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**CULTURO-BEHAVIOR**  
**SCIENCE** *for a*  
**BETTER WORLD**

7-9 October 2020  
Virtual Conference

[www.abainternational.org/events/culture-2020](http://www.abainternational.org/events/culture-2020)

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Association for Behavior Analysis International®  
 550 West Centre Avenue, Suite 1  
 Portage, MI 49024  
 269 492 9310  
[www.abainternational.org](http://www.abainternational.org)



President's Column:

# *ABAI Meets Challenges Posed by COVID-19*

BY ERIN RASMUSSEN

Like many organizations making difficult choices this year in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, ABAI had to decide whether to cancel its annual convention, or, with great effort, pull together its first-ever online event by May.

I witnessed with amazement the efficiency and success of the ABAI staff, led by the CEO, Maria Malott, in pulling off this 100% digital convention. My certainty that ABAI will not only withstand the challenges of COVID-19, but thrive as an organization, was strengthened.

Convention attendees witnessed what I did: an outstanding and user-friendly five-day schedule of 39 workshops, 303 presentations, and 465 posters across three poster sessions—all digitally delivered to nearly 3,750 attendees. There were also business meetings and reunions that allowed for planning, networking, and socializing.

Help was available from the capable ABAI staff via a few keystrokes, and continuing education credits were available quickly. The Presidential Scholar's Address, by Alan Kazdin, was one of the highlights, as he discussed his impactful body of work on behavioral treatment of antisocial behaviors in children and adolescents.

While attendees may have been disappointed to not connect in person with friends and colleagues, they had access to novel benefits; the live chat function during events, for example, allowed interaction with presenters and other audience members. Importantly, sessions were recorded, allowing for convenient viewing. In addition, the carbon footprint of this convention was much lower than that of previous events—perhaps suggesting that online and hybrid events may occur more frequently, as part of efforts to address climate change.

ABAI's next two conferences will also be online: the first Culturo-Behavior Science for a Better World Conference October 7–9, 2020, and the 15th Annual Autism Conference February 28–March 2, 2021. The 47th Annual Convention will be May 27–31, 2021, in

San Francisco, California, and the 11th International Conference September 12–14, 2021, in Dublin, Ireland—both planned to be live and in person.

We also continue to foster education and research dissemination through our six journals, under the guidance of Donald Hantula, Publications Board coordinator. Our flagship journal, *Perspectives on Behavior Science* (which Don also edited, and now is in the capable hands of Chris Newland), now has an impact factor of 3.25—a new record! In addition, we have seen a rise in impact of *The Psychological Record* (editor: Mitch Fryling)—it now has an impact factor of 2.3. We continue to publish rigorous empirical and theoretical papers in our other four journals as well, with their proficient editors, associate editors, and editorial board members. These journals are *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior* (editor: Mark Dixon), *Behavior Analysis in Practice* (editor: Jonathan Tarbox), *Behavior and Social Issues* (editor: Mark Mattaini), the newly acquired *Education and Treatment of Children* (editor: Claire St. Peter).

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

ABAI is committed to fostering a climate of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the field. To this end, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Board was formed in 2019. This board, headed by ABAI President-Elect, Carol Pilgrim, has already proposed to the Executive Council a DEI paper competition and an award for achievement in innovations in DEI—look for further details in the near future.

The October Culturo-Behavior Science (CBS) Conference is designed to showcase the rapidly growing area of CBS, where behavior analysis intersects with other disciplines focused on behavioral change at the cultural level. Important social justice issues, such as racial inequality, economic inequality, health disparities, and climate change will be some of the featured topics.

### **Billing Codes for Applied Behavior Analysts**

We continue to work toward improving insurance billing for applied behavior analysts, building on efforts that started more than 10 years ago. ABAI has recently joined forces with other organizations to form the Applied Behavior Analysis Billing Codes Commission (ABABCC). (Other member organizations are the American Psychological Association Services, Inc., the Behavioral Health Center of Excellence, the Behavioral Intervention Certification Council, the National Coalition for Access to Autism Services, and the Qualified Applied Behavior Analysis Credentialing Board.)

The commission's mission is to facilitate evidence-based applied behavior analysis by advancing the multi-disciplinary understanding, dissemination, and standardization of the adaptive behavior CPT billing

codes. ABABCC has written multiple letters on behalf of practitioners in response to issues reported via the website; resources are updated on [www.ababillingcodes.com](http://www.ababillingcodes.com) for practitioners encountering challenges in their efforts to be reimbursed by insurers and health plans. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, ABABCC also launched a web page dedicated to the use of telehealth, with links to relevant published articles, billing and cost-sharing information, and state licensure laws.

### **Education**

Currently ABAI has 34 accredited programs, as well as 670 Verified Course Sequences (VCSs) for fulfilling the education requirements to take the BACB exam. An exciting new development is that ABAI is also offering VCSs in culturo-behavior science; thus far six universities in the United States, Latin America, and Europe are offering this sequence. Please see more information about course content at <https://www.abainternational.org/vcs/culturo-behavior-science.aspx>.

To further support education efforts, this year we are launching a book series. The first book, coming this fall, is *Behavior Science Perspectives on Culture and Community*, edited by Tracy Cihon and Mark Mattaini. To be released in spring 2021 is *Applied Behavior Science in Organizations: Consilience of Historical and Emerging Trends in Organizational Behavior Management*, edited by Ramona Houmanfar, Mitch Fryling, and Mark P. Alavosius. Two other books are slated for 2021.

### **Coalition of Behavioral Science Organizations**

ABAI is also committed to contributing to the well-being of society at large, and to this end remains a leader in the Coalition of Behavioral Science Organizations (other member organizations are the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science, the Association for Positive Behavior Support, the Evolution Institute, the National Prevention Science Coalition, and the Society of Behavioral Medicine). The coalition's goals are to promote health and well-being for all, using scientific evidence as the basis for societal decision making and public policy as a mechanism for fostering change. ABAI endorsed a long-term plan for decreasing concentrated disadvantage in areas of the United States, and information on how this endorsement will translate into action is forthcoming.

We are in an historic period and likely a zeitgeist change—a time when a pandemic, racial injustice, and a warming climate have the world on edge. In the midst of the unrest that accompanies this cultural shift, I believe our organization is doing its part to contribute to positive change in ABAI culture and in the world beyond. ❖





## Despite Pandemic, ABAI Hosts Successful Convention

BY MARIA E. MALOTT

**N**ORMALLY, THIS ARTICLE WOULD BE FILLED with images of passionate speakers, lively poster sessions, well-deserving award winners, and a shot or two of our gorgeous host city. Clearly, such photos were not possible this year.

We all know why, for even as the shops begin to cautiously re-open their doors and the restrictions are slowly being lifted, the effects of the coronavirus pandemic are still being felt throughout the world. ABAI is not immune to those effects, and as such needed to drastically overhaul its convention to accommodate the changing landscape. And so, just a few months before the convention was scheduled to take place, we decided to do something never done by a behavior analysis organization before: A completely virtual convention with over 1,300 presenters that attendees could access entirely online from the safety of their homes. Despite the challenges and new format, we were still able to offer the same familiar, high-quality session tracks, include invited presentations and the B. F. Skinner Lecture Series.

Even with the change in format, we are pleased that we were still offer this year's special track on Trauma. Featuring presentations by Marla R. Brassard, Jeannie A. Golden, Raymond G. Miltenberger, Ron Van Houten, Chrish Kresge, and Miranda Morris, this track explored the causes of and treatments for the phenomenon of trauma from a behavioral science perspective.

### ***Snap shot: 46th Annual Convention Invited Panel Series on Trauma***

**Marla R. Brassard and Jeannie A. Golden**  
"Effects of Trauma on Risk and Protective Factors"

**Raymond G. Miltenberger and Ron Van Houten**  
"Prevention of Traumatic Events: Use of Antecedent and Generalization Strategies"

**Chrish Kresge and Miranda Morris**  
"Flexibility After Trauma: Exploring Vitality Through ACT and Feldenkrais Method"



Of course, we are very much aware of other events in the world that were briefly overshadowed by the pandemic. There is a great need for change in our society and our world and we feel it is important to start with home—our collective home of ABAI. We are proud to have offered many talks and poster presentations on how to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in various settings. These topics are growing in visibility in our field and becoming part of our structural fabric.

Additionally, this year we also worked hard to increase our commitment to promoting and improving sustainable behaviors and societies. Our sustainability track featured several talks on research, strategies, and actions undertaken by the behavior analysis community to save our environment.

Indeed, the 46th Annual Convention was one of our most important to date—not just for the circumstances that led to its unique delivery, but also for the highly relevant and timely content that was presented. If, while reviewing the titles and speakers described in this article, you feel as

## ***Snap shot: 46th Annual Convention Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Track***

### **PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOP**

William L. Holcomb

“Cultural Concerns in the Development of Professional Ethics for Behavior Analysts”

### **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

Sarah Bloom, Michael Perone, and Jomella Watson-Thompson

“Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Strategies and Challenges in Recruitment”

Shahla Ala'i

“Cultural Responsiveness, Social Justice, and Behavior Analysis”

Ramona A. Houmanfar

“Management of Well-Being in Organizations and Beyond”

### **SYMPOSIA**

Malika Pritchett and Natalia Baires

“On the Frontiers of Social Justice in Applied Behavior Analysis: Emerging Discourses”

Elizabeth Hughes Fong, Jacqueline Ramirez, Robyn M. Catagnus, and Zoey Isabella Ulrey

“Beyond Politically Correct: Practical Steps Toward a More Equitable and Culturally Diverse Behavior Analysis”

### **POSTERS**

Shawn Capell

“The Current Status of African Americans Within the Field of Applied Behavior Analysis”

Lindsay Fleece Rentschler

“Racial and Gender Reporting in Single Subject Experimental Design Research on Autism”

### **PANELS**

Fumi Horner, Maggi Cardenas, and Mari Uramoto; chaired by Oswaldo Ochoa

“Challenges and Solutions in Delivering ABA Services to Underserved Communities Across Various Cultural and Socioeconomic Backgrounds”

Mawule A. Sevon, Kimberly Edwards, and Shaneeria K. Persaud

“Evaluating the Effects of Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity Within the BCBA/RBT Supervision Model”

Denisha Gingles, Shawn Capell, and Kristen Csizmadia

“Examining Racial and Implicit Bias Within the Field of Applied Behavior Analysis”

### **PAPER SESSIONS**

Shariffah Azzaam

“Guidelines for Providing Residential and In-Home Services for Muslim Clients”

Jovonne Tabb

“Overlooked and Forgotten: Using an Intersectional Lens to Address Disparities for Black Girls With Autism”

Parsla Vintere

“Green Spaces and Healthy Aging”

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

Elizabeth Fong (chair)

“Culture and Diversity SIG Meeting”

## Snap shot: 46th Annual Convention Sessions Focusing on Sustainability

### INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Dennis Embry

"The First Carbon-Based Valley to Create Community, Social and Sustainability: Using Behavior Sciences for Population Level Change"

Julia H. Fiebig

"Of Immediate Consequence: A Strategic Plan for Expanding Behavioral Science Research on Climate Change and Multi-Level Community Action"

Anthony Biglan, Holly Seniuk, and Andrew Bonner

"Growing the Behavioral Biome: Putting a Strategic Plan Into Action"

Anthony Biglan, Lisa Coyne, and Jessica Ghai

"Coordinating Interdisciplinary Sustainability Research: What We've Learned About Community Intervention Research"

Holly Seniuk, Julia Fiebig, Tiffany Dubuc, and Andrew Bonner

"Behavior Analysis and Sustainability: Designing Community Interventions, Collaboration and Outreach, and Obtaining Funding"

### B. F. SKINNER LECTURE SERIES

Elke Weber

"Climate Change Demands Behavioral Change: Giving the Future a Chance"

Shariffah Azzaam

"Guidelines for Providing Residential and In-Home Services for Muslim Clients"

### PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Erin B. Rasmussen

"Compassionate Behaviorism"

### SYMPOSIA

Vanshika Gupta, Yi Yang, and Celeste

### Unnerstall

"Behavioral Economics and Verbal Behavior Mash-Up: Investigations of Broader Behavior Analytically-Rooted Societal Impacts"

Brett Gelino, Mark P. Alavosius, Shahla Susan Ala'i, and Sarah M. Richling

"We ARE Acting to Save the World: Behavior Analysis Addresses Systems-Level Problems"

### POSTERS

Richard F. Rakos

"Behaviorists for Social Responsibility"

### BUSINESS MEETINGS

Julia H. Fiebig (chair)

"Behavior Analysis for Sustainable Societies Business Meeting"

Sarah M. Richling (chair)

"Behaviorists for Social Responsibility Business Meeting"

though you have missed out, have no fear: ABAI is making 2-week access to the on-demand recordings of the entire convention available for purchase on our website. Visit [www.abainternational.org](http://www.abainternational.org) for more information.

The safety of our members, event attendees and presenters, and staff are of utmost importance to us. As the nation continues to work toward "flattening the curve," we have been encouraged by the success of our virtual convention. As such, we have made the decision to move our upcoming "Culturo-Behavior Science for a Better World" conference to a virtual format as well. Taking place on October 7-9, this online event will focus on behavior science solutions to the major cultural and societal issues of our time, from climate change to racism to poverty and much more. You can about this event and our lineup of presenters on pages 54-62.

Plans are already underway to return to an in-person, on-site convention for next year. We are very excited to be bringing the 47th Annual Convention to San Francisco, California. We hope this will be a refreshing return to normalcy for the behavior analysis community at a time when we hope to be emerging from these challenging times. Please be sure to check the ABAI website as details about this event continue to emerge. Until then, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all soon. ❖

## Thank you, Program Committee!

The program content of this convention was made possible thanks to the hard work of the ABAI Program Committee and area coordinators.

### PROGRAM BOARD COORDINATOR

Federico Sanabria

### PROGRAM AND CONVENTION MANAGEMENT AND CE COORDINATION FOR APA

Maria E. Malott

### AREA COORDINATORS

Applied Animal Behavior (AAB): Valeri Farmer-Dougan (Illinois State University) and Nathan Hall (Texas Tech University)

Autism (AUT): Thomas Higbee (Utah State University), Corina Jimenez-Gomez (Auburn University), and Tiffany Kodak (Marquette University)

Behavioral Development (DEV): Jo Ann Pereira Delgado (Teachers College, Columbia University) and Jessica Singer-Dudek (Teachers College, Columbia University)

Behavioral Pharmacology and Neuroscience (BPN): Sally Huskinson (University of Mississippi Medical Center) and Carla Lagorio (University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire)

Clinical, Family, Behavioral Medicine (CBM): Amy Murrell (University of North Texas) and Michele Traub (St. Cloud State University)

Community, Social, and Sustainability Issues (CSS): Sarah Richling (Auburn University) and Tom Szabo (Florida Institute of Technology)

Developmental Disabilities (DDA): Yaniz Padilla Dalmau (Seattle Children's Hospital) and Kelly Schieltz (University of Iowa)

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR

Jonathan Tarbox

### CE COORDINATION FOR BACB AND QABA

Richard W. Malott

### CE COORDINATION FOR NASP

Laurice Joseph

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Experimental Analysis of Behavior (EAB): Erik Arntzen (Oslo Metropolitan University) and Karen Lionello-DeNolf (Assumption College)

Organizational Behavior Management (OBM): Nicole Gravina (University of Florida) and Byron Wine (The Faison Center)

Philosophical, Conceptual, and Historical Issues (PCH): Michael Hixson (Central Michigan University) and David Palmer (Smith College)

Practice (PRA): Mark Shriver (Munroe-Meyer Institute, University of Nebraska Medical Center)

Science (SCI): Derek Reed (University of Kansas)

Teaching Behavior Analysis (TBA): Lin Du (Teachers College, Columbia University) and Gabrielle Lee (Western University)

Verbal Behavior (VRB): Sarah Lechago (University of Houston-Clear Lake) and Einar T. Ingvarsson (Virginia Institute of Autism)



## Thank you, invited presentation and tutorial speakers!

### APPLIED ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

Erica Feuerbacher

"A Dog's Life: Using Behavior Analysis to Investigate the Human-Dog Relationship and Address Behavioral Issues"

### AUTISM

Doreen Granpeesheh

"An Interdisciplinary Approach to the Treatment of Autism"

### BEHAVIORAL DEVELOPMENT

Jennifer Weber

"Designing Instruction for All Learners: How Verbal Development Informs Curriculum"

### BEHAVIORAL PHARMACOLOGY AND NEUROSCIENCE

August Holtyn

"Operant Conditioning to Address Poverty and Substance Use Disorders"

### CLINICAL/FAMILY/ BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

Yvonne Barnes-Holmes

"Recent Advances in Relational Frame Theory: Implications for Education and Clinical Behavior Analysis"

### COMMUNITY, SOCIAL, AND SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

Dennis D. Embry

"The First Carbon Based Valley to Create Community, Social and Sustainability: Using Behavior Sciences for Population Level Change"

Nora Rangel

"Building Effective Teams: An Interdisciplinary Task"

### DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Katerina Dounavi

"Evidence-Based Supervision and the Use of Technology as an Effective Tool for Training Values-Driven Professionals Across Cultures"

### EDUCATION

Shepard Barbash, Janet Twyman,

Jean Stockard, and Timothy Slocum

"Siegfried Engelmann's Direct Instruction: Faultless Communication, Measurably Superior Learning, and the Quest for Widespread Adoption"

### ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

Donald Hantula

"Countering Countability Culture: A Behavioral Systems Perspective on the Replication Crisis"

Fabio Tosolin

"Behavior-Based Safety Driving: Improve Your Driving With the B-BS Protocol"

### PHILOSOPHICAL, CONCEPTUAL, AND HISTORICAL ISSUES

Per Holth

"Multiple Exemplar Training: Illustrations, Limitations, and Preliminary Guidelines"

Henry Schlenger

"A Behavior Analytic Theory of Complex Behavior"

### PRACTICE

Sigrid Glenn

Don Baer Lecture: "Gains and Losses on the Balance Sheet: ABA 1964-2020"

Bridget Taylor

"Training and Treating Wholeheartedly: Identifying a Role for Compassion Practices in the Profession of Behavior Analysis"

Claudia Drossel

"Introduction to a Behavioral Analysis of Cognitive Loss and Functional Decline"

### SCIENCE

Anthony Biglan

"The Nurture Consilience: Evolving Societies That Work for Everyone"

### TEACHING BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Weih Huang

"Current Dimensions of Applied Behavior Analysis in China: A Reflection of Twenty Years of Dissemination and Progress"

Daniel M. Fienup

"Skill Acquisition Learning Arrangements: How the Little Things Can Make a Big Difference"

### OTHER

Julie Kornack, Derek D. Reed, and Fabio Tosolin

"Beyond the Daily Numbers and Headlines: COVID-19 and Behavior Analysts' Call to Action"

Bryan Roche

"Relational Skills Training for Enhancing Intelligence: The Science of Destabilizing Stable Traits"

## Thank you, B. F. Skinner Lecture Series presenters!

### APPLIED ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

Georgia Mason

"Why Do Captive Animals Perform Abnormal Repetitive Behaviours?"

### AUTISM

Gabriela Rosenblau

"Neurobehavioral Biomarkers of Autism Spectrum Disorder"

### BEHAVIORAL PHARMACOLOGY AND NEUROSCIENCE

Wolfram Schultz

"About Reward"

### CLINICAL/FAMILY/ BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

Sonja V. Batten

"Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Post-Traumatic Problems in Living"

### COMMUNITY, SOCIAL, AND SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

Jonathan Bricker

"Scaling Up Behavioral Therapy for Public Health: The Case of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Stopping Cigarette Smoking"

### DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Rebecca P. Ang

"Bullying Among Youth in the Digital Era"

### EDUCATION

Stacy Overstreet

"Using Implementation Science to Open the Black Box of Trauma-Informed Schools"

### EXPERIMENTAL ANALYSIS OF BEHAVIOR

Paula Fitzpatrick

"The Influence of Social Synchrony and Social and Motor Context on Social Communication, Social Interaction, and Restricted and Repetitive Behaviors in Autism"

### SCIENCE

Sherry Pagoto

"Leveraging Technology for Health Behavior Change"

Elke Weber

"Climate Change Demands Behavioral Change: Giving the Future a Chance"

### TEACHING BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Ann E. Boehm

"Keys to School Success: Bridging the Outcomes of the Boehm Test of Basic Concepts-3 (BTBC-3) to Language Development"

### VERBAL BEHAVIOR

Elena Nicoladis

"How Children Learn Early Communicative Gestures"

## Thank you, ABAI staff!

ABAI staff worked tirelessly behind the scenes leading up to and during the convention. Thanks to Aaron Barsy, Emilee Bucci, Adrianna D'Arms, Lin Davis, William Dolak, Marquin Evans, Sarah Granlund, Mindy Ketels, Holly Lee, Katie Mahaffy, Mandy McNaughton, Shilpi Mittal, Hadley Moore, Jenna Mrjak, Dale Power, Stephen Rafferty, Raiza Robles, Joseph Romeo, Paul Shafer, Majda Seuss, Eddie Soh, Laura Stephenson, Viviana Vidal, and Andrew York. ❖

2020

ABAI is proud to announce the 2020 Fellows of the Association for Behavior Analysis International.

## FELLOWS OF ABAI



Christine Hughes

**Christine Hughes** has made important contributions to behavior analysis in teaching, administration, and service to the discipline. She received her doctorate from the University of Florida in 1991 and is currently professor of psychology at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW). Dr. Hughes has served on the board of the Society for the Experimental Analysis of Behavior, was an associate editor of the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, was on ABAI's Science Board, and was president of the American Psychological Association's Division 25 and the Southeastern Association for Behavior Analysis. At UNCW, Dr. Hughes helped develop an interdisciplinary ABA and developmental disabilities minor, the first of its kind in North Carolina, and was graduate coordinator in the Department of Psychology, where she was instrumental in overseeing the ABA concentration and, most recently, responsible for creating the newly approved doctoral concentrations. Her efforts on behalf of behavior analysis at UNCW were recognized by the program's receiving the 2017 SABA Award for Enduring Programmatic Contributions. Her leadership and service have been essential to the advancement of the discipline, and her effective teaching and mentorship are evident in the number of her students who have entered the field. Dr. Hughes has also maintained a productive research program with foci on transitions from rich to lean schedules of reinforcement, impulsive choice, and behavioral pharmacology.



John T. Rapp

**John T. Rapp**, professor of psychology at Auburn University, received his Ph.D. in behavior analysis from the University of Florida in 2003. Dr. Rapp's research focuses on the assessment and treatment of problem behaviors, and he is probably best known for his programmatic work on stereotypic behavior of individuals with developmental

disabilities. His recent efforts center on children in foster care and adjudicated adolescents, populations that have been underserved and for whom his contributions hold the promise of significant impact. His is a record of sustained and substantial research productivity that uncommonly enriches the field.

**Ingunn Sandaker**, professor in the Department of Behavioral Science at Oslo Metropolitan University (OsloMet) in Norway, received her Ph.D. in organizational psychology from the University of Oslo in 1997. She has served in numerous roles, including as dean of studies for social work and special education at Oslo College, and as head of planning and development at Oslo HVPU (division of state services for those with developmental disabilities). She was project manager at OsloMet and instrumental in establishing its master's and Ph.D. programs in behavior analysis; she has since been director of those programs.

Combining expertise in both behavior analysis and systems design/analysis (behavior systems), she served as a consultant and advisor to major corporations, including Norway's huge oil sector and the Norwegian Olympic Committee, where, as leadership training project director, she played a significant role in enhancing participation and awards for women athletes. Her efforts have helped secure behavior analysis as an established discipline in Norway. In addition, Professor Sandaker has been a leader in international dissemination, serving as the international representative to ABAI's Executive Council. She is also on the editorial board of the *Norwegian Journal of Behavior Analysis* and associate editor of *Perspectives on Behavior Science*.

**Mark L. Sundberg**, widely regarded as one of the principal authorities on verbal behavior, received his Ph.D. from Western Michigan University in 1980, and currently leads Sundberg



Ingunn Sandaker

## Designation as Fellow of ABAI

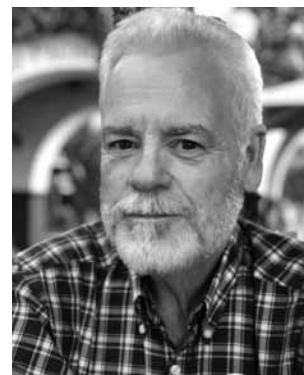
The purpose of the ABAI Fellow designation is to recognize outstanding contributors to behavior analysis in one of the primary areas of (a) scholarly research, (b) professional practice, or (c) teaching/administration/service or any combination of (a), (b), and (c).

- Only full members of ABAI are eligible to be named Fellows.
- The nominee must have a documented record of sustained and excellent contributions in one or more primary areas. An aggregate of contributions across the three areas may also make an individual eligible.
- Nominations are only accepted from current Fellows of ABAI, each of whom may make a single nomination per year, and the nominator will solicit a second letter of support from another Fellow.

& Associates, offering consultation and training for children and adults with disabilities. Dr. Sundberg has made substantive and enduring contributions to the understanding and application of verbal behavior through his research, clinical resources, and professional service. He was founder—and editor in chief for 16 years—of *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*, the primary outlet for empirical and theoretical analyses of verbal behavior. His Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program (VB-MAPP) is a widely used tool to characterize verbal functioning in children with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities, providing a criterion-referenced, evidence-based assessment derived from a functional analysis of verbal behavior.

**David A. Wilder**, professor in the School of Behavior Analysis at the Florida Institute of Technology, received his Ph.D. from the University of Nevada, Reno, in 1998. Dr. Wilder is regarded as one of the leading researchers on the refinement of procedures for teaching instructional compliance in children. In organizational behavior management, Dr. Wilder's contributions have been numerous, and

have included the assessment and improvement of employee performance, identification of employee reinforcers, workplace safety, and pay for performance. Dr. Wilder has served on the editorial boards and/or as associate editor of many journals, including the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, *Behavior Analysis in Practice*, *the Behavioral Development Bulletin*, *Behavior Modification*, and *Behavioral Interventions*, and is the current editor of the *Journal of Organizational Behavior Management*. In 2011, he was the recipient of an ABAI Outstanding Mentor Award.



Mark L. Sundberg



David A. Wilder



Acorn Health is a standard-setting family of ABA treatment providers. Our organization is authentic, collaborative, and invested in our clients' and team's growth.

We're actively hiring in Florida, Virginia, Illinois, and Michigan. Check out opportunities at [www.acornhealthjobs.com!](http://www.acornhealthjobs.com!)

## Alaska ABA

BY ERIC S. MURPHY AND VERONICA HOWARD

The Alaska Association for Behavior Analysis (AKABA) was formed in January 2014 and became affiliated with ABAI in March 2016. AKABA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a goal to promote the science and theory of behavior analysis through the support of research, education, and practice. Association membership is open to everyone interested in behavior analysis in Alaska.

Membership benefits include low cost CEs, discounted registration for the annual AKABA Conference, access to private members-only online forum, and updates on legislation and other events related to the practice and research of behavior analysis in Alaska. Please visit our website ([www.alaskabehavior.org](http://www.alaskabehavior.org)) for current events, news, and membership information.

AKABA and its members had a challenging year in 2019. In the face of major turmoil in local politics and budgeting, 2019 was a year of frenzied advocacy and recommitment to many of our core mission offerings—namely advocacy and professional development for our practitioners. A summary of these key 2019 events and updates are provided below.

### Continued Advocacy

AKABA formed committees to address a handful of topics in Spring 2019: Telehealth registry, QASP certification/state licensure, and Medicaid issues. Volunteers on each committee spent time researching the challenges and brought issues to the members during the April meeting. For the QASP certification and Telehealth registry issues, letters were sent to State Licensing on behalf of AKABA. For both issues, clarification was received and AKABA helped to disseminate that information to our members and the community.

AKABA has helped to facilitate communication amongst members who are helping each other to work through issues Medicaid billing issues. The members discussion board on the website has served to notify others of changes and issues. Additionally, AKABA has hosted three Behavior Business Brunches during the year and one Business Brainstorming session during the annual conference. These have served as opportunities for practitioners to interact and discuss specific challenges.

