

Behavioral Gerontology

A special interest group of ABAI



Spring 2021

Hello and welcome to your Spring 2021 Behavioral Gerontology SIG Newsletter. I took over the role of publicity officer for the SIG in Fall 2020 and have been getting to grips with everything before relaunching the newsletter - so I hope it was worth the wait!

The plan is to publish a Spring newsletter just before ABAI and a Fall newsletter around November each year to keep you updated with what the SIG is doing and what's happening in the world of behavioral gerontology.

For those of you that don't know me, I completed my PhD in behavioral gerontology at Bangor University in Wales and I now work providing behavioral services for older adults with dementia in the UK.

I apologise in advance for any British-isms I accidentally slip into the newsletter (I've already had to go back and change Autumn to Fall and behavioural to behavioral...)

My vision is for this newsletter to be very much member-led and member-informed. Please consider contributing a brief article, a book or article review, a member profile, or even just

an idea for what you'd like to see in the next issue.

If you publish a new article, your work is publicized somewhere, you are providing services or have any other behavioral gerontology news, however small, please also send that my way and I'll be thrilled to include it in the newsletter and on social media. If you are just an interested member who isn't actively working with older adults, this mandate for content still includes you!

A final note to say that I am really keen for your feedback - positive and constructive - on this newsletter, so if you have any thoughts, please drop me an email at bgsig.web@gmail.com.

Dr Zoe Lucock, BCBA-D,
BG SIG Publicity Officer



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**A NEW
HUB FOR
THE BG SIG**

Coming Soon

We have been working hard behind the scenes work over the last six months migrating and updating our BG SIG website. Our previous website was a little tired and out of date, and the way we took membership dues was definitely in need of modernisation. To remedy this, ABAI has been collaborating with us to create a brand new website under the ABAI domain.

The new website is sleeker, more functional, and excitingly, has a member's only section! We are hoping that in this member's only section, we can offer more opportunities for networking and support, more CE provision, a place for members to discuss and contribute to the SIG, and generally provide a greater variety of behavioral gerontology resources for students, practitioners, researchers, and consumers alike.

As part of the new website, our membership dues will now be taken online through members' ABAI portal account. This is a more simple and coherent payment method: membership to the BG SIG can be renewed at the same time as ABAI membership using the same method.

We're hoping to launch the new website very soon and when we do, we'd love to get your feedback, thoughts, and if you have anything to contribute please get in touch.

A huge thanks goes out to Katie Mahaffy, Laura Stephenson and Eddie Soh at ABAI for making the website a reality, providing hours upon hours of support and guidance, and generally making the transition as smooth and aversive-free as possible!



**Allison Ilem,
PhD.**

Member Spotlight

Dr. Allison Ilem is a Clinical Psychologist and BCBA specializing in gerontology. Dr. Ilem received her master's degree in Behavior Analysis from Western Michigan University. From there, she earned a doctorate in Clinical Psychology with emphasis in aging from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical geropsychology at the Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System, American Lake Division, in Tacoma, Washington. She currently works in Western Michigan as a Geriatric Psychologist and the Director of Behavioral Health at LifeCircles Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), and at Spectrum Health's Division of Geriatrics.

Dr. Ilem was recently awarded a Community Impact Grant through the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to train family care partners and interdisciplinary health care teams to care for older adults living with dementia.

She is partnering with the Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care (PAC) team to help care partners build practical skills that identify remaining strengths of people living with dementia, and utilize behavioral skills training and telehealth modalities to train caregivers.

This model incorporates the biopsychosocial changes associated with aging and highlights the use of antecedent-based interventions to functionally address unmet needs often encountered by older adults with chronic diseases across healthcare and residential settings.

Dr. Ilem is an advocate for aging issues within the fields of behavior analysis and psychology, recently completing her term as the Early Career Board Member with the national organization of Psychologists in Long-Term Care. She consulted on the American Psychological Association's Advisory Panel on End-of-Life Issues, and was the recent recipient of an Early Career Achievement Award presented by the American Psychological Association.

She recently completed her term as Treasurer for the Behavioral Gerontology Specialist Interest Group through ABAI. Her professional interests include the intersection of clinical psychology and behavior analysis, integrating behavioral health into interdisciplinary care teams, mental health and aging, dementia care, grief and bereavement, and end-of-life care.

When Dr. Ilem isn't working, she enjoys turning little things into big adventures, and spending time outside with her husband, 4 year old son, and big dog Buddy. She is currently expecting another child in July 2021.

