pathology–Applied Behavior Analysis (SPABA) SIG mission is to promote dissemination of behaviorally oriented speech and language research and the application of evidence-based practices to speech and language professionals, as well as to foster active dialogue between behavior analysts and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) studying issues in speech, language, feeding, and communication, including augmentative–alternative communication.

SPABA SIG is grateful for the support and guidance of former chair, Barb Esch. We would also like to thank our current officers and volunteers: Tracie Lindblad and Nikia Dower (co-chairs), Sudha Ramaswamy (grant awards), Heather Forbes (treasurer), Lina Slim-Topdjian (secretary), Deirdre Muldoon (communications coordinator), and Landa Mark (membership).

Our website has enabled us to continue connecting with members and other interested professionals. We are proud to announce that there now nearly 400 SLPs who are BCBAs or BCaBAs worldwide. We are present in 41 states, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, and 12 countries outside the US. We continue to provide and maintain an online database of practitioners dually certified as SLPs and BCBAs/BCaBAs from around the world and have a document available for upload detailing the online/distance courses for the BACB approved course sequences and full master's programs in ABA. These features continue to provide families and individuals with pertinent information in one place. A consistent social media presence was a continued focus for the SPABA SIG in 2018. The SPABA SIG is very active via our Facebook group and Facebook page, as well as Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest.

In 2018–2019, our membership decreased to nine members who provided a donation and one student member who provided a donation. SPABA provides a significant amount of free access to SIG information and interaction through social media; therefore, when the combination of formal members and SPABA Facebook group members is calculated, we are pleased to report a total of 5,667 formal and informal members. The SPABA Facebook group has enabled our members to connect with each other in order to share or request pertinent information in a more timely fashion. Since our decision to make our Facebook group open for anyone requesting to join without requiring SIG paid membership, the interest has continued to increase exponentially; however, the impact of this free membership on our operating funds had also been significant. Discussion regarding membership fees took place at the annual SIG meeting in 2015, when it was decided that instead of a set membership fee, a donation would be requested of members and potential members to primarily fund our annual SIG grants. This

decision continues to have mixed results in terms of membership and operating funds.

The SIG, and our members, were active during the past year conducting research, disseminating information regarding evidence-based practice, applying the principles of applied behavior analysis to the research and treatment of speech, language, feeding, and communication disorders in children and adults, publishing scholarly articles, conducting webinars, speaking and conducting workshops at professional conventions, presenting posters at professional conferences, and teaching and/or mentoring students in the fields of ABA and speech pathology. While most of these activities took place in North America, several were done internationally and as such furthered the SIG's mission. Our members presented almost 100 times during 2018, including the ABAI 2018 Annual Convention, the ASHA 2018 conference, and several other annual state speech/language association conferences and applied behavior analysis association conferences. Many members were speakers at non-speech/non-behavior analytic conferences as well.

SPABA offers two \$250 grants annually, one in application and the other in dissemination. These grants are available to ABAI members who, as students or practicing clinicians, conduct empirical research or raise awareness about behavior analysis among SLPs. Research projects should advance the evidence base for behavior analytic conceptualization or treatment of speech, language, communication, and feeding disorders. Application or dissemination projects should involve effective application of the science-based principles of behavior by SLPs or distribution of accurate information about the science-based field of behavior analysis among SLPs.

The SPABA SIG's 2019 grant recipients presented their research at the SIG business meeting during ABAI's annual convention in Chicago. Each year student members and practitioners may obtain updated information about submitting grant proposals for the current year on our website, www.behavioralspeech.com.

The SPABA SIG executive is looking forward to expanding our membership through various initiatives and social media and also increasing member participation on the executive and within our committees. We are also planning to complete a number of projects over the year to support our members:

- Develop web-based tutorials and in-person courses to disseminate information regarding a behavioral approach to the study and treatment of speech, language, and communication disorders in children and adults.
- Work with the Verbal Behavior SIG and Behavioral Gerontology SIG on joint programs and initiatives.
- Continue disseminating behavior analytic information to ASHA members through the ASHA community forum listserv and to U.S. and international speech

pathologists via various speech/language Facebook groups as well as presenting at speech/language conferences and conventions.

- Continue disseminating speech-language information to ABAI members and BACB certified individuals via various behavior analytic Facebook groups and listservs as well as presenting at ABA conferences and conventions.
- Continue disseminating interprofessional collaboration information across related disciplines and fields to maximize outcomes for shared consumers of our services. This collaboration has strong benefits and enhances communication between our related professions.

The identified initiatives are feasible only with increased financial support from our members. Please consider donating your expertise/services in kind, making financial contributions, or providing committee support so that we may meet the needs of our membership and complete our targeted activities.

If you are interested in learning more about the SPABA SIG, wish to volunteer to sit on a committee, or assist with a specific project, please visit us at www.behavioralspeech.com, email us at SPABASIG@yahoo.com, or join or follow us on social media.

Teaching Behavior Analysis SIG

BY DACIA M. MCCOY

Within the field of behavior analysis, teaching takes many different forms including staff training, academia, teacher consultation, parent education, and skills training for clients. The Teaching Behavior Analysis (TBA) SIG is a collaborative group that encompasses all of these areas and more with the goal of improving teaching and learning throughout the field and beyond. All are welcome to join and there are no dues to participate.

