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of Behavior Analysis

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ON THE COVER

Perhaps the most famous part of New Orleans, the French Quarter—or *Vieux Carré*—is visited by millions of people every year. Known for its distinctive architecture, most of the surviving 18th Century historic buildings show more Spanish influence than French. New Orleans fell under Spanish control after the 1763 Treaty of Paris, which ended the Seven Years War, and most of the French architecture was destroyed in the Great New Orleans Fires of 1788 and 1794. The French Quarter is considered by many historians to be the birthplace of Jazz.

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SABA: Building a Brighter

BY CHRIS NEWLAND

MEMBERS OF ABAI ARE WELL AWARE of the many things that the organization does, including the annual meeting, the annual autism conference, the 2024 Theory and Philosophy Conference, the biannual international conference, and the yet-to-be-announced conference on improving single-case experimental designs (stay tuned). There are also the ABAI journals and book series and many other activities of the organization.

Less well known is ABAI's sibling organization, the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis (SABA), established to offer financial support for behavior analysts and to provide a mechanism for individuals and organizations to donate. SABA has grown enormously in its scope and its ambitions since its beginnings over 40 years ago. Here, I am proud to describe SABA's efforts over the past year.

Recognition of Behavior Analysts

If you went to the annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA, you may have gone to one of its most exciting and well-attended events. The annual SABA Awards Ceremony may also be SABA's most public activity. Here, we recognize those who have contributed significantly to all aspects of behavior analysis.

In 2024, we celebrated:

Dr. Jay Moore (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) for his receipt of the Distinguished Service to Behavior Analysis award. He spoke on "The Importance of Contingencies" as he received his award.

Dr. Jomella Thompson (University of Kansas) for her receipt of the Scientific Translation award. Unfortunately, Dr. Thompson was unable to attend but had planned to speak on "The Uncommitted: A Behavioral-Community Approach to Advance Collaborative Action."

Dr. Dermot Barnes-Holmes for his receipt of the International Dissemination award. His talk was

titled "Stronger Together: Fostering Cooperation and Collaboration Inside Behavior Analysis."

Dr. Stuart Vyse for his receipt of the Effective Presentation of Behavior Analysis in the Mass Media award. He spoke on "The Happy Accidents of a Writer's Life."

Teachers College at Columbia University (received by Dr. Doug Greer and Dr. Jessica Singer-Dudek) for its receipt of the Enduring Programmatic Contributions award.

Support for Students

SABA's Innovative Student Research Grants may be its most important activity and is certainly the one with the longest reach. Early recipients of these grants have advanced to fruitful careers within behavior analysis and in adjacent disciplines. Many have also given back to behavior analysis by donating to SABA as their career evolved. The student awards include grants of up to \$5,000 for dissertations and up to \$2,500 for master's theses in basic, translational, and applied behavior analysis. The recipients of the 2024 Innovative Student Research Grant awardees are:

Master's Thesis

Daniel Da Silva
Omar Elwasli
Katherine Garland
Connor Lambert
Kyleigh Montague
Janae' Pendergrass

Doctoral Dissertation

Haylee Downey
Williams Espericueta Luna
Alexandra (Lexi) Knerr
Fernando Molines
Paige O'Neill
Marlon Palomino
Mallory Udell



Future for All

The generous Sidney W. and Janet R. Bijou Grant awards up to \$12,000 for basic and translational research in behavioral development. It supports research that informs us about the intersection between development and behavior analysis. The recipient of the 2024 Bijou Grant is Toni Rose Agana.

SABA supports students in other ways as well. For example, students presenting at the annual meeting can apply for the Senior Student Presenter Grant to waive their registration at the annual meeting. The Innovative Student Research Grant in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion supports graduate-level study relevant to DEI in behavior analysis.

Promoting Behavior Analysis

SABA provides modest funding for the promotion of behavior analysts' efforts to promote the discipline. These include the International Development Grant to increase opportunities for individuals and organizations to develop and disseminate behavior analysis internationally, the Public Awareness Grant to support projects designed to deliver messaging on behavior science and behavior analytic solutions to important problems, and the new Microcredentials in Behavior Analysis Grant to assist people interested in developing a microcredential.

Giving Back

These awards and funding mechanisms supported by donations made to SABA funds. Without the donations,

all that outreach could not occur. SABA has benefited from large donations as well as a large number of more modest donations. These all add up! Many of the funding mechanisms listed above have special funds established to maintain them. Or, you may donate to the unrestricted fund, used to meet the many needs that predictably arise, even if the specific need is difficult to anticipate.

SABA recently started its Giving Day initiative. This follows in a tradition that many US nonprofit organizations have initiated so people can donate toward the end of the tax year. The next Giving Day is December 3, 2024. Be on the lookout for more information about this. You might like to set up a matching fund to match donations made by others!

Finally, you may join those who have donated to the Capital Campaign when it comes around again.

Final Words

Together, ABAI and SABA comprise the most comprehensive behavior analytic organization on the international stage. ABAI supports scholarly efforts, including journals, annual meetings, issues related to science and practice, and education of future behavior analysts. SABA is the organization through which you can apply for and offer financial support for behavior analytic efforts. ❖



Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis

2024 SABA Grant Reports

THE SOCIETY for the ADVANCEMENT of BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS (SABA) AWARDED the FOLLOWING GRANTS in 2024:

Thesis Grant Winners

Daniel Da Silva (Utah State University)
\$2,500

Janae' Pendergrass (University of Florida)
\$2,200

Kyleigh Montague (University of Florida)
\$2,500

Omar Elwasli (Eastern Michigan University)
\$2,192

Katherine Garland (Utah State University)
\$2,479

Connor Lambert (West Virginia University)
\$2,500

Dissertation Grant Winners

Fernando Molines (Universidad Nacional de Educacion a Distancia)
\$4,870

Marlon Palomino (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia)
\$4,940

Haylee Downey (Virginia Tech)
\$4,960

Williams Espericueta Luna
(University of Florida)
\$4,550

Alexandra Knerr (University of Florida)
\$4,573

Paige O'Neill (University of Nebraska Medical Center, Munroe-Meyer Institute)
\$4,964

Mallory Udell (Pharmacology, Addiction Science, & Toxicology, UTHSC)
\$5,000

Sidney W. & Janet R. Bijou Grant
Toni Rose Agana (Caldwell University)
\$8,145

Innovative Student Research in DEI

Janae' Pendergrass (University of Florida)
\$3,499

Diana Perez (Utah State University)
\$4,950

Rebecca Barall (University of Nebraska Medical Center, Munroe-Meyer Institute)
\$4,989

International Development

Valeria Pascale (University of Salerno)
\$5,000

Laurent Avila Chauvet (Technological Institute of Sonora)
\$2,171

Rodrigo Benavides and Brissa Gutierrez (National Autonomous University of Mexico)
\$1,500

Kateryna Ivanova (Masaryk University)
\$4,800

Adrienne Jennings (Daemen University)
\$5,000

Sarah Kristiansen (Endicott College)
\$2,930

Public Awareness

Christina Demopoulos (UNLV School of Dental Medicine)
\$5,000

Emily Gregori (University of Illinois, Chicago)
\$3,900

JungSun Kim (University of California, Santa Barbara)
\$5,000

Master's Thesis Grants

Daniel Da Silva



Daniel S. Da Silva is pursuing a doctoral degree in the Behavior Analysis program at Utah State University, under the guidance of Dr. Amy Odum. His thesis focuses on tobacco use, a major cause of preventable death (Reitsma et al., 2021). Nicotine, the main component

in tobacco, remains a significant concern (United States Department of Health and Human Services [USDHHS], 2014). Despite a decline in traditional tobacco use, nicotine consumption has surged due to the popularity of

e-cigarettes ('vaping'), especially among teenagers, who are the largest consumers (Cullen et al., 2018).

Sex is a crucial factor in influencing human vulnerability to nicotine addiction (Pogun et al. 2017). Findings suggest that women become dependent on nicotine more quickly and have a harder time quitting (Pogun et al., 2017). Also, nicotine may be a stronger reinforcer for women (Chen et al., 2017; Flores et al., 2019; Perkins, 2006); women may be more sensitive to the subjective effects of nicotine (e.g., relaxation) than men (Flores et al., 2019; Perkins et al., 1999). Furthermore, women are more likely to suffer long-term adverse health effects including pulmonary disease and reproductive

problems related to fertility/pregnancy (Kong & Krishnan-Sarin, 2017; Sieminska & Jassem, 2014).

This thesis will utilize the Rat Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (RENDS), pioneered by Dr. Odum's laboratory, which ensures completely voluntary snout-only exposure (Odum et al., 2024; Willis-Moore et al., 2023). The study will compare the usage of e-cigarettes between younger and adult female rats by exploring five phases of nicotine taking and extinction to understand use patterns among the two age groups.

With his project the findings can radically change the method of studying nicotine self-administration in laboratory animals. It will improve scientific knowledge by providing the first experiment to compare self-administered vaporized nicotine (vaping) in young and adult female rats. The findings may ultimately influence the development of therapies, medications, and policies to prevent and treat (ENDS) addiction and thus improve human health.

Daniel is grateful to Dr. Amy Odum, Mariah Willis-Moore, Kiernan Callister, and David Legaspi, as well as SABA for supporting the research in his master's thesis.

Omar Elwasli



Omar's thesis project will be the second in a series of human-operant translational research studies investigating the influence of differential reinforcement of alternative behavior implemented with and without extinction on resurgence during treatment challenges.

Research shows that DRA is successful at treating socially mediated destructive behavior and, although extinction has been shown to be an integral component, implementing these procedures may be impractical or unsafe (e.g., ignoring self-injurious behavior). Thus, DRA without extinction must be considered and designed in such a way as to promote treatment effects.

Previous research suggests that manipulating dimensions of reinforcement to favor the alternative response relative to the functional reinforcer available for the target response can be effective. To date, however, no research has looked at whether and to what extent these consequent modifications impact the prevalence, persistence, and magnitude of resurgence.

As such, this study will utilize a human operant (i.e., translational) model in the form of a computer-based task to evaluate: (1) how reinforcement modifications (e.g., quality manipulation) that favor an alternative response influence acquisition and (2) whether reinforcement history for the alternative response influence the prevalence, persistence, or magnitude of resurgence across experimental groups. This translational approach is well-

suitable for questions related to treatment relapse as it can be leveraged to investigate the phenomenon in a safe and ethical way.

The funding provided by this SABA grant will support Omar in participant recruitment, software development (i.e., computer-based task), and allow him to travel to ABAT's annual convention in 2025 to disseminate his results.

Katherine Garland



Katherine Garland received her Bachelor of Arts at Reed College, where she first fell in love with behavioral research. As a graduate student researcher pursuing a PhD at Utah State University under the mentorship of Dr. Gregory Madden, Katherine has continued her foray into

the depths of research with her ever-helpful (though not always perfectly cooperative) rodent subjects to detangle the complex web of how to influence behavior. In particular, she has an interest in impulsive behavior, delay discounting and the creation of basic behavioral interventions to increase self-controlled decisions.

As Katherine herself could tell you, all people engage in defections, wherein one initially chooses to wait for a delayed but valuable reward, but before receiving that outcome, goes back on that choice to select a sooner and less valuable reward instead. In everyday life, defections can take the form of balking on a diet to pop into a pastry shop instead, giving up the long-term reward of weight loss. A person attempting to quit smoking could defect from their choice of healthy lungs when they relapse and reach for a cigarette. We all know defections occur every day. Nonetheless, producing them in a lab environment is a difficult prospect. However, to learn how to prevent defections from a self-controlled choice to an impulsive one, defections must be predictably and reliably produced in a lab setting. With the support of SABA and the Madden Lab, Katherine will embark on a study using a new method to reliably produce defections in a laboratory rodent model.

Using the hyperbolic model of delay discounting as a basis, this study aims to create a method to find the point in time in which the subjects' preference switches from the delayed, valuable outcome to the immediate but less valuable outcome, and to present the choice to defect at that precise moment, accompanied by cues that signal the availability of the less valuable outcome (not unlike the scent of a tempting pastry or the sight of a cigarette carton). Using this method, the rodent subjects are predicted to consistently defect. In time, the methods used here may be used as the basis for future studies on defections – and, importantly, how to prevent defections from occurring.

Connor Lambert

Human pathological gambling is a behavioral disorder with many contributing factors. Electronic gambling machines (e.g., slot machines, video poker, pachinko) may be more addictive than other forms of gambling (e.g., table games or sports betting). There are characteristics of electronic

gambling machines, separate from the programmed schedules of reinforcement, that are believed to contribute to their addictive potential. These characteristics include little to no delay between consecutive plays, various sizes of winning outcomes, immediate delivery of winnings, and the presentation of different audiovisual stimulus arrangements concurrently with winning outcomes. The audiovisual stimulus arrangements, or “win-paired cues,” are thought to be a primary contributing factor in promoting increased risk-taking. The function of win-paired cues is not entirely clear; however, previous investigations in both human and non-human animal models of gambling have found that the inclusion of win-paired cues promotes increased risk-taking when compared to the same models of gambling without win-paired cues. Traditionally, the rat gambling task (rGT) has been used to examine how win-paired cues affect patterns of risky choice.