Currently, AKABA is receiving information about these topics through notifications from our members. Moving forward, it is strongly recommended that AKABA designate a representative to the Department of Health and Human Services, the Governor's Council, and other advocacy groups to ensure that the field of behavior analysis is accurately and fairly represented.

### Professional Development/CEs

AKABA became a formal Authorized Continuing Education provider in late 2018 and thanks to generous volunteer speakers, AKABA offered over 175 CEs to members during 2019.

### Third Annual Conference

The third annual AKABA Conference was held Friday, November 8–Saturday, November 9, 2019. In addition to the AKABA social (Friday) and conference (Saturday), the 2019 AKABA Conference committee added additional pre-conference programming, including a Behavior Business Brainstorm and University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) Rat Lab tour.

The 2019 keynote speaker was Patrina Callahan, UAA graduate, owner of an ABA business, and mother of a son with autism spectrum disorder. Ms. Callahan's presentation focused on tough ethical questions surrounding service provision and highlighted potential dual relationships that develop for practitioners who are also parents of children on the spectrum.

The conference also featured a number of local speakers, including Veronica Howard (UAA), Gwen Lupfer (UAA), and a panel of local practitioners, including Rachel White (UAA Center for Human Development, chair), Lyon Johnson (Special Education Service Agency), Phil Tafs and Leslie Rost (Mat-Su School District), and Julie Heimerl-Lee (Southcentral Foundation). This event was also hosted the first-ever student research symposium, featuring four student presentations.

This event would not be possible without the amazing contributions of volunteers and the conference committee. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make the 2019 AKABA conference possible!

## Arkansas ABA

BY TIFFANY MRLA

Values, action, and education were the focus for the fourth year following the reestablishment of the Arkansas Association for Behavior Analysis. Membership grew by over fifty percent with an increasing number of behavior analysts joining from across the state. In 2019, the Executive Committee provided new learning opportunities for members, continued advocacy efforts that lead to statewide changes in behavior analytic services available to children with autism spectrum disorder, initiated efforts for obtaining licensure for behavior analysts practicing in the state, and expanded our conference to include a day of workshops for participants while adding additional events for members. The fourth annual conference highlighted our focus on values and committed action with Dr. Evelyn Gould delivering a message on the importance of practitioners identifying values that focus their work in the rewarding times, as well as in the challenges that we all



experience, and bringing those values into all we do in our lives. Dr. Gould also presented a workshop, with Denisha Gingles, focusing on ACT and social justice, calling practitioners to action on issues that matter. We were grateful that Dr. Joshua Pritchard and his team presented a workshop for conference sponsors on organizational behavior management, in addition to providing support for the conference livestream. Dr. Pritchard's team spoke to the importance of developing systems within your organizational structure that are aligned to your values and mission. The committed action of board members, alongside committee representatives, lead to another successful conference with increased attendance, reduced fees, reduced costs, and increased funds, to further our mission. The Executive Committee worked throughout the year to ensure the association's values and mission were carried through in all activities. Beth McKee, M.Ed., BCBA, served as past president during 2019, providing guidance and mentorship to the Board. Tiffany Mrla, Ph.D., BCBA, served as the 2019 president. Dr. Mrla continued to expand the work of those who served before, in addition to coordinating free continuing education events for members, developing committees to further the work of the Board in the year to come, and advocating for practitioners and consumers. The president-elect, Lindsey Lovelady, MS, BCBA, maintained efforts to disseminate information, expand our membership, increase engagement, and continue moving us forward, while our vice-president, Jodie Bone, MS, BCBA provided support and insight throughout the year. Appointed members of the Executive Committee include Brandon Thurman, MS, BCBA, who served an additional term as treasurer for 2019. Mr. Thurman's time and expertise ensured that the financial needs were accounted for and obligations met in a timely manner. Katrina Lawson, BCaBA, served as secretary and continued to disseminate meeting minutes that were informative and accurate. Events coordinator, Lana Nelson, BCaBA, ensured necessary conference details were addressed and the conference was a success. The Legislative and Ethics Committee co-chairs, Dr. Sheila Barnes, BCBA-D, and Dr. Tiffany Mrla, Ph.D., BCBA, served an additional term learning and advocating for consumers of behavior analysis. The meetings attended and work delivered lead to increased access to services for children, with the doors open to continue the mission to ensure quality, evidence-based services are available to all individuals. The year ended with a successful beginning of efforts to obtain licensure regulations for practitioners in Arkansas, protecting both practitioners and consumers. In an effort to keep with our goal of increasing member engagement, board members surveyed members to identify interests for continuing education, 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. A Student Engagement Committee met throughout the year to identify ways to serve student members. This model will be carried in to 2020 with the addition of both a Practitioner Committee and a Behavior Technician Committee to focus on the needs of our direct care practitioners, while identifying ways to provide support, advocacy, and education to the varying population of service providers, in addition to a Regional Representatives Committee. A quarterly newsletter was delivered to members and an increase in social media engagement was a focus for 2019, led by Tiffany Mrla and Lindsey Lovelady, as they continue to focus on expanding our membership, as well as membership activities, across the state of Arkansas. We are looking forward to 2020 and the opportunities we will be able to bring to our membership. Last, and with great gratitude, the Arkansas Association for Behavior Analysis was honored to host Dr. Justin Leaf, Dr. Gina Green, Dr. Jonathan Tarbox, and Dr. Adel Najdowski, as they donated their time and expertise to our members through free continuing education opportunities. This initiative was realized through the support of Board Members from ABAA, the ABAA Affiliates Board, and the Autism SIG. We are grateful for those in our field, and in our state, who volunteer their time and resources to support shared values and a shared mission.

## Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy

BY ALAN HARCHIK

BABAT is Massachusetts's largest and longest-standing professional organization for behavior analysts. We celebrated our 40th anniversary in 2019. Our website is [babat.org](http://babat.org). BABAT's mission is to advance behavior analysis in Massachusetts and beyond through professional advocacy, organization of continuing education and networking opportunities, professional recognition, and providing needed supports to our membership. The BABAT conference, held annually in October, continues to be a central focus of the board.

### Annual Conference

The chapter's 40th annual conference was October 2–4, 2019. After 39 consecutive years at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, this year's conference was held at a much larger venue, the DCU Center in Worcester, MA. This allowed for more than 2,000 attendees. The conference included more than 40 invited speakers and distinguished presenters. This was our fifth year of an expanded 3-day conference with an additional day of Master's Series of Workshops. Our 41st conference is scheduled for October 7–9, 2020.

## Membership

Last summer, the BABAT Board of Directors initiated a new online membership application process. Membership has continued to grow and stands at over 2,100 active members. More than two-thirds of BABAT members live in Massachusetts, however, members live in 37 other states and the District of Columbia, and in 12 other countries: the United Arab Emirates, Canada, Finland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Iceland, Mexico, Russia, Germany, Spain, and Saudi Arabia. Legislation and Professional Practice BABAT strives to advocate for our profession through legislative advocacy. The BABAT Professional Practice Committee helps support and develop legislation that advances opportunities for behavior analysts and the people they serve. BABAT also provides an ever-expanding array of resources for behavior analysts in Massachusetts and surrounding areas. A recently developed resource page on [babat.org](http://babat.org) provides members with links to relevant supports. BABAT's Professional Practice Committee also works to assist other national and state organizations that collectively advance the profession of behavior analysis.

## VIP Meet and Greet

The VIP Meet & Greet is a new BABAT initiative that involves inviting a well-known behavior analyst to an informal gathering with the first 15–20 student members who respond to an invitation. The first successful VIP Meet and Greet took place with guest Dr. Jennifer Zarcone (senior vice president for Adult Clinical Services and Training at May Institute) who graciously joined students at Jack's Abby in Framingham, MA, for an informal and exciting exchange about life and career choices in behavior analysis. Social Media BABAT has a presence on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter. These outlets share highlights and information regarding awards, upcoming events, and more.

## Honors and Awards

BABAT proudly presented the following honors and awards this year:

- B. F. Skinner Foundation/BABAT Student Research Award: Lesley A. Shawler, PhD, BCBA, Endicott College, "Establishing Derived Reinforcers via Equivalence-Based Instruction," Faculty Advisor: Dr. Caio Miguel
- B. F. Skinner Foundation/BABAT: Natalie Mandel, University of South Florida, "Comparison of Behavior-Specific Praise and General Praise with Instructive Feedback on Skill Acquisition, Faculty Advisor: Dr. Catia Cividini-Motta
- The Jerry Shook Practitioner Award: Mark J. Palmieri, PsyD, BCBA-D
- Behavior Change for Sustainable World Research Award: Molly Benson, MS Sp.Ed., BCBA and Jonathan Kimball, Ph.D., BCBA-D

## The New England Behavior Analyst

BABAT recently posted its semi-annual newsletter, *The New England Behavior Analyst*. It is available online and provides our membership with important updates on legislative matters, conference highlights, student award winners, reflections on recent trends in the literature, and upcoming events for behavior analysts in New England. BABAT Leadership Stacie Bancroft continues her term as president of BABAT. The Board of Directors has expanded, as have the number of committees focusing on specific initiatives. Through the development of our committees and committee member positions, we have been able to benefit from the hard work of more than 25 committee members.

## Delaware ABA

BY KAORI G. NEPO

Delaware Association for Behavior Analysis was established in 2011. The purpose of the organization is to promote the science, understanding, and practice of behavior analysis through (1) encouraging cooperation among local behavior analytic organizations; (2) advising political, legislative, and policy-making bodies with respect to all matters pertaining to behavior analysis in the state of Delaware; (3) arranging an annual meeting to discuss aspects of behavior analysis; (4) maintaining a website containing information about the chapter and behavior analysis in Delaware and elsewhere; and (4) functioning as a contact for and an affiliate of ABAI.

## Governance

Current executive officers of Delaware ABA consist of a president, Kaori Nepo; vice president, Gary Allison; treasurer, Corey Bowen; secretary, Victoria Hetrick; and members at large, Susan Pfadt and Regan Root. The membership director is currently vacant and the duties are covered by committee members. The election is scheduled in September this year.

## Membership

There are four categories for Delaware ABA membership:

- Professional member, defined as an individual holding a terminal degree in a discipline directly related to, or involving behavior analysis, and whose full or part-time professional commitment includes teaching, research, and/or practice in behavior analysis.
- Full member, defined as an individual engaged in a full or part-time basis in any profession or vocation that utilized the principles or procedures of behavior analysis.
- Affiliate member, defined as any individual evidencing interest in the discipline of behavior analysis but lacking formal training therein.
- Student member, defined as someone who currently attends undergraduate or graduate school. The membership fee is \$5 for student members and \$10 for the rest of members annually.

## Conferences

In May 2020, a representative of DABA attended the chapter training offered during the ABAI virtual annual convention. Delaware ABAI also presented a poster during the convention Expo session. In March 2020, the representatives attended an all-day chapter training/meeting at APBA. In October 2019, Delaware ABA hosted the second annual conference with invited speakers. In June 2019, a representative attended the first chapter association summit in New Orleans. In May 2019, a representative attended the chapter training at ABAI annual convention. Delaware ABA also presented a poster at the convention in order to promote the chapter. Finally, in April 2019, a representative attended the chapter meeting at APBA annual convention to learn the process of securing licensure in Delaware.

## Activities for 2019-20

- Delaware ABA also held the second conference with great speakers including Dr. Gina Green, Dr. Justin Leaf, Mr. Corey Bowen in October 2019.
- Delaware ABA updated its website to make the membership application process and conference registration easier.
- The executive committee designed and sold t-shirts to promote the organization and behavior analysis in Delaware.
- The sub-committee approached the state stakeholders to address concerns regarding behavioral services provided in Delaware. The executive committee continued to explore the effective ways to promote behavior analysis as well as improve the quality of such services in Delaware.
- The executive committee discussed the necessary steps to establish behavior analyst licensure in the state of Delaware. The committee invited Dr. Gina Green to the annual conference to learn more about the licensure process.
- Executive committee continued to discuss the ways to increase the number of members through social media, conferences, and workshops.
- A committee member attended the first chapter association summit to network with other states' associations and learn from strategies to increase revenue and members.

## Plan for 2020-21

Delaware ABA will continue to hold a few events to offer CEs for members and to educate the general public regarding the science of behavior analysis. We will prepare for the third conference in fall 2020. Additionally, we will continue to gain knowledge and work on tasks to develop behavior analyst licensure in the state of Delaware through attending the meetings and workshops at the ABAI and APBA conventions.

## Florida ABA

BY AMY S. POLICK

The Florida Association for Behavior Analysis (FABA) held our 39th Annual Meeting Wednesday, September 18–Saturday September 21, 2019, at the Sawgrass Marriott Resort in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida (outside of Jacksonville). The conference was attended by over 1,800 members and featured 4 full days of conference programming (Wednesday–Saturday). The 2019 FABA conference included a broad array of presentations, symposia, meetings, workshops, socials, exhibitors, and special events, including FABAs Ignites at Night and Inside Behavior Analysis. Additionally, FABA 2019 was the largest conference FABA has organized yet and it was extremely well received by members. Our 2019 conference featured a keynote presentation from Ray Miltenberger and invited presentations from Tara Fahmie, Dave Palmer, Greg Madden, Lorrie Unumb, Gina Green, and Jim Carr, as well as high quality presentations and workshops from presenters who came from all over Florida and the country.

The FABA program committee and board of directors is currently planning FABA 2020—which will be a big 40th anniversary celebration. FABA 2020 is taking place September 16–19 at the Hyatt Grand Cypress in Orlando, FL. FABA has the benefit of holding our meetings at some of the most popular tourist destinations, and next year will be no different. As always, members are encouraged to bring family members and significant others and use the conference as an opportunity for some added vacation time.

Outside of conference activities, FABA's Board of Directors and its Legislative and Public Policy Committee were guided by lobbyist Eric Prutsman, and we recently hired a Public Policy Director, Steve Coleman, to serve the organization for state-related legislative and policy matters. The legislative committee, Steve, and Eric have been extra busy monitoring issues in the legislature related to funding and insurance coverage of ABA services, expansion of ABA services, access to ABA services in school systems, and policies regarding restraint and seclusion in public schools.

Looking ahead, FABA plans to continue their advocacy efforts for practitioners of behavior analysis services in Florida. FABA's Board of Directors and Legislative committee work throughout the year to maintain our right to provide behavior analysis services in Florida and we continually work to fulfill our mission of promoting the "ethical, humane, and effective application of behavior principles in all segments of society." By doing so, we plan to continue to disseminate our science throughout the state and alleviate barriers that practitioners face across Florida.

To learn more about FABA, view pictures of our 2019 conference, review information about our upcoming 40th anniversary meeting, shop the FABA store, or become a FABA member, you can find us at [www.fabaworld.org](http://www.fabaworld.org).

## Four Corners ABA

BY ZACH MAPLE

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. Zach Maple, BCBA (Developmental Disability Resource Center) is now the past-president of 4CABA and organized our 12th Annual Conference in Colorado Springs, CO in April 2020. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference had to be canceled.

The safety and wellness of our members and speakers were the high priority, thus, providing a conference under the conditions the COVID-19 was impossible. We are appreciative to all the invited speakers that agreed to present at the 2020 4CABA conference in Colorado Springs. Those speakers included: Jim Partington (Partington Behavior Analysts), Leilani Felliciano (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs), Joshua Jessel (Queens College), Worner Leleand (Empowered: A Center for Sexuality), Sho Araiba (Positive Behavior Supports Corporation), Megan Kirby (Uncomfortable X), Barb Kaminski (Uncomfortable X), Jonathan Miller (University of Colorado School of Medicine), Paul Guinther (Anchor and Arrow Behavioral Health), Courtney Collins (The Realm of Care) and Joel Munson (The Realm of Care). We would like to thank all of the invited speakers for their dedication to the field and helping 4CABA promote experimental, theoretical, and applied analyses of behavior.

The 4CABA board are preparing to offer webinars to its members with presenters of the speakers slotted to present at the 2020 conference. Video conferences and individual meetings cannot typically replace what our annual conference provides, however 4CABA has opted to host online events to supplement the content and the engagement lost from our annual physical event.

In our ongoing efforts to increase membership and let other behavior analysts know what we've been up to, 4CABA hosted a virtual booth at the expo at the 46th ABAI Annual Convention.

4CABA is also very happy to announce recent additions to our governing board: our new board member is Brent Seymour, BCBA (Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center), our new secretary is Megan Mann (Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center) our acting treasurer and ACE provider is Amy Kenzer, BCBA-D (Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center), and our new president-elect is Anne Catherine Denning, BCBA (Consultants for Children). Congratulations to all our new officers!

4CABA is excited about our next annual conference in

Tucson, Arizona! Please check out our website at [4CABA.org](http://4CABA.org) for more information.

## Georgia ABA

BY COLIN MUETHING

We are proud to continue to support the behavior analytic community in the state of Georgia through an annual conference, social media, and networking as an affiliated chapter of ABAI.

We held the 12th annual GABA conference in Athens, GA on November 16, 2019. We had over 150 individuals attend the conference, which featured invited presentations by Hank Roane, Aubrey Daniels, Amy Odum, Jason Travers, Robert Pennington, Tiffany Kodak, as well as a poster session with more than 15 presentations. We also held two sold-out pre-conference workshops; one by Jon Bailey and the other by Ellie Kazemi. Additionally, we partnered with BehaviorLive to record some of our conference presentations and offer BACB continuing education credits for viewing them online.

In 2019, we continued to expand our membership, updated the functionality of our website and membership software, and worked on increasing our social media presence. We were represented at the APBA conference in Atlanta, at the ABAI conference in Chicago, and at the ABA State Association Summit in New Orleans. Additionally, we formed an ad hoc committee to explore the current climate relating to potential of licensure of behavior analysts in Georgia. We presented data on these activities on our poster during the ABAI virtual convention Expo in May 2020.

We plan to hold our 13th annual GABA conference on November 21, 2020 with two pre-convention workshops on November 20. Due to COVID-19, we plan to hold the conference virtually in collaboration with BehaviorLive. We have an exceptional lineup of speakers including Chris Podlesnik, Dan Fienup, Jennifer Zarcone, Gina Green, Jason Vladescu, and Matthew Normand. We will also have pre-conference workshops from Matthew Broadhead and Mary Jane Weiss. Information about this year's conference can be found on our website in upcoming months; [www.georgia-aba.org](http://www.georgia-aba.org).

In June 2020, we offered a CE event in collaboration with BehaviorLive so that members can view the presentations online, form an ad hoc committee related to diversity in behavior analysis in the state, and continue to explore licensure for behavior analysts in the state.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all board members for their hard work and dedication to the organization. This year, we welcome back returning board members Ginger Sunbom, MS, BCBA; Sherry Serdikoff, Ph.D., BCBA-D; Valerie M. Volkert, Ph.D., BCBA-D; Nina Gerenscer, Ph.D., BCBA-D; Christine Robison, MAT, BCBA; Ginger Hill, MS, BCBA; Sara Freeman,



Ph.D., BCBA-D; Cassondra Gayman, MS, BCBA; and Kiel Scates, M.Ed., BCBA. We also welcome our new board members Rachel Yosick Psy-D, BCBA-D; Katie Smith, Ph.D., BCBA-D; Daniel Conine, Ph.D., BCBA-D; Jennifer Alexander, Ph.D., BCBA-D, and Kayla Greene, MS, BCBA.

## Hawai'i ABA

BY KYLE MACHOS AND ANGELA BROFF

Hawaii Association for Behavior Analysis (HABA) had a successful convention in September 2019. HABA has also remained very active in local legislation by focusing on bills relating to the practice of behavior analysis and behavior change for environmental sustainability. HABA continues to advocate for quality ABA and support local families by participating in a variety of community organizations and events with parent groups. Come join HABA on the beautiful island of Oahu, Hawai'i as we celebrate our annual convening of members on September 24–25. We are very pleased to announce that our keynote speakers this year will Dr. Mary Jane Weiss and Manuel “Manny” Rodriguez.

## Iowa ABA

BY SAMANTHA CERMAK

Des Moines, Iowa, in conjunction with the seventh annual conference. There were a number of newly elected board members. Lisa Daniel was elected president-elect, Jessica Crawford was elected secretary, Nicole Gaughan was elected member at large (2-year term), and Sidney Eby as student member.

In 2019, Iowa ABA offered 14 CEs to members through conference and workshop opportunities. In the summer of 2019, a 4-hour supervision workshop for members. Dr. Noor Syed, Lehigh University, presented “What makes a Quality Behavior Analyst? How to Identify Key Repertoires & Engage in Effective Supervision.” IowaABA continued to expand the Annual Conference to include a Pre-Conference Workshop. Conference presenters provided training and presentations on varied topics to 39 workshop attendees and 80 conference attendees. Sorah Stein, Partnership for Behavior Change, presented the workshop “Sexual Behavior, Functional Assessment and Human Rights.” The Annual Conference included five speakers including Sorah Stein, Partnership for Behavior Change, presented “Sexual Health for BCBA’s”; Brett DiNovi and Kate Harrison, Brett DiNovi and Associates, presented “OBM Systems to Increase Employment Engagement and Decrease Clinician Turnover while Developing Brand Ambassadors”; Dr. Claudia Dozier, The University of Kansas, presented “Recent Advances in Assessment, Intervention, and Prevention of Behavior Disorders”; Dr. Brett Kuhn, Monroe-Meyer Institute, presented, “Assessing and Treating Pediatric Sleep Disturbances”, and Dr. Janelle

Ausenhause, Carissa Serbousek, Drew Foster, and Sidney Eby, Drake University presented “Evaluating Differential Reinforcement Procedures to Decrease Problem Behavior with Individuals with Disabilities.” Monetary support for the conference was provided by local, state, and regional organizations with an interest in behavior analysis.

The eighth annual conference is currently being planned and will be in West Des Moines on October 8–9. Three additional CE opportunities will be held in 2020.

The board conducts open meetings on the second Thursday of each quarter and invites members to participate in meetings and on committees.

The Legislative Action Committee continues to advocate and protect Iowa licensure with the primary activity of ensuring the rules of licensure went into effect and to help inform processes. The application for licensure was active on March 15, 2019. Two seats on the Iowa Board of Behavioral Science were occupied by those with interest in behavior analysis, a BCBA and community member. A third seat still needs to be identified.

Iowa currently has 136 BCBA/BCBA-Ds, 1 BCaBA, and 81 RBT's. Iowa ABA has supported several initiatives to recruit and retain BCBA's. Currently Iowa ABA has 100 members with 41 members with their BCBA, 1 member with a BCaBA, and 20 RBTs. The expansion of ABA services and BCBA's is of paramount importance to Iowa ABA. Iowa ABA has continued to support a state grant for individuals pursuing their BCBA, as well as Drake University's new ABA master's program, with members providing practicum opportunities for students, supervising clinical experiences, and promoting the program. Iowa has financial incentives for those new certificants who are employed in Iowa with a state funded grant program.

## Kentucky ABA

BY LUNA WEISS-SALINAS

In February 2019, Kentucky ABA (KYABA) held a workshop in Louisville, KY pertaining to Writing Medically Necessary Treatment Plans for Insurance Reimbursement presented by Tim Courtney, MS, BCBA. In September 2019, KYABA held their Fall Conference themed Recent Advances and Ethical Considerations in the Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders hosting Adel Najdowski, Gina Green, David Celiberti, Morten Haugland, and Rebecca MacDonald. In January 2020, KYABA hosted Dr. Vincent J. Carbone who provided a workshop on advanced topics in teaching verbal behavior to persons with Autism and related disabilities. KYABA will hold its annual conference on September 11–12, 2020 in Louisville, KY with confirmed invited speakers to include Dr. Becca Tagg; Sorah Stein, MA, BCBA, CSE; and Dr. Joseph Lambert.

# Louisiana BAA

BY JANICE HUBER

The Louisiana Behavior Analysis Association (LaBAA) is a nonprofit organization that promotes ABAI's mission to contribute to the well-being of society by developing, enhancing, and supporting the growth and vitality of the science of behavior analysis through research, education, and practice. LaBAA serves as a scientific, professional, and networking group for its members. LaBAA also promotes access to behavior analysis services in the state of Louisiana.

LaBAA was established in April 2012 as a 501(C)(4) and became the ABAI affiliate state chapter in the fall of 2012. LaBAA is also an affiliate of APBA and a BACB ACE provider.

## Officers

LaBAA is governed by an Executive Committee comprised of a president, past president, president-elect, treasurer and secretary. The 2018–2020 officers are Janice Huber, BCBA, LBA, president; Derek Shanman, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA, past-president, treasurer; Scott Williamson, BCBA, LBA, president-elect; and, Katie Jenkins, BCBA, LBA, secretary. The LaBAA Board of Directors is comprised of regional representatives from across the state, a parent representative, and a student representative. 2018–2020 regional representatives are Chad Favre, BCBA, LBA; Megan Matherne Perkins, BCBA, LBA; Channing Langlinais, BCBA, LBA; and Phyllis Rash, BCBA, LBA. Erica Lozy, BCBA from Louisiana State University is the student representative and Shannon D'Aquila is the parent representative. The legislative chair is Grant Gautreaux, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA. Elections for all officers and representatives are conducted in May/June every other year.

## Membership

There are three classes of membership; Full, Affiliate, and Student. Benefits of membership include:

- Professional representation: LaBAA is committed to protecting the interests of licensed behavior analysts in the Louisiana state legislature.
- Consumer/Affiliate representation: LaBAA is committed to protecting the interests of consumers of ABA in the Louisiana state legislature.
- Full members have the right to vote in all matters brought before LaBAA.
- Full members have the option to be listed as a service provider on the website.
- Full and Affiliate members have the option to post employment opportunities on the website.
- Advocacy and professional networking provided for all levels of membership.

LaBAA has grown from 339 members in the spring of 2019

to 370 members at the time of writing. Member meetings were held in May 2019 in Chicago during the ABAI annual convention and in October 2019 in New Orleans.

## 2019 Conference

LaBAA hosted the 7th Annual Gulf Coast ABA Conference in October 2019 in New Orleans, LA. The 2019 conference committee was chaired by Daniel NoackLeSage, BCBA, LBA and co-chaired by Jeanne Donaldson, Ph.D., BCBA-D. Approximately 370 attended the 2-day conference. Presenters and attendees from across the United States took part in workshops, symposia, a poster session, a social, and a keynote address by Dr. Aubrey Daniels. Other invited presenters included Dr. Michael Dorsey, Dr. Peter Gerhardt, Dr. Jennifer Fritz, and Dr. Jon Bailey. Conference data indicate continued annual increases across attendee numbers, exhibitor numbers, and sponsor revenue. The 2020 Conference Committee is chaired by Tricia Clement, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA.

The LaBAA Award for Distinguished ABA Advocacy was presented to Dr. Grant Gautreaux and Janice Huber in recognition of their legislative advocacy over the years. LaBAA also held its annual Student Poster Competition during the conference. Allison Ruby from Louisiana State University was the winner. The eighth annual Gulf Coast ABA Conference is scheduled for October 16–17, 2020, in New Orleans at the Sheraton on Canal. LaBAA invites all of you to join in on the fun down in the Big Easy! For more information and updates on the conference go to [www.labaa.net](http://www.labaa.net).

## Other Activities and Initiatives

LaBAA has partnered with Louisiana Coalition for Access to Autism Services (LCAAS) to secure professional legislative services. As the state of behavior analysis continues to take shape within Louisiana, LaBAA has been very active in ensuring that the development and growth of behavior analysis remains beneficial to further developing the science of behavior analysis, the practice of behavior analysts, the mentoring of students of behavior analysis, and most importantly advocating for consumers of behavior analytic services. In addition, the coalition has worked with LaBAA to educate the public and raise awareness about the science of behavior, ABA services, and legislative advocacy.

In partnership with LCAAS, LaBAA successfully advocated for amendments to Act 696, which requires public schools to allow behavioral health services during school hours and was signed into law in 2018. As a result of the 2019 legislative session, amendments were enacted, Act 117, which specifically named behavior analysts as providers and defined ABA services as medically necessary services.

In 2019, LaBAA partnered with Families Helping Families to provide free, public informational sessions on the science of ABA and the implications of Act 696 and

Act 117. Sessions were held in Baton Rouge in July 2019, New Orleans in November 2019, and Lake Charles in April 2020. Sessions will continue to be provided across regions of Louisiana throughout 2020.