The TBA SIG has a variety of ways to get involved and connect with other members. One simple opportunity is to join the engaging listserv where members post resources, references, open-source tools, and faculty or internship positions. To become a member of the listserv, please send an email to Dacia McCoy at mccoydi@ucmail.uc.edu and copy our list manager, Pat Williams, at deadmantest@gmail.com. The large membership ensures a range of topics and generally a quick response from diverse viewpoints. Some recent topics:

- 5th Task List Course Sequence
- Radical Behaviorism
- Multicultural Training
- Connecting for Presentation Proposals
- APA Formatting Exercises
- Course Material for Ethics Course
- Reinforcement Learning With Robotics
- Organizational Behavior Management Journals

- Biology and Behavior
- University Practicum Structures

Furthermore, we have an active and growing Facebook page (@Teaching Behavior Analysis) with more than 4,590 members. This is another venue where resources, collaboration, and professional development opportunities are shared. Additionally, we are excited to announce that we now have Instagram and Twitter! You can follow us at <https://www.instagram.com/teachbehavioranalysis/> and <https://twitter.com/AnalysisTeach>. On all platforms advertisements for commercial products and books are not permitted, to allow for open dialogue and the group's focus to remain.

As we do each year, we hosted a TBA SIG business meeting at the annual convention, which is a fun way for members to meet in person, learn more about the group, and provide direction for the upcoming year. Make sure to look for the session at the next convention. There are also several ways to get involved in a leadership role within the group. If you are interested in learning more about running for a committee position or contributing to group initiatives please email Dacia McCoy. We are excited to continue to offer these great resources to members and look forward to your involvement in the TBA SIG.

Verbal Behavior SIG

BY APRIL KISAMORE

The Verbal Behavior Special Interest Group (VB SIG) had another great year. We continued to fulfill the mission of advancing the theory, research, and practice of Skinner's (1957) analysis of verbal behavior by presenting awards to support the exemplary work of students and professionals, advancing the work of our student group, publishing two newsletters, disseminating information online, and more.

We applaud the students who received plaques and cash awards at our business meeting at the 2018 ABAI Annual Convention. There were two winners of the 2018 VB SIG Student Grant, both tied for first place: Megan Pyles, California State University, Sacramento and Christine Romo, University of Houston-Clear Lake. We would like to thank the reviewers of this competition: Regina Carroll, Amarie Carnett, and Tracy Lepper. In addition, there were three winners of the 2018 VB SIG Student Research Competition: Brittany Juban, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; Jessica Sauter, Briar Cliff University; and Mirela Cenghar, City University of New York. We thank the judges: Tom Cariveau, Matt Brodhead, Chris Tullis, Bethany Hansen, Andresa De Souza, and Kent Johnson.

The VB SIG presented the 2018 Jack Michael Award for the enduring contributions of an advanced scholar in the analysis of verbal behavior to Dr. R. Douglas Greer. We thank the judges: James Carr, Vincent Carbone, and

Hank Schlinger. We also presented the Clinical Supervisor Award in Verbal Behavior to Sarah Lechago, University of Houston-Clear Lake. We thank the judges: Ellie Kazemi, Tyra Sellers, Tyla Frewing, and Stephanie Phelan. The inaugural Junior Researcher in Verbal Behavior Award was also presented to Sarah Lechago. We thank the judges: Mark Sundberg, Caio Miguel, Tiffany Kodak, Caitlin Delfs, and Einar Ingvarsson. We announced another professional award, the Excellence in Teaching Verbal Behavior Award. This award was established to recognize outstanding teaching in the area of verbal behavior. One individual whose dedication to teaching on topics concerned with verbal behavior and talent in the classroom are outstanding will be recognized at the 2019 VB SIG business meeting.

The VB SIG continued to support our student group this past year. The group was composed of nine graduate students from around the country. The group held video conference meetings to discuss articles and their own research; they included expert researchers in verbal behavior in those video conferences, and they continued collaborating with the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies to update their Verbal Behavior Help Center page. The group contributed to write article reviews for our newsletter and website, and they volunteered to help with the VB SIG Expo poster and business meeting at the ABAI convention. Kristin Albert, Florida Institute of Technology, continued as the leader of the student group this year. Kristen functions as the student liaison to the VB SIG Council and attends monthly VB SIG Council meetings. The other members of the student group were Natalie Arreola, California State University, Fresno; Landon Cowan, University of Houston-Clear Lake; Mary Halbur, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; Ian McElfish, Western Michigan University; Nicole Pantano, Caldwell University; Leslie Quiroz, Caldwell University; Sandhya Rajagopal, Florida Institute of Technology; and Caleb Stanley, Southern Illinois University.

The VB SIG published two full issues of *VB News*, our newsletter. Features included a lab highlight with Thomas Higbee, Utah State University; member highlights by Sarah Frampton, May Institute; and a student article summary by Ian McElfish. We are excited about the quality of our newsletter and the positive feedback from readers.

The VB SIG maintained a strong presence on the web and social media this year in an effort to continue dissemination of verbal behavior. The SIG Facebook page has 2,075 likes, and the SIG group has 2,097 members. We continued to post important information and opportunities such as the student and professional awards, and events such as ABAI presentations on the Facebook page and the website. In the coming year, we plan to continue using social media platforms to contact VB SIG supporters.

The VB SIG membership remained strong this year.

We plan to continue offering research and practice awards, publishing high-quality newsletters, offering a forum for graduate students to discuss verbal behavior, and showcasing verbal behavior opportunities and events on the web in an effort to maintain and increase our membership. From the 2018 ABAI convention through March 15, 2019, we gained 18 new members for a total of 95, which shows tremendous dedication to the study of verbal behavior and support of the VB SIG. Our members enjoy eight benefits: (1) receiving the *VB News* twice per year and having access (members only) to past issues on the website; (2) receiving emails about SIG-related events and opportunities; (3) joining the VB listserv to engage in discussions about verbal behavior; (4) becoming eligible to submit to the three VB SIG awards; (5) becoming eligible to be elected to positions on the VB SIG Council; (6) becoming involved in the VB SIG student group; (7) gaining professional development; and (8) joining an active community of people passionate about verbal behavior. We are grateful to the 95 members who joined and supported the VB SIG this year.