The present experiment will add further clarity to how patterns of risky choice are affected by the presentation of win-paired cues using a probability-discounting paradigm. It will also examine if previous findings using the rGT will extend into a probability-discounting paradigm. The probability-discounting paradigm evaluates choice between two response options, each associated with a different outcome. In the present study, one lever was associated with a smaller, certain payout. The other lever was associated with a larger, uncertain outcome. The payouts were one food pellet and four food pellets respectively. However, the four-pellet outcome was associated with five different, descending probabilities across an experimental session (100%, 50%, 25%, 12.5%, and 6.25%). Both payouts were accompanied by one flash of the chamber’s houselight per one delivery of a food pellet (the win-paired cue of the experiment). Experimental conditions involved the addition or removal of the win-paired cue on a portion of losing trials to examine if risky choice patterns would change in response to the receipt of the win-paired cue without a food payout. The findings of the present experiment may have implications for understanding the development and maintenance of problem gambling.

Kyleigh Montague

Kyleigh Montague is a doctoral student in behavior analysis at the University of Florida under the mentorship of Dr. Chris Podlesnik. Broadly, she conducts foundational research on operant behavior, particularly exploring behavioral processes contributing to relapse effects.

Her current research is centered on understanding the behavioral processes contributing to relapse phenomena and evaluating mitigation techniques to attenuate these effects. Specifically, her thesis is a preclinical investigation on the impact of number of qualitatively distinct context changes used during differential reinforcement on renewal in familiar and novel settings.

Though examinations of renewal with differential reinforcement of alternative behavior (DRA) are common (e.g., Kelley et al., 2018; Kimball et al., 2020, 2023; Saini et al., 2018), no published studies have examined the effectiveness of conducting treatment in multiple contexts on renewal following DRA. Further, studies examining the effects of conducting treatment in multiple contexts universally incorporate only up to three context changes during treatment (e.g., Bandarian Balooch & Neumann, 2011; Bandarian Balooch et al., 2012; Bernal-Gamboa et al., 2017, 2020). Thus, it is unknown whether different numbers of qualitatively distinct context changes arranged during DRA in multiple contexts affect subsequent renewal in familiar or novel contexts.

By parametrically manipulating the number of context exposures across groups in a preclinical arrangement, Kyleigh’s project will explore whether a greater number of context exposures during treatment results in greater treatment generalization. Her project will influence the treatment of challenging behavior by informing clinicians (1) about the general effectiveness of conducting treatment in multiple contexts during DRA on renewal mitigation and (2) whether a greater number of context exposures more effectively mitigates renewal. Her project contributes to the translational research process by facilitating integration of knowledge from preclinical to clinical settings and by serving as pilot data for a clinical-research grant assessing the effectiveness of conducting treatment in multiple contexts on reducing relapse following DRA.

Kyleigh extends her gratitude to SABA, Dr. Podlesnik, her colleagues, family, and friends for their support of her master’s thesis research. She is honored to be a recipient and is eager to share her results at upcoming conferences and in print.

Janae' Pendergrass

Janae' is a graduate student at the University of Florida studying under the advisement of Dr. Timothy Vollmer. She earned her B.S. in Psychology at Spelman College in 2021 and is presently working toward her M.S. in Behavior Analysis.

The SABA Innovative Student Research Grant will support her research on the evaluation of possible interactions between challenging behavior and pain and discomfort states. It is an ethical responsibility of behavior analysts to consider biological variables that may impact their clients and their treatment (BACB Ethics Code for Behavior Analysts, code 2.12). The methods used to identify these biological variables have primarily been subjective (e.g. via parent report). The use of indirect measures can lead to inaccurate accounts of behavior; therefore, reliable methods are needed for identifying pain/discomfort states. Janae' will use repeated measures of known symptoms of pain or discomfort states

(e.g. stool typing as a measure of GI distress) and compare them to the rate of challenging behavior on days when pain or discomfort symptoms are present and days when they are not.

Behavior analytic methods used to assess challenging behavior usually involve direct measurement, such as when conducting an analog functional analysis. There are limitations to this method when individuals are experiencing acute states of pain or discomfort such that (1) repeatedly exposing an individual to (potentially) aversive establishing operations (EOs) while they are in pain is not desirable, and (2) conducting an FA requires repeated reinforcement of challenging behavior. Janae' plans to use a trial-based functional analysis (TBFA) to minimize the limitations cited above. By reinforcing both challenging behavior and appropriate responding, response allocation relative to particular social contingencies can be evaluated over time. This grant will support the development of a strategy that will provide clinicians with an effective way to test the influence of pain and discomfort states without disrupting ongoing teaching.

Doctoral Dissertation Grants

Haylee Downey

Haylee Downey is a PhD candidate in the Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health graduate program at Virginia Tech. She is a graduate research assistant in Dr. Jeff Stein's lab at the Center for Health Behaviors Research. During her undergraduate degree at Utah State University,

she studied delay discounting under the mentorship of Dr. Amy Odum. Her research interests involve using behavioral science to better understand public health nutrition policies and interventions.

The SABA grant will support Haylee's dissertation work on sugar-sweetened beverage taxes. The food environment, or types, prices, and accessibility of foods, is a primary driver of diet-related chronic disease. Policy changes that target the food environment are essential to improve public health. Sugar-sweetened beverages, like soda, contribute to poor diet quality and are one of the many highly palatable and heavily marketed food products in the food environment. Taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages are an effective policy to reduce sugar-sweetened beverage purchasing, but the optimal design of beverage taxes and the impact of beverage taxes at the individual level is unclear.

Inspired by work on the Experimental Tobacco Marketplace conducted at Virginia Tech, Haylee developed the Experimental Beverage Marketplace, an online laboratory store environment with beverages typically

available at grocery stores where the prices and display of products are under control of the experimenter. In the current study, Haylee will use the Experimental Beverage Marketplace to 1) experimentally test the effectiveness of different beverage tax designs at reducing sugar-sweetened beverage purchasing and 2) to characterize how beverage taxes impact health equity by studying people with lower socioeconomic status and people who heavily drink sugar-sweetened beverages. In a between-within design, 495 adults who drink sugar-sweetened beverages will complete shopping trips under a control condition where prices are normal and under one of two tax conditions. One tax condition mimics the broader Philadelphia beverage tax, where both sugar-sweetened beverages and beverages with non-sugar sweetener (e.g., diet soda) are taxed. The other tax condition mimics most other targeted beverage taxes in the United States, where only sugar-sweetened beverages are taxed. Results may help inform beverage tax design and the health equity implications of beverage taxes.

Williams Espericueta Luna

Williams Espericueta Luna is a doctoral student at the University of Florida. He is specializing in organizational behavior management under the guidance of Dr. Nicole Gravina. Previously, he earned his B.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis and M.S. in Behavior Analysis from the University of North Texas. Thanks to the support from

the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis Innovative Student Research Grant, Will can complete his dissertation research evaluating the effectiveness of video feedback provided using an artificial intelligence-powered app to improve postural behavior.

Approximately 1.7 billion people across the globe suffer from musculoskeletal disorders (MSD). MSDs are soft tissue injuries that are caused by or made worse by the performance of work. Though office workers are generally thought of as sedentary with low risk of injury, research has shown that postural behavior such as static and prolonged awkward positioning and frequent repetitive movements can increase workers' likelihood of developing MSDs. However, postural behavior can be difficult to measure. Traditional methods used to measure these behaviors have some limitations, such as being unreliable (i.e., self-reports of pain), intrusive (i.e., sensor-based devices), or may require training to use accurately (i.e., validated ergonomic assessments). Due to these shortcomings, as well as recent advances in artificial intelligence (AI) technology, companies have developed smart-device applications (apps) that measure and analyze postural behavior through video recordings. Two studies have shown that video feedback using an AI-powered app can improve postural behavior; however, the durability of the improved postural behavior is unknown. Previous research suggests that improved postural behavior tends to deteriorate over time. Will aims to evaluate whether the improvements in participants' postural behavior maintain two weeks and four weeks after the provision of video feedback using an AI-powered app. If the improvements do not maintain, then the researchers will evaluate if vocal feedback is sufficient to restore improved postural behavior, or if additional provisions of video feedback are needed. The results of this study will provide valuable information about how to maintain improved postural behavior over long periods of time.

Alexandra (Lexi) Knerr



Alexandra (Lexi) Knerr is a doctoral student at the University of Florida under the advisement of Dr. Jesse Dallery. She earned her M.A. in Applied Behavior Analysis and Clinical Science from Rollins College in 2020. Lexi is primarily interested in applying behavior analytic principles to health behaviors such as substance use, physical activity, or the behavioral effects of pharmacological substances. For her dissertation, Lexi has focused on the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), commonly referred to as vaping, among young adults. ENDS use is rapidly growing in this population even though it may have detrimental health effects and lead to nicotine addiction. Little is known about how alternative sources

of reinforcement may increase or decrease vaping. This question may help elucidate when and why vaping occurs, with potential implications for treatment and public policy.

Lexi's dissertation project will employ two separate approaches to investigate the role of alternative reinforcement in vaping behavior. The first study will use hypothetical purchase tasks to assess the relationship between ENDS use and social media use. This study aims to identify whether these function as complements, substitutes, or independent commodities. This will add to the growing body of literature on the use of hypothetical purchase tasks to identify potential alternative reinforcers for substance use.

The second study will employ contingency management (CM) as a treatment for vaping cessation. This incentive-based approach delivers alternative reinforcers contingent on biochemically verified substance abstinence. Beyond vaping reduction, the study aims to develop individualized CM treatment protocols to increase the effectiveness, acceptability, and economic viability of the intervention. Tailored intervention components will include the quit date, incentive, method of incentive verification, handling of incentives that are not earned, and format and frequency of meetings. Differing from prior research, participants will provide and deliver their own incentives, with guidance and supervision. This study may demonstrate methods of developing individualized CM treatment for vaping cessation including alternative reinforcers that are feasible within the confines of clinical practice.

Fernando Molines



Fernando Molines' project is titled "Temporal organization of behavior in the inter-reinforcement interval: A 'superstitious' chaining hypothesis."

When a reinforcer is delivered intermittently, some behaviors occur and increase despite not having a contingency relationship with reinforcement, these behaviors are often referred to as adjunctive or induced behavior. Recently, it has been proposed that adjunctive behavior is operant (Killen & Pellon, 2013) and maintained by delayed reinforcement, showing sensitivity to contingent delays (Pellón & Blackman, 1987) and to reinforcement by contingent hastening of reinforcement delivery (Alvarez, Ibias & Pellón, 2016).

Given that adjunctive behavior is consequence sensitive and considering that explicitly reinforced behavior and adjunctive behaviors occur sequentially in the inter-reinforcement interval (adjunctive behavior typically occurs early in the intervals between reinforcements, followed by behaviors such as lever pressing and magazine entries), It has been suggested that implicit chaining ("superstitious") might occur between them (Pellon, 2004).

Fernando's research, under the mentorship of Ricardo Pellon, aims to test some potential implications of this hypothesis. In particular, the assumed implicit or "superstitious" chaining that would happen between the behaviors that occur in the inter-reinforcement interval.

Several criteria have been taken into consideration as plausible evidence of "superstitious" chaining, such as reduction in responses that occur early in the interval when a later response is not available (as the later response, or stimuli signaling transition, provides reinforcement of the first link), effect that should be smaller or absent when a delay is imposed between the earlier and later responses (as the delay will reduce reinforcer efficacy of the later responses on the earlier ones). Additionally, we expect an increase in the later responses when the operandum of the earlier response is absent, effect that should be bigger when a delay is not imposed between the earlier and later responses (as response distributions will be superimposed and the absence of the first response will allow for sooner expression of the later response); thus, observing an asymmetric effect depending on which response operandum is unavailable and depending on the proximity between response distributions. For the hypothesis to be plausible, these criteria should be fulfilled when there are explicit chaining contingencies and when there are not. The SABA grant will allow to complete the experiments necessary to put to test the hypothesis and improve our understanding of reinforcement and adjunctive behavior, allowing for the integration of adjunctive behavior coherently within a behaviorist framework.

Paige O'Neill



Differential reinforcement of other behavior (DRO) is a reinforcement schedule wherein a learner receives a reinforcer contingent on the absence of a target response, resulting in the reduction of the response (Reynolds, 1961). DRO is commonly used to treat challenging behavior in clinical settings (Matson et al., 2011) but can be difficult to implement with high treatment integrity. Further, many different types of procedural integrity errors can be introduced during DRO (e.g., commission, omission, and combined errors). When errors are made in behavior analytic interventions, treatment effects can be degraded (e.g., St. Peter Pipkin et al., 2010). The degree to which treatment efficacy is impacted by integrity level can vary across treatments (Brand et al., 2019) and error types (e.g., St. Peter et al., 2016), and it is important to understand the bounds of effective treatments to provide the best services possible. To date, it is unclear what level of treatment integrity is necessary for DRO to be efficacious and what error type is most detrimental. Foreman et al.