## Maryland ABA

BY CARRIE S. W. BORRERO

The Maryland Association for Behavior Analysis (MABA) held its 22nd Annual Meeting in Baltimore, December 6–7, 2019. 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 450 members. This year, we welcomed workshops presented by Janet Twyman (Center on Innovations in Learning) and Evelyn Gould (Harvard Medical School), along with Denisha Gingles (Signature Behavior Analytic Services). Our conference included presentations from Ellie Kazemi (California State University Northridge), Valerie Volkert (Marcus Autism Center), Jeffrey Tiger (Marquette University), Thomas Critchfield (Illinois State University), Bethany Raiff (Rowan University), and Iser DeLeon (University of Florida). Our reception including an expo for sponsors and poster presentations. Poster presenters included staff and students from organizations such as the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; 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, Lynn Bowman (Kennedy Krieger Institute) stepped down as president, Meaghan Gregory (Kennedy Krieger Institute) assumed the office of president, and Alison Kozlowski (Kennedy Krieger Institute) was elected president-elect.

Jessica Becraft (Kennedy Krieger Institute) was elected member at large. We would like to thank our executive committee for their time and dedication. Plans are currently underway for the 23rd Annual Meeting, to be held December 3–4, 2020 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](http://www.mdaba.org).

## Mid-American ABA

BY JULIE A. ACKERLUND BRANDT

The Mid-American Association for Behavior Analysis (MABA) is a regional affiliate of ABAA. MABA is a membership organization devoted to promoting scholarly interchange in behavior analysis through its annual convention. The annual convention also allows for dissemination of the science of behavior analysis to the public and to professional behavior analysts residing in the Midwestern United States.

The 19th annual MABA convention was held October 18–19 in Omaha, NE at the Embassy Suites by Hilton. The 2019 MABA president, Tiffany Kodak (Marquette University), began the conference welcoming attendees and introducing our first Keynote speaker, Dr. Pat Friman. Dr. Friman (Boys Town) he presented “A Critique of Psychopathological Perspectives of Common Child Behavior Problems.” Our first symposium of invited speakers included Dr. Erin B. Rasmussen (Idaho State University) speaking on “Food Insecurity, Mindful Eating, & Delay Discounting for Food & Money,” and Dr. Brian D. Greer (Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School) presenting “Using Quantitative Theories of Relapse to Improve Functional Communication Training” to end the morning sessions.

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Following our lunch break, our second symposium of invited speakers began with Dr. Claire St. Peter (West Virginia University) who presented “How Low Can You Go? Naturalistic Treatment Integrity and Its Impact on Outcomes”, which was followed by Dr. Scott T. Barrett (University of Nebraska – Lincoln) whose talk was entitled, “Characterizing the Value Enhancing Effects of Nicotine via Behavioral Economics.” Our final symposium on Friday after included Dr. Jeffrey Tiger (Marquette University) speaking on “On the Validity of Isolated and Synthesized Contingencies during Functional Analysis and Dr. Raymond G. Miltenberger (University of South Florida ) presented on “BST Is Not as Good as You Think: Lessons Learned from Research on Teaching Safety Skills.”

Saturday morning, Tiffany Kodak (Marquette University), opened the conference by welcoming attendees back for the second day and introducing our second Keynote speaker, Dr. Jesse Dallery (University of Florida) who presented “A New Frontier: Integrating Digital and Behavioral Technology to Promote Health Behavior.” Our last symposium of invited speakers included student award winners of our Forrest J. Files Student Travel Award (presented annually to the winner(s) of the Student Research Paper competition). Dr. Megan Vosters (University of Houston-Clear Lake) presented her paper, “Emergent Completion of Multistep Instructions via Joint Control” and Matthew D. Novak (University of Kansas) presented his paper, “A Behavioral Economic Evaluation of Cooperation in a Simulated Work Task.” Following the award winners, Dr. Christopher A. Podlesnik (Auburn University) presented “Modeling and Mitigating Relapse of Problem Behavior.”

To finish the conference, we introduced our inaugural winner of MABA’s Distinguished Contributions to Behavioral Science Award. Because MABA is devoted to promoting scholarly interchange in behavior analysis and ideas of our field to our region, in 2018 the Executive Board voted to initiate this award to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the science of behavior analysis through their research, teaching, and or professional service. The inaugural recipient was Dr. Leonard Green (Washington University in St. Louis), presenting “Impulsivity, Impatience, and Risk-Taking: A Discounting Perspective.” Dr. Green’s extensive research in choice and decision-making in rats, pigeons, and people, with a particular interest in models of self-control, impulsivity, and choice and decision-making and impressive publication and teaching history made him the ideal individual for this award.

MABA also held an open business meeting on Friday evening. At this meeting it was decided that we would begin a Student Board made up of students from Mid-Western universities with behavior analytic graduate and undergraduate programs. This initiative is meant to increase student participation in conference preparation and help

student gain experience serving their field in a new capacity.

We are looking forward to the upcoming 2020 convention, which is slated to be held October 15–17 in Detroit, MI at the Crowne Plaza. The conference will again include addresses on both basic and applied behavior analytic research and theory. Early registration fees for the conference include MABA membership and are \$35 for students and \$100 for faculty and professionals. These fees will be available online only until October 2, 2020. After this time, registration must be paid on-site and will increase to \$50 for students and \$125 for faculty and professionals. CEs are also available for pre-purchase at \$10 each online until October 2. If purchased on-site, each CE will be \$15. We will offer approximately 10 over the course of the conference. There will be an additional ethics workshop following the conference which may be attended for an additional three CEs. The registration information for the workshop will be announced in the summer of 2020 and will be separate from the conference registration.

Students and faculty are encouraged to present posters on their research or theoretical efforts. At the 2019 conference we had over 50 poster submissions, which made for an exciting and stimulating poster fair! In addition, we encourage students and recent graduates to submit papers for the Forrest J. Files student researcher award. There are 1–2 recipients of this award every year. We are also excited to announce a new presentation competition for graduate and undergraduate students. This will occur Thursday evening prior to the conference start and will include up to 15 presentations. More information will be announced soon!

The current president of MABA is Dr. Amanda Karsten (Western Michigan University) and the president-elect is Dr. Steven Walker (Aurora University). More information about MABA, the annual convention, lodging accommodations, student presentations and awards, registration information, and joining our email list can be found at the organization’s website: [www.mid-aba.com](http://www.mid-aba.com) or by contacting the Operations Coordinator: Dr. Julie A. Ackerlund Brandt (The Chicago School of Professional Psychology) at [jbrandt@thechicagoschool.edu](mailto:jbrandt@thechicagoschool.edu).

## Minnesota Northland ABA

BY ELIZABETH HARRI-DENNIS

Hello from the Minnesota Northland Association for Behavior Analysis (MNABA)! We welcomed some new faces to the full board this year; Carissa Jivery as the Northern Minnesota liaison, Odessa Luna as the Central Minnesota Liason, Emily Boduch as the Student Member Liason, and Joel Bakken as the president. We also added two new positions for board members-at-large for Kate Schroeder and Jolene Germaine. These new members will assist with conference planning and tasks to support our licensure efforts. Returning this year are Trista Knudson as the treasurer, and myself as the communications chair.



Our conference attendance and membership continue to grow for another record year! We added reduced rate workshops for direct support professionals on our workshop day and continued to offer conference attendance to direct support professionals at a reduced rate. With our financial status stable and growing we are excited to welcome Dr. Tim Vollmer as our keynote speaker this year!

We continue to make progress with the short-term and long-term objectives on our strategic plan through 2021. Our vision continues to be growing MNABA's ability to support Minnesota's behavior analysts and behavior analysis consumers dynamically and responsibly. Some additional highlights for 2019 are below:

- The annual Data Blitz was held in April at Mankato State University. We will continue to offer this free event to students and clinicians
- Our licensure bill is now supported by the Minnesota Board of Psychology. The licensure bill has sponsors from Democrats and Republicans in the Minnesota State House and Senate chambers.
- Our 2019 conference was a success! This year we stayed at the Crowne Plaza AiRE in Bloomington, MN, with easy access to the airport and the Mall of America. We will be evaluating our partnership with this venue this year as our workshops sold out and as our membership grows we may need a larger space. Additional conference highlights include the following:
  - o Two pre-conference workshops and direct support professional workshops
  - o Keynote speaker Dr. Pamela Neidert
  - o A new more convenient and simplified registration system with MeetingHand

Below are some exciting things coming up for MNABA in 2020 thanks to our strategic plan:

- Continued coordination with other organizations to pass our licensure bill
- Updates to our webpage to provide member only benefits and to allow members to join online
- Creating a new strategic plan with our executive board this month
- Coordinating with the Autism Recovery Foundation to plan for their fundraiser to occur the Saturday after the conference

We look forward to all that 2020 has to offer MNABA and its members, including our conference scheduled for September 24–25. Please check [www.mnaba.org](http://www.mnaba.org) often for details on this event and everything else we have going on—we would love to see you in Minnesota!

## Montana ABA

BY LORRI COULTER

Montana Association for Behavior Analysts (MTABA) has spent another year working hard to identify and cover all the important bases related to the growth of our association and promotion of applied behavior analysis on the frontier. The MTABA executive members as of September 2019 include Lorri Coulter, president; Ania Young, president elect; Autum Koska, treasurer; Bradley Tiefenthaler, secretary; and Jackie Mohler, past president. Three at-large members have been chosen to sit on the board in order to broaden and improve connections to our membership. Montana BCBAs are eligible to be licensed since passage of legislation in 2017. We are now part of the Montana Board of Psychology and a governor appointed licensed BCBA represents the profession on the board. This is a learning experience for all as we examine our common vernacular and necessary communication skills. MTABA is continually seeking new methods of dissemination of valuable information across our large



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and sparsely populated state. The use of social media allows for greater connections between our membership, which requires a serious commitment from our board to establish and maintain these platforms. MTABA hosts a website ([www.mtaba.org](http://www.mtaba.org)) and a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/MontanaABA](https://www.facebook.com/MontanaABA). BCBA's are becoming more frequently included in important settings such as public schools although this continues to be defined on a case by case basis and much work is needed in this area. MTABA includes Registered Behavior Technicians as a valuable part of our organization, teams and services in the state by providing well trained professionals and service providers. MTABA is encouraged by each successful interaction, relationship and connection made as a means of promoting the benefits of ABA. The worldwide demand for BCBA's serves as a constant reminder to support our Montana membership and communities in every way possible. The 2019 MTABA annual conference was hosted in September by Montana State University-Billings, home to our BACB approved course of study. Dr. Vincent J. Carbone was our featured speaker for a full day and spoke on the topic of "Teaching Intraverbal Behavior" using video illustrations and methods in applied settings. The conference included a half-day experience of lighter fare from ZooMontana who brought animals and trainers as part of a demonstration of the use of ABA in the facility. Our 2020 annual conference will be September 11–12 at Montana State University in Bozeman with featured speaker Dr. Greg Hanley. Our chapter anticipates another year of increased need for ABA. The challenge remains of how best to connect and serve those in remote areas of Montana and the intermountain west region. Families continue to be faced with the dilemma of how to access reliable treatment for children or family members when the nearest professional may be hundreds of miles away. Technology may provide legitimate opportunities to address the isolation but there are still many hurdles to get by in order to make this a viable option. MTABA membership remains united in our efforts and encouraged by our steady growth.

## New Hampshire ABA

BY MARY RACHEL ENOCH

The New Hampshire Association for Behavior Analysis (NHABA) is an Affiliate Chapter of ABAI. Its mission is to promote the development and awareness of behavioral services in the state of New Hampshire by (1) supporting the development of standards of practice for behavior analysis; (2) promoting and supporting the conduct of behavior analytic research; (3) promoting research, education, and practice-based principles in behavior analysis; (4) promoting and supporting professional development of behavior analysts; and (5) raising awareness of the association and its services.

## Executive Committee

NHABA is governed by an Executive Committee comprised of a president, past president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The 2020 Executive Committee is comprised of Rachel Enoch (president), Kim Kelly (past president), Peg Chaffee (vice president), Bonnie Montague (secretary) and Curran Pope-Konner (treasurer).

## Membership

NHABA offers three categories of annual membership: Full, Affiliate, and Student. Membership is open to all persons interested in or actively engaged in behavior analysis. Memberships start on the day of the annual of the annual conference and remains in effect until the date of the next annual conference. Full member status may be obtained by any individual holding a terminal degree in a discipline directly related to or involving behavior analysis and whose full-time professional commitment includes teaching, research, and/or practice in behavior analysis. An Affiliate member status may be obtained by any member evidencing interest in the discipline of behavior analysis who does not qualify under the standards of full membership. Affiliate members enjoy all the benefits of Full membership and are able to vote on decisions of the chapter. A Student member status may be any individual pursuing formal training in the discipline of behavior analysis on at least a half-time basis but not yet gainfully employed therein may apply for membership in this category. Student membership requires documentation to verify the applicant's student status. Student members may also vote on membership decisions of the chapter.

There are multiple benefits to becoming a member of the organization. These benefits include, but are not limited to, reduced conference registration, free CEs at NHABA meetings, mentorship networking platform to connect behavior analysts with others to share expertise, notifications about continuing education opportunities, to the latest news in behavior analysis, a vote on issues pertinent to the organization, and the opportunity to hold office in the organization (Full members only).

## Events

NHABA has actively hosted events in the state since 2016. For the last four years, the organization has held an annual conference. The last three years the conference has sold out and continues to be a sought-after event for professional development in the state of New Hampshire and surrounding areas. The location of the conference is rotated each year to extend the association's reach in the state. In November 2019, NHABA held a conference in Manchester, NH. The organization had the pleasure to host Mark Dixon, Sorah Stein, Jason Simmons, Evelyn Gould, Sandy Jin, and Sarah Campau. In March 2020, NHABA hosted a community workshop on the topic of

ABA Treatment for Adults with I/DD. In September 2020, NHABA will hold its annual conference in Concord, New Hampshire with Dr. Emily Sandoz as our keynote speaker.

NHABA currently hosts quarterly chapter meetings with each offering a CE in either supervision or ethics. The association continues to determine the most effective platform to offer these meetings as to reach the most members across the state. Currently, the meetings are hosted in person and also offer a virtual option. In January 2020, NHABA had the pleasure to host a panel on supervision with Dr. Janet Robertson; Ally Dube, BCBA; Matt Cicoria, BCBA; and Allison Porreca, MS. In April, NHABA hosted Dr. Amy Davies Lackey. In November 2019, the association hosted Dr. Camille Kolu and in June, Dr. Patricia Wright. Finally, in April, we hosted Dr. Solandy Forte at the respective quarterly meetings.

Membership stands at 190 members and continues to grow. The association continues to seek effective ways to engage in outreach and disseminate information about the association activities and opportunities.

In this year NHABA has plans to create a mentorship directory, host additional workshops, and offer a mini web series discussing timely topics in the field. NHABA continues to seek to have a stronger and active presence as a resource for individuals in the state of New Hampshire interested in behavior analytic services. Through the work of NHABA the aim will remain to work towards the mission of the association as a whole and expand its reach and impact.

### Contact Us

More information about New Hampshire Association for Behavior Analysis can be found on the organization's website: <https://nhaba.net>.

## New Jersey ABA

BY KATE BRITTON

The New Jersey Association for Behavior Analysis (NJABA) enjoyed another successful year in 2019. Dr. Kate Britton assumed the role of president and Dr. MaryLou Kerwin was voted in as president-elect for the 2019–20 term. Dr. SungWoo Kahng was voted in as University Liaison and Dr. Craig Domanski as a Representative-at-Large for the Association; Amy Golden was appointed the Secretary position, all of whom bring added diversity and demographic to the Board in its efforts to grow and mature as an Association. We continue to have 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 375 people. In 2019, the 14th Annual Conference, which was held on April 5, had attendance of approximately 400 people, 26 vendors, and 2 sponsors! We were honored to have Dr. Wayne Fuqua, deliver

the keynote address, titled “Evidence-Based Practice in ABA: Detecting and Troubleshooting Treatment Failures.” In addition to Dr. Fuqua's presentation, there were several workshops and symposia on topics including, but not limited to, CPT codes and their impact, maintaining interprofessional partnerships, the use of phonetic hand cues, daily ethical challenges as a behavior analyst, licensure of behavior analysts and insurance reimbursements. 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.

The 15th annual conference was rescheduled from April 3, 2020 to September 18, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will also be holding our conference virtually this year. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Doug Woods. He is a professor of psychology and dean of the Graduate School at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI. His keynote is “Bringing Behavior Analysis to Mainstream Neurology: The Case of Tourette Syndrome.” Among other workshops and symposia, we will be featuring a supervision presentation, “Deliberate Coaching: The Role of Organizational Coaching Systems in Culture Change” and an ethics presentation, “Some Ethical Considerations When Conducting a Functional Behavior Assessment.” 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. Following months of active preparation, legislative sponsors introduced licensure legislation on October 15, 2018. Throughout 2019, NJABA Government Affairs chair and Autism New Jersey executive director Suzanne Buchanan, Psy.D., BCBA-D worked to advance this legislation through meetings with the bill's sponsors, legislators on relevant committees and their staff, legislative leadership, and stakeholders in the developmental disability and related disciplines communities. Two weeks into 2020, it was signed into law. Medicaid EPSDT Coverage for Autism Treatment—Dr. Buchanan worked throughout 2019 with state Medicaid officials to advocate for and design a benefit in the best interests of the community and the profession. Scheduled to launch on April 1, 2020, this benefit covers 40% of NJ's children and will continue to be a NJABA priority in 2020 as reimbursement rates will determine access (or lack thereof).

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**

- Kate Britton, Ed.D, BCBA, president
- MaryLou Kerwin, Ph.D., BCBA-D, president-elect
- Amy Golden, MS, BCBA, secretary
- Kevin Brothers, Ph.D., BCBA-D, treasurer
- Sandra Gomes, Ph.D., BCBA-D, past-president

#### **Board of Directors**

- Alexis Higgins-Battaglia, M.Ed, BCBA, Communications chair
- Robert LaRue, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Events chair
- Suzanne Buchanan, Psy.D., BCBA-D, Government Affairs chair
- Catherine Taylor-Santa, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Membership chair
- SungWoo Kahng, 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
- Elena Garcia-Albea, Ph.D., BCBA-D, representative-at-large
- Craig Domanski, Ph.D., BCBA-D, representative-at-large
- Jack Bowker, student representative

We greatly appreciate the support of ABAI.

## **New York State ABA**

BY NICOLE DEROSA

The New York State Association for Behavior Analysis (NYSABA) has had another successful year and we are looking forward to the year ahead. We continue to employ a part-time administrative assistant and part-time executive director to help organize and execute the activities of our organization in an efficient and professional manner. Towards the end of the year, the Board of Directors started discussion regarding the need for a communication liaison to help improve the collaboration between the organizations nine committees, as well as practitioners, consumers, and outside organizations as we continue to expand our reach and productivity. In November, we held our 30th annual conference at the Albany Convention Center. This was a new venue for our conference given the growth in our attendance numbers across years. That growth continued, with our 30th anniversary conference having the largest attendance number to date. Attendees

included behavior analysts, educators, speech therapists, psychologists, other professionals, students of behavior analysis, and consumers of behavior analysis services. At our 30th anniversary conference, we were honored to hear keynote addresses by Dr. James Moore and Dr. Matthew Brodhead. Dr. Moore's address focused on the application of behavior analytic technologies to the area of health and fitness. Dr. Brodhead discussed the need for behavior analysts to focus on our scope of competence within our daily work. In honor of the 30th anniversary of our conference, we welcomed seven other invited speakers, all of whom have previously served the NYSABA organization in some way: Rachel Cavallari, Frank Cicero, Beth Diviney, Joanne Gerenser, Helen Yoo, Randy Horowitz, and Linda Meyer. Topics included promoting collaboration (a) to improve the effective dissemination of ABA practices, (b) for effective treatment of challenging forms of behavior, and (c) between behavior analysts and speech and language pathologists; application of behavioral principles to sex education for individuals with autism, a novel explanation (i.e., neuromodulation) of autism spectrum disorders, and ethical decision making when designing, implementing, and evaluating fitness programs for individuals with autism. Additionally, we continued to have an excellent line up of presentations from members including workshops, symposia, paper sessions, and posters. Board members this year included Nicole DeRosa (president), Tricia Moss (president-elect), Dana Reinecke (past president, conference co-chair, and parent and family co-chair), Linda Matey (treasurer), Vicki Maudus-Knapp (secretary), Vanessa Patrone (representative at large), Joshua Jessel (representative at large and student activities chair), Nancy Dib (education chair), Bobbi Rogers (consumer representative and parent and family co-chair), Sally Izquierdo (legislative chair), Bobby Newman (fundraising chair), Sam Blanco (marketing chair), Shari Schatzman (conference co-chair), and Jenn Engheben and Amanda Narra (membership co-chairs). In 2020, we welcomed new committee chairs: Kenneth Shamlian took over as membership chair, Vanessa Patrone and Vicki Maudus-Knapp took over as marketing co-chairs, and Debbi Napolitano took over as legislative chair with Maureen O'Grady serving as co-chair. We continue to pursue increased membership and member involvement to assist with addressing not only important legislative issues, but other factors that influence the science and practice of behavior analysis in NY State. Future endeavors will focus on increased student activities and involvement to best help support newly certified and licensed individuals. Licensed and certified behavior analysts in New York continue to significantly outnumber members of NYSABA. All behavior analysts in the state are urged to join so that our voices can be heard by the state legislature and we can continue to support each other



in our daily practices and dissemination of ABA to that of consumers and other professionals. If you are not a member of NYSABA, become one. If you are a member, get a colleague to join. If you and your colleagues are members, we thank you and encourage you to become active in the association. NYSABA continues to do important work regarding state regulation of behavior analysts. Licensing laws governing behavior analysis were fully implemented in 2016, and there is a continued need for educating new and prospective behavior analysts about how to become licensed and how to practice correctly and legally in New York. We will continue to focus on providing regular updates on our website and Facebook page, hold events at our annual conference, and disseminate information at other conferences around the state. We hope to increase the number of NYSABA sponsored activities throughout the state to increase our interaction with the community throughout the year. Although NYSABA is not the regulatory body for the state license, our organization continues to stay informed on the latest information coming from the New York State Office of Professions so that our members can be updated as soon as possible about any issues affecting the practice of behavior analysis. The restriction on our scope of practice continued to be one of the biggest issues facing behavior analysts in NY State. Namely, the practice of behavior analysis in New York is restricted to the treatment of individuals with a diagnosis of autism or related disorders who also hold a prescription to receive behavior analytic services, unless behavior analysts are employed by an exempt setting (though exemptions may end as early as 2020) or hold another license (e.g., psychologist, social worker). NYSABA is continuing to campaign to address this restriction of scope, through direct lobbying to pass bills to lift it, as well as media campaigns to draw attention to the problem. Despite NYSABA's efforts we cannot accomplish this goal alone. Thus, it's important for everyone in New York who is affected or concerned by this restriction to speak up. Consider joining us for our Advocacy Day on April 21st, 2020 in Albany, NY. Please email [NYSABAlegislative@gmail.com](mailto:NYSABAlegislative@gmail.com) for information on how to help and In an effort to support grassroot legislative efforts, as well as to promote collaboration among fellow behavior analysts in various regions throughout the state, NYSABA continues to cohost "meet-ups" with sponsor agencies. Meet-ups are advertised by eblast and on Facebook. We also continue to have a focus on increasing our fundraising initiative, such as establishing partnerships between NYSABA and agencies, schools, and other entities around the state to present CE events. NYSABA provides a speaker, CEUs, and advertising, and the partner organization provides space and attendees, with profits benefiting NYSABA initiatives. Anyone interested in suggesting or hosting a meet-up or fundraising event in their area should contact

us at [info@nysaba.org](mailto:info@nysaba.org). We are now planning our 31st annual conference, to be held in Albany October 22–23, 2020, which will include more great keynote and invited speakers. We will also continue to accept submissions from members. Members are encouraged to visit our website ([www.nysaba.org](http://www.nysaba.org)) and the members-only portal, which we continue to update with information and events as it becomes available. Additionally, information and resources aimed at parents and family members of consumers of behavior analysis services can be found at the NYSABA Parent and Family website ([www.nysabaparent.org](http://www.nysabaparent.org)).

## Oregon ABA

BY SOPHIE MILLON

Oregon ABA (ORABA) has continued to experience growth in membership and BACB certificants in the state over the last year. In 2019, ORABA hosted its third annual conference, assisted members in navigating CPT code changes, and continued to provide continuing education to members across the state. Oregon's largest school district, Portland Public Schools, was the first school district in Oregon to add formal Board Certified Behavior Analyst positions for its 2019–20 school year. In addition, at least three other Oregon school districts now have BCBAs working as part of their school teams. Oregon's growing population of practicing behavior analysts has begun to slow. However, the number of registered behavior analysis interventionists has grown dramatically, demonstrating increased access to ABA services across the state. As of the end of 2019, there are 240 active licensed behavior analysts, 19 active licensed assistant behavior analysts, and 1673 active registered behavior analysis interventionists in Oregon. ORABA has closely followed the activities of the Behavior Analyst Regulatory Board this year and is proud to have members serving on the board in 2020. ORABA's third annual conference, Building Partnerships, occurred in October. The conference was held in Portland at the Oregon Convention Center. ORABA's keynote speaker, Mary Jane Weiss, Ph.D., BCBA-D, presented to members on the topic of collaboration. William H. Edwards, MS, BCBA, discussed diversity and working with individuals from different cultures. Several of our local behavior analysts presented on a variety of topics. ORABA offered several continuing education events to members last year. Nancy Rosenberg, Ph.D., BCBA-D, presented strategies for addressing ethical dilemmas in practice. Michelle Sherbon, MA, BCBA, encouraged members to utilize functional analysis in their clinical settings. ORABA continued to offer most events both in-person and online so that remote participants could join. Oregon's higher education system saw additional opportunities for students to engage in behavior analytic studies. Portland State University, University of Oregon, and Oregon Institute of

Technology all provide course sequences for certification in Applied Behavior Analysis.

## Rhode Island ABA

BY ANAMARIA ARTEAGA

This year we launched our first ever CE event series called “Functionally Assessing Challenging Behaviors. A Four-Part Series” that was instructed by Cody Morris, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA. This series was scheduled on the first Friday of every month from February–May, 12–3 pm EDT. This series was highly attended by BCBA professionals and other related professionals. Since this was successful, RIABA plans to host 3-hour CE events once per month September–November and February–May. Being able to bring ongoing CE events to members helps to maintain their certification, collaborate with other professionals in the state, and disseminate current ABA knowledge to related professionals. We are excited to continue this new initiative for the chapter in hopes to eventually have a Rhode Island ABA Conference at some point in the future.

## South Carolina ABA

BY KERRI PAKURAR

South Carolina ABA (SC ABA) had a very productive 2019! Board members included president, Zahra Hajiaghamohseni, vice-president Kerri Pakurar, past-president Anna Craft, secretary Jessica Scibilia, and treasurer Aaron Check, and student representative, Shaina Bermudez. A focus on building relationships between stakeholders has become a driving force to organizational efforts. We are proud to have increased our annual membership by 44% from 2017 to 2018, and an additional 22% from 2018 to 2019. SC ABA now supports approximately 270 members. In addition to our annual conference, SC ABA hosted membership networking events regionally across the state, collaborated

with AZ ABA to bring ethics CEs to our membership, and drafted a bill to initiate licensure for behavior analysts in South Carolina.

### Legislative Affairs Committee


In 2019, The Legislative Affairs Committee drafted a bill for licensure of behavior analysts in the state of South Carolina. A lobbyist was retained at the end of 2019 for a tentative legislative push in 2020. The chair of the committee is David Green. Committee members include Kerri Krauss, Zahra Haji, Scott Braud, and Anna Craft.

### Social Committee

In 2019, SC ABA hosted three regional networking and social events, in Greenville, Charleston and Columbia. The Social Committee chair was Courtney Lasky.