The work of disseminating and promoting verbal behavior would not be possible without the diligent efforts of the VB SIG Council. There were a number of new VB SIG officers elected this year. Caitlin Delfs, Village Autism Center, was elected to the student grant competition coordinator position; Amanda Laprime, Center for Children with Special Needs, was elected to the newsletter editor position; Brittany Juban, May Institute, was elected to the new professional awards coordinator position; Bethany Hansen, Munroe-Meyer Institute and University of Nebraska Medical Center, was elected to the position of secretary; Laura Grow, Garden Academy, was elected to the treasurer position; and Tom Cariveau, University of North Carolina Wilmington. We would like to welcome all new VB SIG officers!

Other board members include April Kisamore, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Hunter College, chair; Alice Shillingsburg, Ph.D., BCBA-D, May Institute, student research competition coordinator; Catia Cividini-Motta, Ph.D., BCBA-D, University of South Florida; Kristin Albert, MEd, BCBA, Florida Institute of Technology, student group liaison; and Mark Dixon, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Southern Illinois University, editor, *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*. To further support work of the VB SIG, we are considering creating a new position: dissemination coordinator. ❖

14th Annual Autism Conference Preview

Pre-Conference Workshops

Learning RFT and ACT to Build Meaningful and Robust Skill Repertoires in Persons With Autism **MARK DIXON**

Dr. Mark R. Dixon, BCBA-D, is professor and coordinator of the Behavior Analysis and Therapy Program at Southern Illinois University. His interests include the study of complex operant behavior, gambling behavior, and organizational behavior. Mark has published 3 books and over 100 peer reviewed journal articles. He has served as associate editor for *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* and *Journal of Organizational Behavior Management*, the editor for the *Analysis of Gambling Behavior*, and a reviewer for over 20 nonbehavioral journals. Dr. Dixon has generated over 1.5 million dollars in funding to infuse behavior analysis within local schools and treatment facilities, and create a behavioral therapy clinic for persons suffering from problem gambling or obesity. Mark's research and/or expert opinions have been featured in *Newsweek*, *Time*, *The New York Times*, National Public Radio, *This American Life*, a *New York Times* best seller, and regional affiliates of ABC, CBS, and PBS.

Description: This workshop is designed for the practicing behavior analyst in a wide range of clinical settings that is looking for a better understanding of Relational Frame Theory and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. This interactive workshop moves from the origins, the research, and the implications these post-Skinnerian approaches have on everyday practice. Benefits include a more comprehensive account of language, how complex language can be taught to persons with autism, as well as the troubles language can get clients into as they begin to move from pure contingency control towards rule governed dominance.

Practical Functional Assessment of Severe Problem Behavior: A Process Primer and Update **GREGORY HANLEY**

Dr. Hanley has been applying the principles of learning to improve socially important behaviors of children and adults with and without disabilities just under 30 years. He worked and trained at the Kennedy Krieger Institute, was degreed at the University of Florida, was tenured at the University of Kansas, and directed the Behavior Analysis Doctoral

Program and Life Skills Clinic at Western New England University.

Dr. Hanley has published over 100 book chapters and articles in peer-reviewed journals in areas such as the assessment and prevention of problem behavior, teaching tactics for young children, and evidence-based values. Dr. Hanley is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (Div. 25), past associate editor of *The Behavior Analyst*, and past editor of the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* and of *Behavior Analysis in Practice*.

Description: Through lecture and interactive discussion, attendees will be introduced to the latest iteration of the practical functional assessment process that allows for the development of skill-based treatments capable of producing socially valid outcomes. The procedures for maximizing the safety and efficiency of the analysis will be emphasized. The effective and parent-validated treatment process for problem behavior will also be described, but with an emphasis on the generally applicable process for teaching contextually appropriate behavior following the shaping of a communication and toleration repertoire. The relevance of an "enhanced choice" model for further minimizing risks and expanding practitioner's scope of practice will also be reviewed.

Invited Presentations

Behavior Analysis in Autism History **TRAVIS THOMPSON**

Travis I. Thompson earned his BA, MA, and Ph.D. in the Psychology Department at the University of Minnesota, where he studied with Kenneth MacCorquodale and Gordon Heistad. MacCorquodale was one of the first students to study with B.F. Skinner. Thompson did post-doctoral research with J. V. Brady, a *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior* founder. He co-authored the first article on an operant analysis of addictive behavior with C. R. Schuster, with whom they wrote the first textbook of *Behavioral Pharmacology*. He and his students established the first large scale behavioral intervention program for people with intellectual disabilities, ultimately leading to closure of most



Minnesota State hospitals. Over many years, he conducted training, directed research and administered a large scale university research and service program at the J. F. Kennedy Center in Nashville. Later, he directed a home-based early autism behavioral intervention program in Minneapolis. He has given invited addresses in 47 U.S. states and 17 other countries, and published 30 books and 250 articles. Thompson was the coordinator of the ABAI annual autism conferences for 3 years, and led the early steps of establishing CPT autism insurance billing. Travis Thompson has been a licensed psychologist in Minnesota since 1975.

Abstract: For three decades after Leo Kanner's first clinical description, research progress in understanding and treating autism was minimal. Since the late 1960s, autism discoveries have been exponential. The impetus for this explosion of empirical research was the discovery that something could be done to prevent the inevitable downward spiral of autism using Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI). Two other important factors were widely accepted as clinical tests for autism: the Autism Diagnostic Observational Schedule and the proliferation of magnetic resonance imaging technologies (especially functional brain imaging) leading to localizing brain areas most involved in autism deficits overcome by EIBI. Naturalistic and discrete trial methods are now integrated, with emphasis depending on degree of disability. As we approach 2020, autism has begun to be an eminently treatable condition for many affected children.