(2023) evaluated the effect of different treatment integrity levels (i.e., 80%, 60%, 40%, 20%) during DRO with commission errors alone and found that errors had no effect for half of participants (even at 20% integrity) and had a deleterious effect for the other half of participants at or below 60% integrity. However, further evaluations of DRO implemented with reduced integrity across various error types are warranted.

The 2024 Innovative Student Research Grant will support a pair of experiments evaluating treatment integrity level and error type during DRO. Paige O'Neill is a doctoral candidate at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Munroe-Meyer Institute in Omaha, Nebraska under the advisement of Dr. Catalina Rey. Paige developed two parametric evaluations to better understand the impact of treatment integrity errors on the efficacy of DRO in a human operant arrangement. In Experiment 1, Paige will evaluate several different treatment integrity levels during DRO implemented with combined errors. In Experiment 2, Paige will compare different types of treatment integrity errors (i.e., commission errors, omission errors, and combined errors) on the efficacy of DRO when treatment integrity level is held constant. These experiments aim to further inform behavior analysts about the minimum requirements for efficacious DRO, allowing clinicians to better tailor training for implementers of DRO interventions in applied contexts.

Marlon Palomino



Marlon is a second-year doctoral student in the Psychology PhD program at Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia in Madrid, Spain. His research interests include, on one side, the experimental analysis of behavior and the basic processes that control the extinction burst (EB), a phenomenon that has regained relevance due to the lack of empirical evidence and control of the learning processes that govern it, raising doubts about its ubiquity (Katz & Lattal, 2020, 2021; Lattal et al., 2020; Nist & Shahan, 2021). On the other side, he is interested in the applied field, where the EB is highly relevant due to the clinical significance of its consequences. Understanding the variables and basic processes that give rise to extinction-related increases in problem behavior is critical to further improve the effectiveness of function-based treatments (like FCT) and extinction-based treatments, which are used in everyday human problems and enhance people's quality of life (Fisher et al., 2022). Thus, rigorous basic research will contribute enormously to addressing these questions.

Marlon's PhD research is conducted under the supervision of Dr. Ricardo Pellón and Dr. Gabriela E. López-Tolsa. His overall strategy involves two approaches

to systematize the EB and to understand under what conditions it can be predicted or not. The first approach arises from the Temporally Weighted Matching Law (Shahan, 2022), the most recent theory and, apparently, the best positioned to explain the EB. The second approach involves a hypothesis regarding the specific reinforcement history of the phenomenon. SABA's Innovative Student Research Grant will support Marlon's current PhD project by funding resources to carry out experiments in the Animal Learning and Behavior Laboratory (UNED), including those necessary to obtain and maintain the experimental subjects in excellent conditions.

Marlon is honored to receive this research grant, and hopes these efforts to be fruitful in the short and long term for behavior analysis and people's quality of life, and looks forward to sharing the results of his experiments at next year's annual convention in Washington, D.C.

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Mallory Udell



Mallory Udell is a neuroscience doctoral candidate at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) working under Dr. Hao Chen in the Department of Pharmacology, Addiction Science, and Toxicology. She has been awarded the 2024 Innovative Student

Research Grant to support her ongoing dissertation work, which focuses on examining how certain intrinsic factors modulate adolescent alcohol consumption using inbred rat models. Her project introduces a novel operant device, called HomeBrew, designed to allow rats to self-administer alcohol together as pairs. By simulating the social context in which humans typically consume alcohol, this paradigm offers improved translatability of self-administration findings to humans.

Certain groups are disproportionately affected by alcohol use disorder, namely those with depression. Utilizing the HomeBrew model, Mallory has studied the alcohol self-administration behavior of two closely related rat strains, selectively bred to encompass contrasting

depression-like phenotypes. Her work thus far has demonstrated significantly enhanced alcohol consumption in rat models of endogenous depression vulnerability versus resistance and among adolescent female versus male groups, irrespective of depression susceptibility. These findings mirror current alcohol use trends in humans and underscore the impact of gender and comorbidities.

In its forthcoming stages, Mallory's research will delve into the molecular determinants of the observed sex and strain differences in alcohol self-administration behavior. The SABA grant will support this effort by contributing to the cost of single-nuclei RNA sequencing—a technique capable of identifying gene expression differences with cell-type precision. The analysis will concentrate on the ventral hippocampus, a brain region strongly implicated in both depression and alcohol use disorder pathology. The co-segregation of alcohol consumption and depression-like traits captured within these inbred strains presents a rare opportunity to uncover genetic mechanisms relevant to both phenotypes. Moreover, since the genetic differences between the strains are minimal, the search for causal genes or variants can be streamlined. The main objective of her project is to elucidate specific biological processes and signaling pathways most relevant to alcohol consumption behavior, the primary cell type drivers, and potential sex-specific effects. This knowledge will offer invaluable insights for developing refined approaches to treating alcohol use disorder that address the distinct pathological foundations influenced by gender and comorbidity status.

Sidney W. and Janet R. Bijou Grant

Toni Rose Agana



Toni Rose Agana, Ph.D., BCBA-D, is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at University of Nebraska Medical Center's Munroe-Meyer Institute working under the mentorship of Dr. Nicole Rodriguez. Toni Rose obtained her Ph.D. in Applied Behavior Analysis at Caldwell University under the advisement of

Dr. Tina Sidener. Toni Rose's research interests include developing and evaluating early intervention strategies for young learners with developmental disabilities. The Sidney W. and Janet R. Bijou Grant will support her study on the investigation of the development of generalized pretend play in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Recognizing the current limited research in play

within the field of behavior analysis, this preliminary study builds upon previous studies in the developmental psychology literature indicating that children's play reflects the conventional activities of their environment and culture. However, methods teaching play typically employ strategies like prompting scripted actions and programmed consequences (e.g., praise or snacks). While effective, these approaches may limit the development of generalized play (i.e., novel play), potentially leading to children with ASD acquiring rigid, rote play skills. This study seeks to offer insights into the role of real object interactions in their environment in play development. By understanding how play skills may develop through experiencing actions with real objects, this research may provide an effective method for promoting generalized play in children with ASD. Furthermore, this study will replicate and extend previous work from the developmental psychology literature by showing that children's pretend play reflects their daily activities.

The Sidney W. and Janet R. Bijou Grant will fund the acquisition of essential assessment manuals, toys, and real objects. Additionally, the grant will support expenses for disseminating findings at professional conferences. This preliminary research aims to enhance our understanding of generalized pretend play development and provide practical, meaningful interventions for teaching play skills.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Grants

Rebecca Jane Barall



Rebecca (she/her) is a doctoral student at the University of Nebraska Medical Center studying Applied Behavior Analysis. She is under the mentorship of Dr. Alice Shillingsburg and Dr. Amanda Zangrillo. Her research interests include the study of verbal behavior, particularly with alternative and augmentative communication systems; understanding and treating severe behavior disorders; dissemination of behavior analysis in school settings; brain injury; and diversity, equity, access, and inclusion, with a focus on addressing gender disparities for access to behavioral health services.

Rebecca's research project will develop an assessment and intervention decision-making tool to address menstrual hygiene management (MHM) for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD). This research project

will develop a guide for practitioners of behavior analysis to address MHM using person-centered, evidence-based methods. Rebecca is passionate about the development of resources to guide practitioners to address MHM. She previously served as a special education teacher and saw first-hand how inadequate menstrual management can contribute to skill regression, loss of access to educational services, increased isolation, long-term dependence on medical suppression, and significant health and safety concerns for menstruators and their caregivers.

MHM refers to management of hygiene associated with menstruation. Access to education and resources for safe menstruation is a human right. Researchers estimate globally over 700 million women and girls with disabilities experience monthly menstruation (UN Secretary General, 2017). Menstrual hygiene is a critical issue connected to gender equality, gender equity, education, empowerment, and human dignity (UNICEF, 2019).

Persons who menstruate may experience multiple layers of social stigma and taboos associated with gender, menstruation, and having a disability (Wilbur et al., 2019). Inadequate resources for MHM may increase negative psychosocial outcomes, including shame, insecurity, anxiety, and embarrassment (Hennegan et al., 2016). The lack of knowledge and awareness about menstruation contributes to harmful practices and health-related outcomes, including cervical cancer, pelvic infections, school drop-out, low academic performance, increased abuse risk, and poor quality of life (Belayneh & Mekuriaw, 2019). This project will address a critical gap in ABA services that negatively impacts individuals with ASD and ID/DD during menstruation.

This resource will be designed to be applicable across relevant settings in which MHM intervention may occur (i.e., home, school, and clinic settings) and to promote socially and ecologically valid interventions (e.g., affordability, feasibility). Questions to be addressed in this research will include how practitioners assess participant and caregiver preference for menstrual care items and how to consider idiosyncratic or individual variables during intervention. This research project aims to include the diverse perspectives and experiences of caregivers, individuals with ASD and ID/DD, and trans and non-binary menstruators into the development of this project. Rebecca would like to express her tremendous gratitude to the SABA and DEI boards for their support for this project, and she is looking forward to disseminating the results.

Janae' Pendergrass

Janae' is a graduate student at the University of Florida studying under the advisement of Dr. Timothy Vollmer. She earned her B.S. in Psychology at Spelman College



in 2021 and is presently working toward her M.S. in Behavior Analysis.

The SABA Innovative Student Research Grant in DEI will support her research to increase cooperation with hair grooming procedures in Black children with autism. To date, there are only seven articles that directly target hair grooming, and with only one Black participant. The racial/ethnic background of the participants in 6 of these 7 studies is unknown, yet it is known that many Black individuals have different haircare needs than individuals from other groups. Additionally, the available task analyses and procedures for this skill lack cultural sensitivity and have little to no empirical validation, thus highlighting the need for research in this area across different racial backgrounds.

One of the main goals of Janae's research is to use a participatory research approach toward the development of the task analysis and treatment procedures. The inclusion of caregivers (at multiple points during treatment) is imperative, particularly if a BCBA is not trained on the potential cultural differences when treating hair grooming. Only 5.06% of all BCBAs and BCBA-Ds are Black/African American (www.BACB.com). It is unlikely that all Black BCBAs work in autism intervention. A non-Black BCBA, with little to no experience with thicker hair types would be unlikely to know the intricacies of hair grooming for a child with thick hair. If they go to the literature, BCBAs would find steps such as "comb hair from the back of the neck to the crown" or simply "comb the hair." These are not sufficient and may even be inappropriate steps for grooming thicker hair. This project will improve the way that behavior analysts approach the development of hair-care interventions and other culturally sensitive interventions.

Diana Perez



Diana Perez, a Queer Afro-Latine doctoral candidate in Data Science and Research Methodology at Utah State University, has been awarded the Innovative Student Research Grant in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion by SABA. This grant will support her study, "The Longitudinal Effects of Situational Attribution Training on Racial Bias Perception of Healthcare Students." Diana's research focuses on the efficacy and durability of Situational Attribution Training (SAT) in reducing implicit racial biases among nursing and psychology undergraduate students.

Within the scope of Relational Frame Theory (RFT), the SAT leverages relational frames by systematically reinforcing alternative, non-biased relational responses. Participants are conditioned to attribute behaviors of Black individuals to situational explanations (i.e., new relational frames) rather than dispositional traits (i.e., existing bias relational frames), thus promoting more

flexible and less biased responding. This training can lead to a transformation of stimulus functions, where the emotional response to an outgroup member may shift from apprehension or fear to neutrality or empathy by changing the relational frames from dispositional to situational. By doing so, SAT aims to reduce implicit biases and aligns with the broader goal of behavior analysis to produce socially significant behavior change through systematic manipulation of environmental variables.

Perez's research has a multifaceted approach to measure racial bias, the Person Categorization Task (PCT) and the Implicit Association Test (IAT) will be used to assess the longitudinal effects of SAT. Additionally, the Colorblind Racial Attitudes Scale (CoBRAS) will be used to evaluate changes in racial colorblindness perceptions. The findings from this study will inform DEI strategies, offering evidence-based interventions that can be integrated into existing training programs, potentially leading to improved approaches to addressing implicit racial biases in healthcare settings.

Diana Perez's dedication to advancing DEI within behavior analysis and her innovative approach to tackling racial biases in healthcare make her a deserving recipient of this prestigious grant. Her work promises to make significant contributions to the understanding and reduction of implicit biases, ultimately leading to more equitable and effective healthcare practices.

International Development Grants

Rodrigo Benavides and Brissa Guitierrez



In most Spanish speaking countries psychology-related knowledge and broadcast media tends to focus on common sense and non-empirically driven explanations of behavior. Most of this content even permeates psychology programs, which are usually devoid of behavior analytical content.