### Ethics Committee

In August 2019, SC ABA and AZ ABA collaborated to bring free ethics CEs to both chapter members. AZ ABA provided mentorship on their model for ethics webinars, paving the way for SC ABA endeavors for 2020. Brandon Clark was appointed the Ethics Committee chair for 2020. In June 2019, President Zahra Haji and Vice President Kerri Pakurar traveled to New Orleans for the first annual state association summit. State ABA chapters shared their experiences and resources regarding effectively running an organization and serving membership. Due to this collaboration, SC ABA implemented changes in their leadership board, bylaws, conference planning and membership benefits. In September 2019, SC ABA Membership voted to update the bylaws. Changes implemented included an increase to the executive board member term, from a 3-year to a 4-year term and the appointment of the secretary and treasurer positions. In addition to these efforts, SC ABA hosted the following



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presenters at our annual conference in Charleston, SC on Nov 4-5, 2019: Dr. Patrick Friman presented “Promoting Behavior Analysis in Plain Language”, Dr. Katie Wolfe presented “Variety is the Spice of Life: Strategies to Promote Varied Client Responding”, Shannon Biagi presented “Leadership in Behavior Analysis: Planning for Organizational Success!”, and Dr. Nicole Gravina presented “OBM in Healthcare: The Next Big Opportunity for Behavior Analysis.” Additionally, Dr. Gravina conducted the workshop “Effective Supervision Conversations.” Dr. Patrick McGreevy also conducted a workshop titled, “Life Skills Instructions for Learners with Limited Repertoires: An Ethical Issue.” We were thankful to have such talented speakers and received great feedback on their presentations from our members!

Our 2020 conference will be in Greenville, SC, October 26–27. Our invited speakers include Greg Hanley, Becca Tagg, Ashley Rose, and Jeanine Stratton. For more information about our conferences, membership, or upcoming events, please visit our website, [www.sc-aba.org](http://www.sc-aba.org), or like us on Facebook (South Carolina Association for Behavior Analysis). As a perk of SC ABA membership, updates are regularly provided to members on relevant legislature, area events related to behavior analysis, and changes affecting providers.

## Southeastern ABA

BY CHRISTINA ALLIGOOD, KAREN ANDERSON,  
AND KATHERINE STEWART

The Southeastern Association for Behavior Analysis (SEABA) is a regional affiliate of ABAI. Like its parent organization, SEABA seeks to promote scholarly discourse within and about behavior analysis. SEABA membership is open to anyone with a scholarly interest in Behavior Analysis who registers for our annual meeting. Current members include established scholars, professionals, and students in psychology as well as related disciplines such as education, psychopharmacology, and social work. Most members reside in the southeast, although some members participate from other parts of the US.

### History

In 1984, Aaron Brownstein (University of North Carolina, Greensboro) rallied a group of prominent behavior analysts in the Southeastern US around the idea of a regional conference on the science and philosophy of behavior analysis. The region contained a large number of strong, but geographically scattered, academic and research groups (e.g., Florida, North Carolina, West Virginia, Alabama, and others) that were without a venue for scholarly interaction. For many, the Southeastern Psychological Association had served this purpose, but the content of that conference had become overwhelmingly professional rather than scientific (i.e., following the direction of APA). SEABA

was founded to be that venue for behavior analysts. SEABA was structured specifically to foster high-level discourse on research and theory in behavior analysis. The organization's sole activity would be to conduct an annual conference. The conference format was developed specifically to replicate the environment of early behavioral conferences, and scientific specialty organizations (e.g., the Behavioral Pharmacological Society). To this end, the conference was to be a day and a half, single-track program so that all participants could conveniently attend all presentations establishing a common basis for discussion and interaction. Speakers were to be selected based on content and quality of their empirical and theoretical work, and to comprise a well-balanced program of basic, applied, conceptual and philosophical presentations. The fall was selected to complement the main ABAI convention held in the spring, and the first meeting was held in the fall of 1984 in Myrtle Beach, SC.

### A Special Emphasis on the Future of Behavior Analysis

A guiding philosophy of SEABA is that students are junior colleagues, with an emphasis on the latter portion of the term. Consequently, SEABA strives to keep membership and convention registration fees low to facilitate student attendance. By SEABA tradition, students typically assist in the planning and orchestration of the annual meeting, introduce the invited speakers, and contribute to its scholarly well-being through numerous poster presentations.

### Mission for Behavior Analysis

SEABA serves the development of behavior analysis by advancing and reinforcing its scientific underpinning. A SEABA member who served as student introducer, speaker, and president summarized SEABA's role in the development of behavior analysis as follows:

“SEABA has never sought to influence behavior analysis directly, but its influence is wide nevertheless. A disproportionate number of *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior* and *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* editors and editorial board members in recent years are SEABA members and alumni. One could argue that the nurturing of students in the science and philosophy of behavior analysis is the organization's greatest accomplishment.”

The 37th annual SEABA conference will be held October 15–17, 2020 in Columbia, SC. More information, registration, and CE pre-purchase are available at [www.SEABAonline.org](http://www.SEABAonline.org).

## Tennessee ABA

BY LINDSEY BRADY AND TIFFANY FREEZE DENTON

The Tennessee Association for Behavior Analysis (TABA) was established in 1997 and strives to increase awareness, program creation, and the provision of applied behavior analysis services across the state.

Currently, TABA has approximately 320 members. This is an increase in membership since last year. New initiatives for this year include providing monthly webinars for CEs, providing a budget for the social media committee to assist in further advertising TABA events, hosting regional social gatherings so that BCBAs in each region can network more with each other, adding an RBT conference attendance rate, as well as membership discount for newly certified behavior analysts. There is one state conference and three regional meetings hosted each year—the annual conference held in Middle Tennessee as well as one in each of the three grand regions of the state—West, Middle, and East. The annual conference provides a central forum to discuss all aspects of researching and delivering applied behavior analysis services that are affecting Behavior Analysts across the state, while the regional meetings allow for those needs of local Behavior Analysts to be addressed.

The 22nd Annual Conference was held at the Music City Center in Downtown Nashville on November 14–15, with an additional workshop provided on November 16th. During this conference, approximately 342 Behavior Analysts came together to hear the following qualified invited speakers: Dr. Greg Hanley, Dr. Sara Bloom (University of South Florida), and Dr. Mark Dixon (Southern Illinois University). There were two additional Noted Speakers, including: Dr. James Moore, and Ms. Shannon Biagi (Chief Motivating Officers, LLC). Dr. Greg Hanley presented on two relevant topics including establishing and maintaining good rapport in ABA consulting services, as well as the Practical Functional Assessment of Severe Problem Behavior procedure that is utilized by First Things First Behavior Consulting. Dr. Sara Bloom presented research in trial-based functional analyses, as well as cultural and linguistic diversity in ABA. Dr. Mark Dixon presented about the use of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy by behavior analysts. Dr. James Moore followed with presenting a teaching session on Relational Frame Theory. Shannon Biagi presented about burnout and ways to incorporate organization behavior management to help address this.

Our student involvement continued this year with awarding three students BACB Exam Reimbursement Awards. TABA also continued with our exciting Behaviorallympics, which showcased the knowledge of students from across the state. Awards were presented for a student's best performance in a shaping race, terminology face-off, and other exciting activities. This is a forum for students to interact with each other and demonstrate their ABA skill set.

Our Executive Committee is made up of the following individuals: Tiffany Freeze Denton as President, Annie Cornelius as President-Elect, Pablo Juarez as Past President, Komal Noordin as West TN Regional Representative, Andrew Buchanan as Middle TN Regional Representative,

Kieran Potterton as East TN Regional Representative, Jessica Lee Adcock as West TN Student Officer, Cassandra Standish as Middle TN Student Officer, and Lacy Fontenot as East TN Student Officer. Our committee chairs include Cady Conley and Michelle Hopton (co-chairs, Continuing Education), Erin Szarka and Kate Chazin (co-chairs, Publications), Logan York and Elizabeth West (co-chairs, Social Media), Clinton Smith (Professional Standards), and Zachary Stevens (Membership). Lindsey Brady continues as the Director of Operations. Collectively, this group is dedicated to advancing the presence of TABA across the state by focusing on new initiatives; providing engaging, professional and educational conferences, regional meetings, and newly instituted webinars; and focusing further on the future concerning how to best support TABA membership.

## Utah ABA

BY JANE I. CARLSON

The Utah Association for Behavior Analysis (UtABA) is a growing organization with a membership of almost 250 behavior analysts. Our community is growing and reflects the expanding reach of the field of behavior analysis in our state. Our mission is to encourage scientific activity, professional development, and intellectual activity related to behavior analysis.

This past year, our committees have made a variety of contributions to this mission. The Professional Development Committee has hosted another successful conference in August of 2019, featuring nationally recognized speakers including Dr. Florence DiGennaro Reed and Dr. Mark Dixon. At the conference, Dr. Tyra Sellers was recognized with the UtABA Mentor Award, Utah School Department and Local Education Agencies and Dr. Tom Higbee were recognized as Contributors to Behavior Analysis in Utah, and Stephanie Mattson of Utah State University was presented with the Student Poster Presenter award. Plans are well under way for our 2020 annual conference to be held on August 6th and 7th at Utah Valley University. Presenters will include Dr. Jose Martinez-Diaz, Dr. Tyra Sellers, and Lorri Unumb. The Committee will also continue to host webinars throughout the year to provide additional, accessible training opportunities for behavior analysts across the state.

UtABA's Public Policy Committee has been very involved with a number of critical issues in our state. The Committee has provided comment on the Medicaid Provider Manual on the issue of timelines for RBT credentialing, limitations on a behavior analyst in training's practice and limitations on the use of BCaBA/ licensed assistant behavior analysts. In addition, the committee provided input on the appropriate use of assessment hours in professional practice.

The School Collaboration Committee has spearheaded the creation of a guidance document to support

collaboration between public schools and behavior analysts. They are currently in the process of providing input on the State of Utah Office of Education's Least Restrictive Behavioral Interventions Technical Assistance Manual.

We look forward to the continued growth of our organization. Please join us and become a member of UtABA at [www.ut-aba.org](http://www.ut-aba.org).

## West Virginia BAA

BY NATHAL LEWIS

The West Virginia Behavior Analysis Association (WVABA) has had an organizational year. The Executive Committee has been hard at work developing a working website to link the membership application, Facebook, and PayPal accounts for easier processing.

The WVBAA partnered with parent and community organizations to draft Senate Bill 708 and House Bill 4723. The sponsored bills endorsed a recruitment and retention of BCBAs within the state of West Virginia through tuition reimbursement. WVBAA made additional gains in employment opportunities for BCBAs in WV when the Executive Committee contacted state government entities developing a new Medicaid Waiver program entitled, "Children With Serious Emotional Disturbances." WVBAA advocated for applied behavior analysis to be included as a treatment modality for children qualifying for this Waiver. With this update, I am excited to report BCBAs are classified as "in-home therapist" in the policy that became effective March 2020.

The WVBAA held elections in June passing an addendum to our bylaws to include "virtual/face-to-face" to our annual business meeting format. Our annual business meeting scheduled for August 1, 2020, has been moved to a virtual platform where members will continue to have an opportunity to earn three CEs, provided in partnership with West Virginia University.

In the upcoming year, the WVBAA will continue to build bridges with state agencies, parent organizations, and state Universities to promote the field and practice of applied behavior analysis in the Mountain State.

## Wisconsin ABA

BY NICOLE SCHARRER

The Wisconsin Association for Behavior Analysis (WisABA) was founded in 2004 to foster networking and professional development opportunities for behavior analysts, promote consumer awareness of behavior-analytic solutions, collaborate with students and academics in related disciplines and those who may benefit from behavior-analytic services, raise awareness of behavior analysis, and advocate on the behalf of behavior analysts practicing in the state. WisABA continues to foster these goals. In 2019, the bylaws task force completed updates to the organization's bylaws and successfully

passed amendments. Additionally, WisABA started to collaborate with the Department of Health Services in stakeholder meetings regarding the behavioral treatment benefit through the state of Wisconsin. On August 9–10, WisABA held its 12th annual conference. For the first time, WisABA's annual conference was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Dr. Douglas Woods, PhD, was the recipient of the WisABA Award for Contributions to Behavior Analysis in the State of Wisconsin. In 2020, WisABA is excited to continue our organization's mission. WisABA will continue to collaborate with DHS to facilitate communication between the state and providers as well as work on projects to help improve access and allow for dialogue between the department and providers. WisABA's website and marketing committee is working to update and maintain our website as a resource for our members. WisABA's public relations committee is working to identify goals for WisABA and priorities for our membership in the upcoming year to ensure that members' needs are being met. Current areas identified include: outreach to grow WisABA's membership; outreach, collaboration and information sharing with other organizations and stakeholders who work with populations that are commonly served by behavior analysts; and development of additional professional development opportunities for WisABA members. WisABA's conference committee is busy planning the annual WisABA conference. WisABA's 13th annual conference will take place August 14–15 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin at Marquette University's Alumni Memorial Union. We hope that you will join us for internationally-recognized speakers, discussion, workshops, poster presentations, and opportunities to network. For information on becoming a member and our conferences, please visit [www.wisaba.org](http://www.wisaba.org). ❖

## ABA España

BY JAVIER VIRUES-ORTEGA, AIDA TARIFA-RODRIGUEZ, VIRGINIA BEJARANO RUIZ, AND DAVID GARCÍA GONZÁLEZ

This year we have engaged in various important activities for the field and the profession. As we get close to 40 BCBA and BCaBA certificants in the country with a certification lapse rate below 3.5%, the professional field in Spain seems to be finally gaining some traction. Over 85% of these professionals are former students of ABA España's VCS, which has been and continues to be a key resource allowing the steady growth of the field in Spain and elsewhere. Fortunately, our VCS has recently been approved for the 5th Edition Task List. This year, we have also established a partnership with the examination and proctoring service provider Pearson VUE, which will allow students from various international Spanish-speaking communities to take our exams with the greatest standards of academic integrity.

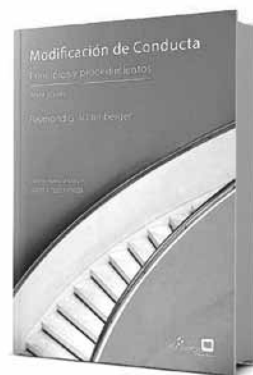
In an effort to expand training opportunities for Spanish-speakers, this year we have established a partnership with the Valencian International University (VIU) that will help students obtain a master's degree in psychology or education before undertaking our VCS. Students undertaking this combined program will benefit from partial credit recognition and reduced registration fees.

This year, we made donations to the Society for the Advancement of Behavioral Studies (SAVEEC), which hosted a national conference in Madrid last Fall and to ABAI to support the registration of international students during the recent online ABA conference. We have also supported editorial efforts leading to the translation into Spanish of four key behavior analysis titles starting with Miltenberger's *Behavior Modification* (6th ed.) which have been published in June in eBook and print. We are also getting ready for the publication of the white book (3rd edition) in Spanish in the summer. As we write these lines the Spanish versions of *Research Methods in Applied Behavior Analysis* and *Analyzing Ethics Questions from Behavior Analysts* (Bayley and Burch) are also being finalized. These editorial efforts have been possible through various agreements established with Pearson, Routledge and Cengage earlier this year.

In addition, ABA España has been the driving force in the process of establishing a consortium with the largest behavior analysis organizations in the country, including Lovaas Foundation and SAVECC, to support professional certification in Spain. As part of these efforts we have conducted an ample survey to identify the needs and challenges of the field in Spain, the results of which will be published before the end of the year.

We have been quick to react to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic supporting students in our programs on compassionate grounds. For example, examination fees

have been lifted or made more flexible for students that are active health workers and for students from Argentina, where the pandemic shocked the economy. We have also supported two research projects to promote important health behaviors including the reduction of face touching and increasing mask wearing among children with autism (search the hashtag #MaskWearingProject on our social media). In addition, we have partnered with several hospitals and public health institutions in Spain to publish a set of self-protection guidelines for ABA therapists, which will be published through our website and social media outlets this summer. We expect that these efforts will continue at least for another year as we gradually adapt to the challenges that the pandemic has posed to our lives.



**Figure 1.** Cover of the recently published Miltenberger's Behavior Modification (6th ed.) in Spanish.



**Figure 2.** Frame from a social media video on the start of ABA España's partnership with the Valencian International University (VIU).

## ABA Lebanon

BY ASMAHAN SALEH KHALIL

The Association of Behavior Analysis in Lebanon (ABAL) has had a stirring year. The Lebanese people, government, and overall national stability have gone through some challenges starting in October 2019, which led to a revolution and overturn of the government. Given this situation, ABAL held on tight to its mission and vision of dissemination of ethical practices, guiding parents and professionals, and bringing the community of behavioral analysts together. Here is what we able to achieve despite



excruciating circumstances. We held our first member meet-up, which was an opportunity for members and all those interested in the field of behavior analysis, including parents and professionals to meet and greet and get to know more about ABAL's mission. We offered attendees the chance to sign up as members, which increase of our member count. Some of the membership offers are:

- 25% discount of all ABAL events and conferences.
- 20% discount at all ELC stores when membership card is presented.
- 25% discount of individual workshops and trainings offered by ABAL board members (see list on our website).
- One free consultation with one of the ABAL board members.
- Eligibility for the yearly Excellence in Behavioral Analysis Award.

Membership is applicable to parents, students, and professionals who are studying, applying, or supporting the use of ABA into different practices.

This year, we conducted a poll on some important chapter matters such as willingness to attend workshops and conferences given the country's political climate. The poll was a success and stirred up some very important conversations regarding the state of ABA in Lebanon. Moreover, ABAL is now an ACE provider offering CE credits for those who attend any of its events. ABAL was honored to host Dr Annie Baghdayan in a workshop titled, "Exploring Adolescence and Behavior," on March 7, 2020. Dr. Baghdayan is the director of the National Center for Disability Education and Training. She discussed employability and high school transitions along with Dr Fadi Maalouf, who is a renowned psychologist in the field. The workshop concluded with a panel discussion that included an expert in the field of employment of adults with special needs, a university program coordinator, a parent, and Dr. Baghdayan. ABAL is proud to announce that two of its board members have recently become BCBAs: Talal Nasser and Jennifer Chebli. In these turbulent times, ABAL has been consulting with its honorary consultant, Dr. Linda Slim, who is renowned for her exceptional work in the field on how to best proceed and carry through with events.

## ABA Saudi Arabia

BY FAISAL ALNEMARY AND MONA ALHADDAD

ABA Saudi Arabia was accepted as an affiliated chapter of ABAI on May 31, 2013. Six 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, publication and marketing officer.

ABA Saudi Arabia currently has a membership of around 70 members, 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.

This year, the chapter is committed to continue its effort in 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, BCBA, (on March 11, 2020) on behalf of all practicing behavior analysts in Saudi Arabia, presented a proposal to the Health Academy, which is under the SCfHS to establish the Saudi Board for Behavior Analysis. Their feedback was that the submitted version needed additional information about the ranks, points of entry, curriculum, supervision description, competencies and CEs, and so on.

We are committed to informing members about the chapter's activities; most of our meetings involve moving the chapter forward. For example, biweekly virtual meetings have been held to discuss and work on the application to SCfHS. In addition, several workshops and lecture series have been presented to raise awareness about behavior analysis in Saudi Arabia. The chapter has also planned with some members ( BCBAs) to deliver free workshops through virtual classes/meetings during the autism awareness month in April. This event is corresponding with the shutdown of centers and schools

due to coronavirus and as a result, the chapter established a taskforce to start providing short lectures, workshops, and sessions on virtual classes to train parents and guardians on crucial skills and techniques for their children who are affected by the shut down.

Carrying out our 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, the Chapter played a role in highlighting the achievements of the Dar Al-Hekma University Master of Science Program in ABA.

Currently, 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 (e.g. certificates) in ABA.

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

ABA Saudi Arabia welcomes members at the full, affiliate, and student levels. Membership is open to anyone 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](mailto:abasaudiarabia@gmail.com) or [malhaddad@dah.edu.sa](mailto:malhaddad@dah.edu.sa) for membership information.

## ABA Switzerland

BY SILJA WIRTH AND CHARLOTTE ESCANÉ

This year, we created a new website and new content, thanks to Ian Grant's (student representative) input and experience in this field. As one can see, the website ([www.abaswitzerland.ch](http://www.abaswitzerland.ch)) is user friendly and includes more information than our previous version. The objective is to give information to parents, professionals, potential behavior analysts, and of course, Swiss behavior analysts. In order to connect with potential clients and professionals in the field, a list of professionals has been created and is freely available on the website. Also, people can now become members and register for webinars online. Most of the French and German translation are done, while Italian translations are coming soon. Members can access to a 2-year membership if they enroll this year. Due to a

late announcement of the membership renewal cycle, the committee decided to offer this opportunity.

Our former president, Amanda Rebert BCBA, left and her substitute Silja Wirth, BCBA, took over the position. Silja is our first Swiss German president, as our two previous presidents came from the Swiss French part of Switzerland. The committee, re elected in 2019, includes Silja Wirth, president; Erika Glaus, vice president; Charlotte Escané, secretary, and Marie Leclerc, treasurer; and a new student representative, Ian Grant. Ian has shown his interest in our association while giving his time to create and set up our website and new payment system.

The committee has a monthly meeting to discuss the ongoing and future actions for our association and members. One of the committee's commitments is to organize webinars each year. In 2019, we welcomed webinars by Jennifer Holloway (social skills), Jacob Sadavoy (the ethics of the use of escape extinction) and Bridget Taylor (observational learning). The committee already has potential speakers in mind for next year.

Another improvement in 2019 was a full review of our bylaws. Our original bylaws were created in 2012 and didn't match our current reality. Additionally, a team of volunteers updated the two existing German translation of behavior analytic terms available on the BACB website. This effort included combining terms that had two translations and translating new terms required by the board. A French team updated the French translations.

This year, ABA Switzerland members presented at an event organized by a local, private ABA center. The two presenters discussed social skills and the chapter provided CE opportunities for the event. The committee attends every international seminar organized by OVA in order to be able to provide CE opportunities.

## Association for the Advancement of Radical Behavior Analysis

BY GIANLUCA GHEZZI

In 2019–20, the Association for the Advancement of Radical Behavior Analysis (AARBA) has been actively involved in several exciting initiatives regarding ABA community, education, public policy, research, and organization. We are glad to share our accomplishments from the past year and present our goals moving forward.

### Dissemination and the ABA Community

The chapter took part in ABAI's 45th Annual Convention in Chicago (May 24–28), where members and chapter leaders attended several interesting symposia and panels, including three sessions that AARBA members presented in. During the Affiliated Chapter Leadership Training, we met with Michael Dorsey, as well as representatives

from several U.S. and international chapters, and listened carefully to recent updates in our science. On Saturday morning, our chapter president, Fabio Tosolin, received the SABA Award for his career efforts in disseminating ABA and OBM. It was an honor for us to have our president accept this award in company of other inspiring 2019 SABA awardees, like Liliana Mayo's and her heart-warming Centro Ann Sullivan del Perú and posthumous award winner Kurt Salzinger.

Additionally in 2019, we were honored to be represented at the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies (CCBS) Board of Directors and Trustee Meeting in the splendid setting of The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, where we met with international colleagues, friends, and fellows.

We held the 13th edition of our Scientific European Conference on Behavior-Based Safety and Performance Management Conference in Villa Foscari-Rossi at Stra (Venice, Italy) on June 20, 2019. The session had more than 300 people in attendance, most from OBM-related fields such as HSE managers, HR managers, consultants and work psychologists. However, clinical psychologists and therapists were represented as well. During the event, we hosted international OBM guest speakers Bob Cummins, consultant at SODAK (UK), and Sigurdur Sigurdsson, one of the CCBS accreditation commissioners for behavior-based safety (B-BS) processes that was involved in the 2018 Italian multisite paper factory Ahlstrom-Munksjo Gold Accreditation. As far as behavior analysis applied to clinical fields was concerned, Leasha Barry and Dayna Beddick (University of West Florida) presented on the chapter's Verified Course Sequence (VCS) and later discussed the practical opportunities of ABA intervention.

At last, in October 15–17, we renewed our commitment to Ambiente-Lavoro, the biggest Italian fair about environment and safety at work. In Bologna, we held three presentations about Behavior-Based Safety protocol in general, Behavioral Leadership and Safety Driving, so to keep promoting ABA technologies among public and private companies/institutions.

### Higher Education

In late November 2019, with the support of Dr. Leasha Barry and Dr. Dayna Beddick, we organized AARBA's first VCS. Given challenging national attitudes toward the adoption of ABA techniques, structured international courses like are essential to bringing knowledge and competence to Italian health and learning facilities. The coronavirus outbreak in late December changed our plans for this initiative, but we are moving forward with enthusiasm to start our VCS as soon as possible and to include all 10 of AARBA's and the Associazione Italiana di Analisi e Modificazione del Comportamento e Terapia Comportamentale e Cognitiva (AIAMC)

Schools recognized by the Italian Ministry of Instruction, University and Research.

Moreover, between November 2019 and January 2020, we held the 36th edition of our 80-hour B-BS post-graduate course, where we trained another class of 25 safety and operations professionals.

At the moment, we are very excited about the opportunities represented by upcoming the BACB 5th Edition Task List for VCS, which will put Italian students in the position to appropriately respond to families' needs in a manner in line with more ABA-friendly countries. Because our 80-hour B-BS post-graduate course is specially designed for the construction sector, that work should begin next summer.

Last summer, we started a campaign to raise awareness about cyber addiction in collaboration with an elementary school from Milan, in order to teach parents how to identify dangerous habits (in terms of behavior frequency and length) and reinforce and promote healthier alternatives. Under the aegis of Rotary Club Milano, we are still taking part in a series of lectures where AARBA members contribute—alongside journalists, judges and other professionals—to research and interventions based on ABA principles.

### Public Policy/Legislation

Recently, we were able to get AIAMC included in the official register of Italian scientific medical societies, for which the Ministry of Health of the Italian State requires specific guidelines for evidence-based treatment of every pathology (as stated by Italian law n. 24/2017, also known as “Gelli Law”). These guidelines (e.g. for autism spectrum disorder, phobias, etc.) are mandatory for Italy's entire national health care system. The inclusion in the register is important because it means that if, for example, an Italian psychologist does not comply with national guidelines for providing certain treatments, they can be sued by the Italian State.

Moreover, we are currently working to get AARBA accepted into the Federation of Italian Medical-Scientific Societies, which includes about 190 scientific associations. This would not only increase our opportunities to collaborate on shared goals, but to play a meaningful role in influencing the Italian State's decisions, thanks to the greater prestige and power of medical societies have in comparison to psychology societies.

### Research Projects

As far as research is concerned, in collaboration with the Polytechnic University of Milan, we continue to provide assistance with some master's degree thesis research. In 2019, we supported three interns working on two separate university research projects in B-BS.

The first project focused on deepening the difference

between baseline versus feedback phases and between the frequency of workers' safe behavior during the day (when "preposto", something similar to shift leader with legal responsibilities in Italy, is present) and at night (when "preposto" is absent). Research was conducted near Turin, in a big plant of a multinational company that has its core-business in the production and sale of tires. Results showed that data improved from baseline to intervention phase, as frequently reported in the scientific literature, and that the bigger frequency of safe behaviors was recorded during the day. Low data solidity could have played a consistent role, especially in this second unexpected, counterintuitive result.

The second project focused not only on the difference between the baseline and intervention (feedback) condition, but also on the difference between immediate and deferred feedback. In particular, the difference between 1-to-1 peer feedback delivered just after a behavioral observation with a checklist, and a biweekly department safety meeting feedback provided by safety leader. This research was conducted near Pavia, in two separate-but-close sites of a multinational specialized in HVAC and HPAC manufacturing.

Intervention effectiveness was proved in both cases (immediate and deferred), but deferred feedback was associated with a bigger increase in the frequency of safe behaviors among employees, maybe due to explicit and continuous goal setting, due to the role of safety values shared through verbal behaviors during periodic meetings that could enhance self-control, and to peer pressure. The combination of both kinds of feedback showed further improvement in each of the two experimental conditions.

### Company Consulting

AARBA continues to support major Italian and multinational companies with a continued effort to provide training and OBM consulting.

The chapter is working hard on several fronts in order to promote ABA practices and technologies in public and private institutions, with the hope of achieving increasingly positive results. See you next year!