Understanding and Treating Restricted, Repetitive, and Inflexible Forms of Behavior in Autism

JAMES BODFISH

James Bodfish is a professor of hearing and speech sciences at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine with joint appointments in Psychiatry, Neuroscience, and Special Education. I have devoted my career exclusively to research, teaching, and clinical activities in the field of autism and developmental disabilities. My research has focused on the pathogenesis and treatment of autism and related conditions with a particular focus on repetitive and inflexible patterns of behavior. Research in these areas from our group has been published in a variety of journals including *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *Science*, *PLoS One*, *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, *Autism Research*, *the American Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities*, *the Journal of Pediatrics*, *Brain Behavior Research*, and *Social Cognitive Affective Neuroscience*. My research has been continuously funded by NIH since 1992. My service activities have included: standing member of the NIH Childhood Psychopathology and Developmental Disabilities Study Section; editor of *Autism: The International Journal of Research & Practice*; associate editor of the *American*



Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, co-chair of the Institute of Medicine Developmental Disabilities Task Force, Governor-appointed member of the Council on Developmental Disabilities; Senate Appointee of the Legislative Study Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders; expert consultant for the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, and faculty member of the International Congress on Movement Disorders.

Abstract: Repetitive patterns of behavior are a hallmark of autism. However, both the research literature and common practices related to this form of behavior are mixed on a key issue: Should repetitive behavior be seen as an adaptive response and encouraged, or a challenging behavior to be treated? Many people with autism report that their repetitive behaviors are useful for them and even an important source of their identity. But, for others, more severe forms of repetitive behavior may limit opportunities for development and may cause stress for families, teachers, and care providers due to the behavior and mood problems that are associated with inflexibility. What assessments are useful for identifying the instances where repetitive behaviors are impeding development and thus are reasonable targets for intervention? And, what intervention approaches are practical and effective when this is the case? When a child with autism has trouble with communication or socialization we intuitively know what to teach to address these deficits, and a considerable amount of research and good practice provide us with guides on how to do this effectively. But, how do you “teach to” the issue of repetitive, rigid and inflexible behavior? Without this notion of how to best address this behaviorally, poor outcomes are a possibility, and non-evidenced based approaches may be considered and applied. In this talk, I'll review research that has examined the underlying biological and behavioral mechanisms that appear to drive repetitive patterns of behavior and how this information can inform behavioral intervention practices. Key aspects of this work are informed from work in the experimental analysis of behavior on behavioral variability, and work on the behavioral neuroscience of choice, reward and reinforcement. In addition, I'll describe work we are doing on clinical applications of this research program in clinics, homes, and schools.

Designing and Using Assessment-Based Instruction in Practice

TIFFANY KODAK

Dr. Kodak is an associate professor in the behavior analysis program at Marquette University. She is a licensed psychologist, licensed behavior analyst, and board certified behavior analyst. She started working with children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder more



than 25 years ago while earning her bachelor's degree in Southern California. Dr. Kodak obtained a master's degree in clinical psychology at North Dakota State University and her Ph.D. in School Psychology from Louisiana State University. Thereafter, she completed an internship at the Marcus Autism Center and her post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Munroe-Meyer Institute. She formerly served as an associate editor for the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* and *Learning and Motivation*. She currently serves on several editorial boards including the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*, *Behavior Analysis in Practice*, and *Learning and Motivation*. Her research interests in the area of early intervention for children with autism spectrum disorder include increasing the efficiency of skill acquisition, treatment integrity, assessment-based instruction, verbal behavior, conditional discriminations, parent training, and computer-assisted instruction.

Abstract: There is considerable empirical evidence that shows assessment-based instruction can improve the efficacy and efficiency of skill acquisition for individuals with autism spectrum disorder. Nevertheless, assessment-based instruction is not yet widely used by practitioners. One variable that may contribute to this research-to-practice gap is lack of familiarity with how to design and conduct these assessments. Dr. Kodak will present a step-by-step guide to designing and using assessment-based instruction to inform selection of skill-acquisition methods for clients with ASD. Descriptions, examples, and relevant data sheets and graphical displays will be provided to teach attendees how to design skill acquisition assessments.

Restricted Repetitive Behavior in Autism Spectrum Disorder: Clinical and Translational Findings **MARK LEWIS**

Dr. Lewis completed his undergraduate education at Bowdoin College after which he worked in the area of developmental disabilities, and completed a master's degree from Western Michigan University. His interest in developmental disabilities continued during his Ph.D. studies at the Kennedy Center at Vanderbilt University, where he focused on repetitive behavior in individuals with intellectual disability. Interest in the neurobiological basis of these behaviors led him to pursue post-doctoral training at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Lewis has held faculty positions at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Florida, where he is currently professor, co-vice chair for Research, and executive director for the Center for Autism



and Related Disabilities. His research has employed both clinical studies and animal models to understand the phenomenology, etiology, pathophysiology and treatment of repetitive behaviors. His work with animal models has helped elucidate the neural circuitry involved in the development and expression of these behaviors and has pointed to potential novel treatments. Dr. Lewis has been the recipient of a number of NIH grant awards, has been a member and chaired numerous NIH grant review panels, has published over 125 papers in refereed journals, and has served as reviewer and editorial board member for a number of scientific journals.

Abstract: Restricted repetitive behavior (e.g., stereotypies, compulsions, rituals) is diagnostic for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and frequently observed in related neurodevelopmental disorders. Despite this, relatively little is known about the neurobiological mechanisms that mediate the development and expression of these repetitive behaviors. This lack of knowledge precludes effective early intervention and prevention strategies. Clinical studies have provided limited findings based on a small number of neuroimaging and genetic studies. Moreover, there is little evidence for the efficacy of pharmacotherapy for restricted repetitive behavior in individuals with ASD. Valid animal models can aid substantially in identifying pathophysiological factors mediating aberrant repetitive behavior and aid in treatment development. We will review relevant clinical neuroscience as well as our findings from animal models, highlighting the role of altered cortical-basal ganglia circuitry in the development and expression of these behaviors. We will also review our pharmacological studies in animal models that have identified novel potential therapeutic targets for clinical drug development.