Fascinante Podcast is a non-profit science communication project that targets Spanish speaking bachelor students to raise awareness on behavior analysis as a natural science approach to understanding behavior. Its main objective is to disseminate behavior analysis from a less technical approach than what is usually employed in academic literature, as to allow contact with individuals

without previous knowledge in behavioral science. The podcast covers a wide variety of topics that range from theoretical-conceptual analysis regarding learning and motivation to more practical issues like procrastination or healthy habits. It also tries to discuss socially relevant topics such as sexism, racism, and public policies from a behavioral analytical approach.

All episodes are factually informed by scientific literature and presented in a friendly manner without losing contact with the precision that distinguishes behavior analysis as a science. Currently the podcast is published exclusively in audio format. The funds awarded by SABA will be used by Rodrigo Benavides and Brissa Guitierrez to upgrade the project's visibility by adding high quality audio and video. This will allow the project to extend its reaches to different social media platforms, which would imply a greater community to be interested in behavior analytical explanations in the Spanish-speaking landscape.

Laurent Avila Chauvet



Laurent Avila Chauvet is a research professor at the Technological Institute of Sonora in Sonora, Mexico. He completed his PhD in Behavioral Sciences with a focus on Behavior Analysis at the Center for Studies and Research of Behavior at the University of Guadalajara. Throughout his career as a student and professor, he has been interested in programming, design, and artificial intelligence, aiming to develop low-cost experimental equipment. Currently, he uses experimental laboratory bachelor courses to test prototypes of instruments and experimental equipment designed for the study of animal and human behavior.

One of the challenges faced by teachers and students interested in experimental analysis of behavior in Latin America is the high cost of the experimental equipment used to study animal behavior. In Mexico, only a few institutions have fully equipped laboratories with operant conditioning chambers dedicated to the teaching and study of animal behavior. To bridge this gap, the project aims to develop an online platform that offers students and educators a hands-on experience with virtual Skinner boxes compatible with virtual reality headsets and web browsers. This technology is more affordable compared to the costs associated with experimental equipment and maintaining an animal facility.

Virtual reality allows users to experience three-dimensional virtual environments that resemble the real world. The Behavior Analysis VR Learning Hub platform will enable users to interact with Skinner boxes as experimenters or from the perspective of a rat, using virtual reality headsets. The platform will also feature

thematic spaces designed for laboratory courses, including 1) the history of the Skinner box, 2) operant conditioning, and 3) reinforcement schedules. Additionally, the project includes creating a comprehensive manual that empowers teachers and students to program additional reinforcement schedules using C# and visual scripting within the versatile Unity multi-platform game engine.

It is anticipated that teachers in educational institutions lacking experimental equipment for teaching behavior analysis will integrate this platform into their courses. These experiences are expected to foster interest in behavior analysis, research, and the study of behavior.

Kateryna Ivanova



This grant will be used to expand the results and create high-quality translations of materials (curriculum and online course) within the Visegrad+ project, which involves Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Poland, and North Macedonia. The project aims to address the gap in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) resources in these languages, facilitating better integration of ABA principles into professional practice. This project addresses the scarcity of ABA resources in these languages, aiming to enhance professional understanding of ABA principles.

The course materials will be developed in Ukrainian and Albanian, with the primary goal of disseminating the acquired practices and knowledge of the Visegrad countries, as well as educating social work professionals, special educators, child psychologists, and other professionals about ABA and its methods. With the support of the SABA grant, this project will extend the reach of the Visegrad+ project by translating the foundational ABA materials into four additional languages: Polish, Czech, Slovak, and Macedonian.

The project participants are experienced university staff with expertise in applied behavior analysis, special education, social work, and psychology, collaborating in the Visegrad+ project to create materials that are understandable and adaptable to different interaction contexts. The developed curriculum and online course will cover key topics such as behavior analysis fundamentals, applications in special education, social work, and psychology collaborations. The translated materials will be disseminated via an online platform, providing ongoing access to educators and professionals across the countries.

M.A. Kateryna Ivanova, one of the Ukrainians in the project and an employee of Masaryk University in the Czech Republic, the organisation which coordinates the project, will be directly involved in the development of the materials and the process of their cultural adaptation and dissemination to various social groups, along with

other professionals from higher education institutions. Her involvement in this project aims to leverage her expertise to expand ABA educational resources and improve professional practices in the target countries.

Adrienne Jennings



This grant will support efforts to strengthen the science of ABA across the world. In order to do so, we are interested in evaluating how the science is being applied across the globe, how service provision is similar and different, which components of treatment are consistent and

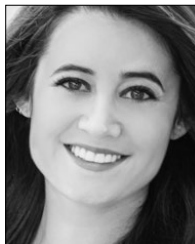
which may differ, and barriers clinicians face in other environments. This research is needed to help guide both professionals from the United States as well as in other countries on the appropriate next steps to continue to improve and grow, and to identify avenues to explore by researchers and community advocates. We hope that this information will be used to help guide legislation to secure funding for and access to behavioral services.

The first aim of the proposed study is to survey behavior analytic clinicians working in countries outside of the United States to provide a narrative of the status of clinical ABA services. A crucial aspect of our project is to learn details about the cultural adaptations of ABA services and build an archive of culturally responsive training materials based on real examples. Training materials will include a series of vignettes and accompanying questions to check for culturally responsive clinical decision making. Training materials will also include mini-lectures that can provide considerations and explanations for a few specific examples of effective cultural adaptations.

This project's value will contribute to the development of behavior analysis internationally by creating culturally tailored training materials. This involves incorporating culture-specific examples and scenarios, as well as translating training materials for global accessibility. These training materials will be distributed to graduate programs and various organizations in respective countries that would benefit from them. The dissemination of these materials to clinicians and graduate students in the fields of behavior analysis, psychology, and education will enhance long-term practice. With greater understanding of cultural adaptations of behavioral services, we hope that research endeavors representing evidence-based practices will increase around the world.

Sarah Kristiansen

Sarah Kristiansen, Dr. Noor Syed, and Stephen Kabenge will use the grant awarded by SABA to teach



menstrual care skills to those caring for individuals with developmental disabilities in Entebbe, Uganda. Stephen Kabenge is affiliated with Embrace Kulture, an organization who serves individuals with developmental disabilities in Uganda. Stephen first brought the idea for the project to the group after noticing the current curriculum's lack of guidance in strategies to teach puberty-related skills to students. Sarah, Stephen, and a local teacher have collaborated to develop training materials and instructional strategies to support parents and teachers in the community. Sarah and the local teacher will continue to meet prior to scheduled travel dates to refine the materials in an attempt to create a sustainable curriculum that will be useful for future educators.

The first live, in-person training will take place in Entebbe in December of 2024 at no cost to teachers or caregivers within the community who would like to attend. The training activities will include an informational session on puberty and the menstrual cycle. The materials for this session have been created with ongoing collaboration from the local teacher to capture relevant cultural information. The information session will take place before teaching sessions begin. The attendees will then experience hands-on training that includes role-playing how to teach changing a sanitary napkin/towel with Sarah. Throughout the process, the attendees will be given the option to give their opinions regarding the training procedures, the teaching procedures, and to give ideas for future iterations of the training and its materials. Following training with caregivers and teachers within the community, instructional sessions with local educators will take place to teach the best ways to deliver these instructional strategies so future training can occur when students might need to learn menstrual care skills. Training materials will be modified based on this initial group's feedback to leave the community with a curriculum that educators can use in the future.

Valeria Pascale



Before joining the Chicago School's doctoral program, Valeria earned a master's degree in behavioural and applied cognitive psychology with focus on psychiatric disorders and neurobiology of impulsivity and earned a master's degree in applied behaviour analysis, a master's in clinical neuropsychology, and a master's degree in law and neuroscience. She gained specific expertise in the field of treatment of neurodevelopmental disorders and ABA programs with children, adolescents, and adults. She currently serves as director of ABA for Disability Centro ABA e Neuroscience (ITA) and her work is focused on training staff who work with adults and to expand the use of ABA. Valeria is a first author of manuals and peer review

article and has been a keynote speaker at international conferences. She conducts research projects with public organizations (e.g. universities, public health system) and private organizations in the field of applied behaviour analysis and neuroscience.

The intersection of Valeria's expertise in law and behavioural sciences led to be connected with the department of Legal Science, University of Salerno, as a keynote speaker in a law clinical course. This experience focused Valeria on ways to solve problems faced by prisoners and staff within the legal system. Because the Italian legislation that focused heavily on rehabilitation over against punishment, Valeria knew there was an opportunity for behaviour analysis to help! Specifically, Valeria began formulating means to enhance prisoner quality of life without the use of aversives, but rather providing a sense of accomplishment and control to the prisoners and reducing dangerous behaviour for everyone.

Inspired by these ideas in 2023, Valeria bootstrapped an investigation into behavioural strategies to enhance the quality of life and safety of prisoners in Italy and currently has a manuscript detailing this study under review. The study was so successful that Valeria has been asked to expand the application to other prisons and thanks to the generosity of the SABA foundation, she will also now be able to extend her work to reach hundreds of prisoners, manualize the process, and set the stage for a country-wide adoption in Italy, potentially impacting the lives of thousands of prisoners and prison workers.

Public Awareness Grants

Christina Demopoulos



In the context of the dental profession, research provides sufficient evidence that a behavioral approach to resistance to dental treatment can be effective in reducing the patient's physical resistance during dental treatment, thus allowing the treatment to be completed. In addition, a behavioral approach can be implemented in combination with desensitization techniques to create a more comfortable environment for the patient. Sharing pamphlets, brochures or videos that describe the dental office, supplies and procedures can also help create a more comforting environment.

The behavior process can strengthen the patient-provider relationship and develop the foundations

of a patient-centered environment. Therefore, it is important that future dental providers are aware of proactive behavioral strategies to not only limit the use of medications and other aversive procedures, but to help relieve anxiety so that patients will have less anxiety and fear at future visits.

The purpose of this project supported by the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis (SABA) is to develop and distribute a pamphlet to dental providers and dental students. The project lead will develop a listserv of dental providers that are interested in providing or learning about implementing applied behavior analysis (ABA) strategies into their practice. This innovative approach to the application of ABA principles and concepts in dental settings is unique to Nevada and many other states.

The following aims will be accomplished through this project:

Aim 1: Develop a pamphlet for dental providers and dental students that outlines the ABA principles and concepts that can be safely adopted in a dental setting.

Aim 2: Build a listserv of dental providers and dental students with an interest in applying ABA principles and concepts in their dental practice.

Aim 3: The listserv will aid in the development of a focus group to discuss the ABA principles and concepts in more detail with implications in dental settings.

Aim 4: A final product will be a presentation/workshop to distribute the pamphlets and discuss its use as a resource guide for a dental setting.

Emily Gregori



Emily Gregori, PhD, BCBA, is an Assistant Professor of Special Education at the University of Illinois, Chicago. Dr. Gregori's research focuses on improving behavioral outcomes for adolescents and adults with developmental disabilities through (a) the identification of evidence-based practices and (b) training natural intervention agents to implement behaviorally-based interventions. To date, Dr. Gregori has published over 40 manuscripts related to her areas of research inquiry. With support from the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis, Dr. Gregori's next research project will address building capacity within Chicago's Archdiocese to support students with disabilities. Project SOAR (Supporting teachers with Online modules in Chicago's Archdiocese) will develop an online, module-based professional development program for teachers in Chicago's Archdiocese to learn to implement behaviorally-based interventions. In addition to developing and testing the online module system, Dr. Gregori will investigate the effects of coaching on teacher implementation of

See SABA GRANTS on page 17

2023–2024 **SABA Donors**

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On behalf of the SABA Board, we are grateful for all the ABAI members who contributed to SABA in the past year to help build our funds. These donations enable SABA to provide annual grants that support research in and the development of behavior analysis. This list reflects donations from September 1, 2023 through September 1, 2024.

Other Amounts

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fund

Julie A. Ackerlund Brandt
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Patricia Cuce
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robyn sandfort
Sherry L. Serdikoff
Zuilma Gabriela Sigurdardottir
Adelle Elizabeth April-Marie Stilton
Forrest Toegel
Cory Toegel

SABA GRANTS continued from page 15

behaviorally-based interventions in classroom settings. This project will allow Dr. Gregori to disseminate critical behavior analytic content to teachers who historically have had limited training and professional development in behavior analysis.

Sunny Kim



Dr. Sunny Kim received her Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis in Special Education, Disability, and Risk Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) in 2014. She is also a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and is certified in Pivotal Response Treatment and she is the applied behavior analysis program coordinator for UCSB's professional and continuing education department (PaCE). For the past 15 years, Dr. Kim has provided exceptional behavioral services and consultation to over 100 individuals throughout the world. She is published in

the areas of social development, inclusion for children with autism, staff training, and cultural diversity.