**“To enjoy life at
any age one
must view each
difficulty as
simply a
problem to be
solved”**

- B. F. Skinner, as recounted by
M. E. Vaughan (1997)

BG SIG International Representative

The behavior gerontology special interest group decided to add the position of an international representative. The main role of the international representative is to aid the members of the BG SIG from different parts of the world to connect with each other and provide assistance for dissemination of behavioral gerontology.

Dr. Hanna Steinunn Steingrimsdottir is the current International Representative. As the position is new, we would like the members of the SIG outside of the USA to reach out to us by emailing Dr Steinumm and letting us know the following:



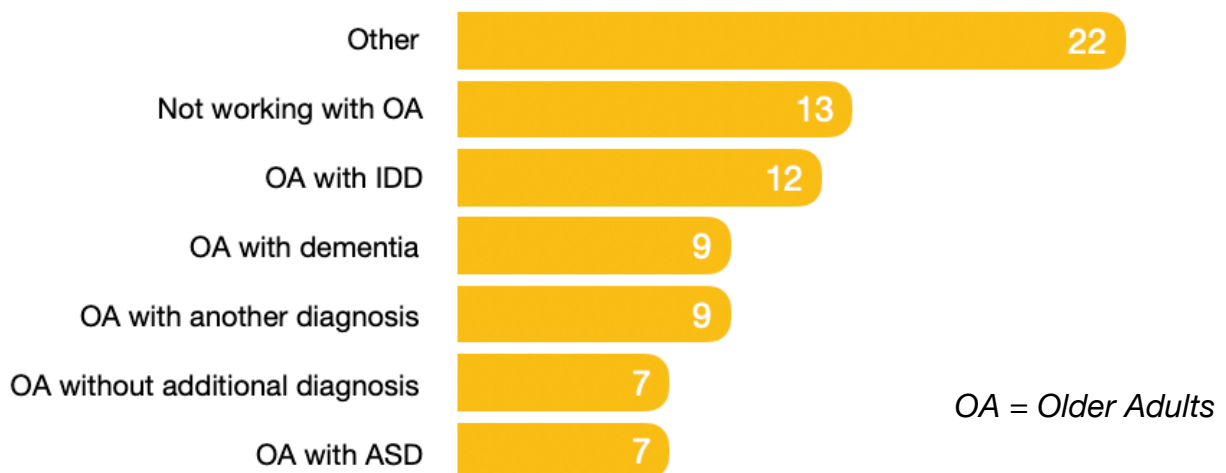
- The country and setting in which you work
- Your academic background (e.g., terminal degrees, BCBA certification status)
- Whether you are working with other behavior analysts at your current setting
- The population you currently work with
- How the BG SIG can support you moving forward- what would you like to see us provide in terms of resources or support?

Dr. Hanna Steinunn Steingrimsdottir, PhD.

MEMBERS' SURVEY SNAPSHOT

At the start of 2021 all BG SIG members received a link via email inviting them to take part in a survey. We collected helpful data to inform the website and newsletter relaunch, and also the demographic data displayed here. At the time of writing, there were 33 responses to the survey.