Fear and Flexibility: Shaping Bravery in Children and Adolescents **LISA COYNE**

Dr. Coyne is the founder and senior clinical consultant of the McLean OCD Institute for Children and Adolescents at McLean Hospital, and is an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School. She is the founder and director of the New England Center for OCD and Anxiety (NECOA), and is on the faculty of the Behavior Therapy Training Institute (BTI) of the International OCD Foundation. She is also a licensed psychologist and a peer-reviewed ACT trainer. She has authored multiple articles and chapters on ACT with children and adolescents, and is a co-author of the books *Acceptance and Commitment Therapy: The Clinician's Guide for Supporting Parents* (Elsevier), and *The Joy of Parenting* (New Harbinger). Her new books, *The ACT Guide to Teen Anxiety and OCD* (Guilford Press) and



Stuff That's Loud: A Teen's Guide to Unspiralling When OCD Gets Noisy (New Harbinger & Little Brown), are expected in 2020.

Abstract: Contemporary approaches to anxiety and fear in children and adolescents employ exposure-based treatments and experiential learning. New research on how exposure works has suggested specific guidelines we can use to enhance these approaches. Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) is a behavioral evidence-based intervention that can be used to support inhibitory learning in exposure-based treatment. Thus, this talk will discuss how applied behavior analysts may incorporate ACT into exposure-based treatment; namely, through shaping curiosity, willingness, and flexibility in the presence of fear and anxiety. Specifically, the speaker will discuss data on inhibitory learning processes in exposure, and how to incorporate specific ACT interventions into exposure to strengthen and contextualize this type of learning.

Stimulus Control of Verbal Behavior: Practical Lessons From Applied and Basic Research

SHAHLA ALAI-ROSALE

Shahla Alai-Rosales received her BS from Southern Illinois University and her MA and Ph.D. from the University of Kansas. She is an associate professor in the Department of Behavior Analysis at the University of North Texas (UNT) and the director of the North Texas Autism Project (NTAP). NTAP is a service, training and research program working in cooperation with several global partners, with applied anthropologists, and with Easter Seals North Texas. Shahla teaches classes on ethics, autism intervention, parent training, applied research methods, and behavior change techniques. Shahla served on the governing board of the Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB) and as a subject matter expert on supervision and on ethics. She has published and presented research on ethics in early intervention, play and social skills, family harmony, change agent training, and evidence-based practice. Her research is applied and grounded in a commitment to love, science, usefulness, compassion, and integrity. She has trained hundreds of master's level behavior analysts who have gone on to serve families with honor. Shahla has over three decades of experience working with families, particularly those from varied cultural backgrounds. She travels and presents her work nationally and internationally to both professional and lay audiences. She was awarded an Onassis Foundation Fellowship for her work with families, was the recipient of UNT's student "Fessor Graham" teaching award, and received the Texas Association for Behavior Analysis Career Contributions Award in 2019.



Abstract: Section 1.05 of the BACB Compliance Code focuses on professional relationships between people of differing ages, genders, races, ethnicities, national origins, religions, sexual orientations, disabilities, languages, and socioeconomic status. Ideally, behavior analysts in clinical practice should be non-discriminatory and be developing increasingly more cultural responsiveness when working with people of differing backgrounds, life experiences and preferences. Cultural responsiveness is closely yoked with experience, ethical perspectives and social justice. This presentation will review behavior analytic conceptualizations of culture and cultural responsiveness, coloniality and the WEIRDness of our discipline, ethical perspectives, and some inherent barriers and possibilities within our discipline. The presentation will close with a summary of suggested pathways leading to cultural responsiveness and social justice.

The Status and Future of Health Insurance Coverage of ABA Services

LORRI UNUMB

Lorri Shealy Unumb is a lawyer, professor, mother of three boys (ages 17, 14, and 11), and an internationally renowned autism advocate. After two academic stints at law schools in D.C. (George Washington University) and Charleston, Lorri began teaching advocacy at the U.S. Department of Justice's National Advocacy Center. During the same timeframe, she hosted an award-winning weekly television show called "The Law with Professor Lorri." Following her firstborn son's diagnosis with autism, Lorri began working in autism advocacy as a volunteer, writing ground-breaking autism insurance legislation for South Carolina ("Ryan's Law") that passed in 2007 and served as the catalyst for the national movement toward autism insurance reform. In recognition of Ryan's Law, Lorri was awarded the Autism Society of America 2008 "Parents of the Year" award (along with her husband Dan). She then was recruited by the New York-based nonprofit Autism Speaks, where she now advocates full-time on behalf of individuals with autism. As head of state government affairs, she has testified more than 100 times on health insurance issues in legislatures throughout the United States and beyond.



Abstract: What a difference a decade makes! Only 10 years ago, very few families had access to health insurance coverage for ABA. Today, ABA coverage is expected. But significant gaps in coverage still exist, and significant restrictions sometimes discourage or block providers from recommending and delivering needed intensity. Join Lorri Unumb, Esq., as she shares strategies for addressing or

overcoming the coverage gaps and caps. Lorri will also discuss general insurance trends, including the recent proliferation of products that masquerade as insurance but don't include ABA coverage.

Prompting, Stimulus Control, Error Correction:

What's Your Teaching Ritual?