The purpose of this project is to expand the efforts of China Applied Behavior Analysis (CABA) with widespread dissemination of behavior analytic training programs specifically for parents by: (1) developing a 40-hour online asynchronous course on Naturalistic Developmental Behavior Interventions (NDBI), and (2) offering the course for FREE using our interactive learning platform. The goal of the proposed NDBI course is to reach as many parents as possible residing in China and provide them with accurate information and guidelines for implementing NDBI. The three main objectives for this SABA grant are: (1) raise public awareness and interest about the NDBI model in China; (2) develop a 40-hour online asynchronous course on NDBI approach that is jargon-free and easy to understand for parents; and (3) disseminate the NDBI course to 50 parents who have a child with autism residing in China (preference will be given to parents located in remote areas). ❖

EMPOWERING THROUGH

BY CHRIS NEWLAND AND TERRY FALCOMATA

N’Orleans! Enough said? If not, then consider food to die for, shrimp etouffee, an incredible music scene, a historic city, roaming the French Quarter, a run along the Desire streetcar line on St. Charles, the Audubon Zoo, and, oh yeah, an ABAI Autism Conference. We will hear carefully selected speakers on a variety of topics, ranging from bench to bedside to consumers and back. We are eagerly looking forward to the 2025 Autism Conference, to be held at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, January 17-19, 2025.

Workshops

The conference begins with two workshops. Dr. Carrie Borrero will conduct one on the “Assessment and Treatment of Pediatric Feeding Disorders” with an eye toward practice-related issues. Among the issues to be addressed are behavior analytic approaches to treating feeding disorders and working with professionals from other disciplines.

The second workshop, “Using Organizational Behavior Management (OBM) Tools to Improve Supervision in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Organizations”

will be held by Dr. Heather McGee. Participants will receive hands-on experience with defining the job and performance requirements of applied behavior analysis and then designing and implementing training and management systems around those requirements.

Voices From the Lab

We always try to incorporate basic laboratory work because it provides the foundation for future treatments. Dr. Martha Hübner from the University of São Paulo will describe her work in identifying the minimum verbal units



required for reading. Blending Skinner’s work on verbal behavior and stimulus equivalence, she will ask whether training large verbal units (words) can cause control by smaller units (phonemes) to emerge automatically.

Translational Voices

The gap between the lab and the clinic is filled by translational research. As always, this conference is a chock full of such studies. Dr. Daniel Fienup will describe “Skill Acquisition and ‘Mastery.’” He will examine the concept of “mastery” and draw from recent research to

examine how different components of mastery contribute to the durability of learning. In his talk, he will offer data informing important decisions like how much training is enough and when do we move on to the next step?

Self-injurious behavior (SIB) is a major cause of suffering for many Autistics/individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and often leads to restrictive behavioral and pharmacological interventions. Dr. John Falligant will describe how treatment-resistant and treatable SIB can be distinguished using a laboratory model of how behavior is organized into bouts. His talk,

“Response Dynamics in Stereotypic Movement Disorders with Self-Injury: Knowns, Unknowns, and Possibilities,” will apply basic laboratory work to a significant clinical problem experienced by many Autistics/individuals diagnosed with ASD.

Functional analysis has been an indispensable tool for applied behavior analysts for decades, but it appears to present a dilemma. Dr. Tara Fahmie will discuss “Opposing Trends in Functional Analysis Research and Where to Go from Here.” Her research has examined the conflict between efficiency and precision. Her talk will draw from this work to suggest a productive way to move forward.

Voices From Management

Effective service delivery requires a well-run clinic. This requirement intersects with the motivation for service delivery. Is it pure profit? A desire to address a significant social concern? Private equity has discovered ways to profit from applied behavior analysis. Is it possible to blend our desire to do good with the motivation to do well? In a talk entitled “Private Equity is Corrupting Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA): What You Can Do to Protect Your Clients, Yourself, and Your Profession,” Dr. Jon Bailey will argue that the private equity companies tilt the balance away from addressing socially significant issues in favor of a quick profit.

An important clinical consideration for effective service delivery is responsive staff management. Dr. David Wilder will discuss “Effective Staff Management and Supervision Strategies in Settings Serving Individuals with Autism.” He will highlight some key management and supervision strategies and provide evidence of effectiveness for each strategy.

Voices From Biomedical Partners

Our clients present with multiple issues and to provide comprehensive care, they require a mix of professions. Dr. Steven Mehran will examine the role of “Behavior Analysis in the Healthcare Ecosystem.” In it, he will identify the friction that sometimes emerges as behavior analysts ‘share the care’ of Autistics/children diagnosed with ASD with pediatricians and how these might be addressed to improve care by both disciplines.

Many Autistics/individuals diagnosed with ASD also have seizure disorders, so applied behavior analysts should be aware of what they are and how to identify them. Dr. Mohammed Aldosari will describe the overlap between autism and seizure disorders, the science behind it and, with carefully selected videos, will instruct the audience how to identify them. If you missed his talk on this at the ABAI Annual Convention, here is your chance to see it in New Orleans.

Psychotropic medication and supplements are a frequent component of the treatment of the challenging behavior

associated with autism. Dr. Jennifer Zarcone will tell us about “The Ethical Use of Biomedical Interventions for Autism.” She will describe recent research on these interventions and help parents and service delivery agents separate the evidence-based claims from the rest.

Voices From Our Clients and Their Advocates

One voice that is often misunderstood, misrepresented, and excluded comes from those with profound autism. Judith Ursitti, the parent of an individual with profound autism, will discuss her experiences with “Support and Advocacy for People with Profound Autism.” She has long advocated for such individuals and will describe how the administrative term “profound autism” can be used to provide individualized support for them.

Dr. Lee Wachtel will describe “Profound Autism: A Diagnosis Not to Be Missed,” people who require 24-hour care just to manage the activities of daily living, and evidence-based services that are available to this population. She will describe how the profound-autism rubric allows for more accurate autism diagnoses than what is currently available under the DSM-5. She will also discuss cultural trends that inadvertently contribute to the exclusion of those with exceptional needs as well as ways in which evidence-based interventions can help.

Behavior analytic services can be tailored to the clinical presentation that occurs. While we eschew one-size-fits-all treatments, we still have much to learn about the diverse populations we serve. Dr. Rocío Rosales will issue “A Call to Promote Culturally Sustaining Practices in Applied Behavior Analysis,” in which she will describe how cultural sustaining practices contribute to programming for generalization.

We hope to see you in New Orleans for the 19th Annual Autism Conference in January. *Laissez les bons temps rouler!* ❖

2024

Supporting and Sustaining Members

ABAI would like to recognize and thank those members who provide additional support to encourage the involvement of undergraduate and graduate students in the science and practice of behavior analysis through increased membership dues. To learn how you can enhance your support of the field through our supporting membership option, or push your support even further with a sustaining membership, please visit www.abainternational.org/membership.

Sustaining Members

Jacqueline Beug
Grant Gautreaux
Seungsook Ha
Ezra Hall
William Helsel
William Heward
Ramona Houmanfar
Marcus (Jack) Marr
Tiffany Mrla
Melissa Olive
Ogechukwu Ozo-Onyali
Meera Ramani
Ellen Schleifer
Greg Stikeleather
William Sweeney
Nissa Van Etten
Nancy Warren
Benjamin Wessels
Thomas Zwicker

Supporting Members

Megan Aclan
Kassi Balsbaugh
Leigh-Ann Brown
Jennifer Corso
Nora Coyle
Darlene Crone-Todd
Andresa De Souza
Erick Dubuque
Maira Estrella
Stephen Eversole
Christopher Ewing
Yassamin Faraj
Gretchen Flaugh
Mitch Fryling
Anna Marie Galay
Melanie Giles
Themis Gomes
Curtis Harris
Kalina Hatzell
Chris Holcomb
Shane Isley
Amanda Jones
Qianru Kang
Karen Kate Kellum
Kimberly Krafft
Valerie LaCerra
Thomas Longo
Joe Lucyshyn
Ashley Malin
Erin McGuire
La Keisha Miles
Pete Molino
Angela Nap
Robert (Greg) Nunn
Arndis Olafsdottir
Michelle Oset
Kristy Park
Jessica Pizzica
Diana Puentes
Gail Quinn

Lory Reed
Monica Rigotti
Eric Rose
James Rouse
Sarah Schmitz
Sherry Serdikoff
James Shaw
James Sperry
Claire Spieler
Thomas Szabo
Bridget Taylor
Brenda Terzich-Garland
Michele Traub
Ivana Trellova
Vicci Tucci
Nicole Walton-Allen
Kimberly Woolery
Zhichun Zhou Ostlund



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

Maryland ABA

BY SARAH HANEY MCDEVITT

The Maryland Association for Behavior Analysis (MABA) held its 26th Annual Meeting on November 30- December 1, 2023. Our conference is devoted to the dissemination of behavior analysis, both basic and applied, to our members from the Mid-Atlantic area. This year we were able to hold an exclusively in-person event! We were fortunate to have fantastic attendance. We welcomed workshops presented by Florence DiGennaro Reed (The University of Kansas) and Kathryn Peterson (Rutgers University). Our conference included presentations from Yulema Cruz (Rutgers University), Einar Ingvarsson (University of Virginia), Daniel Conine (Georgia State University), Tara Fahmie (Monroe Meyer Institute), and David Cox (Caldwell University).

We had an expo and poster session for sponsors and poster presentations. Poster presenters included staff and students from organizations such as UMBC, 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, Aila Dommestrup (Kennedy Krieger Institute) stepped down as president, Michelle Frank Crawford (Kennedy Krieger Institute) assumed the office of President, and Jessica Becraft (Kennedy Krieger Institute) was elected President-Elect. Carrie Borrero also stepped down as Director of MABA and Samantha Hardesty (Kennedy Krieger Institute) and Sarah Haney McDevitt (Kennedy Krieger Institute) accepted the Co-Director positions. We would like to thank our executive committee for their time and dedication.

Plans are currently underway for the 27th Annual Meeting, to be held December 5-6, 2024 in Baltimore, MD. For more information about our upcoming conference, please go to www.mdaba.org.

Massachusetts ABA

BY SUSAN AINSLEIGH

Introduction

The Massachusetts Association for Applied Behavior Analysis (MassABA) was established in 2010 to support the science and practice of behavior analysis in Massachusetts. Massachusetts boasts among the highest per capita concentration of certified behavior analysts in the world and an active behavior analytic community. The vision of MassABA is to serve as the trade organization for its community. MassABA has focused its efforts to fulfill this vision by:

- Supporting behavior analysts seeking licensure by assuring that licensure applications are processed in a timely manner;
- Supporting legislation that would strengthen the

- licensure process in Massachusetts with the creation of a separate licensing board for behavior analysts;
- Supporting the expansion of insurance coverage for ABA services;
- Advocating for timely reimbursement of ABA services by state funding sources;
- Expanding regional continuing education events for behavior analysis practitioners in more remote locations of the region;
- Expanding interaction and correspondence with MassABA members via social media;
- Advocating for behavior analytic professionals practicing in public schools by organizing a monthly networking event and advocating for adequate supports for BCBA's in public schools;
- Hosting an annual conference that brings diverse behavior analytic voices and applications to our membership.

Summary of 2023-24

Annual Member Meeting and Election Update:

MassABA held an election in June 2023. Two new MassABA members were elected to the Board of Directors: Dr. John Ward Horner and Dr. Erin Conant. All MassABA members were invited to participate in the election.

Public Relations/ Advocacy Committee Update:

MassABA Board of Directors met during this year with representatives from several state-wide insurance provider representatives to provide feedback and collaborate to improve service provision. Before each meeting, feedback from members was collected. Several small group meetings were held with professional and organizational members to discuss challenges and propose solutions to share in these meetings.

Legislative Committee:

Over the past year MassABA's legislative committee has continued to work with our state government leaders to keep them abreast of issues of importance to our membership. This included working collaboratively with BABAT on the development of a bill that would create a separate licensing board for behavior analysts. Such a board would be comprised of behavior analysts and would focus solely on the licensure of behavior analysts rather than multiple disciplines under the licensing board. MassABA will include a session on updates from the licensure board via the board representatives at the annual conference in 2023. In addition, MassABA remains actively involved with advocacy for legislative endeavors that impact behavior analysis in the commonwealth, including support for expanding the equitable access of ABA services to people of all ages and abilities.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee:

The DEIB Committee has been active this year in several initiatives. First, a survey was completed of MassABA members to gather information about the membership. From this data, it was identified that increasing the diversity of the board of directors and among MassABA members was important. The DEIB Committee is currently developing position statements and a DEI policy statement for MassABA. Several CE events were planned this year for MassABA members on issues related to DEIB.

Professional Development/ Conference & Events Committee Update:

MassABA has a history of holding an extraordinarily successful annual conference, typically drawing over 700 participants. This event was held remotely in 2023 and again drew over 500 total attendees. CEs were provided as part of the cost of conference tickets. There were a wide range of topics and prominent speakers. The conference committee offered brief virtual events for our members on a variety of topics based on feedback from members.