Member Primary Client Group



Member Primary Practice Setting

15%

Work in long term
care setting for older
adults

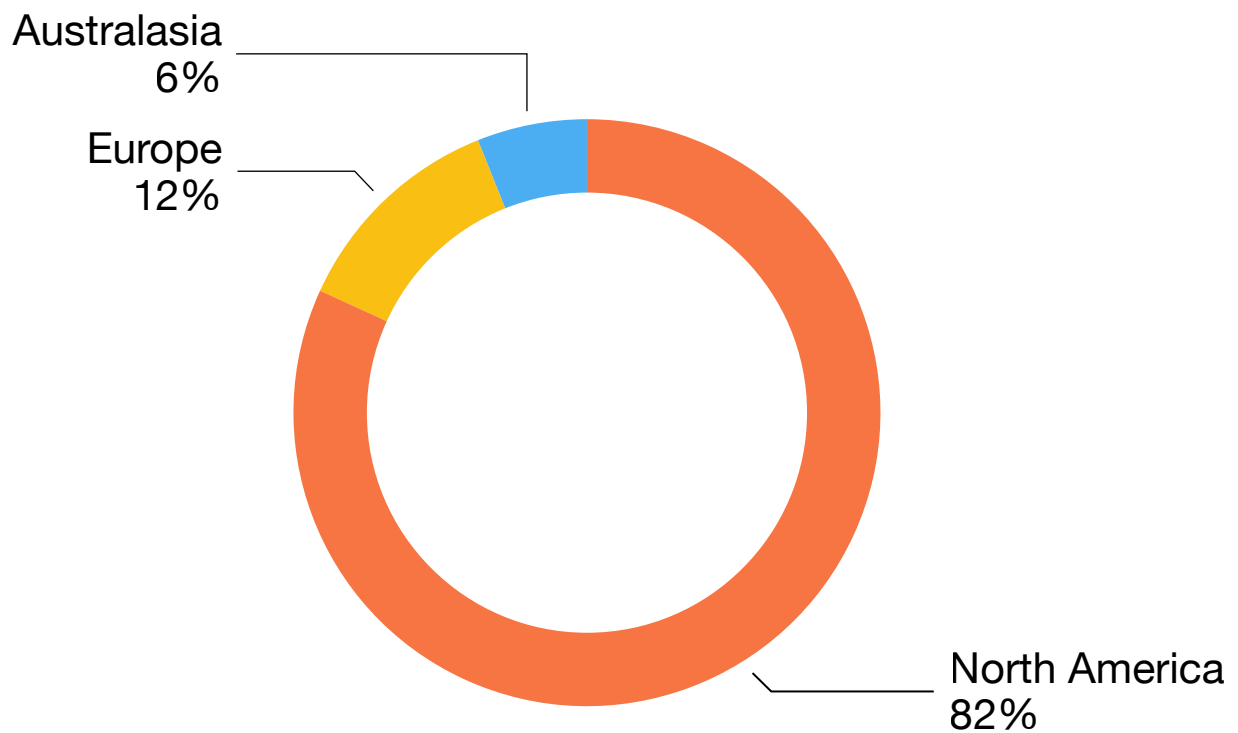
18%

Work in a community
based care such as a
day centre or respite

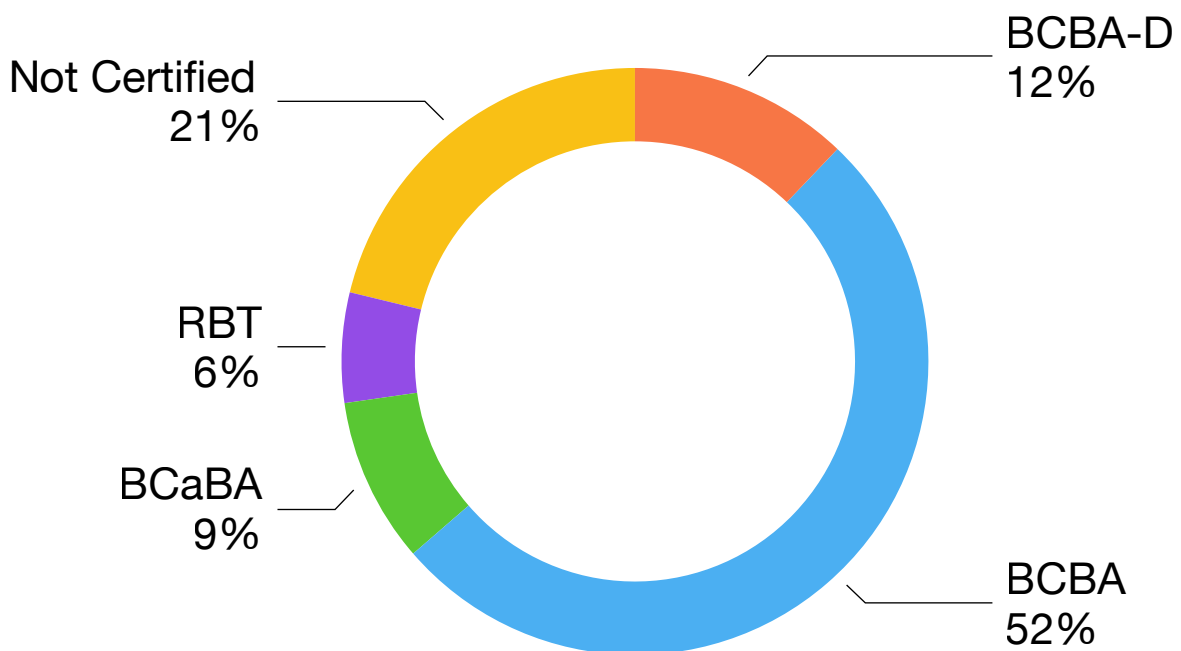
24%

Work primarily in a
University setting

Member Geographical Location



Member BACB Certification Status



Dissertation Survey

This survey is part of a quantitative descriptive study to explore the perspectives of applied behavior analysis (ABA) practitioners related to the effectiveness of ABA on individuals with dementia.