## Behaviour Analysis in Ireland

BY HELENA LYDON

### Conference Reviews 2018-2019

The 13th Annual conference of the Division of Behavior Analysis (DBA), Psychological Society of Ireland for 2019 was a great success. The event took place in Trinity College Dublin on May 10–11, 2019. The DBA is delighted that this meeting is growing in attendance each year. As in previous years, the meeting was well supported by the behavior analysis community, with leading experts from Ireland and the US presenting and in attendance.

### Thirteenth Annual Conference in Galway

The conference was well attended by academics, clinicians,

and students from Ireland and Europe. The conference opened on Friday, May 10 with three workshops. The first workshop was presented via video stream by Professor Pat Friman (Boys Town, University of Nebraska School of Medicine) titled, "Anxiety and the Autism Spectrum: A Behavior Analytic Approach." This was followed by Professor Andy Lattal (West Virginia University), who delivered a workshop titled, "Mind the Gaps: Implications for Application of Missing Pieces from Behaviour Principles." The day concluded with a workshop by Dr Darnell Lattal (Context Management. Inc.) entitled, "Striving to Achieve Ethical Business Outcomes Using A Behavior-Analytic Perspective. Groundhog Day or Carpe Diem?" The evening closed with a social event.

The second day consisted of a series of three parallel sessions on a wide variety of both experimental and applied research. Presentations were of extremely high quality and covered a diverse range of subjects including: reinforcement considerations, novel methodologies for exploring complex human behaviour, staff training and support, assessing ABA interventions across diverse populations and settings, basic and applied advances in quantifying verbal stimulus relations, self-management of healthy lifestyle choices, and assisting people with an intellectual disabilities. Sessions were interspersed by keynote speeches from Andy Lattal ("A Tale of Two Rats: The Backstory of an Insightful Cartoon") and Darnell Lattal ("Beyond Behavior: OBM in the 21st Century Workplace"). The second day ended with Patrick Friman's talk, "Two Unifying Themes for Behavior Analysis," delivered via video stream.

### Upcoming Events

In 2020, DBA held its 14th Annual Conference at the Galway Bay Hotel on April 3–4. We were delighted to be joined in person by Professor Pat Friman, Dr. Berglind Sveinbjörnsdóttir (Reykjavik University, Iceland), and Dr. Stephen Gallagher (Ulster University, Northern Ireland).

### DBA Membership

The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) is the body representing professional psychologists in Ireland. The DBA represents recognised 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 recognised by the Division Committee. Relevant experience will also be considered. Membership application forms can be found on the PSI website [www.psychologicalsociety.ie/division-behavior-analysis](http://www.psychologicalsociety.ie/division-behavior-analysis).

## Bermuda ABA

BY ERICA SMITH AND THEA FURBERT

It would be an understatement to say that 2019 was an incredible year for Bermuda Association of Behavior

Analysis (BABA) and generally the behavior analyst profession in Bermuda which saw BABA's members engage in exciting initiatives throughout the year!

BABA is currently made up of behavior analysts, verbal behavior therapists, junior therapists, non-profit leaders, and parents. Through its close partnership with Tomorrow's Voices – Bermuda Autism Early Intervention Centre, Bermuda's first and only autism early intervention center, BABA continues to grow its members' skills, experiences, and numbers.

BABA's membership in 2019 grew slightly by two members, however 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 Autism Centre.

In 2019, Tomorrow's Voices celebrated its 12th year in Bermuda, validating the need for an international center providing services dedicated to those with autism spectrum disorders and developmental disabilities. Since its inception, the clinical center has hired and trained 47 professionals (Bermudian and Non-Bermudian) in the use of applied behavior analysis and verbal behavior, not to mention the thousands of parents, volunteers, students, educators, medical and allied health professionals trained and engaged through workshops, seminars, consultancies, internships, and work shadows.

The formation of BABA in fall 2011 was due mostly to the ongoing work by Tomorrow's Voices Autism Center and continues to be sustained through this synergistic partnership, as most of the professionals who practice ABA in Bermuda are employed with Tomorrow's Voices.

In 2019, this partnership between Tomorrow's Voices and Bermuda Association of Behavior Analysis resulted in the following seminars and training workshops being presented by BABA members—Tomorrow's Voices' senior verbal behavior therapist Jahnae Harvey, BCBA as well as verbal behavior therapists Melissa Myers and Vurnell Ball—on subjects related to ABA and special needs:

- February 11, 2019: "Behavior Management Strategies for the Classroom"
- February 20, 2019: "The Verbal Behavior Approach"
- April 17, 2019: "The Road to Transitioning to Adulthood" featuring International Speaker Mike Wasmer
- June 19, 2019: Natural Environment Teaching (Play, Daily Living and Leisure Skills)—We Can't Have All Work & No Play"
- September 4, 2019: "Intro to ABA"; "Show Me What You Know, Assessments"; "Using Reinforcement to Shape Behavior"
- September 5, 2019: "Intro to ABA"; "Let's Put That on Paper, Data Collection Methods"; "Antecedent vs. Consequence Strategies"
- October 15, 2019: "Let's Put That on Paper, Data Collection Methods"

- October 21, 2019: "Who Are We/Intro to ABA" TED Talk
- October 23, 2019: "Inclusion: Together We Unite!"
- November 20, 2019: "Food Fights, Managing Picky Eaters"

In 2019, a total of 510 persons attended the 10 professional development workshops, consisting of parents, teachers, health professionals, government officials, and others in the community.

BABA member, Senior Verbal Behavior Therapist, Jahnae Harvey, BCBA was also invited to be the motivational guest speaker for the seniors' first day of school assembly at one of Bermuda's local high schools.

Ms. Harvey is a fierce advocate for professional development opportunities and continues to provide two members with supervision in their quest to become BCBA's while also supporting the development training for young professionals progressing from junior verbal behavior therapists to verbal behavior Therapists.

In August 2019, BABA Members, and Tomorrow's Voices' Chair/Co-Founder Thea Furbert and Tomorrow's Voices' Deputy Chair Erica Smith, visited two overseas Centre's to grow in their understanding of international best practice. They visited the Grant A Gift Autism Foundation and the UNLV Medicine Ackerman Autism Centre both in Las Vegas, Nevada. It was fantastic to talk with president and CEO, Ms. Terri Janison, of Grant A Gift Autism Foundation and learn about their programs and the great work they are doing for their community. They discussed their many programs that shared the same principles and techniques as Tomorrow's Voices in Bermuda. This international exposure and seeing other Autism Centers firsthand has helped grow our network of service providers as well as validate the therapy and services we provide to our community here in Bermuda. This new relationship will last a lifetime as we share ideas and research to better support those touched by autism.

Ms. Furbert and Mrs. Smith also had the pleasure of visiting Building Pathways in Winter Garden, Florida, in September 2019, a program created by Ms. Patty Myers, a mother of an 18-year-old son on the autism spectrum. The program is geared to clients with autism who are 16 years and older and provides a social skills program, a day program, and a summer camp. The program is instrumental in providing young adults on the spectrum with the social skills, self-help skills and job readiness skills they need to reach independence and the job opportunities they deserve. The program is facilitated by board certified assistant behavior analysts to ensure it is driven by best practice. It was a pleasure to meet Patty and to see her great life enriching program and to understand the necessary tools and methods that are needed to meet the needs of young adults on the spectrum.

In October 2019, BABA members, and Tomorrow's Voices Verbal Behavior Therapists, Melissa Myers and Vurnell Ball, attended the 37th Annual Autism New Jersey Transition Conference and also visited The Bancroft School both in New Jersey. While on this trip, the members were able to experience and learn from an Autism Centre and School that has a much larger capacity than Tomorrow's Voices, as well as gather clinical knowledge from the workshops at the Conference in the aim of future professional growth for themselves and Bermuda in 2020.

Additionally, in October 2019, Ms. Furbert and Ms. Harvey attend the 13th Annual Autism Law Summit in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. They plan to use the knowledge that they gathered at the Summit to grow Bermuda as a whole regarding disability legislation and legal policies. While on this trip Ms. Furbert was surprised with being awarded with the International Advocacy Award.

As a direct result of the leadership of BABA members Ms. Furbert and Ms. Harvey, Tomorrow's Voices also won the 2019 Global Health & Pharma Social Care Award for Best Early Autism and Learning Disability Support Centre – Caribbean. The *2019 Social Care Awards Magazine*, which was circulated worldwide to 260,000 subscribers. The members are honored for Bermuda to be recognized with both awards.

BABA and thereby Tomorrow's Voices, are honored to continue to lead the way with regards to growing the ABA profession in Bermuda. BABA members continue to serve on the Bermuda Government's ASD Taskforce providing a behavior lens to addressing the issues facing our Island's students and adults with ASD and related disorders.

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.

Looking ahead, we will continue to grow the profession in 2020. One way to do this is through continuing to grow the knowledge and skills throughout the Island. Professional development workshops planned for 2020 focused/will focus on the following topics:

- February 19, 2020: "Discovering Autism and the Triumphs That Are Possible"
- June 17, 2020: "It's More Than Just A Theory"
- September 16, 2020: "Coming Into The 21st Century. It Is All About Technology"
- November 18, 2020: "Keep Calm and Carry On, Looking at the Whole Picture—Anxiety & Autism"

Another way we will grow the profession is through looking to our international partnerships to help us continue to implement best practice behavior. Our desire is to increase the number of BCBAs practicing in Bermuda. We have grave concerns over BACB's decisions to no longer offer international certification, as this will have a direct impact on our Island's current BCBAs and

those striving toward certification. As such, we will work closer with ABAI to develop solutions to this real-world professional challenge.

We will explore applying for the SABA Public Awareness and International Development Grants for 2021 to assist us in raising further awareness around BABA and the benefits of membership. In this regard, BABA would like to grow its outreach and membership base and is actively seeking persons, especially those beyond Tomorrow's Voices, interested in the ABA field to join as part of BABA's executive as well as general members.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of BABA or finding out more information should contact Erica Smith or Thea Furbert at (441) 297-4342 or [info@tomorrowsvoices.bm](mailto:info@tomorrowsvoices.bm).

## British Columbia ABA

BY KATIE ALLEN

The British Columbia Association for Behaviour Analysis (BC-ABA) has had quite a productive year! We are excited to share our accomplishments and future directions with other affiliated chapters.

BC-ABA is made up of 12 elected board members who meet 10 times per year to advance behaviour analysis in the province of BC. We have a strong and active board with wonderful diversity in our abilities. Our membership also demonstrates a great diversity of behavior analysts, and those working in the field of behavior analysis.

Licensure of BCBAs and BCBA-Ds has been an ongoing area of interest for BC-ABA. BC-ABA is working closely with the College of Psychologist of British Columbia and in conjunction with the provincial government's Ministry of Health in regulating the field of behaviour analysis in BC. We hope to continue moving this forward as progress has been slow but promising.

In May 2019, BC-ABA partnered to present CEs at a three-day presentation from Dr. Greg Hanley focused on the practical functional assessment and its application. He returned for follow up presentations in November to further detail the utility of the PFA within a school setting.

BC-ABA's annual conference was held in March 2020 at the University of British Columbia with a fantastic turnout. This year we hosted Dr. Patrick Friman, who was kind enough to deliver three presentations focused both toward professionals and parents. His topics included clinical diversity in the field of applied behavior analysis, and EIBI, ASD, and the forward march of applied behavior analysis. It was a great turnout both in person and with members streaming online.

Two scholarships were offered this year at the masters and doctoral level for students to present their research at next year's conference. Amy Tanner received our doctoral level scholarship and Serina Ando received the masters level award. Both received a \$1,000 prize to assist



with their research. Please visit our website for more information about the scholarships and how you can apply in the near future ([www.bc-aba.org](http://www.bc-aba.org)). The call for papers for the 2021 conference will go out in October 2020. We welcome anyone to submit and look forward to expanding the variety of presentations we can offer.

Next year's events will be posted on our website once details are final, so please visit our website to see what is coming up for BC-ABA.

This year (2020), will be the 11th year BC-ABA will be presenting a poster during the international Expo at ABAI. This is a wonderful event and a great way to find out first-hand about BC-ABA and its current activities.

BC-ABA's membership continues to maintain approximately 300 members across full, associate, and student memberships. There are multiple benefits to being a BC-ABA member. Our membership fee has not increased since the inception of the chapter, but the benefits to being a member improve each year, including access to conference presentation slides; access to BC-ABA meeting minutes for up-to-date information regarding the chapter; current information and news through our monthly emails; and the ability to network with other BC-ABA members. All this for only \$30 CND per year!

BC-ABA is unique in that we have a Student Alliance committee run by our elected student representatives. It is a seven-person committee made up of students enrolled in behaviour analytic programs in BC. They work at advancing behaviour analysis among the student population and host various events throughout the year to facilitate this goal.

BC-ABA continues to be an active chapter affiliate of ABAI and is honoured to be able to represent ABAI in the province of British Columbia.

## Central China ABA

BY DEHUA GUO

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurological and developmental disorder characterized by difficulties with social interaction and communication, and by restricted and repetitive behavior. The scientifically-validated, evidence-based, mainstream and effective ASD treatment methods currently recognized all over the world includes applied behavior analysis (ABA) and a series of methods derived from it.

For the better training of professionals and the development of ABA, China Association of Persons with Psychiatric Disabilities and Their Relatives (CAPPDR) has established ABA working committee through nationwide ABA resource integration to conduct ABA research, certification training, professional training, practice, and promotion throughout the country.

After 3 years of preparation, the ABA major established by Guangxi College for Preschool Education (GXCPE) was approved and filed for record by Ministry of Education

of the People's Republic of China, and GXCPE has become the first college in China to establish an ABA major.

**Figure 1.** Excerpts of Documents of Examination, Approval and Filing, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China

ABA professionals are in short supply all over the world. This shortage is particularly acute in China, which has seen a rise in the cost of ABA services, uneven quality of services, and a lack of supervision. According to the BACB website, as of January 2020, China counted 112 BCaBAs, 32 BCBAAs, and 3 BCBA-Ds.

The establishment of an ABA major program in GXCPE is of great significance: It is the first time that ABA major was established in one of China's colleges, which could be regarded as a milestone in the training of ASD rehabilitation and education professionals and is of practical significance in quality improvement of rehabilitation and education for children with special needs, such as children with ASD. It will not only ease the shortage of ABA professionals in China, but also represent the gradual establishment of a localized ABA professional training system.

According to Dr. Dehua Guo, professor in special education, person in charge of the application, professional leader of the major program, and secretary-general of CCABA, the program aims to train front-line ABA professionals with good operational skills, in order to provide practical ABA professionals for special schools, resource classrooms in general schools, and rehabilitation and education agencies.

With the help of a 20-people ABA professional team, GXCPE has approved and initiated and ABA teaching material writing project of three textbooks, established a provincial ABA practical training and social service base, as well as school-enterprise cooperation and production-education integration bases with more than 20 schools (agencies), and is now well placed for ABA teaching, research, practical training, and social service.

Qualified as "ASD Rehabilitation and Education Professional Training Base of CAPPDR" and "ABA Professional Training-Practice Base of CAPPDR" in 2019, GXCPE is on its way to becoming an important platform for ASD and ABA professional training, research and social practice in China.



**Figure 2. Practical Training Room**

## French ABA

BY ARTHUR PRÉVEL

The French Association for Behavior Analysis (French ABA) promotes the development of behavior analysis in France and in the Maghreb (Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria). Its goal is to support the national and international development of research in experimental and applied behavior analysis at the University of Lille Nord de France. The chapter also supports the University of Lille's master's program in experimental and applied behavior analysis, a unique program in France for training new researchers and professionals in behavior analysis. This master's program is completed by a qualification (i.e., a DU degree) to train professionals (psychologists, speech therapists, teachers) to behavior analysis. Finally, the chapter supports a network of French associations of professionals and parents devoted to the development of applied behavior analysis to help patients with autism or other developmental disorders. In 2019, French ABA continued to support students, professional and parents in behavior analysis. Additionally, four PhD students from the research program in behavior analysis at the University of Lille successfully defended their thesis, and new international scientific collaborations have been developed in the USA, Belgium, and UK, increasing the scientific network of the association. French ABA aims at organize a new conference centered on experimental and applied behavior analysis in 2020 or 2021.

## Icelandic ABA

BY BERGLIND SVEINBJÖRNSDÓTTIR

The Icelandic Association of Behavior Analysis (ICEABA) continues to promote the development of behavior analysis as a basic and applied science in Iceland and introduce the applications of behavior analysis to professionals and students alike. We are a small and growing association of 71 members. A part of the association's purpose is to introduce the different behavior analysis master's and doctoral programs available to Icelandic students. Applied behavior analysis has a longstanding and well established

footing at the University of Iceland and more recently in the University of Reykjavik. Some students even opt to do postgraduate research in behavior analysis in Iceland. Traditionally, Icelandic students have completed their graduate studies in applied behavior analysis abroad, such as in the US, UK, and Norway. The options for Icelandic students have recently expanded as Reykjavik University now offers an MSc program for 20 students each year in clinical psychology with a BACB-certified course sequence in applied behavior analysis, with the fifth group graduating this year. In addition, Reykjavik University started an MSc in applied behavior analysis in the fall of 2019. This program includes the 5th Edition Task List of the BCBA verified course sequence. Finally, University of Iceland will start an MSc in applied behavior analysis in the fall of 2020. The association places emphasis on informal meetings where members can share information on research and work in the field. We find this very important for the vitality of our group. Our coffee house meetings and our Facebook have served as great venues for lively discussions. ICEABA's largest event this past year was a workshop on behavior analytic services for people with acquired brain injury presented by Karl Fannar Gunnarsson who works at the West Park Healthcare Center in Toronto. ICEABA's largest event will be in November 2020, where we will have Dr. Rebecca MacDonald and Dr. Janet Twyman as our invited speakers. The members of ICEABA are excited for the future. We aim to continue working on promoting the science of behavior analysis in Iceland and being a professional reference group for scientists and practitioners in the field of behavior analysis.

## Jordanian ABA

BY MAHMOUD SHEYAB

Even though the Jordanian ABA (Jor-ABA) is trying to revive and resume its activities especially after BACB's decision to stop certifying individuals outside the USA, and even there were several meetings with stockholders to discuss what can be done to disseminate ABA throughout the country, the future of Jor-ABA is not certain. Jor-ABA activities included: train more individuals on the basic principles of ABA, holding awareness workshops and talks, and meet with school principals to discuss how ABA can help them manage their classrooms. In addition to these activities, Jor-ABA held a 2020 national conference.

## Korean Association of Child and Adolescent Behavior Therapy

BY YUNHEE SHIN

The Korean Association of Child and Adolescent Behavior Therapy (KACBT) is a multidisciplinary nonprofit

professional association with growing membership and an increasing number of alliances with like-minded organizations. KACBT has met with the preparatory committee of the Korean Association for Behavior Analysis to discuss managing licensure of clinical behavior therapists in connection with international licensure. KACABT's mission is to share ABA information and collaborate with behavior therapists in a field, parents, and other interested parties. Since 2009, KACBT has engaged in various activities; held many meetings, seminars and conferences; and collaborated with Daegu Cyber University. Daegu Cyber University installed a program VCS in the Department of Behavior Therapy.

### Case Conference and Seminars

The 2019 Case Conference was on November 23 at Daejeon WECAN Center, South Korea. The theme for the conference was "Positive Behavior Support, Behavior Intervention for Disabilities." The 2020 conference date has not been set at the time of this writing, but we are considering October or November of this year.

To join our chapter, membership applicants must meet at least one of the following requirements:

- Studying applied behavior analysis and intervention in a graduate/undergraduate program.
- Working as a current behavior therapist and involved in behavior analysis and behavior therapy.
- Interested in applied behavior analysis and positive behavior support.

Membership lasts for one year. Member benefits include reduced event and continuing education fees, options to post job ads or information about services on the chapter website, options to send mass emails for conference, workshop access to members-only web content and email updates, and committee opportunities.

## 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. About half of the registered members of NZABA are students, with the remainder working in research, teaching, and practice. Our main event each year is the NZABA conference held in late August. In 2019, this event was held at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch. We strive to create a supportive and engaged space for students to present their research at our conference. As a result, student presentations are always a highlight. In 2019, NZABA awarded three prizes to particularly outstanding student presentations. The Best Talk on a Topic in the Experimental Analysis of Behaviour Award was granted to Nicola Morton of the University of Canterbury

for her presentation entitled, "Non-Symbolic Comparison of Intensive and Extensive Magnitudes With Added Noise." The Best Talk on a Topic in Applied Behaviour Analysis Award was given to Jenna van Deurs of the University of Canterbury, for her talk entitled, "Treating Sleep Disturbance in Young People With Autism." The Best Poster Award was given to David Hollands from Waikato University for his presentation entitled, "Visual Search Behaviour and the Advance-Key Procedure." These talks exemplified the quality of research work across the basic-translational-applied spectrum conducted by NZABA members.

NZABA has been an approved continuing education (CE) provider for the BACB since 2006. This allows NZABA to support the professional development of practicing applied behavior analysts by offering CE at our conference. The recent BACB decision regarding international certification will impact applied behavior analysts practising in New Zealand, as well as programmes that currently train future behaviour analysts. NZABA has founded a sub-committee that will work on this issue in 2020. The sub-committee will seek input from relevant stakeholders and consider national, regional, and international options for supporting high-quality applied behaviour analysis in New Zealand going forward. In 2020, our conference will be held at The University of Waikato in Hamilton. Hamilton is easily accessible via the International Airport in Auckland. We welcome national and international attendees with an interest in behavior analysis. Our website ([nzaga.org](http://nzaga.org)) provides up-to-date information about how to register and will post the conference program once available. You can join NZABA via a form on our website; we do not charge a membership fee. Members automatically join our emailing list and will receive occasional updates and announcements. Our facebook group ([facebook.com/newzealandaba](https://www.facebook.com/newzealandaba)) hosts more informal discussions and shares of papers or articles of relevance to behaviour analysis.

## Ontario ABA

BY KENDRA THOMSON

The Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis (ONTABA) continues to expand capacity, grow membership, and increase visibility among other professionals and levels of government in Ontario and Canada. Although 2019 was a very productive year, provincial changes in the autism service sector prompted the need for advocacy, which consumed considerable ONTABA resources.

### Member Services & Educational Opportunities

In 2019, ONTABA provided the following member services and educational opportunities:

- With support of a grant from SABA, the Ontario Scientific Expert Taskforce for the Treatment of Challenging Behaviour completed a research synthesis

- on evidence-based practices for treating challenging behaviour in people diagnosed with an intellectual disability. The full report is available to the public on our website ([www.ontaba.org](http://www.ontaba.org)) under the "Resources" tab, along with the comprehensive research synthesis on "Evidence-Based Practices for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder" published in March 2017 by The Ontario Scientific Expert Taskforce for the Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders.
- The Education Task Force recently completed a white paper titled, "Applied Behaviour Analysis: Applications in Schools" that will be shared with educators and policy makers.
  - The Newsletter Committee released quarterly publications with updates from the president and committees, an ethics column with Dr. Rosemary Condillac, and interviews with Drs. Adrienne Perry, Linda LeBlanc, and Jonathan Tarbox.
  - Dr. Siri Ming provided an online training (CEs) on Relational Frame Theory and its place in early behaviour intervention and language-based programs.
  - The Jurisprudence Committee, formed in 2017, completed training materials relevant to Ontario practitioners and are now in the process of working with a vendor to create modules that will be available to members.
  - We held our annual conference on November 14–15, 2019 with over 750 attendees who had the opportunity to learn from Drs. Nicole Luke, Adrienne Perry, Tom Szabo, and Jonathan Tarbox, as well as many local behaviour analysts and trainees.
  - We hosted a successful "Evening of Behavior Analysis" on August 16, 2019, with local business owners and behavior analysts, Nancy Marchese and Angeline Savard, sharing important entrepreneurial information with behaviour analysts aspiring to start their own clinical practice.
- collaborated with our colleagues in the Quebec affiliated chapter to translate the infographic in French.
- We held two meetings with representatives from all Canadian chapters and sent a joint letter to federal politicians advocating for evidence based autism services.
  - We held two town halls for members to provide input on strategies and challenges resulting from changes in the sector.
  - We formed a Public Relations Committee and hired a PR consultant.
  - We released multiple statements and had several media appearances about provincial policy.
  - We provided *Tips for Interacting with Political Officials* to members.
  - The Professional Regulation Committee, board, and members continued to advocate for autonomous regulation for behaviour analysts.
  - We attempted to highlight the importance of regulation to the general public on social media through sharing resources such as our regulation infographic.
  - The Minister of Health and Long-Term Care released the results from the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC) process which highlighted the need for public protection through regulation of behaviour analysts in Ontario.
  - After more than 20 years of ONTABA advocacy efforts, the provincial government announced their intention to regulate behavior analysts on August 13, 2019.
  - A regulation town hall was held for members at the annual conference on November 5, 2019.

## Advocacy

Changes in the Provincial government lead to substantial changes to autism services, which destabilized the sector, diminished ABA capacity, and caused considerable stress for families and people with autism, as well as our members working in autism services. ONTABA dedicated substantial resources to advocating alongside families for access to evidence-based behaviour analytic services for people and families seeking them.

- Members of the board and the Autism Committee and the Education Task Force met with the Minister of Community, Children and Social Services and the Minister of Education to advocate for investment and improvement in behaviour analytic services in Ontario's autism program and education system.
- We disseminated information about ABA in the form of an "ABA Primer" and accompanying "What is ABA?" infographic that was shared widely on social media. We

## Governance

ONTABA completed a comprehensive revision of the chapter bylaws, which incorporate revisions required to align with the Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act, and the growth of the organization. The chapter also completed board evaluations and drafted strategic plan objectives for 2020–22

## Board Transition and Eye on 2020

To start 2020, we finalized the strategic objectives for the next 3 years: (1) provide leadership and advocate for ethical, effective, and safe behavioural services in Ontario; (2) enhance services and supports for all ONTABA members, in all parts of the province; and (3) build the capacity of ONTABA to achieve its mission and goals. We also engaged in a committee restructuring process to streamline budgeting, capitalize on volunteer resources, and align with the strategic priorities. In doing so, we condensed 12 committees and 4 task forces into 8 standing committees: Finance, Governance, Education & Advancement, Membership & Member Services, Professional Affairs & Practice, Advocacy & Communications, Conference & Events, and Organizational Development.

ONTABA remains committed to its mission of demonstrating leadership, knowledge, and innovation in education, training, and research for the ethical and effective application of behaviour analysis and looks forward to another productive year in 2020.

## Polish Society for Behavioral Psychology

BY BARTŁOMIEJ J. SWEBODZIŃSKI

During 2019, the Polish Society for Behavioral Psychology (PSBP) continuously worked on the development of a Polish certification system (licence) for behavior analysts. This system was created and introduced in 2010 together with partner our organization, the Polish Society for Behavioral Therapy ([www.terapeutabehavioralny.pl](http://www.terapeutabehavioralny.pl)). Its aim was to improve the quality of work of behavior analysts in the country by establishing professional standards of good work and proper conduct for behavioral analysts. Two members of PSBP participate on a regular basis in meetings of the executive committee of the system. The main responsibilities are:

- Evaluating applications of candidates for the title of behavior analyst according to the standards of the Polish certification system.
- Developing standards for training programs and evaluating new training courses proposed by supervisors within the system.
- Answering on-going questions concerning certification and providing consistent interpretations of its rules.
- Propagating knowledge about the certification system and behavioral therapy in Poland.

Work 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 involved: Przemysław Bąbel, Paweł Ostaszewski, and Krystyna Pomorska. We are also working on the Polish edition of *Skinnerian Science and Human Behavior* and Przemysław Bąbel, president of PSBP, is preparing the scientific editing.

Finally, in 2019, we created a new chapter website (<http://ptpb.pl/en/home/>).

## Sociedad Mexicana de Análisis de la Conducta

BY ROSALINDA ARROYO, ROGELIO ESCOBAR, ABRAHAM ORTIZ, AND MARIO SERRANO

The Mexican Society for Behavior Analysis (MSBA) has taken the lead on disseminating behavior analysis among psychologists from our country, specially by publishing the *Mexican Journal of Behavior Analysis (MJBA)* and organizing the Mexican Conference for Behavior Analysis (MCBA).