ANDY BONDY

Andy Bondy, Ph.D., has almost 50 years of experience working with children and adults with autism and related developmental disabilities. For more than a dozen years he served as the director of a statewide public school program for students with autism. He and his wife, Lori Frost, pioneered the development of the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). He designed the Pyramid Approach to Education as a comprehensive combination of broad-spectrum behavior analysis and functional communication strategies. He is a co-founder of Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc., an internationally based team of specialists from many fields working together to promote integration of the principles of applied behavior analysis within functional activities and an emphasis on developing functional communication skills. He currently serves as vice-chair of the Board of Directors for the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies. He was the recipient of the 2012 Society of the Advancement of Behavior Analysis (SABA) Award for International Dissemination of Behavior Analysis.



Abstract: The terms stimulus, response, and stimulus control are derived from the experimental literature. The term “prompt” arose within the applied field. There are many conceptual and logical errors in how trainers use these terms that often lead to ineffectual lessons. Similar problems can be found regarding error correction strategies and those that are described as “errorless.” We will review many popular teaching strategies, including fading, most-to-least, least-to-most, etc., several error-correction strategies and a host of strategies described as “errorless teaching.” The goal is to shake up many long-held and cherished beliefs about common teaching strategies.

Advancing Behavior Analysis by Extending the Continuum of Research Questions and Methods: From Single Subject to Randomized Clinical Trials

NATHAN CALL
Nathan Call, Ph.D., BCBA-D, received his doctorate in school psychology from the University of Iowa in 2003. He has been at



Marcus Autism Center since 2006, where he has held many positions as a clinician and as a leader of treatment programs. He currently serves as the center's Clinical Director. In this role he oversees all clinical activities and works to develop clinical innovations. Dr. Call has an active research agenda that includes publishing in and serving on the editorial board for several journals, including as an associate editor for *Behavior Analysis: Research and Practice*. Dr. Call's current research interests include the assessment and treatment of severe behavior disorders. He is a strong proponent of disseminating behavioral treatments to broader audiences, which has led him to serve as principal investigator on several federally funded randomized clinical trials. Dr. Call has also conducted translational research in behavioral economics and measure development.

Abstract: Applied behavior analytic research has traditionally focused on tightly controlled within-subject manipulations that focus on maximizing internal validity. Although this approach is well suited for addressing many important research questions, the influence of this work will continue to be limited without extending it to include questions related to external validity. Thus, clinical research is best served by a comprehensive approach that acknowledges which types of research questions are best addressed by each research approach. Achieving this balance requires flexibility that many disciplines are traditionally averse to, but has tremendous potential to maximize the impact of clinical research on practitioners and thereby the patients and clients who could benefit from its findings.

Instructional Sequence Effects in Early Language Intervention

ANNA PETURSDÓTTIR

Anna Ingeborg Petursdottir received her Ph.D. from Western Michigan University. She is currently an associate professor of psychology and chair of the psychology department at Texas Christian University (TCU), where she teaches courses and supervises doctoral students in Experimental Psychology. She also holds an appointment as a part-time lecturer at Reykjavik University. Anna is a previous editor of *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*, a previous associate editor of *JABA* and a current associate editor of *JEAB*. She is president-elect of Division 25 of the American Psychological Association, a board member of the Society for the Experimental Analysis of Behavior, a member of the ABAI science board, and a past president of the Texas Association for Behavior Analysis. Anna's research encompasses both basic and applied interests and focuses primarily on verbal behavior acquisition and the relationship between verbal behavior and derived stimulus relations.



Abstract: Language and communication skills are a major focus of early intervention programs for young children diagnosed with ASD who present with language delays. Based on typical developmental sequences, early curricula emphasized establishing language comprehension before moving to production; operationalized as completing receptive programs prior to the corresponding expressive programs. By contrast, more recent approaches that are rooted in behavioral accounts of language are more likely to recommend mixing receptive and expressive instruction. In this presentation, I will review old and new evidence suggesting that for many learners, the most efficient way to establish both comprehension and production is to focus on expressive instruction, particularly on the verbal operant termed the tact. This may be the case even when the primary goal is to establish another verbal operant, such as the intraverbal. I will present some hypotheses as to why the empirical evidence seems to favor this approach, along with relevant data. Likewise, I will review what is known about potential prerequisites for tact instruction to result in the establishment of additional speaker and listener behavior, and which questions remain unanswered.

Putting Social Interaction at the Heart of Autism Interventions: The Importance of Play and Social Communication

M. ALICE SHILLINGSBURG

Dr. Shillingsburg currently serves as Sr. Vice President of Children's Services and Training at May Institute.



She received her PhD in clinical psychology from Auburn University and completed her predoctoral internship and post-doctoral fellowship at the Marcus Institute. She previously served as the director of the Language and Learning Clinic at the Marcus Autism Center and held an appointment of associate professor at Emory University in the Division of Autism and Related Developmental Disabilities. Dr. Shillingsburg is a licensed psychologist and board certified behavior analyst (BCBA-D). Her clinical expertise includes the development of language and behavioral programming to address a variety of behavioral difficulties and social communication deficits associated with autism and other developmental disabilities. She has published over 50 empirical papers and book chapters on interventions for children with autism and related developmental disabilities. She is currently an associate editor for the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis and Operants*, editorial board member of *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*, and is past associate editor for *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*.

Abstract: Impairments in social communication and interaction are identified as hallmark characteristics

of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Depending on the severity of these challenges, some individuals with ASD may experience difficulties in the development of relationships and positive social interactions. Procedures that promote the development of social interest, social initiations, engagement and play are particularly useful for practitioners designing treatment programs for children with ASD. In this presentation I will provide an overview of the social deficits associated with ASD and present a variety of evidence-based procedures to promote social interactions and social communication with adults and peers. Procedures to enhance motivation for social engagement as well as strategies to teach children to initiate and respond to social partners will be presented.