As a doctoral student at Texas Tech I have had the benefit of working with faculty, staff, and students at The Burkhart Center for Autism Education and Research who are doing tremendous work in utilizing ABA with young people on the autism spectrum. They work with everyone from the smallest of children to young adults in college.

I wanted to go farther. I wanted to know if ABA, that was so successful in addressing behavioral issues in children with autism, would also be useful in addressing behavioral issues

in elderly with dementia. Thus, my dissertation was born.

I would greatly appreciate your feedback on the brief survey- you can access it by [clicking here](#).

It will take about 10 minutes and will be invaluable to my research and hopefully the improved treatment of elderly dementia patients. If you have any questions please feel free to message me or [email me](#).

Thank you!

Malcolm Brownell

05
29
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The 2021 BG SIG Business Meeting

7:00PM- 7:50PM EDT

All ABAI conference attendees welcome
RSVP via Facebook (optional)



BECOME A BG SIG MEMBER

Membership is available through your [ABAI portal account](#)

Select 'SIG Membership' under the 'Shopping' tab

Behavioral Gerontology Posters and Presentations

Friday, May 28th, 2021

11 (97) Associate SIG Expo
Poster Session
8:00 PM–10:00 PM EDT

Saturday, May 29th, 2021

Paper Session #37

COVID-19 Pandemic and Digital
Divide in Older Adults Living in
Assisted Living Facilities
9:30 AM–9:55 AM EDT

Chair: Parsla Vintere (CHE Senior
Psychological Services; Elaine
Kaufman Cultural Center)

Symposium #45

Project ECHO: Implementing
Family Support Using a State-of-
the-Art Telehealth Service
Delivery Model
10:00 AM–10:50 AM EDT

Chair: Ilene S. Schwartz (University
of Washington)

Symposium #46

Digitizing Large Scale Behavior
Change

10:00 AM–10:50 AM EDT

Chair: Laura L. Methot (Performance
Ally)

Symposium #55

Exploring Barriers to Treatment
With Stakeholder Driven
Research: Giving BCBAs a Seat
at the Table

11:00 AM–11:50 AM EDT

Chair: Krista M. Clancy (Wayne
State University)

Paper Session #72

Evaluation of Residential Services
for Older Adults With Intellectual
Disabilities / Developmental
Disabilities Residing in the
Community

12:00 PM–12:25 PM EDT

Chair: Tanya Hough (PENDING)

Symposium #75

Recent Developments in
Applying Behavioral Skills
Training in Contemporary
Services

12:00 PM–12:50 PM EDT

Chair: Sarah Davis (Brock
University)

176 Behavioral Gerontology**SIG Business Meeting**

7:00 PM–7:50 PM EDT

Sunday, May 30th, 2021

Symposium #267

Evaluating the Relationship
Between Dementia
Symptomology, Memory, and
Derived Relational Responding in
Older Adults

3:00 PM–3:50 PM EDT

Ayla Schmick (Southern Illinois
University), Mark R. Dixon (University
of Illinois at Chicago)

Monday, May 31st, 2021

EAB Monday Poster Session**# 427(8) Poster**

Assessing Progression of
Alzheimer's Disease With the Use
of Conditional-Discrimination
Procedures

1:00 PM–3:00 PM EDT

Anette BROGÅRD ANTONSEN
(Oslo Metropolitan University), Erik
Arntzen (Oslo Metropolitan
University)

427(11) Poster

Exploring Variables That May
Influence Conditional
Discrimination in an Older Adult
With Vascular Dementia

1:00 PM–3:00 PM EDT

HANNA STEINUNN
STEINGRIMSDOTTIR (Oslo
Metropolitan University), Anette
Brogaard Brogård Antonsen (Oslo
Metropolitan University), Silje Boye-
Hansen (Oslo Metropolitan
University), Heidi Grete Aasland
(Oslo Metropolitan University), Erik
Arntzen (Oslo Metropolitan
University)