*MJBA*, edited since 1975, is published every 6 months (June and December). Original research reports, review articles, and technical notes in English and Spanish are considered for publication. A special section in the December issue includes monographic papers (formerly the September special issue). The special section in 2019 was focused on experimental analyses of non-human animal social behavior and was edited by Kennon A. Lattal and Hiroto Okouchi. In accordance with its open-access policy, all volumes of *MJBA* are available to the public for free. The new editor for the 2020–24 period is Carlos Flores, from the University of Guadalajara. From October 23–25, 2019, the 29th MCBA took place at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Facultad de Estudios Superiores Iztacala. The event gathered 255 assistants and panelists from different public and private universities from Mexico and the United States of America. Among the workshops and symposia, and during the poster sessions, a total of 165 works on experimental and applied behavior analysis were presented. Linda J. Hayes, from University of Nevada (Reno), Amy L. Odum, from Utah State University, and Mitch Fryling, from California State University (Los Angeles), participated in the conference as guest key-note speakers. Additionally, during the event MSBA awarded Brisa Cecilia Gutiérrez Ortégón and Elsa Patricia Ramos Bernal with the MSBA thesis grant. The 30th MCBA will take place October 28–30, 2020, at Universidad Veracruzana.

## Swedish ABA

BY DAG STRÖMBERG

The Swedish Association for Behavior Analysis (SWABA) had 159 members at the end of 2019, which was 33 less than in 2018. One objective this year was for the chapter to continue increasing its 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, 1139 people were following SWABA on Facebook, a 16% increase from 2018. The association also has accounts on Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Instagram, all with an increasing number of followers. Also, SWABA has updated its website, including a new and more efficient way to handle memberships from January 2020.

One highlight of 2019 was the ABAI 10th International Conference which took place in Stockholm, September 29–30. With more than 700 participants from 36 countries, it was a great success and a unique opportunity for the Swedish behavior analytic community to create and maintain contact with international colleagues. SWABA is grateful to the ABAI Executive Board for choosing to organize this event in our country. After the conference, SWABA hosted a much appreciated post-conference workshop with Dr Joanne Robbins and Dr Joe Layng.

SWABA's fall meeting in October 2019, in Stockholm,

included two talks and a panel discussion on the topic of disseminating behavior analysis, as well as a follow-up on the ABAI International Conference.

In March 2020, we were planning to arrange our annual meeting in Stockholm, including a one-day conference. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year it was transformed to an online event. The three invited talks that were planned were canceled and instead we only had a business meeting, which went surprisingly well. Especially, it was a pleasure to present the first recipient of the annual "SWABA-prize." Emelia Fjällström, licensed speech-language pathologist at a habilitation center for children with autism in the region of Jämtland Härjedalen, was awarded the prize as a recognition of her work to disseminate behavior analysis outside of her workplace. Emelia has been using behavior change tactics to facilitate children's participation in dental examinations within the region's Public Dental Care.

SWABA was represented at the 2020 ABAI Annual Convention. As usual, a poster was presented at the ABAI Expo, now adapted to the new online format.

Attending this version of the ABAI Expo, between 2–4 am, Swedish time, was certainly a different and memorable experience. A number of convention visitors joined us in the poster's chat room.

SWABA supports the formation of special interest groups, 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. In November 2019, the Animals SIG co-hosted the Choice, Control & Communication Conference in Ljungskile.

SWABA would like to encourage anyone who plans to visit Sweden or other countries in Scandinavia to contact the board ([info@swaba.se](mailto: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 September or October. Our fall meeting of 2020 will take place September 26 in Stockholm. One of the talks, by Dr. Francesca degli Espinosa, will be in English. Please visit the SWABA website for updates concerning the program. ❖

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## Addiction SIG

BY AUGUST F. HOLTYN, BETHANY R. RAIFF,  
JESSE DALLERY, AND KIMBERLY C. KIRBY

The Addiction SIG was founded in 2019 with an overarching goal of expanding training, research, and employment opportunities for behavior analysts in the area of addiction. The SIG provides a forum for all persons who have an interest in studying and applying behavior analysis to understand, prevent, and treat addiction. This may include addiction to drugs and other commodities (e.g., alcohol, nicotine, stimulants, opioids, internet, smartphones, food, gambling) and associated psychosocial problems (e.g., psychiatric comorbidities, unemployment, poverty).

In the past year, the Addiction SIG focused on developing the necessary infrastructure to support a variety of activities. We conducted leadership meetings throughout the year, established a digital presence via Facebook, developed a system to track membership, and began planning for the inaugural business meeting.

In the coming year, the Addiction SIG aims to accomplish several goals. The SIG will: (1) serve as a professional and scientific networking group for its members; (2) focus on growing its presence and interaction on social media; (3) organize a system of membership dues and best uses of funds; (4) continue to recruit new members; (5) promote submission of addiction-related symposia, panel sessions, posters, and papers for ABAI and highlight upcoming relevant presentations; (6) expand the resources available to its members; and (7) continue discussions related to the creation of a Verified Course Sequence. In sum, the SIG aims to pursue several activities that will make membership in the Addiction SIG as beneficial as possible.

Membership in the Addiction SIG is open to all individuals who are interested in the SIG's aim, mission, or objectives. The SIG's members need not be members of ABAI and membership is currently free. If you would like to become a member, please complete the application, found here: [https://jhmi.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8d22zrevielRB9X](https://jhmi.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8d22zrevielRB9X)

## Applied Animal Behavior SIG

BY KATIE KALAFUT

The mission of the Applied Animal Behavior 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.

## 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 incorporating theories and findings from other areas into our own research and by 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, Verbal Behavior) and are interested in the DEV SIG's mission, conference program, and discussions. Our SIG has 80 current members. We have a large international presence, with countries including Norway, Germany, Mexico, Italy, Spain, China, UK, 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.

At its 2019 annual meeting, the SIG elected Jennifer Longano as treasurer and Claire Cahill as reconciler. We are pleased to announce that they have secured access to the SIG's funds, which are close to \$3,000. On the agenda at the 2020 annual meeting were ways to spend these funds. We would like to offer scholarships to student presenters, as well as an annual award for contributions to behavioral development. In the future, as our funds grow, we wish to fully or partially fund invited speakers, in particular those who are international.

Perhaps the most exciting development over the past year is that the DEV SIG now has a Facebook page! It went live in late February 2020, and over 50 followers! We hope it will succeed in reaching a wider audience and increasing the SIG membership. The page is currently closed to members of the group, but those wishing to view it can request access just by clicking a button.

The DEV SIG is represented in the ABAI annual convention program in the Behavioral Development program area. DEV SIG members consistently serve as program area coordinators who help bring exciting presentations on a variety of topics related to behavioral development to the annual convention.

In 2019, we welcomed 15 posters, 1 panel, 2 papers, 16 symposia (a big increase over the previous year), and 3 invited talks. The invited talks included an international

presenation by Nirvana Pistoljevic entitled, "ABA for All: Building Systems to Help Children Through a Transdisciplinary Behavioral Approach"; an invited paper by Jennifer Longano entitled, "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 entitled, "The Urge to Smoke and the Urge to Urinate: Pavlovian Processes in Health-Related Behaviors."

At the 2020 ABAI Annual Convention, the Behavioral Development area was represented by 21 posters, 1 panel discussion, 2 paper presentations, and 9 symposia. The majority of these presentations focused on research related to verbal behavior development, acceleration of academic skills, and behavioral development across the lifespan. Co-program area chairs Jessica Dudek and Jo Ann Delgado also recruited an exciting invited tutorial entitled, "Designing Instruction for All Learners: How Verbal Development Informs Pedagogy and Instruction" by Jennifer Weber. Unfortunately the other invited talks had to be cancelled.

These sessions well 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.

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 topics and approaches, we have been a relatively informal SIG. Come find us at one of our presentations or invited talks, attend our business meeting, or 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 utilizing 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 regimes, 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 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 ABA-I). You may also contact us at [bxmedsig@gmail.com](mailto: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 announce a student research award annually during the ABAI convention each year.

The Behavioral Medicine SIG sponsored a special symposium during the ABAI 46th Annual Convention online, entitled, "Pain and Wellness Research in Behavioral Medicine." The symposium was comprised of Dr. Jessica Mias and Dr. Brian Jadro, who each presented their doctoral research in behavioral medicine. Dr. Jessica Mias presented research on increasing physical activity in women through behavioral coaching, and investigated the effects of coaching frequency on behavior change and maintenance. Dr. Brian Jadro, presented research on improving proper sitting posture in adults with reported lower back pain, and evaluated the effects of different feedback schedules on changes in posture, proper sitting posture maintenance, and changes in reported lower back pain. Dr. Kylan Turner served as discussant, providing suggestions for doctoral and masters-level students who are interested in pursuing research in behavioral medicine. Dr. Gretchen A. Dittrich served as the symposium chair.

The fourth annual Behavioral Medicine SIG Student Research Award was announced at our annual business meeting, held during the ABAI annual convention. The Behavioral Medicine Student Research Award is awarded annually to a masters-level or doctoral student who has

completed innovative research in the area of behavioral medicine. Applications and nominations for the award may be submitted via email to [bxmedsig@gmail.com](mailto:bxmedsig@gmail.com). We encourage all students to apply for this award.

During the annual business meeting, SIG members discussed strategies to enhance membership benefits, and identified a new webmaster for the year. The Behavioral Medicine SIG website will be redesigned, and will include a library of articles focusing on different topics in behavioral medicine, a directory of experts who conduct research in behavioral medicine, and links to synchronous and asynchronous webinars for CEs. 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 CEs for SIG members.

## Behavior Analysis in Health, Sport, and Fitness SIG

BY JULIE SLOWIAK

The mission of the Behavior Analysis in Health, Sport, and Fitness Special Interest Group (HSF SIG) is to educate, coordinate, and provide resources to behavior analysts and other members of society seeking to address human challenges in health, sport, and fitness through the application of the science of behavior analysis.

This mission shall be fulfilled through: (1) Educating behavior analysts and other members of society and increasing awareness, visibility, and understanding of the application of the science of behavior analysis to health, sport, and fitness; (2) disseminating information about the practice of behavior analysis and educational and training opportunities relevant to practice of behavior analysis in the areas of health, sport, and fitness; (3) providing a professional network and access to educational and training resources (e.g., continuing education events, mentorship opportunities) for its members; (4) obtaining financial resources to support research grants for behavior analysts who seek to conduct research with the objective to develop or evaluate behavior analytic interventions to resolve human challenges in health, sport, and fitness, and (5) collaborating with other nonprofit organizations, healthcare agencies, and health, sport, and fitness professionals to maximize our impact on current efforts.

After organizing as a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization in April 2019, the HSF SIG's Board of Directors developed strategic goals within five strategy areas to support the continued growth of the practice of behavior analysis in the areas of health, sport, and fitness: (1) visibility and awareness, (2) business skills

and entrepreneurship, (3) credentialing and payment, (4) training and professional development, and (5) research. To encourage its members to take an active role in the organization and take action on the organization's strategic goals, the HSF SIG's Board of Directors formed three volunteer committees. The HSF Visibility Committee was created with the intention to increase the visibility of the HSF SIG, HSF SIG members, and the application of behavior analysis to the areas of health, sport, and fitness to behavior analysts and the general public. The HSF Professional Development Committee was formed to support, encourage, and promote the development of practitioner competence among current and prospective HSF SIG members. Finally, the HSF Research Committee was developed to support, encourage, and promote health, sport, and fitness-related research within the field of behavior analysis and among current and prospective HSF SIG members. We anticipate that additional committees and leadership opportunities will be added as the organization continues to grow.

In early 2020, the HSF SIG accepted applications for its newly developed small research grant program. The purpose of this grant is to support experimental research that demonstrates the application of behavior analysis to address human behavior in the areas of health, sport, or fitness. Additional goals of this program are to disseminate behavior analytic research and practice and to expand research opportunities for students of behavior analysis. The HSF SIG was able to award two \$500 grants to support graduate student researchers this year. Details for the 2021 HSF SIG Small Research Grant program will be announced in late 2020, and applications will be due in January 2021.

We were pleased to see a variety of presentations on relevant topics such as behavioral medicine, self-management of health conditions, increasing physical activity, improving nutrition/eating habits, and enhancing athletic performance represented at the 46th Annual ABAI Convention. Our goal is to continue to increase visibility of the HSF SIG at future annual conventions, as well as at state and regional conferences, possibly through organizing fun activities for attendees that focus on maintaining healthy habits during travel and combating sedentary behavior while attending conferences.

Our Annual Business Meeting was held virtually on June 8, 2020. At this year's meeting, we introduced members of the Board of Directors, including a newly elected Director. We presented an overview of the HSF SIG's mission and strategy areas, along with an overview of the organization's accomplishments over the past year. Major accomplishments include growing our membership, co-hosting professional development opportunities that highlight HSF practitioners, and developing a small research grant program.

Conversations among members continue to support the contention that several barriers and ethical considerations

exist for those who desire to practice in the areas of health, sport, and fitness. In addition, opportunities to secure research and practicum experiences in academic programs are limited by the small number of ABA faculty with expertise or interest in health, sport, and fitness, as well as limited course offerings. Our focus will be to continue to support those who are interested in practicing behavior analysis within the areas of health, sport, and fitness.

For more information, please go to our website ([www.hsfsigabai.com](http://www.hsfsigabai.com)), Facebook Page ([facebook.com/ABAI.HSF.SIG/](https://facebook.com/ABAI.HSF.SIG/)), or follow us on Instagram ([www.instagram.com/hsf.abai](https://www.instagram.com/hsf.abai)) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/hsfsig>). If you're interested in joining the HSF SIG, you will find details on our website. Membership is \$10 per year for students and \$20 per year for professionals (we also offer a 2-year option). If you have any questions, want to contribute to our blog, or would like to take a more active role in the Behavior Analysis in Health, Sport, & Fitness SIG, please email us at [hsf.abai@gmail.com](mailto:hsf.abai@gmail.com).

## Behavior Analysis for Sustainable Societies SIG


BY JULIA H. FIEBIG

The Behavior Analysis for Sustainable Societies (BASS) SIG reached its 10th year as an ABAI affiliated SIG in 2020. This milestone was marked by a number of practical organizational initiatives as well as fruitful dissemination efforts. Organizational efforts included establishing a SIG bank account, as well as launching a new website, [www.baforsustainablesocieties.org](http://www.baforsustainablesocieties.org), in April. Additionally, a crowdfunding campaign launched on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, and ran through May 31. The purpose of these fundraising efforts was to establish a BASS fund that can offer stipends to support BASS member efforts to conduct research and implement

interventions that change high impact behaviors related to carbon emissions, as well as present that work at future ABAI events and through CE webinars for SIG members, in addition to disseminating that research to professional organizations outside of behavior analysis.

Relatedly, agenda items at the BASS SIG business meeting included (1) a call for volunteers to establish a three-member review committee for funding applications; (2) discussion on establishment of member dues; (3) development of CE webinars and opportunities to be hosted on the website; (4) identification of a treasurer, website coordinator, and CE coordinator; (5) identification of a committee to explore requirements and potential benefits of the SIG gaining 501(c)(3) status, and (6) discussion and consensus on SIG goals for 2021.

Dissemination and collaboration efforts of SIG members over the last year have also been very exciting. Multiple members of the BASS SIG are part of the Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) of the Coalition of Behavior Science Organizations, while other SIG members have offered many, many volunteer hours to the CCTF's efforts on evaluating the experimental literature on effective community-level intervention to curb greenhouse gas emissions. These efforts are also shared on a new website for the CCTF: <http://bsciclimate.org/>. This work was also presented by BASS SIG, Behaviorists for Social Responsibility SIG, and CCTF members in a four part sustainability series at the ABAI 46th Annual Convention, and in a plenary panel at the Association for Contextual Behavior Science World Conference in July 2020. Further dissemination efforts were made at the Behavior Energy and Climate Change Conference in Sacramento, CA, in November 2019 through lightning session presentations on the role of organizational behavior management and prosocial in building cooperative groups as an action against climate change, and through



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a 3.5-hour workshop called “Expanding and Scaling Up Behavioral Science Research on Climate Change.” Both presentations resulted in opportunities for SIG member collaborations with professionals working on issues related to climate change. The BASS SIG is looking forward to another exciting year and to continued momentum of efforts to support research, practice, and dissemination of applications of behavior analysis to issues of climate change and sustainability of communities.

## Behaviorists for Social Responsibility SIG

BY SARAH RICHLING, HOLLY SENIUK, AND TRACI CIHON

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 on a monthly basis, currently consist of Jose Ardila, Kendra Combs, Traci Cihon, Sarah Richling, Mark Mattaini, Richard Rakos, and Holly Seniuk. The Planner structure, active volunteers, the easy availability of digital communications, and the resulting mutual accountability continues to produce a high level of activity by the SIG. The following report summarizes only some of the SIG’s activities for 2019–20.

Many members of the BFSR Planners supported the completion of *Behavioral Perspectives on Culture and Community*, the first of a new series of books to be published through Springer and in collaboration with ABAI. The book contains 17 chapters from leading behavior scientists engaged in research and applications of culturo-behavior science and is scheduled for publication in August 2020.

### Matrix

BFSR has continued to focus on the Matrix Project (see BFSR’s website at <https://bfsr.abainternational.org/> for more information) which was first introduced in the 2014 *Behavior and Social Issues* editorial (Mattaini & Luke, 2014). The Matrix Project is focused 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 on this goal. A significant amount of activity has continued to occur in the last year, so we will highlight a few of the recent activities.

### Education 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 exploring what resources would be most beneficial to behavior analysts interested in various social issues. The group has created a survey that will be distributed to faculty, students, and practitioners in an effort to better understand how individuals are currently contacting behavior analytic content on social issues and what resources would be most beneficial. This group is also exploring how a work group centered on diversity/bias can provide additional support to the behavioral community.

### 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 (Texas ABA in 2016 and Kansas ABA in 2017). Another state level chapter (Alabama ABA) and a non-US affiliated chapter (ABA of Brazil) are in development.

In 2019, the Texas ABA (TxABA) BFSR SIG council proposed a new set of bylaws that shifted the leadership from the traditional council model to that of a Planners Board. The TxABA BFSR SIG Planners met several times between the 2019 TxABA conference and the upcoming 2020 TxABA conference. The TxABA BFSR SIG Planners have focused discussions in the following areas: (1) developing opportunities for engaging community members and organizations in the TxABA conference (e.g., scholarship support for students and faculty at local universities, partnerships with local NGOs to introduce TxABA attendees in issues affecting the community, etc.), (2) increasing engagement with TxABA BFSR SIG members through blog posting, descriptions of member activities, and so on, and (3) to work with the program coordinator for the education and social issues tracks for the TxABA conference). In the upcoming year, one focus of the Regional BFSR groups will be to develop a stronger infrastructure that connects the regional BFSR groups with each other and the ABAI BFSR Planners.

### 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.

### Sustainability Group

The Sustainability Group recently published an article in a special section on *Cultural and Behavioral Systems Science in Perspectives on Behavior Science* to describe how the Matrix Project has been used in the development of resources for behavior analysts interested in the area of sustainability. It also serves as a guide for how behavior analysts can become more involved in the area of sustainability in a variety of ways. The group is currently working on identifying resources that would be useful for behavior analysts. In the upcoming year this group will focus on strategic planning to identify measurable goals for the future.

BFSR will continue to work on the Matrix Project over the coming year, updating the activities and outcomes of active sectors and coordinating the activities of the less developed sectors. Those who want to get involved can contact BFSR at [bfsr@abainternational.org](mailto:bfsr@abainternational.org).

### Infrastructure Improvements

To ensure that the SIG continues to make progress toward the SIG's mission, several infrastructure improvements were made in the last year. Since becoming an ABAI Associated SIG, BFSR has continued to develop infrastructure to provide members with valuable resources. 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@abainternational.org](mailto:bfsr@abainternational.org) if you are interested in volunteering). The SIG has been actively working on developing our website to house resources, disseminate information, and provide members with a way to connect with the SIG.

### 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 electronic access to the journal.

### ABAI Annual Convention

BFSR held our annual business meeting at the ABAI Annual Convention. BFSR was also represented at the convention EXPO and a poster presenting further developments of the Matrix Project. The Matrix poster was also presented at TxABA, Illinois ABA, Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy, Nebraska ABA, and Standard Celeration Society conferences.

Planners will continue to take the poster to regional conferences in 2020 with plans for KansABA, TxABA, and the ABAI Culturo-Behavior Science for a Better World conferences.

## Crime, Delinquency, and Forensic Behavior Analysis SIG

BY TIMOTHY J. TEMPLIN

The mission of the Crime, Delinquency, and Forensic Behavior Analysis 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

Clinical issues for the elderly and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for veterans. The SIG has been active in sending letters to the state of PA to support use of behavior analysis for addressing the needs of these populations. The SIG is currently exploring collaboration with the Practitioner Issue SIG and the Veteran's SIG about ways to allow licensed behavior analysts to work in the VA system. This SIG has much to offer those behavior analysts who are 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 list serve. We currently have 265 members. Discussion topics pertain to subjects such as providing consultation for veterans in prison, child medications, and 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 other

pertinent topics. One member currently runs a podcast on behavior analysis and crime ([anchor.fm/criminalbehaviorology](http://anchor.fm/criminalbehaviorology) and [criminalbehaviorology.podomatic.com](http://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 2018–19 Activities

The SIG held its 2019 annual meeting at the ABAI conference in Chicago, IL. 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 2018, the SIG selected Dr. Kathryn J. Saunders to receive the EAHB SIG Distinguished Contributions Award for 2019. Dr. Carol Pilgrim introduced Dr. Saunders, summarizing her many contributions to the experimental analysis of human behavior. Dr. Saunders then gave an award address reflecting on her 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 young scholar in the SIG's annual Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior Student Paper Competition. Dr. Kathryn Kestner coordinated the competition. The award was presented to Vanessa Ayres-Pereira, a student at Oslo Metropolitan University for her work entitled, "Different Response Patterns during Baseline Acquisition in Many-to-One and One-to-Many Training Structures and Performance in Tests for Equivalence Class Formation." Vanessa 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](http://eahb.org)

## Report of 2019–20 activities

The SIG remains focused on our three primary goals: Promoting the experimental analysis of human behavior and basic behavioral research by encouraging student research and scholarship in EAHB, by recognizing outstanding career-long contributions to the field, and by maintaining an outlet for publishing human operant research. Due to the conference being held online, the SIG postponed many of its activities. The EAHB SIG Distinguished Contributions Award will be presented next year to Dr. Timothy Hackenberg, professor of psychology at Reed College. Dr. Hackenberg will give an award address on cross-species comparisons of behavior and the processes by which we may separate species from procedural differences. The EAHB SIG continues to increase the size of its membership (currently 120 ABA members) by (1) presenting a poster at the ABA Expo, (2) by promoting the annual Distinguished Contributions Award address, and (3) increasing the visibility of the *EAHB Bulletin*. During this year's meeting, we also discussed business related to the *EAHB Bulletin* including election and term limits of bulletin's editorial board and strategies for increasing the impact of the bulletin.

# History of Behavior Analysis SIG

BY EDWARD K. MORRIS

The History of Behavior Analysis Special Interest Group (HoBA SIG) of the ABAI 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 261 members, an increase of two members from 2018. Our membership is stable. To join the SIG, log onto the HoBA website ([www.historyofbehavioranalysis.org](http://www.historyofbehavioranalysis.org)) or contact Pat Williams (University of Houston-Downtown) at [WilliamsP@uhd.edu](mailto:WilliamsP@uhd.edu).

## 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

Jack Michael (2004) offered 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 also address the field's relation to 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 (1) ABAI; (2) 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; (3) 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 (4) 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 founding president, Edward K. Morris (University of Kansas); vice-president, Karen Wagner (Behavior Service of Brevard, FL); secretary-treasurer, Todd Mc Kerchar (Jacksonville State University, AL); and listserv owner and moderator, Pat Williams (University of Houston-Downtown). The near-future of the HoBA SIG is to broaden its leadership and governance (see below).

### Business Meeting

Our main activities have been hosting a ListServ for our members (n ~ 260), a website ([www.historyofbehavioranalysis.org](http://www.historyofbehavioranalysis.org)), and an annual business meeting at the ABAI conference. To summarize the minutes of the 2019 meeting:

- Despite the size of the SIG's membership, attendance at the business meetings have been low the last several years (e.g., Crone-Todd, Morris, Mc Kerchar, Wagner, and n ~8 members), compared to earlier years (n ~20-25).
- The low attendance probably reflects the SIG's lack of engagement with its members other than through mainly its Listserv. The SIG's activities have not changed since its founding—and neither has its leadership.
- The SIG leadership and the audience has been discussing changes in the SIG's structure and functions, the most fundamental of which would be to establish By-Laws. This would:
  - o Formalize the SIG's structure (e.g., governance, Executive Council)
  - o Expand the SIG's purview (e.g., committees, positions)
  - o 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).

### Goals 2020

The SIG's goals this year are to establish By-Laws and a committee structure. Drafts of the By-Laws will be developed, circulated, and revised by the current EC before the May 2020 Business Meeting at ABAI. At the Business Meeting, the members present will vote on it. If approved, the EC will establish an election cycle and begin assigning HoBA members as committee chairs and members. The future of history in ABAI looks bright.

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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 planned for the 2020 ABAI Annual Convention in Washington, DC. However, this meeting was cancelled when the convention moved to a virtual platform.

Increasing the profile and relevance of the SIG to ABAI members is a major concern, and anyone who is interested in contributing to this effort or has ideas for additional initiatives is encouraged to join and become involved by contacting Suzanne Mitchell at [mitchesu@ohsu.edu](mailto: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 SIG now has over 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 nonevidenced-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 that 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) as well as 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](mailto:DrTaylor@PaediatricFeedingIntl.com) and Dr. Cathleen Piazza at [cathleenpiazza@rutgers.edu](mailto:cathleenpiazza@rutgers.edu). Members were encouraged to exchange ideas throughout the year via e-mail, telephone, and the Yahoo group site. 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 is a special interest group that 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 also 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 also maintain a yahoo list-serve 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 as independent practitioners. 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 and billing practices and updates, and efforts to place barriers for 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 over 30 states which have licensure laws in place or about to be in place for the practice of behavior analysis and now all 50 states as of this report with "autism insurance mandate" laws. In the past year, the SIG has supported other SIGs that are working on the practice of behavior analysis in



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areas such as military/veterans issues, crime and delinquency, including juvenile justice and prisons, and substance abuse. Given the growth in the number of states with licensure bills in place 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. The recent announcements by the BACB regarding discontinuation of offering certification outside of North America and to offer certification examinations at any time, present new challenges as well as opportunities for practitioners, and those who own and operate ABA practice organizations. We host a Yahoo groups list-server for communication and opportunities to interact and share information of relevance to behavior analysts. The 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 join our PIBA SIG List in Yahoo Groups to post your nominations for officers. We welcome new members and hope to meet with those interested at the annual convention and other ABAI conventions. Please sign and request to join the list at: [abapractice\\_group@yahooogroups.com](mailto:abapractice_group@yahooogroups.com).

## Sexual Behavior: Research and Practice SIG

BY BARBARA GROSS

The Sexual Behavior: Research and Practice (SBRP) SIG of ABAI 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](http://www.sbrpsig.org).

The SBRP 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 2019 ABAI annual convention, SIG interests were demonstrated during Sexual Behavior SIG's two symposia and a panel discussion on ethics in the area of sexual behavior and considerations for interventions on risky sexual behaviors. Symposia topics included discussions of behavioral language to define pornography consumption, verbal behavior and relational frame theory accounting of asexuality, aromanticism, and polyamory, as well as service delivery models designed to minimize high-risk sexual behaviors. The SIG also continued to provide web-based access to information and support via our website, and also

introduced a quarterly SBRP SIG Journal Club. This was an exciting way to continue meeting our mission to disseminate current research and peer-reviewed literature on topics of interest for our members. Check our website for upcoming events! In the upcoming year, the Sexual Behavior: Research and Practice SIG plans to continue to disseminate current research on topics pertaining to sexual behavior, to build on our community outreach through the maintenance of our SIG Journal Club, and to build community knowledge on sexual behavior research methodology and ethics. We also will continue to release the annual newsletter to spread information about sexual education and research. We're looking forward to the year ahead!