Public School Committee:

MassABA's Public School Committee partners with ACCEPT Collaborative to hold a monthly professional practices seminar on issues important to BCBA's working in public schools. This event runs monthly through the school year.

Summary

MassABA looks forward to continuing at the forefront of policy making and professionalization of service provision in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We recognize that the rapid growth of providers of ABA services requires that the field step up to meet the challenge of supporting these new practitioners with resources to help ensure that they are providing high quality and effective ABA services. Through our social media, community outreach, CE events and advocacy, MassABA will continue to disseminate the positive impacts of the science of ABA with a larger audience and focus its efforts on ensuring quality service provision in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and elsewhere.

Minnesota Northland ABA

BY ODESSA LUNA AND ERIC LARSSON

Hello from the Minnesota Northland Association for Behavior Analysis (MNABA)!

We welcomed one new face to the executive board, Michael Laverdiere (President-Elect). We said “see you later, never goodbye” to the past president, Dr. Angelica Aguirre.

MNABA resumed intensive advocacy for a law that would license BCBA's and BCaBA's, after a hiatus due to the pandemic. The original bill was introduced in 2008 and was absorbed into the effective advocacy for an insurance mandate and dedicated Medicaid coverage that culminated in two laws passed in 2013. Then, active work on a specific

license resumed in 2015. Now with the support of the MNABA, BACB, the Minnesota Board of Psychology, the Autism Treatment Association of Minnesota, and many others, it appears that our ongoing work may have set the stage for passage during this year.

Below are a few highlights of 2023:

- Under the direction of our legislative chair, Dr. Eric Larsson, BCBA-D, LP, we continued our efforts in advocating for BCBA and BCaBA licensure
- Continued our efforts to streamline communication efforts between members, our website, and social media platforms.
- We hosted our annual conference on September 28 and September 29, 2023!
Location: Bloomington, MN
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tyra Sellers
Number of attendees: 310 **CEUs provided:** 22
Three-hour workshops: 4 **Breakout sessions:** 6
One Panel Event: School-Based ABA
Hybrid Data Blitz Events: 10 poster presentations

Below are our goals for 2024:

- Continue to make legislative efforts to pass the MN BCBA licensing bill
- Carry out our 2022–2027 strategic plan
- Refine and update our website
- Identify opportunities for our membership to gain CEs outside of our annual conference
- Recruit and vote in several new members for the 2024–2025 Board
- Host our annual conference

We look forward to all that 2024–2025 has to offer MNABA and its members, including our conference scheduled for September 26–27. Please check www.mnaba.org often for details on this event and everything else we have going on—we would love to see you in Minnesota.

Missouri ABA

BY JORDAN BELISLE

The Missouri Association for Behavior Analysis (MOABA) is an organization founded to support and promote scientific research on basic principles of behavior and the effective and ethical application of those principles across the great state of Missouri.

This year we welcomed Alison Ducharme as the president-elect and we thank continuing board members including Jordan Belisle (president), Madeline Burke (outgoing president), John Guercio (Member at Large), Madison Imler (Student Representative), Sadiqa Reza (Member at Large), Miin-An Hošić (secretary), and Andresa DeSouza (treasurer).

Last year we held our annual MOABA conference in St. Louis, Missouri in November 2023. To ensure the safety and accessibility of the conference for our members, we

provided the opportunity to attend in-person or virtually. We plan to continue offering this option through Behavior Live. We offered six presentations and four workshops. Our invited presenters included Jordan Belisle, Abigail Calkin, Claudia Dozier, Clint Evans and Tony Chambers, Nicole Gravina, Tyra Sellers, and Jeffrey Tiger. Presentations highlighted diverse topics in the field of behavior analysis, including RFT and ACT, compassionate leadership, behavioral nutrition, staff training, thoughts and urges, functional assessment, and time management. During the annual conference, the MOABA board continued to offer a student poster contest. This allowed for students to receive feedback on posters from our notable presenters and two students were selected to receive free admission to the 2024 conference. MOABA will continue to provide opportunities to support student research in the future.

MOABA continues to be committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The board of directors will continue to include presentations related to culture and diversity during future workshops and conferences. This year, we led with a goal to increase diversity in speaker selection to better represent all behavior analysts in the state of Missouri. This was done systematically by identifying key areas of underrepresentation along areas of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, rural living, and neurodivergence. Letters are being sent to invite speakers that will offer a wide range of topics and diverse cultural perspectives.

We are thankful for our members and their dedication to using behavior analysis to improve the lives of others. In the future, we will continue to support behavior analysts across Missouri.

Montana ABA

BY TRACI L. SHINABARGER

In 2023, MTABA continued to organize Board and membership structures to better serve our members. MTABA started by updating membership payment options and offering more benefits for members. The Dissemination Committee ramped up efforts to bring training opportunities to members, offering one online training and one in person training. The Membership Committee hosted monthly meet and greets online to discuss articles or topics of interest for Montana behavior analysts. The Policy Committee supported changes at the state level to expand the provision of ABA to children with severe emotional disturbances and supported efforts to reduce licensing fees and clarify supervision rules to align with BACB requirements. Each Committee is chaired by a Board Member and each Board Member is responsible for supporting at least one committee. These committees include members and each committee grew in member participation. In September 2023, the membership voted to fill seats on the Board that were expiring.

The current Board includes:

Ania Young, Past President (2022–2024);
 Traci Shinabarger, President (2022–2024);
 Bradley Tiefenthaler, President Elect (2022–2024);
 Autumn Kostka, Treasurer (2022–2025);
 Abi Meyer, Secretary (2022–2025)
 appointed per Bylaws in 2023 to fill a resignation;

Four members at-large with staggered terms:

Jessica Collins (2022–2025)
 Tonya Blaney (2022–2025)
 Lisa Jones Park (2022–2025)
 Rose Filteau (2023–2026)
 Adam Rudolph (2023–2026)

This Board became effective September 9, 2023, at the annual chapter meeting held during the annual conference. The full board meets monthly, and each committee (Membership, Policy, Dissemination, and Conference) meets monthly as well.

The 2023 MT Annual Conference was held in-person in Helena, Montana September 8th and 9th. The conference theme was ACT and ABA through the AIM Model and was presented by Dr. Dixon on both days. Overall, the conference was a success as measured by a post-conference survey of attendees who reported high satisfaction with the quality of the speaker presentation, presentation content, venue, and overall comfort at the conference. Attendees requested OBM, ethics, and supervision for next year's conference. Dr. Dixon returned for a one-hour follow-up online training on October 2, 2023.

In addition to the annual conference, MTABA sponsored an in-person training event with Dr. Pat Friman in Missoula, MT on June 16, 2023. This event was quickly filled and popular as Dr. Friman covered four hours with multiple topics. Dr. Friman is scheduled to return to Missoula, MT on June 21, 2024 to offer another in person four hour training event. This event will be free to members.

The Dissemination Committee is the most active committee again by far in 2023. The committee completed a map of Montana that outlines where ABA providers are located. This will assist both providers and families in locating services. The Committee secured a grant from the Montana Department of Health and Human Services, Developmental Disabilities Program in the amount of \$10,000 to offer scholarships for tuition and supervision to individuals in Montana attending or planning to attend an accredited program in pursuit of their BCBA. Twenty-four applications were received. One grant was issued to a current student and two grants are in the process as two additional Montanans return to school. The Dissemination Committee also committed to three trainings, free to members, and one occurred in February on suicide prevention and two additional trainings are planned for March and April.

MTABA continues to grow and support behavior analysis in Montana through trainings, advocacy, and outreach. We are looking forward to continuing our commitment to expanding services, support and education to Montana in 2024.

Nebraska ABA

BY SARA KUPZYK

The Nebraska Association for Behavior Analysis continued efforts to obtain licensure for behavior analysts in the state of Nebraska. In June 2023, the Behavior Analysis Practice Act was passed with a 47-0 vote by the legislature as part of LB 227 and was subsequently signed by the governor. The full Behavior Analysis Practice Act can be accessed here. As part of the Licensure Act, a Board of Behavior Analysts is being established to oversee the licensing process. It is anticipated that Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) and Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts (BCaBAs) will need to submit an application through the Department of Health and Human Services to become licensed beginning in the summer 2024.

Our annual conference was held in Omaha in March 2023. Workshops were led by Dr. Kevin Luczynski and Worner Leland. Topics presented included considerations for skills instruction, teaching consent and assent, cultural responsiveness, building independence and complex social play. Throughout the year, we also offered our members free CEU opportunities in the form of a virtual speaker series. Speaker series topics have included: extinction, video modeling, interventions for independent feeding, and emergent relations and instructional feedback.

Following our annual conference, Sara Kupzyk served as President, Alex Nielsen was elected as Vice President, Shelby Wagner served as Past President, Steve Taylor served as Treasurer, Mary Halbur served as Secretary, and Gabrielle Roberts as Student Representative.

In the upcoming year, we plan to continue monitoring legislation and the licensure process. We are actively working on developing materials and resources for families seeking and receiving services in Nebraska. In addition, we will continue to enhance our efforts related to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Individuals interested in becoming a member can visit our website at www.nebraskaaba.com or email us at nebraskaaba@gmail.com.

Nevada ABA

BY GREGORY S. SMITH

NABA has continued to work on improvement via a series of key initiatives that were put in place by previous boards with a growing emphasis on providing additional resources for members. Nevada Association for Behavior Analysis (NABA) has continued to prioritize the growth of the organization with increased outreach throughout

the state and throughout the profession (all levels of study or credential).

NABA continues to take an active role in matters of public policy that impact behavior analysts in our state. Having previously (2017) supported approved legislation to remove the regulation of behavior analysis from the purview of the Board of Psychological Examiners and instantiate a Board of Applied Behavior Analysis housed within the state Aging and Disability Services Division, in 2021, NABA promoted legislation to establish the state ABA board as a fully independent and autonomous entity. During the 2023 legislative session, NABA's public policy committee worked alongside stakeholders to pass SB191, increasing the Medicaid service age cap from 20 to 26 years old. Medicaid subsequently removed the age cap entirely after the passage of SB191. During the same session, the public policy committee was instrumental in avoiding a Medicaid rate decrease across multiple CPT codes. NABA's public policy also maintains a collaborative relationship with the Nevada Board of Behavior Analysis, the state's licensing entity. Through this collaboration, NABA supported adjustments to the licensure law, addressing issuance fees for licensure. The NABA public policy committee is currently collaborating with stakeholders statewide to address access issues.

Additionally, NABA has made it a priority to offer learning opportunities throughout the year. In 2023, NABA organized several virtual events featuring renowned speakers in the field of ABA which were free to attend and included a very minimal fee for attendees interested in earning CEUs. The events were well attended, with attendance trending upward throughout the year. We are continuing to focus on this initiative, which is led by our Outreach Committee, and we have a handful of excellent virtual speaker events for the 2024 year.

With NABA's Outreach Committee taking over the role of organizing speaker and CEU events for the membership and broader community, the Practice Committee has shifted its focus away from those activities to serve in a more supportive, practical role for the state's practitioners at all levels. In particular, the committee is working to develop ongoing and meaningful supports for RBTs in the state, who are not yet in need of CEUs but who are often in need of guidance and informal supports (i.e., not formal supervision oversight) from veteran practitioners who can offer a wide array of practical knowledge and wisdom. The Practice Committee is working to offer sustained virtual and in-person meetings aimed at connecting practitioners in their respective regions and across the state and establishing a support network for professionals to share their experiences, ask questions, and learn from one another.

NABA held an outstanding single-track conference in October 2023, which featured a line-up of renowned

speakers across three domains: basic, applied, and theoretical. The conference was held at the Whitney Peak in downtown Reno and was well attended, allowing NABA to continue to operate with financial stability. Our 2024 conference will be held at the same venue in October 2024, with another outstanding speaker lineup nearly finalized. A major modification we are currently exploring for the 2024 conference is working with a 3rd party vendor to make the conference hybrid, which would allow attendees from out of state to attend virtually, obtain CEUs, and hopefully generate revenue for NABA. Lastly, although it may seem early to be a point of focus, we are excited to announce that our annual conference will be in Las Vegas in 2025, which we hope will go a long way toward further engaging practitioners in the southern region of our state. This has been a goal of the organization for some time now and we are excited to realize it next year.

None of this would be possible without the hard work of the NABA Board, NABA Committee Chairs, and NABA committee members. The NABA executive board changes over each year in January and each executive board member serves an elect year prior to the start of their term.