ABA Billing Codes Commission: Preserving Best Practices Through Collaboration, Education, Dissemination, and Advocacy
JULIE KORNACK

Julie Kornack is the vice president of Government Relations for the Center for Autism and Related Disorders,



the world's largest provider of evidence-based autism treatment. Her work includes identifying, developing, and supporting federal and state initiatives that preserve or increase access to autism services and supports, as well as analyzing the impact of federal and state legislative and regulatory developments on access to mental health services. She is the ABAI representative on the ABA Billing Codes Commission. She is co-author of "The Diversity Is in the Details: Unintentional Language Discrimination in the Practice of Applied Behavior Analysis" and "A Response to Papatola and Lustig's Paper on Navigating a Managed Care Peer Review: Guidance for Clinicians Using Applied Behavior Analysis in the Treatment of Individuals on the Autism Spectrum", published in *Behavior Analysis in Practice*, and is the author of "The History, Pitfalls, and Promise of Licensure in the Field of Behavior Analysis", published in *Handbook of Treatments for Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Her analysis of the economics of autism treatment was published in the *Handbook of Early Intervention for Autism Spectrum Disorders: Research, Policy, and Practice*, and she was an editor of *Evidence-Based Treatment for Children with Autism: The CARD Model*. She co-founded and serves on the board of directors of the National Coalition for Access to Autism Services and participates in multiple state and national advisory committees and task forces. She was co-chair of Hillary for America's Disability Policy Health Care Task Force and a co-author of the Democratic National Committee's *Disability Primer for Democratic Candidates*.

Abstract: In the year since the 2019 CPT® I billing codes for ABA took effect, behavior analysts have encountered a

wide array of issues, including contradictory interpretations of the codes, arbitrary hour limits, claims denials, and even accusations of fraud. The ABA Billing Codes Commission was established to work collaboratively and transparently to preserve and expand access to ABA that reflects best practices by identifying and resolving issues arising from the adoption of the CPT I codes. In this presentation, we will review the most common concerns, including concurrent billing, hour limits associated with Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs), direction of the behavior technician, clinical documentation, and valuation, and provide guidance and resources to support the effort of behavior analysts to implement evidence-based ABA. Finally, we will discuss what comes next and how we can work together to promote positive changes in the interpretation and valuation of the billing codes.

Other Sessions

Poster Session: Sunday, February 23

6:00 PM–8:00 PM; Jasmine & Hibiscus

Over 100 research and practice posters will be on display and discussed. Join colleagues and friends for informative presentations and intelligent discussion.

Opening Remarks: Monday, February 24

8:00 AM–8:10 AM; Regency Ballroom

Jonathan J. Tarbox

The conference co-chairs will present opening remarks.

An Update From the Autism SIG: Monday, February 24

5:10 PM–5:40 PM; Regency Ballroom

Justin Leaf

The purposes of the Autism Special Interest Group (Autism SIG) are to (1) promote evidence based practices in regard to treatment for individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD); (2) promote best practices as it relates to procedures/interventions based upon the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA) as it relates to individuals diagnosed with ASD; (3) help individuals diagnosed with ASD, families of individuals diagnosed with ASD, and consumers to identify components of evidence based practices, quality behavioral intervention, and effective treatments; (4) help protect individuals diagnosed with ASD and their families from ineffective, non-evidence based, and/or potential harmful treatment(s); (5) serve as a scientific and professional reference and networking group for its members; and (6) organize an annual meeting to provide a forum for discussion of the affairs of the SIG. In this talk we will briefly describe recent developments that have occurred within the Autism SIG as well as future plans in the upcoming year.

Opening Remarks: Tuesday, February 25

8:00 AM–8:10 AM; Regency Ballroom

Ruth Anne Rehfeldt

The conference co-chairs will present opening remarks.

Closing Remarks: Sunday, January 20

1:20 PM–1:30 PM; Regency Ballroom

Ruth Anne Rehfeldt

The conference co-chairs will present closing remarks.



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Amanda Jo Ralston
Scott Rhodes
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Bianca Sims
Celso Socorro Oliveira
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Thomas G. Szabo
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Travis Thompson
Adam E. Ventura
Robert G. Vreeland
Nancy K. Warren
Michael Weinberg
Alyssa N. Wilson
Richele Zvorsky

2019 Calendar of Upcoming Conferences

For more details, please visit the websites indicated and the Chapters section of the ABAI website.

2019

November

Colorado ABA Fourth Annual Convention

November 2
Denver, CO
DoubleTree Denver Tech Center
<https://coaba.org>

New Hampshire ABA Annual Conference

November 2
Manchester, NH
Southern New Hampshire University
<https://nhaba.net>

South Carolina ABA Eighth Annual Conference

November 4–5
Charleston, SC
Historic King Street District
www.sc-aba.org

New York State ABA 30th Annual Conference

November 6–8
Albany, NY
Albany Capital Center
www.nysaba.org

Alaska ABA Third Annual Conference

November 8–9
Anchorage, AK
Rasmuson Hall, Room 101
<https://alaskabehavior.org>

Arizona ABA Conference

November 8–9
Phoenix, AZ
Burton Barr Central Library & Desert Willow Conference Center
<https://azaba.org>

Ontario ABA Annual Conference

November 14–15
Toronto, ON
Metro Toronto Convention Centre
www.ontaba.org

November (cont.)