## 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 are the current co-chairs, Sudha Ramaswamy (grant awards), Heather Forbes (treasurer and membership coordinator), Lina Slim-Topdjian (secretary), and Deirdre Muldoon (communications coordinator). We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Landa Mark for being our membership coordinator for the past several years. We are happy to announce that Sari Risen has accepted the membership coordinator position moving forward.

We are proud to announce that there now 415 SLPs who are BCBAs or BCaBAs worldwide. We are present in 42 states, Washington DC, Puerto Rico, and 13 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 ([www.behavioralspeech.com/search-for-an-slpbcba](http://www.behavioralspeech.com/search-for-an-slpbcba)).html. Our website has enabled us to continue connecting with our members and any interested professionals. We have a document available for download 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 2019. The SPABA SIG is continually active via our Facebook group, Facebook page, as well as Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest accounts.

In our 2019–2020 membership cycle, our membership increased to 28 members, 17 of whom who provided a donation, and 1 student member. 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 an approximate total of 7,233 formal and informal members which is an significant increase from our last report. The SPABA Facebook group has enabled our members to connect with each other to share or request pertinent information in a timelier fashion. Since our decision to make our Facebook group an open group for anyone requesting to join without requiring SIG paid membership, the interest in this group continues to increase exponentially; however, the impact of this free membership on our operating funds had also continues to be 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 since that time.

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 both 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 109 times during 2019, including at ABAI 2019 Annual Convention, ASHA 2019 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. For a list of presentations, please visit: [www.pinterest.com/SPABASIGofABAI/2019-slp-bcba-presentations](http://www.pinterest.com/SPABASIGofABAI/2019-slp-bcba-presentations).

SPABA offers two \$250 grants annually, one in empirical research and the other in application or 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. We are pleased to announce that several of SPABA Grant recipients have had their research published.

In 2020, the SPABA SIG did not offer grants as ABAI's annual convention, which was scheduled to be in Washington, DC, ended up going virtual due to the COVID19 pandemic. The SIG plans to offer two grants in both empirical and application/dissemination to be awarded at ABAI Annual Convention in 2021. Each year student members and practitioners may obtain updated information about submitting grant proposals for the current year on our website, [www.behavioralspeech.com](http://www.behavioralspeech.com).

The SPABA SIG executive is looking forward to expanding our membership through various initiatives, social media and increasing member participation on the executive and within our committees. We are also planning to complete several 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.
- Publish a quarterly newsletter summarizing the SIGs dissemination of research and upcoming conferences or webinars to those interested in a behavioral approach to speech/language.
- Initiate a monthly "Journal Club" to discuss a behavioral literature relevant to speech/language.
- 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 US and international speech pathologists via various speech/language Facebook groups as well as presenting at local, national, and international speech/language conferences and conventions.
- Continue disseminating speech-language information to ABAI members and BACB certified individuals via various behavior-analytic Facebook groups and list-servs as well as presenting at local, national, and international 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](http://www.behavioralspeech.com) or join or follow us on the following social media sites:

- Facebook Group: SPABA.SIG
- Facebook Page: SPABASIGofABAI
- Twitter: SPBASIG
- Instagram: SPBASIG
- Pinterest: SPABASIGofABAI

## Standard Celeration Society

BY THE SCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Standard Celeration Society (SCS) became an ABAI SIG in 1995. The mission of the SCS aims to uphold and advance the defining features and conventions of the Standard Celeration Chart. The SCS strives to be a friendly and enduring forum, supporting application and dissemination of standard celeration charting across an expanding range of practitioners and other stakeholders. The values of the SCS that guide behavior in fulfilling the mission include acknowledgement and appreciation of the founding principles and applications of our science (e.g., “standing on the shoulders of giants”), generosity in our interactions with others, driving and embracing change, social beneficence, commitment to evidence-based practice, and having fun. Since 2015, the SCS has employed an organizational structure composed of a board of directors and volunteer leadership teams that actively work toward implementing new and maintaining current initiatives designed to further the organization’s mission.

We have an active board of directors consisting of five members on 3-year terms, a president, president-elect, vice presidents, and associate vice presidents. The board of directors provide guidance and decision making for the SCS president, who carries out board initiatives with vice presidents, associate vice presidents, and volunteers. Current leadership teams include finance, programs, membership, scientific and academic relations, public relations, operations, international relations, diversity, and website services. Our leadership teams have actively developed the underlying systems to support the SIG’s structure and facilitated institutional memory as individuals transition into leadership roles, an important component for voluntary leadership teams to maintain productivity.

Currently, the SCS has several active priority initiatives underway. First, the SCS is current redesigning the central website for the SIG ([www.celeration.org](http://www.celeration.org)). While some components of the new website are already in place, we are completing the development of several other features, including a redesigned member gateway, free continuing education opportunities for members, publication resources, training program locations for students interested in academic training, and digital chart share. Membership in the SCS also offers additional benefits not available to

non-members including discounted rates to the conference each year, access to the historical publication database of the Journal of Precision Teaching and Celeration, and soon to be announced web-based continuing education events. The fees range from sustaining membership for \$100, full membership for \$50, and student membership for \$25.

The second initiative focuses on highlighting our organization’s entrepreneurial members such that their skills, insights, and strategies developed over decades of business development in the area of precision teaching can be made available to others looking to start their own businesses. This is an exciting time to become involved with the SCS, as this organization has a long history of entrepreneurs creating successful operations that provide clinical/educational services outside the mainstream of applied behavior analysis.

Third, the SCS has worked with several mainstream behavior analytic journals to gather information to facilitate scientific peer-reviewed publications using the chart and related inductive research methods unique to the science. These communications led to securing a special issue of *Behavior Analysis in Practice* focusing on precision teaching and standard celeration charting. In total, researchers in the field submitted a total of 33 academic papers in response to the call for papers. Three members of the SIG, Drs. Andrew Bulla, Mary Sawyer, and Abigail Calkin serve as the guest editors for the special issue.

Fourth, the SCS has developed strategic partnerships with both the Cambridge Center for Behavior Studies and the OBM Network. We also have partnered with The Applied Behavior Analysis Center to produce a webinar series entitled “The Gift of Og” premiering in July of this year. The series will feature four webinars beginning with an introduction to the Standard Celeration Chart. The following three presentations will explore different applications of the Standard Celeration Chart.

Finally, our 33rd Annual Conference of the Standard Celeration Society will be held November 5-7 in Denver Colorado. The conference spans three days, with the first day offering interactive workshops for practitioners and scientists of all kinds. The last two days feature invited and submitted symposium, panel, and paper presentations. Our Keynote speakers will be Dr. Ronnie Detrich, Dr. Emily Leeming, and Dr. Abigail Calkin who will receive the Ogden R. Lindsley Lifetime achievement award. We continue to monitor the COVID 19 data and are simultaneously planning for both in person and virtual options. The safety of our attendees is our priority and we will make a decision accordingly. Please visit [www.celeration.org](http://www.celeration.org) for more information regarding the conference. The SCS eagerly welcomes new charters and members into our community. This nurturing group is full of brilliant and seasoned professionals who are always willing to offer advice or mentorship. Simply become a member and see the opportunities accelerate!



# 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 2019 ABAI Annual Convention. There were three winners of the 2019 VB SIG Student Grant:

- First Place: Sarah Frampton, Simmons University
- Second Place: Michael Aragon, Munroe-Meyer Institute
- Third Place: Rebecca Durham, University of North Texas

We would like to thank the reviewers of this competition: Garett Edwards, Siri Ming, Joanna Lomas Mevers, Amanda Zangrillo, Amanda Laprime, and Daniel Conine. In addition, there were three winners of the 2019 VB SIG Student Research Competition: Reagon Cox, Texas Christian University; Priya Patil, Caldwell University; and Tali Rudy Zaltzman, Regis College. We thank the judges: Jim Carr, Mirela Cenghar, Andresa De Souza, Kent Johnson, Dorothea Lerman, and Jim Moore.

The VB SIG presented three professional awards in 2019. The Clinical Supervisor in Verbal Behavior Award was given to Emily Sweeney-Kerwin, Carbone Clinic. The Early Career Researcher in Verbal Behavior Award was presented to April Kisamore, Hunter College. This was the first time the VB SIG awarded the Excellence in Teaching Verbal Behavior Award. Because Jack Michael has had such an influence on the teaching of verbal behavior, the VB SIG presented him with an honorary Excellence in Teaching Verbal Behavior Award. The inaugural Excellence in Teaching Verbal Behavior Award was given to Caio Miguel, California State University, Sacramento. We thank the judges: Danielle LaFrance, Hank Schlinger, Tina Sidener, Mark Sundberg, Tracy Lepper, Vince Carbone, and Dave Palmer. The Jack Michael Award started a two-year rotation in 2018 and will be awarded again at the VB SIG business meeting at the annual ABAI convention in 2020.

The VB SIG continued to support our student group this past year. The group was composed of eight 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 article reviews in our newsletter and on our 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 VB SIG Student Group were 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 of these issues included two lab highlights—one with Landon Cowan, University of Houston-Clearlake and the second with Amarie Carnett, University of Texas at San Antonio; and an article contribution by Vince Carbone on “B. F. Skinner’s Contribution to Education.” We are excited about the quality of our newsletter and 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. We debuted a new website in July 2018 that included expanded features including mobile capabilities, historical archiving, and a membership portal. The SIG Facebook page has 2,233 likes and 2,275 followers, and the SIG Facebook group has 3,126 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 2019 ABAI convention through March 1, 2020, we gained 12 new members for a total of 74, 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 74 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. To that end, we announced a new VB SIG officer position at the 2019 VB SIG business meeting. This new position is titled Dissemination Coordinator. The duties of this new officer will be to focus more VB SIG efforts toward dissemination of VB.

The current VB SIG board members include: April Kisamore, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Hunter College, chair; Bethany Hansen, Ph.D., BCBA, University of Nebraska Medical Center, secretary; Laura Grow,

Ph.D., BCBA-D, Garden Academy, treasurer; Caitlin Delfs, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Village Autism Center, Student Grant Competition coordinator; Alice Shillingsburg, Ph.D., BCBA-D, The May Institute, Student Research Competition coordinator; Brittany Juban, Ph.D., BCBA-D, May Institute; Amanda Laprime, Ph.D., BCBA-D, University of Rochester Medical School, newsletter editor; Catia Cividini-Motta, Ph.D., BCBA-D, University of South Florida; Kristin Albert, M.Ed., BCBA, Florida Institute of Technology, Student Group liaison; and Mark Dixon, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Southern Illinois University, editor, *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*. ❖



Melmark clinicians have published the textbook, *A Practitioner's Guide to Implementation and Training*, now available in hard copy and e-book versions.



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# BEHAVIOR SCIENCE BLOGS



## **BEHAVIOR SCIENCE DISSEMINATION.**

The *Behavior Science Blogs* feature posts by renowned scholars in the field on such timely topics as addiction, education, health, and autism. Six different blogs provide readers with updates on newsworthy items relevant to the science of behavior. Included are news stories, scholarly articles, commentaries, and the occasional post from a guest blogger with perspectives on our field's links to both practice and current events and the need-to-know content on how behavior science is changing, or could be changing, local and global communities.

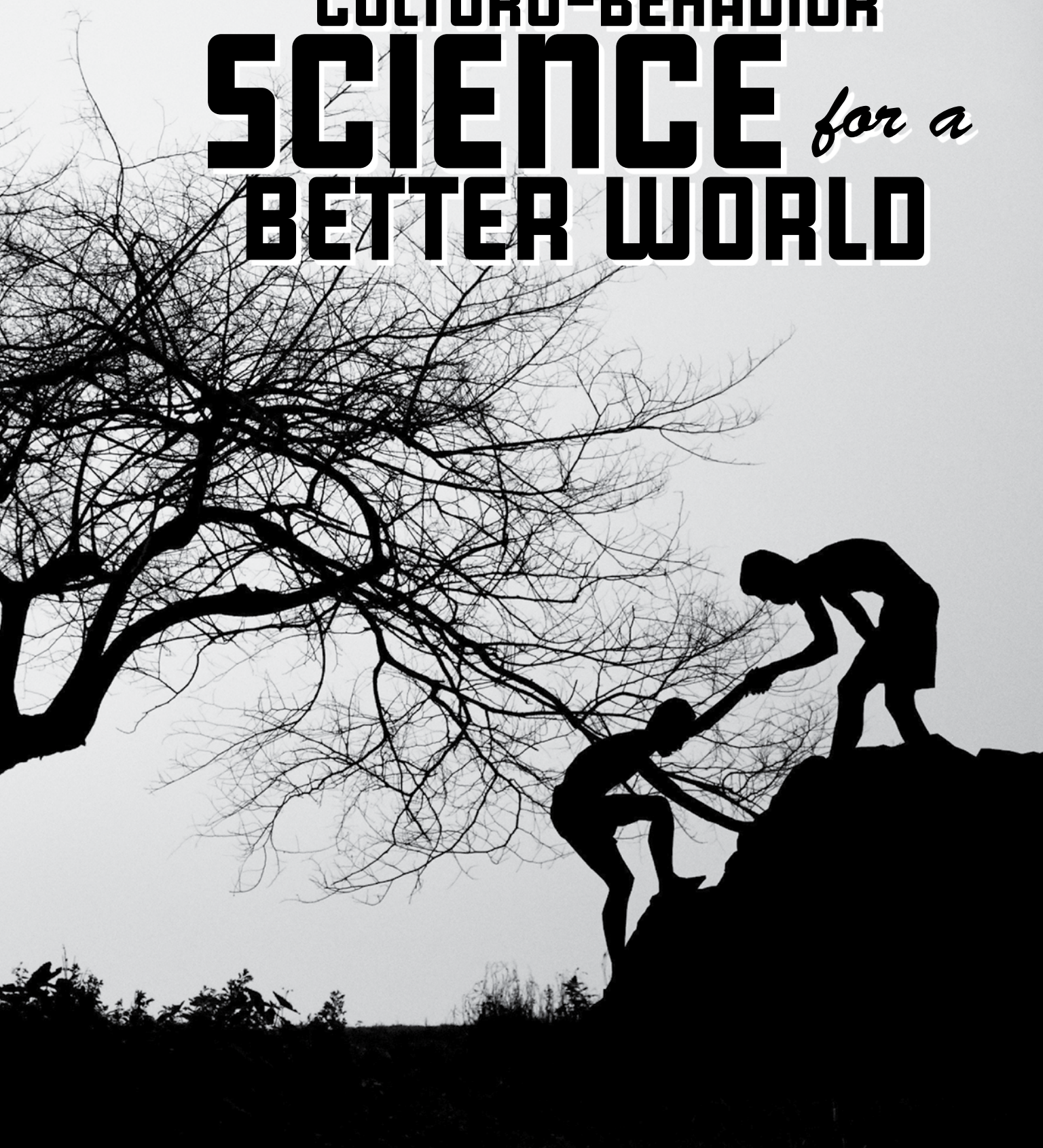
We hope you will join the hundreds of readers from around the world who regularly enjoy these blogs.

**<https://science.abainternational.org>**



Conference Preview

# CULTURO-BEHAVIOR SCIENCE *for a* BETTER WORLD



## Why are we not saving the world? Climate Change

In 1982, at a talk at the American Psychological Association, B. F. Skinner proposed this question to the audience and to the field of behavior analysis. Nearly 40 years later, we are living in a time where hundreds of thousands of lives have been lost to a virus, the climate is nearing a point of no return, and protests have been occurring for over a month now based on the fair treatment of all people with a special focus on Black lives, among other important things. This simple question means probably more now than it did when it was initially asked. In many regards, we are at a turning point in the history and right now this question can no longer go unaddressed.

Would Skinner be proud of how we've addressed the issues in society as a field? Would he be impressed at how we've crafted and adapted our science of behavior to fit the needs of those in our society? Contrariwise, would he be underwhelmed at the lack of research and application of behavior science to the never-ending list of problems we face as a global community? Would he be disappointed at our seemingly narrow focus? These are questions that we should all take personally. Because the truth of the matter is that we won't fix the world over night. We can't address every individual matter of the world at once and expect success in doing so. But, we can try. We can influence the upcoming generation of behavior analysts to pursue research and practicum that typically fall off the path most traveled. We can lend ourselves and our expertise to situations that need it. We can use our platforms as researchers, practitioners, professors, supervisors, and supervisors to shed light on issues that are aversive to talk about. We can develop plans of action to reform structures that hinder the study and research of topics that are important to the success of humanity. We must all do our part and hold ourselves accountable for being stale towards the problems of the world; avoidance is no longer an option.

ABAI's Culturo-Behavior Science for a Better World Conference will explore why we are not acting to save the world in these domains and how we can help ensure a better future. We will bring together scientists across related disciplines to explore how can we contribute. We are pleased to offer a virtual gathering of scientists across disciplines to explore how to contribute to a better future. Even in the midst of a pandemic we are eager to encourage dialogue in the scientific community. All aspects of the conference—presentations, posters, the career fair, and exhibits—will be accessible from the comfort of your home or office. BACB and PSY continuing education credits will be offered. Invited presentations are available for review online or via the ABAI events app. The call for posters will remain open until July 22; we encourage submissions that are conceptual, experimental, or provide a systems approach to understanding and acting on socially significant issues.

### Lonnie G. Thompson: The Consequences of Ignoring the Changing Climate



Our greatest challenge in the 21st century is dealing with unprecedented global-scale climate and environmental issues. In this presentation, Dr. Thompson will review the global evidence, from the highest most remote regions of our planets to our own

backyards, for accelerating rates of climate change and the rising risk of abrupt climate events. How climate changes and how we adapt to it affects every aspect of our existence, such as national and global economies, agriculture, quality of life, societal stability, human and animal migration, disease vectors, availability of food and safe water, even the possibility for life itself to exist. The effects of climate change in the US and other regions will also affect our social and political systems in profound ways. For example, the accelerating retreat of glaciers and ice sheets from the tropical mountains to the polar regions will have negative effects on the economy and agriculture of many of the most populated regions of the world. Mountain regions and surrounding environs cover a quarter of the Earth's land surface, are home to a quarter of the world's population, and are centers of biological and cultural diversity. Mountain glaciers serve as "the water towers of the world" and are at the headwaters of many river basins that supply water to over half of humanity. Thus, the disappearance of glaciers throughout the high mountains, especially in the Andes and the Himalaya, is a great cause of concern for not only the populations downstream but also the very diversity of life on the planet. Furthermore, as the water resources of these regions decline, the results will include conflicts between nations and mass migration to countries such as the US, Canada, and northern Europe.

### Anthony Biglan: Community Interventions: One Strategy for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Community interventions have the potential to accelerate the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Much of the research on reducing individual, household, and organizational emissions has focused on only one of these entities. However, a comprehensive multi-sector community effort has the potential to promote synergies that increase impact in each sector. For example, a school-based intervention that is designed to foster parent-child discussion of climate change could influence parents to become more favorable to proposed policy changes in their workplace and their community. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the state of empirical

knowledge about community interventions to affect GHG emissions. It will also address the methodological issues involved in experimentally evaluating comprehensive community interventions to reduce GHG emissions.

### **Magnus Johansson: Reviewing Experimental Research on Reducing CO<sub>2</sub>-Emissions**



The Climate Change Task Force of the Behavioral Science Coalition is conducting a systematic review of experimental research to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and this presentation will outline the results.

The scope of the review is partially based on Hawken's (2017) list of highest impact areas, where electricity, food and refrigeration dominated the top 10. Searches were conducted in two databases to find research targeting communities, households, organizations and policy initiatives, while also mapping sources of funding and research institutions involved in relevant research on climate change. The outcome of this review will be a useful reference for anyone seeking to contribute significant work in reducing our carbon footprints and move towards a sustainable world.

### **Mark P. Alavosius: Behaviors and Practices Relevant to Prevention and Resilience**

Individual behaviors and organizational practices that slow, prevent or adapt to global warming entail much behavior change from "business as usual." It is clear that greenhouse gas emissions continue despite efforts under the Paris Accord to reduce them. We have not stopped/reversed warming and time is running out. A challenge to constraining ourselves to address climate change is increasing the current value of those behaviors to individuals, organizations, and communities and fostering consideration of their value to future generations. A framework for governing consumption to preserve natural capital for future generations might consider how climate impacts affect communities, how those suffering now respond to climate crises and what agencies determine needed "sticky" interventions that persist over time and attract others to invest in their expansion. Central to preparation of curricula topics for what lies ahead are (1) assessments of communities now suffering, (2) understanding principles governing collective action, (3) interventions and policies that define contingencies and (4) organizational models that promote valuing of natural resources over unchecked consumption.



## **Immigration and Human Rights**

### **Carlos Guevara: A Generation At Risk: Family Separation Policies Across the Country and Its Impact on American Children**



In the spring of 2018, America watched in horror as nearly 3,000 children were separated from their parents on the southern border. Civil society groups have righteously and steadfastly responded to these harmful policies.

What is often lost in the national conversation today is a deeper recognition that what has transpired at the border is just the tip of a very large iceberg. There are nearly 6 million American children in the country living with an undocumented parent. These families could be separated by deportation at any time. In 2019, UnidosUS published a report entitled, "Beyond the Border: Family Separation in the Trump Era." It considers the consequences of a continued immigration policy status quo on these American children by looking at the intersection of immigration policy and health, education, and economic outcomes. The UnidosUS team has delved deeper into these issues including by examining the impact of the current immigration environment on K-12 student. We have also elevated these intersection in the press, including, in the context of a proposed housing policy change, in a *New York Times* op-ed by UnidosUS President and CEO, Janet Murguia. In short, UnidosUS believes that state-funded cruelty against immigrant communities imposes perhaps some of the steepest harms on American children, and that the nation is at a critical moment for action.

### **Richard Rakos: Cultural Behavior Science and Humane Immigration Policies: Let's Go Back to the Future!**

Behaviorism's history of progressive social-cultural analysis and action started with its founder, John B. Watson. Among the social issues he addressed most stridently was the anti-immigration fervor that swept the United States during and after World War I. This nativism, energized by a surging eugenics movement that included virtually all the leading figures in US psychology, triumphed with the passage of the Johnson-Lodge Immigration Act of 1924 that established discriminatory "national origin quotas." In this context, Dr. Rakos will discuss Watson's famous "give me a dozen healthy infants" challenge, usually dismissed as ridiculous ideological hyperbole, as embedded in his scientific rebuttal to the eugenicists who championed the 1924 act. Unfortunately, though scientifically advocating for humane immigration policies is a legacy of behaviorism, a review of the literature since Watson indicates that immigration rarely has been an interest of cultural behavior science.





However, given current anti-immigration policies and the criteria used to accept applicants, it is time for behaviorism to reclaim this legacy. In this presentation, Dr. Rakos will propose that an immigration policy grounded in a behavior analytic model offers a scientific alternative to current policies that is both humane in its treatment of applicants and beneficial in important ways to US society. He will include suggestions for what might comprise such a behaviorally based immigration policy and conclude by indicating several different way—research, social activism, and graduate student education—that cultural behavior science can return to one of its important roots and join other sciences in using its understandings to inform and promote humane immigration policies.

### **Megan Sullivan Kirby: I Am One of Skinner's Uncommitted**



Although the majority of behavior analytic practitioners work in a medical/outpatient model of ABA service delivery, a growing number of behaviorists express a desire to collaborate with other professions and apply the science of behavior to solve

global crises. This talk will share one BCBA's experience pivoting a career as a director of ABA services to graduate researcher designing educational interventions for displaced children (i.e., migrants, refugees). The purpose of the presentation is to educate others about what it may entail to be one of Skinner's "uncommitted" (Skinner, 1987) and hopefully inspire fellow behavior analysts to combat the "inertia of affluence" (Mattaini & Aspholm, 2016) and join the fight to save the world with behavior analysis.

### **Shahla Ala'i: We Are All in This Together: Changing Individual Behavior to Support Humane Policies**

Global injustices and dangers experienced by vulnerable populations are becoming more and more apparent. Many of these occur in borderlands and involve complex responses to people of different national, racial, and ethnic identities. The purpose of this presentation is to share the process and preliminary outcomes of an education project aimed to increase compassionate responses to suffering in vulnerable populations in borderlands. "Nur-e-Esperanza" is a collective learning project grounded in the philosophies of behaviorism, womanism, and the people's science movement. Our approach involves inductive and participatory practices to increase the expansiveness and depth of social discourse within local communities. Specifically, we are developing and evaluating component training modules for (1) noticing and relating to the feelings of others, especially those that are very different than ourselves; (2) noticing



and evaluating the social justice relationships between ourselves, communities and institutions; (3) noticing dimensions of social privilege, coercion and attraction; (4) engaging in skilled dialogs between people of diverse lived experiences; and, (5) engaging in the translation of values into strategic actions and reflections. Our topics center on race, gender, religion and nationality. Our dependent variables are changes in verbal behavior, feelings, and reported activism. The instructional design involves stimulus control procedures (systematic introduction and discrimination of increasingly complex classes of social justice/injustice examples) and collective shaping of noticing and engaging. The project is discussed in relation to the ways that understanding and changing individual behavior may support actions and policies that protect and enhance human life and reduce suffering.

### **Poverty and Welfare Policy**

#### **Bruce Thyer: A Behavior Analytic Perspective on Social Welfare Policy**



This presentation provides a review of the application of elementary principles of operant behavior (both contingency-shaped and rule-governed behavior), toward the conceptualization, design, and evaluation of social welfare policy. All

social policy is intended to influence human behavior, and it does this most often through the contrived manipulation of contingencies of punishment and, sometimes, reinforcement. Policies that use contingency management are provided to support this thesis, examples illustrating the use of positive reinforcement, negative reinforcement, positive punishment, negative punishment, shaping, and extinction. A form of within subject research designs known as time series studies are ideally suited to evaluate the outcomes of social welfare policies. Too often social welfare policies are devised on the basis of common sense, and lack a strong empirical background of successful experimental pilot testing under real life conditions. Thus, it is common for such policies to be ineffective, or to produce short- or long-term results that are harmful. Behavior analysts can contribute to the improvement of local communities and our larger society by contributing their expertise in altering human behavior via the design of new welfare policies, the modification of existing programs, and the critical analysis of ineffective ones.

#### **Chris Ninness: Following the Data: Behavior Analysis in the Age of Artificial Intelligence**

Behavior analysts have long recognized the benefits of closely following their data; however, the data we are following may be changing faster than the tools we employ to analyze it. Recently, a variety of parametric and

non-parametric statistical techniques have become popular alternatives to our foundational tactics in scientific research—even when the data at hand defies the underlying critical statistical assumptions. This problem even saturates behavior analytic investigations that focus on the evaluation of complex data related to public policy issues in areas such as poverty, geriatrics, and child welfare practice. Indeed, it is not uncommon to find statistical artifacts and anomalies tainting articles within many of our most prestigious journals within the disciplines of social services, criminal justice, and urban development. To further complicate this issue, many of our current technological advances are generating nonlinear, non-independent, and non-normal outcomes. In the face of this research enigma, there exists a much more powerful and precise set of classification and prediction platforms for researchers in the behavioral sciences. Unlike conventional statistical strategies, these systems do not entail critical assumptions pertaining to linearity, homoscedasticity, statistical independence, or normality. In this presentation, we explore the many ways in which several artificial intelligence systems and related neural network models are capable of accurately classifying and predicting outcomes employing data that is inconsistent with the assumptions underlying conventional statistics. We argue that these models have potential application to a broad spectrum of behavior analytic goals.



**Jomella Watson-Thompson: Examining Socioeconomic Determinants as Antecedents to Violence Using a Behavioral Community Approach**



There is increased attention to addressing problems of significant societal concern, which disproportionately affects marginalized populations and communities. The history and application of behavioral community approaches for addressing problems in communities including poverty and violence is explored. The integration of behavioral community approaches to examine socioeconomic determinants, including poverty, as antecedents to violence is presented. The importance of promoting cross-sector and multidisciplinary collaboration to advance behavioral community approaches within the context of addressing poverty is discussed. The presentation examines strengths, challenges, and opportunities for using a behavioral science approach to examine poverty as a socioeconomic determinant of health and well-being.