Current NABA leadership is listed below:

- President: Greg Smith, PhD, BCBA-D
- President-Elect: Steven Anbro, PhD, BCBA-D
- Treasurer: Jennifer Thomas, MEd, BCBA, LBA
- Treasurer-Elect: Megan Szeto, MA, BCBA, LBA
- Secretary: Deborah Meinberg, MA, BCBA, LBA
- Secretary-Elect: Nicole Tamura, MEd, BCBA, LBA
- At-Large Representative: Rachel Lozich, MEd, BCBA, LBA
- At-Large Representative-Elect: Delaney Carlovsky, MA
- Student Representative: Donna West
- Student Representative-Elect: Brittney Pauli

NABA Committee Chairs:

- Molly Halligan, MA, BCBA, LBA (Public Policy);
- Jennifer Bonow, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA (Practice);
- Megan McGrew, PhD, BCBA, LBA (Outreach)

For more information on NABA:

- Website: www.nevadaaba.org
- Email: board@nevadaaba.org
- LinkedIn: [Nevada Association for Behavior Analysis](#)
- Facebook: [Nevada Association for Behavior Analysis](#)
- X (Twitter): [@NABAOfficial](#)

New Hampshire ABA

BY JODIE DEMING

Mission

The New Hampshire Association for Behavior Analysis (NHABA) is an affiliate chapter of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (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 the professional development of behavior analysts; and (5) raising awareness of the association and its services.

Executive Committee

As of February 1, 2024, NHABA is governed by an Executive Committee composed of a President, President Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, three Members-at-Large, and a Student Member-at-Large.

The 2024 Executive Committee members are:

- Jodie Deming (President)
- Sabrina Rando (President Elect)
- Danielle Tibert (Vice President)
- Nicole Fragala (Secretary)
- Erin Norris (Treasurer)
- Kassandra Coleman (Member-at-Large)
- Cathy Booth (Member-at-Large)
- Eileen Mendes (Member-at-Large)
- Savannah Arnold (Student Member-at-Large)

Membership

NHABA offers three categories of annual membership: Full Annual Membership (\$45.00), Affiliate Annual Membership (\$35.00), and Student Annual Membership (\$20.00). NHABA also offers organizational discounts for ABA companies practicing behavior analysis in NH. Organizations with multiple eligible employees can enroll their employees and receive a discounted bulk rate. The purpose of this is to increase membership in the chapter.

Costs are as follows:

- 20 or fewer eligible employees: \$125.00
- 21–50 eligible employees: \$250.00
- 51 or more eligible employees: \$500.00

Membership is open to all persons interested in or actively engaged in behavior analysis. Memberships start on the first day of the calendar year and remain in effect until the last day of the calendar year. Full Member status may be obtained by any individual holding a BCBA, BCBA-D, or BCaBA with 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 individual evidencing interest in the discipline of behavior analysis but lacking formal training therein. Affiliate members enjoy all the benefits of Full Membership but do not vote on decisions of the chapter. A Student Member status may be obtained by any individual pursuing formal training in the discipline of behavior analysis on at least a half-time basis but not yet gainfully employed therein.

Student Membership requires documentation to verify the applicant's student status. Student members may 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 CEUs at NHABA meetings, a mentorship networking platform to connect behavior analysts with others to share experiences and expertise, notifications about continuing education opportunities, the latest news in behavior analysis, a vote on issues pertinent to the organization, and the opportunity to hold office on the board of the organization (Full Members only).

Events

NHABA has actively hosted events in the state since 2016. Each year since 2016, the organization has held an annual conference which continues to be a sought-after event for professional development in New Hampshire and surrounding areas.

The conference's location is rotated yearly to extend the association's reach in the state. In October 2023, NHABA held our annual conference in Hollis, NH. The organization was pleased to host Dr. Kevin Luczynski, Dr. Amanda Kelly, and Jerome Chiu, who presented on Empowering Every Learner and Adult by Achieving a Universal Starting Point and on Mastering Medical Necessity & Treatment Planning: Ethical Considerations. Conference presentations included CEs in supervision and ethics.

NHABA hosts quarterly chapter meetings, each offering a CE in supervision or ethics. The association continues to determine the most effective platform to offer these meetings to reach the most members across the state. Currently, the meetings are hosted either remotely or in-person with a remote option.

Currently, NHABA membership stands at approximately 120 members, including 58 individual members and 5 organizational memberships and continues to grow. The association continues to seek effective ways to engage in outreach and disseminate information about the association's activities and opportunities. In the coming year, the chapter intends to focus on NH state licensure in response to the needs and interests of its chapter members. NHABA continues to seek a more robust and active presence as a resource for individuals interested in behavior analytic services in New Hampshire. Through the work of NHABA, the aim will remain to work towards the association's mission as a whole and expand its reach and impact.

Contact Us

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

New Jersey ABA

BY PATRICK PROGAR AND STEPHANIE SUMMERS

The New Jersey Association for Behavior Analysis (NJABA) continues to advance the science and evidence-based practice of behavior analysis throughout New Jersey. Ending the 2023 calendar year with over 1550 members, we are a community of behavior analysts who support their consumers, conduct research, and train future behavior analysts. Furthermore, we strive for a diverse, equitable, and inclusive behavior analytic community.

We will hold our Annual Conference on April 26th in Somerset, NJ, offering attendees the option to join us in person or virtually. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from our Keynote Speaker, Florence DiGennaro Reed, Ph.D., BCBA-D, as well as from many presentations and poster authors. We will also hold our Pre-Conference Workshop led by Nicole Gravina, Ph.D. on April 25th also in Somerset, NJ. Conference attendance continues to increase each year, and our attendees continue to be extremely pleased with the professional development and networking opportunities we offer.

Our Annual Conference is one of many events held throughout last year to support our community. We will hold our 3rd annual NJABA Science of Behavior Analysis Conference on June 8th at Rider University in Lawrenceville, NJ. This conference provides an opportunity for our members to share the university-based research conducted throughout New Jersey. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from keynote speaker, Jeanne Donaldson, Ph.D., BCBA-D as she presents "What happens when we let students select their intervention experiences?"

Additionally, we are continuing our regular NJABA Speaker's Series throughout the year covering a wide range of interests and informative topics for our various audiences within the behavior analytic world.

New Jersey continues to be a highly desirable state for behavior analysts. Membership has increased over 50% since 2022. One of our primary goals has been to strive for equity by increasing supports for students and behavioral technicians. These groups represent the future of our profession; therefore, it is our priority to ensure that they are a part of our community. To do this, we reduced one barrier to their participation by eliminating membership fees and keeping conference registration fees to a minimum.

As we look to the future of behavior analysis in New Jersey, we must also recognize the pioneers who have helped to build our profession. Therefore, each year we recognize the contributions of past leaders who laid the foundation for our community's success by awarding the annual NJABA Distinguished Service Award. The 2022 recipient was Dr. Sandra Harris from Rutgers University who has been integral to service delivery, training, and

research throughout New Jersey. The 2023 recipient was Dr. Greg MacDuff from the Princeton Child Development Institute who was recognized for leading one of the groundbreaking autism schools in the country.

Finally, we continue to work diligently to support the practice of behavior analysis in New Jersey through our special interest workgroups. These NJABA Workgroups are a forum for us to engage with practitioners in the state about legal or policy changes that may impact behavior analytic service delivery and are focused on insurance, Medicaid, and business practices; adult supports; public schools, early intervention; diversity and inclusion; ABA services in Spanish; and Student Workgroup. These workgroups have provided critical networking opportunities for practitioners in the state.

We have also worked to advocate for the practice of behavior analysis in New Jersey. Governor Phil Murphy signed the “Applied Behavior Analyst Licensing Act” into law in January 2020 and appointed six members to the State Board of Applied Behavior Analysis Examiners. The Board’s first draft of the regulations has been completed and is currently under administrative review. Additionally, under the NJ Department of Education, the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority released another opportunity to apply for their Behavioral Healthcare Provider Loan Redemption Program. This was a state-level program that provided up to \$150,000 to eligible and accepted Board Certified Behavior Analysts and other behavioral healthcare providers in loan redemption in exchange for service.

NJABA continues to be a strong community of behavior analysts who provide service, conduct research, and train future professionals. All these many accomplishments are a function of our members and the many volunteers who dedicate their time to the success of the behavior analytic profession in New Jersey.

New York State ABA

BY NANCY DIB

The New York State Association for Behavior Analysis (NYSABA) has experienced an exciting year and we are proud to share our chapter update with ABAI for 2024. We remain busy with association projects, communicating with our membership, and advocating for the field of behavior analysis throughout New York State. NYSABA has continued to make progress in several areas this year.

We are thrilled that the scope expansion bill went into effect in June 2023. NYSABA remains in close communication with the New York State Education Department (SED) on the review and clarification of new regulations. In September 2023, SED released guidance on the use of Unlicensed Personnel, which was a direct result of our advocacy and education to SED on the subject. Unlicensed Personnel are now allowed to

be included in ABA therapy under the supervision of a Licensed Behavior Analyst. This allowance is general and not specific to a funder source.

In November 2023, emergency rules were finalized to implement the scope expansion and licensure exam changes.

Those changes include:

- Allowing a BCBA certificant to become NYS licensed without meeting any additional requirements
- Removal of autism exam and removal of NY Specific ABA exam
- Allowing a graduate of an approved program to accrue supervision hours under an LBA so that they could sit for the BACB examination
- Removing the restriction to autism for the profession
- Removing specific coursework requirements
- Making it unprofessional conduct to not send a report to the prescriber at least annually

NYSABA’s Public Policy Committee is designing a form to be used to send to subscribers based on feedback from pediatricians.

Our Public Policy Committee, with the guidance of our lobbyist, has continued to work on several issues with both SED and Department of Health (DOH). Committee members continue to meet with provider groups including Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP) and Autism Speaks on a regular basis. Most recently, the Committee met with the Early Intervention Program to discuss the specifics of the inclusion of Licensed Behavior Analysts within the program.

NYSABA continues to be a voice for the behavior analytic community in New York. We are focused on growing our membership in order to continue to push forward with important legislative issues happening in the state. Unfortunately, the number of licensed and certified behavior analysts in the state continue to significantly outnumber the number of members in NYSABA. All behavior analysts in the state are urged to join NYSABA so that our collective voice can be heard by the state legislature. In an effort to increase and engage membership, NYSABA hired a consultant to assist with gathering membership feedback through a survey to help identify goals that are important to our membership. The information was used to develop our 2024 Strategic Plan and goals. We are thrilled to share our new Mission Statement: NYSABA advocates for the science, practice, and growth of our field, supports professional development, and promotes the use of culturally responsive, evidence-based practices to protect the diverse populations we serve.

In October 2023, we held our 34th annual conference in person in Albany. We were honored to hear keynote addresses from Dr. Mary Jane Weiss and Adrienne Bradley. There were a variety of speakers with engaging topics. We also transitioned to a new association

management software and launched a new website with improved accessibility and benefits for our members. We are now planning for our 35th annual conference to be held in Albany on November 13–15, 2024. We will be accepting presentation and poster submissions from members. Also, check out our NYSABA website (www.nysaba.org) and take a look at the NYSABA Parent & Family website at www.nysabaparent.org, which includes free resources for parents and family members of consumers of behavior analysis services.

Our new 2024 Board members include Nancy Dib (President), Noor Syed (President-Elect), Tricia Moss-Lourenco (Past President), Kim Shamoun (Treasurer), Vicki Knapp (Secretary), Kozue Matsuda (Representative at Large), Amanda LaPrime (Representative at Large), Leanna Mellon (Membership Committee Chair), Kenneth Shamlian (Membership Committee Co-Chair), Fernande Ikombo-Deguenon (Finance Committee Chair), Brian Healy (Education Committee Chair), Melissa Jackson (Conference Committee Chair), Nicole DeRosa (Conference Committee Co-Chair), Rachael Atherly (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Accessibility Committee Chair), Bobbi Rogers (Consumer Representative and Chair of the Parent and Family Committee), Lauren Allen (Student Activities Committee Chair), Shannon Carr (Marketing Committee Chair), Amanda Adams (Marketing Committee Co-Chair), Maureen O'Grady (Public Policy Committee Chair) and Deborah Napolitano (Public Policy Committee Co-Chair). To better represent our vision and goals, two committees changed names in 2022. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2024 from New York!

North Carolina ABA

BY SARAH POPE AND NINA DEESE

The North Carolina Association for Behavior Analysis held its 35th annual conference in person from February 21 - February 23, 2024. The conference was a great success thanks to the leadership of Nina Deese, President (Easterseals UCP of NC and VA), as well as the rest of our Executive Council including Shanun Kunnavatana, Past President (Easter Seals UCP of NC and VA); Haja Jallow, President Elect (Caring Hearts Behavioral Services LLC); Leigh Ann Strain, Secretary (Effective Interventions); Nancy Poteet, Treasurer (Private Consultant); Lauren Broadwell, Member-at-Large (Kind Behavioral Health); Janis Krempa, Member-at-Large (Building Steps Forward); Kayla Jefferson, Student Representative (Mosaic Pediatric Therapy), Jamie Clary, Publications Editor (Riddle Developmental Center); Fred Spooner, Senior NCABA Advisor (UNC-Charlotte); Duke Schell, Senior NCABA Advisor (Riddle Developmental Center); Ruth Hurst, NC Psychological Association (Murdoch Developmental Center); Sarah Pope, Liaison to ABAI and

ACE Coordinator (Mosaic Pediatric Therapy); and a host of other NCABA volunteers.