Tennessee ABA 22nd Annual Conference and Workshop

November 14–16
Nashville, TN
The Music City Center
& Lipscomb University
<https://tennesseeaba.org>

Georgia ABA 12th Annual Conference

November 15–16
Athens, GA
University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education
www.georgia-aba.org

Missouri ABA Annual Conference

November 15–16
St. Charles, MO
Embassy Suites
www.moaba.org

Polish Association of Behavioral Therapy First National Training Workshop

November 30–December 1
Kraków, Poland
<https://pstb.org>

December

Maryland ABA 22nd Annual Conference and Workshops

December 5–6
Baltimore, MD
Hilton Baltimore
www.mdaba.org

2020

February

Ohio ABA 10th Annual Conference

February 7–8
Columbus, OH
Marriott University Hotel
<https://ohaba.org>

North Carolina ABA 31st Annual Conference

February 19–21
Raleigh, NC
Doubletree by Hilton Raleigh-Brownstone-University
www.nc-aba.com

Behavior Analysis Association of Michigan Annual Convention

February 20–21
Ypsilanti, MI
Student Center, Eastern Michigan University
www.baam.emich.edu

Illinois ABA Annual Conference and Workshops

February 20–21
Naperville, IL
Northern Illinois University Conference Center
www.ilaba.org

ABAI 14th Annual Autism Conference

February 23–25
Miami, FL
Hyatt Regency Miami
www.abainternational.org

March

California ABA 38th Annual Western Regional Conference

March 6–8
Santa Clara, CA
Santa Clara Convention Center
<https://calaba.org>

March (cont.)

Pennsylvania ABA 22nd Annual Conference

March 24–26
Lancaster, PA
Eden Resort
www.pennaba.org

Swedish ABA Annual Meeting

March 27
www.swaba.se

April

New Jersey ABA 15th Annual Conference

April 3
Somerset, NJ
<https://njaba.org>

Four Corners ABA 13th Annual Conference

April 3–4
Colorado Springs, CO
www.4caba.org

April (cont.)

Virginia ABA 16th Annual Meeting and Conference

April 17–18
Newport News, VA
Newport News Marriott at City Center
<https://virginiaaba.org>

Kansas ABA Annual Conference and Career Fair

April 18
Overland Park, KS
University of Kansas Edwards Campus
<http://www.kansaba.org>

Norwegian ABA Annual Seminar

April 22–26
Gol, Norway
Storefjell High Mountain Hotel
www.atferd.no

Texas ABA 34th Annual Regional Conference

April 23–26
San Antonio, TX
Hyatt Regency San Antonio
Riverwalk
<https://new.txaba.org>

May

Massachusetts ABA 10th Annual Conference

May 15
Marlborough, MA
Best Western Marlborough
www.massaba.net

ABAI 46th Annual Convention

May 21–25
Washington, DC
Walter E. Washington Convention Center & Marriott Marquis
Washington
www.abainternational.org

August

Japanese ABA 38th Annual Meeting

August 28–30
Toyohashi, Aichi Prefecture, Japan
www.j-aba.jp

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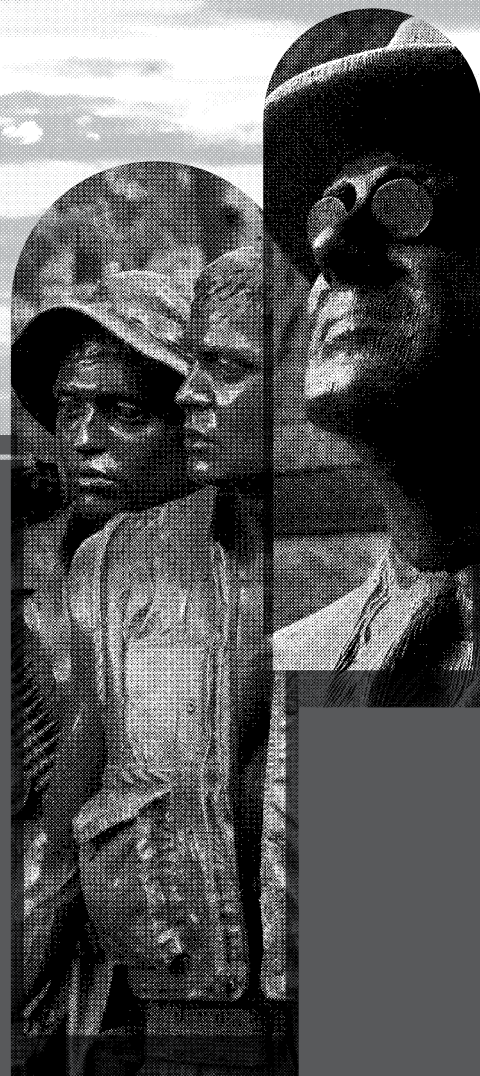
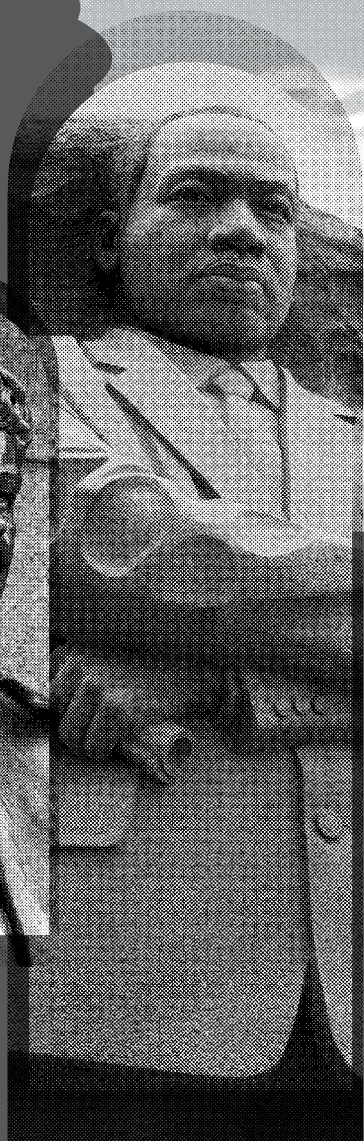
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14TH ANNUAL

AUTISM

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2020

MIAMI

FEBRUARY 23 - 25

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www.abainternational.org

The view from the ABAI Office in Portage, MI.
Photo by William Dolak.