**Roberta Freitas Lemos: Promoting Intersectoral Action to Address Chronic Poverty and Social Exclusion**

Although the world has made huge efforts to overcome global poverty, 10% of the world's population still lives in extreme poverty without access to the most basic needs such as water, sanitation, health, and education. Some families experience this condition for many years facing a situation that is difficult to emerge from. Previous studies have shown that the constraints of poverty induce a focus on immediate and safe payoffs. This situation becomes a cycle that perpetuates from generation to generation. This presentation will explore ways policy can be designed to incentivize individuals in the lower socioeconomic class to change their decision-making behaviors. Based on a behavioral perspective, we will (1) present a conceptual framework for chronic poverty, (2) discuss government policies aimed at reducing poverty, and (3) illustrate how intersectoral actions can provide adequate social services to alter the options faced by impoverished families and help address poverty and social exclusion.



**Research and Training on Culturo-Behavior Science**

**Ingunn Sandaker: Teaching Students Cross-Sectoral and Multidisciplinary Approaches to Societal Challenges**



Universities should highlight the consequences of antagonistic approaches to societal challenges. These are often paralleled into ideological frontiers. Even though there are need for highly specialized competencies to solve some of the wicked problems society encounter, the ability to exploit and explore complementary solutions increases as complexity grows. On all levels, from agent interaction to policy makers, the multidisciplinary behavioral insight offers tools that more effectively and more efficiently meet intended goals and address the real needs of citizens and end-users. Government interventions are often based on deductive approach, assuming human behavior to be profoundly rational and implementing reforms at full scale. By using the growing body of behavioral insights, one might de-bias this process by moving away from sometimes unrealistic assumptions of rationality to discover the actual behavior of individuals through problem identification, behavior analysis, experimentation and trialing that tests multiple policy responses at a smaller scale to determine the best course of action in a cost-effective manner. This will enable our students to not only addressing societal challenges, but also ability to contributing to the solutions.



### **Aecio Borba Vasconcelos Neto: Do Behavior Analysts Really Study That? Bringing Social Issues to the Discussion of Behavior Analysis in Brazil**

Behavior analysis is well known in Brazil as one of the main approaches to experimental psychology, and as clinical practice to intervene with neurotypical or delayed developmental audiences. Less known in the country is how behavior analysis may approach social issues and systemic interventions. Although this has been an area of intense growth in Brazil in the last two decades, most of the students in psychology don't know that behavior analysis deals with such topics. This presentation discusses some of the contingencies and metacontingencies that selected approaching social issues in Brazil, especially how psychology faculties and students over the years in general (and in behavior analysis in particular) have been part of social movements and directly related to social sciences since the 1970s. The presentation will finish with some of the strategies used to propagate this information among students in Brazil.



### **Traci Cihon: Getting Started in Culturo-Behavior Science**



As a recently formalized specialization, culturo-behavior science (CBS) explores how to take behavior science to scale; how to better understand the influences of social, institutional, and cultural variables on cooperative and competitive behavior; and how

behavior science can contribute to solving some of the world's most pressing problems. However, determining where to start and what strategies to use to develop expertise in an emerging specialization may prove challenging. Opportunities to be mentored, join labs, take formal courses, and conduct research in CBS are not yet widely available. Nonetheless, the Department of Behavior Analysis at the University of North Texas has been instrumental in providing such opportunities for students, faculty, and scholars (i.e., the Behavior and Culture Lab coordinated by Glenn from 2006–12). Recently, we have rekindled such efforts with the creation of the Cultural Design and Systems Lab (Cihon, Becker, & Ortu 2018 to present) and the provision of graduate-level coursework in CBS. The goal of this presentation is to describe our recent efforts to provide opportunities for students, faculty, and scholars to pursue their interests in CBS and to make tangible suggestions for students, faculty, and scholars interested in getting started in CBS.

### **Marcelo Benvenuti: Basic Science is Also a “Real-World Problem”: Knowledge as Power and Scientific Literacy as Social Activism**

For many social activists and applied researchers, once a technology that can solve a social problem is found, basic science loses its importance. For them, dealing with “big issues” is more important than investing in abstract understanding or predicting natural phenomena. In fact, ideas such as social justice, human rights, and environmental changes require urgent solutions. For this reason, knowledge directly related to behavior changes on a large scale is usually viewed as more important for social change than the ones made by basic science. The first is assumed to deal with “real-world problems” while the second is viewed as something abstract and distant from social demands in a world that claims for social change. However, the knowledge that comes from basic science is probably the most fundamental source of power in modern societies and more than an initial step to technology and innovation. Technology and innovation is only one aspect of scientific development. This presentation stands that basic science in culturo-behavior science is also a “real-world problem” in the sense that it explores fundamental questions of human existence, constantly reviews our comprehensions on our basic phenomena, provides a deep understanding of why certain practices works or not and connects us with other sciences. This is what makes scientific literacy a key component for social activism: We cannot only be efficient to promote behavior and social change in large scale, we must also inform people about what behavior means, what is cultural practices, so people can independently make better decisions in their daily lives. Dr. Benvenuti will try to highlight the need for a mutual relationship among basic science, applied science, programs for behavior change in large scale, and scientific literacy as a mission for culture-behavior science.



### **Behavior Science and Community Health Vincent Francisco: Behavioral Science and Community Health Improvement**



While the field of applied behavioral science has provided many solutions for individual-level behavior change, much work is left to be done to ensure that these interventions and strategic approaches reach their potential to improve population-level health impacts. This presentation will focus on the advantages of integrating three seemingly disparate fields—behavioral science, community psychology and public health. By integrating key aspects of these fields of

study, we can take advantage of the key strengths of each field and fulfill the promise of applied behavior analysis in creating a context which is more successful than before. Theoretical underpinnings of this approach will be presented, and examples of successful adaptation and intervention will be provided.

## Youth Homelessness

### **Casey Holtschneider: Toward a More Just and Effective Response to Youth Homelessness**

Each year, an estimated 4.2 million unaccompanied youth ages 13-25 experience homelessness in the United States. The threats facing young people in housing crisis are many and their potential impacts, harrowing. Youth are at high risk for physical and sexual victimization, mental and physical illness, involvement with the criminal justice system, and face serious threats to their education, their future economic stability, and their lives. This presentation will critically examine the current approach to services for youth in situations of homelessness in the United States. Directly informed by the lived experience of young people, it calls for a shift in our understanding of the nature and scope of the problem and consequently, our practice and policy strategies being implemented to address it.



## Sustainable Peace and Social Justice

### **Kerri Kennedy: Shared Security: A Vision for Sustainable Peace and Security for All**



People across the world face growing insecurity. Violent conflict is spreading and intensifying, economic inequality is widening, and the climate is in jeopardy. At the same time, never have the fates of individual, communities and nations been so intertwined. And never have our safety and well-being depended so much on the safety and well-being of others. The prevalent narrative that increased militarization equals security leads to increased violence at state, local and individual levels, spreading fear and insecurity, fomenting future violence. In this talk, Kerri Kennedy will explore Shared Security, our attempt to reframe security as being inclusive and egalitarian and grounded in the wellbeing of people rather than in the interests of nation states. The presentation will cover strategies where individuals and communities were able to use active nonviolence and peacebuilding strategies to reduce conflict, address community trauma associated with violence and to make positive structural changes that promote peace and justice for all.

### **Roberto Aspholm: Conceptualizing Gang Violence Prevention From the Streets Up**

Street gangs and community violence remain among the most pressing social issues within the urban landscape. Recent spikes in shooting and killings in a number of cities during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and following the social upheaval in the wake of George Floyd's killing at the hands of Minneapolis police, moreover, have given the topic of urban violence renewed traction in national public discourse. Yet much of this discourse is based on crude characterizations of gang members, the nature of this violence, and the dynamics fueling it. Unsurprisingly, public officials typically have little idea how to effectively address such violence, and ostensibly evidence-based interventions routinely fail to produce their intended—and often loudly mis-touted—effect.

Drawing on years of community-engaged research on Chicago's South Side and in East St. Louis, Illinois, this presentation will provide clarity as to the complex and interrelated conditions fueling gang membership and collective violence as well as the structural nature of these conditions. Specifically, street gangs constitute a form of social organization that provides material and psychosocial benefits to their members, including modest economic support, protection in navigating a violent social landscape, emotional support, a sense of identity and meaning. Membership in such collectives represents a compelling prospect for young people facing desperate circumstances, ongoing traumas, and few prospects for even a minimally stable life. Within this context, vendetta-style collective violence—that is, gang warfare—constitutes, most centrally, a manifestation of solidarity among group members. Interventions that fail to account for the structural determinants of gang membership and for the solidaristic nature of gang violence are likely to fail, and generally have. The presentation closes with a discussion of an alternative framework for intervention firmly rooted in these realities.



## Future of Culturo-Behavioral Science

### **Mark Mattaini: Interdisciplinary Action Supporting Cultures of Social and Environmental Justice**



This presentation will draw from and integrate concepts and data presented by invited speakers throughout this conference, exploring the promise and challenges of transdisciplinary efforts for pursuing a common core goal: sustainable, just, and reinforcing societies. To structure the material that follows, Dr. Mattaini will first outline and exemplify scientifically grounded, operational definitions of social and environmental justice and their

interrelation. He will then review promising ecological approaches for supporting cultures striving to operationalize and realize such societies, and the cultural systems analytic methods from which such approaches emerge. Integrating material from the conference presentations, recent developments in the Behaviorists for Social Responsibility's Matrix Project, and his earlier work in the book *Strategic Nonviolent Power: The Science of Satyagraha*, the speaker will explore examples of constructional community and social action, policy advocacy, and where necessary, civil disobedience. Given the structural realities present in contemporary societies, including the ethical challenges presented to professionals and scientists in situations of marginalization, inequity, and multiple forms of oppression, the presentation will end with a call for critical self- and collective reflection directed toward reshaping models of community and cultural analysis and intervention, and committing to the actions identified by that reflection.

## Federal Science Policy

**Juliane Baron and Sharon Courtney: Science Policy: Understanding and Informing the Decision-Making Process**



To many scientists, the policy making process in Washington, DC, is a black box. In this session, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the federal decision-making process, beyond the "Schoolhouse Rock" version, from a long-time science advocate. Budget and policy decisions affect funding for science and in the past, behavioral sciences have been negatively impacted by a lack of understanding of and appreciation for the field. The Federation of

Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences (FABBS) represents ABAA in Washington, DC. This session is an opportunity to learn more about the work of FABBS and strategies for communicating with decision makers. Scientists interested in connecting their research to policy decisions and legislation should not miss this session.

## Impact of Higher Education on Society

**Maria Amalia Andery and Emmanuel Zagury Tourinho: The Impact of Higher Education on Society**

Societies have always depended on education: it is through education—formal or not—that many operant repertoires and many culturo-behavioral practices are developed. In modern, complex societies higher education is crucial because of the techno-scientific basis and infrastructure upon which our societies are built. Institutions responsible for higher education are necessary because they are responsible for the replication of such knowledge. It is through higher education that socially relevant operant

repertoires—replicated over millions of people—are developed. But the role of higher education is not the mere reproduction of knowledge or of patterns of behavior and culturo-behavioral practices. As institutions, colleges and universities are nowadays important sources of wealth, contributing directly for economic growth of local, regional and even national communities. Most crucially, as institutions, universities and colleges also contribute to the building of patterns of ethical and socially responsible behaviors: from within universities stem many new cultural practices that lead to social development and to the solving of cultural problems. Universities (as the institutions responsible for higher education) are linked with the decrease of violence, of social inequality, and of poverty, and with the increase of social awareness, democratic societies, and responsible public policies. Finally, universities—even when they are small and have only direct local influence—have a tendency to become part of a much larger system that is mostly concerned with shaping up positive behavior and social justice.



**Angela M. Campbell, Mark Jackson, and Monica Porter: Increasing Black Participation in Higher Education**



According to the U. S. Department of Education, in 41 years, from 1976–2017, college enrollment of Black students increased only 4%, from 10% to 14% of the total student population. Furthermore, 58% of Black students who enter higher education do not graduate. In Black colleges graduation rates are even lower. A recent study of 24 Black colleges found that two thirds or more of the students who enter do not graduate.

In a university where 12% of the students are Black and only 35.4% graduate within six years, some remarkable things have happened. In the last 38 years, a White professor, committed to increasing diversity in behavior analysis, has graduated 16 Black students with MAs in behavior analysis. Four went on to earn their doctorates with him and 6 with other advisors. Many of these graduates are now using their behavior-systems-analysis skills helping the Black community build a better world.

Although this panel is focused on Black graduates from higher education, it is worth noting that the same faculty member, employing the same graduate-training system

also graduated 24 international students (12 Ph.D.s and 12 MAs) from Latin America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, most of whom are now using their behavior-systems-analysis skills in helping their international communities.

What does it take to attain such accomplishments in higher education? In this panel, three of this professor's Black graduates will share key features of the program's success. In addition, they will speak of how those features influenced their own efforts to advance minority success in higher education throughout their careers and current university positions.

## Critical Conceptual Issues on Culturo-Behavior Science

### **Sigrid Glenn: Classification and Culturo-Behavioral Science**

Classification is at the heart of all science and the power of highly generalized classification systems is evident in physics, chemistry and biology. Classification in the social sciences depends on the specific phenomena being studied. Each discipline has its own classification based on the specific phenomena of interest: Bands and tribes; cities and states; governments and corporations; families, gangs, and schools, and so on. All of these classes are defined in terms of the relations among the behavior of people. This commonality suggests that a unifying system of classification, that could apply to all of those phenomena, might be possible. Perhaps the nascent classifications of culturo-behavior science are a step in that direction.



### **Jonathan Krispin: Moving Culturo-Behavioral Analysis From Conceptual to Practical: Developing Culturo-Behavioral Tools of the Trade**



Culturo-behavioral science is a rapidly developing field within behavior analysis. A number of indicators point to this fact. For example, Mattaini (2006) questioned whether or not cultural analysis would ever become a science, focusing particularly on the concept of the metacontingency (Glenn 1988: 1991), which had been proposed as an emergent level of selection. Thirteen years later, ABAI is publishing a book on culturo-behavioral analysis and is hosting a conference dedicated exclusively to culturo-behavioral considerations. While progress has been made, there remains much work to be done. One of Mattaini's (2006) biggest criticisms of the metacontingency stemmed from the fact that, at that time, almost no research had been done that focused on metacontingencies. Since that time, there has been a significant increase in the amount of published research articles focusing on metacontingencies

(see Zilio, 2019), but there is still a question as to the efficacy of the metacontingency, at least as a process of cultural selection (Couto & Sandaker, 2016, Krispin 2016, Zilio, 2019). Additionally, application of these ideas has remained limited, however (see Zilio, 2019) and remains a daunting challenge (see Mattaini, in press). One area that has lagged behind the conceptual development in culture-behavioral analyses is the development of standardized tools for analyzing and understanding the selective dynamics that are at work in a given situation. In an effort to begin to address this short-coming, a new framework and corresponding tool for analyzing interactions between individual contingencies, metacontingencies, and the selection contingencies that stem from the selection of an Aggregate Product by a Selecting Environment/Receiving System. This framework begins to extend the ABC analysis that is commonly used in applied behavior analysis to include aspects of rule-governed behavior (pliance rules versus tracking rules, pliance consequences versus tracking consequences), as well as compare the types of systems-dynamics feedback (positive feedback loops versus negative feedback loops) that stem from metacontingencies that compete for organizational resources. This framework and tool will be illustrated using organizational contingencies typical of a behavioral systems approach, with some attention given to its potential application in wider culturo-behavioral settings.

### **Ramona A. Houmanfar: Role of Verbal Behavior and Artifacts in Cultural Change**



This presentation will provide an overview of the elaborated account of metacontingency with the primary focus on ways this perspective offers points of entry to alter contextual factors influencing cultural practices. The concepts of metacontingency and macro contingency are emphasized as foundational concepts in the behavior scientific analysis of the interaction between organizational practices producing products and behaviors of their consumers. Moreover, the role of cultural milieu as a mediating factor in this interaction will be highlighted. The discussion of cultural phenomena also acknowledges the behaviors of verbally sophisticated consumers interacting with the many aggregate products of cultural entities as well as the verbal contexts within which members of organized groups operate. The presentation will also highlight the recent experimental and conceptual analyses associated with the role of context in the selection of cooperation and resilience.

**Felipe Lustosa Leite: Of Broken Windows and Beggars: Control Agencies, Complexity and Large-Scale Changes in Cultural Practices**

The set of conditional relationships (contingencies and metacontingencies) that regulate behavioral interactions in a society characterizes its culture. These conditional relationships may encompass society as a whole or parts of society, with evolving complexity. The increasing complexity of sets of conditional relationships can be mapped by identifying and describing changes in the external environment of a specific cultural system that affects demands upon it, population size, function specialization of its members, hierarchical layers, conflicts between contingencies that affect different individuals and groups, and disparity of consequences for the individual and for the group. Following the increasing specialization of individual behavioral repertoire, specialized societal behavioral interactions can emerge. One such are control agencies, which regulate sets of conditional relationships and are specialized by type of interaction or various other performance criteria. Although experimental studies of large-scale changes in cultural practices are all but impossible, natural experiments and quasi-experimentation available methods to observe the effects of independent variables as theoretically predicted. The present paper analyzes a few cases of large-scale changes in cultural practices at a societal level, mainly involving public policies, in an attempt to identify behavioral and cultural processes that occurred and associating these with elements of cultural complexity which they affected or that were manipulated.



**Public Health Expansion in Marginalized and Underserved Communities**

**Kaston D. Anderson-Carpenter: Applied Behavior Analysis at the Margins: Opportunities for Public Health Expansion in Marginalized and Underserved Communities**



Much of the applied behavior analytic literature centers on changing individual behavior in a controlled environment, yet behavior analysis research and practice has critical applications in community and population-level behavior. Its application to the field of public health, for instance, provides scientists with a technology for functional contextual analyses of behaviors related to health conditions such as HIV acquisition and substance use disorder. This talk focuses on how applied behavior analysis can further expand to address critical public health issues within marginalized and underserved communities. Special attention will be given to cultural considerations in developing, implementing, and evaluating behavior-analytic interventions in these populations.

**Implementing Behavior Analysis at Scales of Social Importance**

**Robert Horner: Implementing Behavior Analysis at Scales of Social Importance**

The principles of behavior analysis hold great promise for addressing many of the major challenges faced in society. Yet the applications of behavior analysis remain limited in scope and breadth. This session will focus on the large-scale application of applied behavior analysis in educational settings. Emphasis will be given to identifying the core features of effective educational environments, and the process for implementing those features with high fidelity, sustainability, and at scales of social significance. Experience over the past two decades with implementation of positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) in over 27,000 schools will be described. ❖



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## In Memorium:

# Remembering Janet Ellis

BY JOSH ELLIS

Janet Koch Ellis passed away in her sleep early October 28, 2019.

Janet was born in New York City to Joseph and Ruth Koch. She grew up in Dallas, TX and graduated from Highland Park High School in 1947. Janet received a BFA from UT Austin, an MS in Speech Therapy & Audiology from SMU, and MS/PhD degrees in Psychology from the University of North Texas (UNT).

After a brief stint at KRLD radio Janet worked at Texas Instruments where she met her future husband of 55 years, Edward L. Ellis. Janet found her true calling as a founding member and eventually a tenured Professor of the Department of Behavior Analysis at UNT. For over 30 years she dedicated herself to the department and her students, and was instrumental in developing the BS and MS programs in Behavior Analysis.

Janet trained dozens of students in her lab focusing on functional analysis in public school settings. Many of those students have gone on to meaningful careers in numerous areas of practice. Her publications on the results of the lab's work were among the first in the world on functional analysis in public school settings. She showed unwavering dedication to others, serving both her students and needy populations. She worked tirelessly to promote the discipline of Behavior Analysis in the U.S. and around the world, in part as a founding member and second president of the Texas Association of Behavior Analysis. Her career was a profound example of social awareness, generosity to others, hard work and commitment, the likes of which are rarely seen.

Janet is survived by her husband, Ed, of Denton, TX; sons David, Joshua (Margie), and Noah, sister Alice Tucker, four granddaughters, and several nieces and nephews. ❖







# Barbara C. Etzel (1926–2019): A Pioneer and Champion

BY KENDA MORRISON, SHAHLA S. ALA'I, AND EDWARD K. MORRIS

## Author Note

*Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Kenda Morrison (kenda.morrison@unt.edu).*

Whether training to fly cargo planes at the end of World War II or completing a Ph.D. in Developmental and Child Psychology at the University of Iowa in 1953, Barbara Coleman Etzel



did not accept the traditional roles of the women in her time.

During her long and productive career, Barbara pioneered research on errorless stimulus control, leading to receipt of the prestigious Don Hake Research Award given by Division 25 of the American Psychological Association (APA) that recognizes the integration of basic and applied research. Barbara's recognitions and accomplishments are many: she was president of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, president of APA Division 25, was an APA fellow, and was inducted into the University of Kansas (KU) Women's Hall of Fame. Her trail blazing trajectory began early.

When on the faculty at Florida State University in 1956, her chair chose to allot salary increases based on marital status and the number of children. She did not think that was right and so she left. When she then accepted a position in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Washington Medical School, her doctoral advisor, the cognitive psychologist Boyd McCandless, recommended that she contact Sidney Bijou, his friend from World War II, who was the director of the Institute of Child Development there. As Barbara recalled later, when she "got fed up with the Freudians," she often joined Bijou's Friday research group meetings. This was when he was just beginning his work on the behavior analysis of child development, a new approach to conceptualizing the process of change. During this time, Barbara began shifting from a cognitive to a behavior-analytic perspective.

At the University of Washington, Barbara not only interacted with Bijou, but also with other pioneers in our field (e.g., Baer, Sherman, Wolf). When Frances Degen Horowitz recruited Donald Baer to KU to help establish the Department of Human Development and Family Life



(HDFL), they agreed that they did not want a zoo, that is, faculty members from every theoretical orientation. They wanted a clear and focused theoretical perspective and applied operant psychologists. This included Mont Wolf, Todd Risley, James Sherman, and Barbara. Reflecting on Barbara's time at KU, Horowitz wrote:

"Genuine to the core: As a fine teacher, a dedicated researcher, an always reliable colleague and mentor, a conscientious problem solver, a caring friend, a person of impeccable integrity. This is the Barbara Etzel I know. In the years we were together at the University of Kansas, Barbara was a key voice in the design of the then fledgling Department of Human Development and Family Life (HDFL). I have always most admired Barbara for her instinctual respect and concern for everyone with whom she is in contact, be it a fleeting interaction or a more enduring relationship."

In 1967, Barbara published the first operant study of infant crying (Etzel & Gerwurtz, 1967). She then joined HDFL until she retired in 1994, and was professor emerita until her death. Barbara was productive. Her "Law of Parsimony" article (Etzel & LeBlanc, 1979) was of great importance. It provided a clear conceptual and pragmatic framework for researchers and practitioners to help children with severe learning challenges. Her primary interest was in stimulus control, particularly as noted, errorless learning. In a Festschrift prepared in her honor, Baer wrote:

"She directed us toward the issues of antecedent control at a time when we thought altering consequences could solve all problems. She developed a model of how a preschool teaching and research laboratory should be run by creating the very environmental controls evident in her work. This book is testimony to her influence on our professional careers and to our affection for her."

In HDFL, Barbara was a formative director of the Edna A. Hill Child Development Laboratory, director of the KU Center for Research in Early Childhood Education, and co-director of the Head Start Research and Evaluation Center. Since its inception, the Edna A. Hill Child Development Laboratory has produced hundreds of lines of research related to the well-being of young children. She created a system that continues to this day.

Barbara used our science to advocate for the most vulnerable members of our society, among them, children with learning disabilities. She helped them by training her students to be respectful, effective, and efficient. It was unacceptable to waste children's time with poor instruction. She objected if a child was being asked to keep practicing a skill that had already been learned or if proper supports were not given to a child who was being

asked to demonstrate skills they had not yet learned. She constantly reminded her students that each child's success is the responsibility of their teachers.

Barbara's contributions to society cannot be described without mentioning her well-known devotion to all animals, especially dogs. In addition to adopting dogs from shelters, she volunteered for the Humane Society and created a welcoming 160-acre retreat for wildlife on her beloved Woodsong Ranch where she lived for almost forty years.

So, Barbara helped the vulnerable—children, dogs, and graduate students. Over the years, hundreds of students attended her HDFL research group meetings with Judy LeBlanc and Alita Cooper, some as their advisees, some as welcome guests. Although she demanded excellence, Barbara was consistently gracious. The worst that could happen was for Barbara to call an idea "interesting." Her use of "interesting" typically meant "of concern." She was gently suggesting that students stretch their understanding, scientific practices, and the effects of their efforts. "Interesting" was Barbara's cue to learn more. While students were learning, she reinforced their approximations and modeled her unique blend of science and advocacy for children.

On Tuesday, October 22, 2019, Barbara passed away at age 93 in Lawrence, KS. Her ashes were buried at Pioneer Cemetery on the KU campus. An evening reception was scheduled to honor her contributions and legacy at the May 2020 meeting of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, but will be rescheduled to May 2021. Her legacy will continue in the still-productive KU child development labs; it will continue through enduring lines of research and sustainable programs of practice; it will continue with her students, now engaged in meaningful scholarship and teaching; it will continue with women in behavior analysis who benefitted from her early championing for seats at the behavior science table. ♦

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## 2020 Calendar of Upcoming Conferences

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

### 2020 September

#### **ABA of Brazil 29th Annual Meeting**

September 2–6

To be held virtually.

<http://abpmcencontro.com.br>

#### **Florida ABA 40th Annual Conference**

September 16–19

To be held in hybrid format.

Orlando, FL

Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress

[www.fabaworld.org](http://www.fabaworld.org)

#### **Minnesota Northland ABA Conference**

September 19–27

To be held virtually.

[www.mnaba.org](http://www.mnaba.org)

#### **Hawai'i ABA 16th Annual Convention**

September 24–25

Waikiki, HI

Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa

[www.hawaiiaba.org](http://www.hawaiiaba.org)

#### **New Hampshire ABA Annual Conference**

September 26

To be held virtually.

<https://nhaba.net>

### October

#### **ABAI Culturo-Behavior Science for a Better World Conference**

October 7–9

To be held virtually.

[www.abainternational.org/events/culture-2020.aspx](http://www.abainternational.org/events/culture-2020.aspx)

#### **Alabama ABA 29th Annual Convention**

October 7–9

Birmingham, AL

Hilton Birmingham at UAB

[www.alabamaaba.com](http://www.alabamaaba.com)

### October (cont.)

#### **Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy 41st Annual Conference**

October 7–9

To be held virtually.

<https://babat.org>

#### **Norwegian ABA Annual Seminar**

October 14–18

Gol, Norway

Storefjell høyfjellshotell

[www.atferd.no](http://www.atferd.no)

#### **Southeastern ABA Annual Conference**

October 15–17

Columbia, SC

Courtyard Columbia Downtown

[www.seabaonline.org](http://www.seabaonline.org)

#### **Mid-American ABA Conference**

October 16–17

Detroit, MI

Crowne Plaza Detroit Downtown

[www.mid-aba.com](http://www.mid-aba.com)

#### **Nevada ABA Annual Conference**

October 16–18

To be held virtually.

<https://nevadaaba.org>

#### **New York State ABA 31st Annual Conference**

October 22–23

To be held virtually.

[www.nysaba.org](http://www.nysaba.org)

#### **South Carolina ABA Annual Conference**

October 26–30

To be held virtually.

<https://sc-aba.org/>

### November

#### **Arkansas ABA Annual Conference**

November 6–7

To be held virtually.

[www.arkaba.org](http://www.arkaba.org)

### 2021 February

#### **Texas ABA 35th Annual Convention**

February 11–14

To be held virtually.

<https://txaba.org>

#### **ABAI 15th Annual Autism Conference**

February 28–March 2

To be held virtually.

[www.abainternational.org/events/autism-2021.aspx](http://www.abainternational.org/events/autism-2021.aspx)

### May

#### **ABAI 47th Annual Convention**

May 27–31

San Francisco, CA

Moscone Center West

[www.abainternational.org/events/annual-2021.aspx](http://www.abainternational.org/events/annual-2021.aspx)

### July

#### **ABA Australia Annual Conference**

July 23–25

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### September

#### **ABAI 11th International Conference**

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