The conference included a variety of invited speakers, workshops, and concurrent events with presenters from across the state and country present to present on a variety of topics in addition to the Welcome and Award Presentation, the Annual Business Meeting, poster presentation and a student symposium. The first day of the conference began with workshops on Development of Meaningful Curricula: How to Effectively Prepare Individuals with Autism and other Developmental or Intellectual Disabilities for the Rest of their Lives (Shanna Bahry, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LABA, LBA) and Programming Effectively by Using DTT & Naturalistic Treatments as Part of a Teaching Continuum (Audrey Shen, M.A., BCBA).

These workshops were then followed by invited presentations focusing on the following topics:

- From Competition to Cooperation to Community: Using the Core Principles of our Ethics Code as our Compass (Marta T. “Tiki” Fiol, M.S., BCBA)
- DEI and Applied Behavior Analysis (Elizabeth Hughes Fong, Ph.D., BCBA, LBS)

The second day of our conference began with 11 concurrent presentations. These presentations were then followed by invited presentations focusing on the following topics:

- The Ethics of Actually Helping People: The Obligation for Behavior Analysts to Target Skill Acquisition Goals that Promote Meaningful Outcomes for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Shanna Bahry, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LABA, LBA)
- Private Equity is Distorting ABA: What You Can Do to Protect Your Clients (Jon Bailey, Ph.D., BCBA-D)
- Opposing Trends in Functional Analysis Research and Where to Go from Here (Tara Fahmie, Ph.D., BCBA-D)
- North Carolina is Graying Faster Than America: How BCBA's Can Brighten Senior Care (Maranda Trahan, Ph.D., BCBA-D)

The third day of our conference began with invited presentations covering the following topics:

- Values Based Scorecard as an Organization Wide System of Reinforcement (Becca Tagg, PsyD, LP, MSCP, NCSP, BCBA-D)
- How Drugs Work: Environment & Brain Combine to Influence the Behavior Effects of Drugs (Chris Newland, Ph.D.)

These invited presentations were followed by workshops on BCBA's in Dementia Care: A TOOLKIT for Starting a Practice (Maranda Trahan, Ph.D., BCBA-D) and Building Out a Fieldwork Experience to Equip Future Analysts (Becca Tagg, PsyD, LP, MSCP, NCSP, BCBA-D).

Our speakers did an outstanding job of delivering meaningful and important content to our attendees. This year, NCABA was able to offer both NCPA and BACB continuing education credits, including supervision and ethics credits. Up to 18 BACB credits were available to participants (inclusive of four ethics credits and three supervision credits) as well as up to 17 NCPA credits.

A total of 658 registrants participated in the 2024 conference. This was an increase of 94 additional participants than our 2023 conference which included 564 registrants. NCABA was thrilled with the high level of participation and attendance.

At the opening of the conference, Nina Deese welcomed all participants. Awards were given to several very deserving individuals during the opening remarks. Tiffany McEachern (Easter Seals) received the Technical Utilization Award, and Lauren Gray (Easter Seals) received the Student Scholarship Award.

The NCABA Student Representative, Kayla Jefferson (Mosaic Pediatric Therapy), organized an excellent student symposium for this year's conference, including presentations by Taylor Kennedy (UNC Wilmington), Alexandra Reilly (UNC Charlotte), Kyla Stephens (UNC Wilmington), and Kayla Braccio (UNC Wilmington).

We hosted a poster presentation with the following posters winning in their respective categories.

- Undergraduate Winner – Rebecca Powell, Catherine Williams, and Jennifer Roop: Conceptual Learning: Are Practice and Feedback Enough?
- Graduate Winner – Allie B. Ferguson: Anxiolytic Effects of Buspirone in Pigeons within a Rich-Lean Transition Procedure
- Professional Winner - Daryl Williams, LBA, BCBA and Kayla Siebold, RBT: Stewarding Client-Selection of Teaching Procedures when Increasing Food Repertoire

This year's annual business meeting was well-attended. The Board welcomes Tosha Owens (East Carolina University) in the position of Vice President, Han-Leong Goh (Cross River Behavior Therapy) in the position of Secretary, Amanda Randall (Aces for Autism) in the position of Member at Large, and Kayla Terhune in the position of Student Representative.

Deserving a special thank you and acknowledgement are Jamie Clary, Ruth Hurst, Fred Spooner, Duke Schell, and Sarah Pope who serve non-voting but essential functions for the NCABA Board. Jamie Clary serves as our NCABA Web & Publication Editor, Ruth Hurst serves as our liaison to NCPA, Sarah Pope serves as our ABAI liaison and ACE Coordinator, and Fred Spooner and Duke Schell serve as Senior NCABA Board Advisors. We want to sincerely thank out-going board members Shanun Kunnavatana (Past President), Janis Krempa (Member at Large), and Leigh Ann Strain (Secretary) for

all they have done to support and advance NCABA during their terms.

Please visit our website at www.nc-aba.com and see additional information regarding past events, upcoming opportunities, and to find information on becoming an NCABA member. The NCABA website also provides information about our history since 1989, links to newsletters, and information about the conference and upcoming events, including our NCABA summer autism conference and planning for our 36th annual conference to be held next February 19–21, 2025 in Winston Salem, NC.

North Dakota ABA

BY CRISTINE DEEVER, MORGAN BRATON,
AND ALLISON SMITH

The North Dakota Association for Behavior Analysis (ND ABA) was established in 2012 with a small group of a dozen professionals seeking to support the practice of ABA in North Dakota and to provide continuing education and networking opportunities within the state. Since that time, we have grown to approximately 90 full members, 8 affiliate members and 10 student members. We have held an annual conference in April since 2012. Our annual conference provides a local opportunity to discuss issues relevant to behavior analysis across the state, network, and engage in professional development. We continue to follow legislative activities regarding the practice and scope of behavior analysis and behavior health. In 2020, ND ABA became a BACB ACE Provider and in 2022 an affiliate chapter of ABAI.

On January 29, 2024, ND ABA held a Networking Opportunity to connect with other local behavior analysts in Fargo. Four people enjoyed coffee while connecting.

ND ABA celebrated World Behavior Analysis Day the week of March 14–20, 2024.

Our 2024 Annual Conference was held in Fargo, ND on April 15 and 16, 2024. On April 15th, Dr. Kevin Luczynski presented Universal Starting Points in our first workshop. Our invited guest speaker for this year's conference was Dr. Linda LeBlanc who presented on supervision and ethics. To assist with our legislative efforts, we hosted a Lunch & Learn at the annual conference to learn more about the legislative process in North Dakota. A total of 12 continuing education units were made available for the workshop and conference.

Our Executive Board is made up of Cristine Deever as President, Morgan Braton as Vice President, Alee Smith as Secretary, Suzanne Carroll as Treasurer, Dr. Alyssa Suess, Dr. Jordan Lill, and Jackie Loepp as Members-at-Large. The 2024 elections were held for one Member-at-Large position. Our committee chairs for the Conference Planning Committee include Cristine Deever, Morgan Braton, Jackie Loepp, Allison (Alee) Smith, and Dr. Jordan Lill and our Legislative Workgroup includes

Cristine Deaver and Dr. Jordan Lill. We began a strategic planning process in the fall of 2023 seeking feedback from our members and plan to develop action steps to address the feedback obtained.

Ohio ABA

BY KIM WOLFF

Founded in 2008, The Ohio Association for Behavior Analysis (OHABA) is an affiliated chapter of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI). OHABA is an organization for people interested in behavior analysis and is primarily an interest group.

The purpose of this nonprofit 501(c)(6) organization is to promote the science and theory of behavior analysis through the support of research, education and practice.

- Supporting the certification process of Certified Ohio Behavior Analysts (herein referred to as “COBA”).
- Supporting the national certification process of Behavior Analysts and assistant Behavior Analysts (herein referred to as “BCBA” and “BCaBA”).
- Advocating for behavior analytic services and the profession of behavior analysis. Enhancing quality assurance in behavior analytic services. Promoting behavior analysis and university programs that specialize in applied behavior analysis.
- Providing continuing education opportunities for behavior analysts. Providing resources and information related to behavior analysis.
- Organizing an annual conference which shall serve as a forum for presentation of scientific and technological achievements as well as the discussion of the affairs of the organization.
- Maintaining a group site or website containing information about the organization and about behavior analysis in Ohio and elsewhere.
- Alerting members to regional and national issues affecting the practice of applied behavior analysis.
- Functioning as the Ohio contact for and representative of the Association for Behavior Analysis International.

OHABA works to promote behavior analysis by a.) promoting behavior analysis in the educational setting b.) promoting behavior analysis and university programs that specialize in applied behavior analysis c.) provides a forum for the discussion of research and conceptual issues in behavior analysis d.) maintains a website containing information about the organization and about behavior analysis in Ohio and elsewhere and e.) functions as the Ohio contact for and representative of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI).

The OHABA Executive Board Members as of March 2023 included the President, Janet Hansen, PhD, BCBA-D, COBA, Past President, Jennifer Sweeney, BCBA-D, COBA, President-Elect, Nikki Williams,

PhD, BCBA, COBA, Secretary, Kim Wolff, MS, BCBA, COBA, and Treasurer, Dacia McCoy, PhD, BCBA-D, COBA. The OHABA Board is committed to making the organization a resource to members across the state of Ohio. The OHABA Board includes Marketing Chair, Kate Wallace, BCBA, COBA, Membership Chair, Brittany Duffy, BCBA, COBA, Professional Standards Chair, Bryan Droesch, LPC, BCBA, COBA, Education Chair, Kate Anderson, BCBA, COBA, Program Co-Chairs, Cara Brown, MA, BCBA, COBA and Hannah Stauffer, MA, BCBA, COBA, Public Policy Chair, Jen Gonda, BCBA, COBA, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Chair, Juliana Carrus, MEd, MA, CCC-SLP, BCBA, COBA and Student Chairs, Sara Martin & Seth Sharpe, BCBA.

During 2023–2024, the full Board and committees worked hard to coordinate opportunities for its members. In March of 2023, OHABA was proud to offer a two-day conference in-person. The Keynote Speaker was Lorri Unumb, Esq. The topics of the conference were diverse and ranged from history of behavior analysis and insurance reform, medical necessity, to applications of behavior analysis in educational settings.

Membership Information

Increasing membership across the state has been a primary focus for OHABA. The following table shows the growth in membership since December of 2012.

Year Ending	Number of Members
2012	46
2013	114
2014	127
2015	148
2016	208
2017	226
2018	280
2019	389
2020	248
2021	270
2022	211
2023	236

OHABA is intent on continuing to increase its membership by offering CEU opportunities to members across the state. Individuals interested in joining OHABA can find a membership form on our website at www.ohaba.org. Membership fees are \$40 for full members, \$35 for affiliate members, and \$15 for student members. This was the first year OHABA offered three-year memberships for our full (\$75) and affiliate (\$60) members. Benefits of membership include a reduced registration fee for OHABA conferences with CEUs included. Individuals interested in becoming a member of OHABA or any members who are interested in serving on the board or a committee, should contact OHABA at ohaba@ohaba.org.

Annual Conference 2023

The Conference was held on March 3rd and 4th at the Marriott University Hotel.

Certification in the State of Ohio

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

Future Direction

OHABA Board is committed to making the organization a resource to members. The Board continues to add additional Board positions and develop committees to assist Chairs in completion of their duties. The board continues to promote networking events with the goal to reach ABA professionals across the state by regions. Due to COVID, our initial efforts which were hosting Town Hall events per region, have shifted to monthly coffee chats to reach all members of the state. We commit to continue to offer those events to focus on a variety of topics, special interests, open collaboration and focused CEUs programs. The Board continues to become aware of potential legislation, which could impact the practice of behavior analysis in the state. The Board is also evaluating policies and practices to ensure we are focused on the diversity, equity and inclusion of all members. We continue our commitment with legislative efforts to ensure the practice of applied behavior analysis continues to be recognized with Medicaid and other insurances as a medically necessary service.

Oklahoma ABA

BY SARA MORRIS

It has been an eventful year for the Oklahoma Association for Behavior Analysis (OKABA). Our goals of this past year have been to begin to grow and engage our membership and become more active as a chapter, and we did just that.

Up until 2024, instead of OKABA hosting an annual state applied behavior analysis (ABA) conference, the University of Oklahoma has hosted a conference with OKABA as a partner. At this conference in November 2023, we announced the results of our 2023–2024 officer elections: Sara Morris, President; Dayna Parker, President-Elect; Kylee Corken, Treasurer; Tiffanie Moore, Member

at Large; Sydney LaFleur, Secretary; and Leslie Taylor-Wilson, Student Representative.

At this same conference, we had our first ever in-person member meeting, at which we discussed what we wanted to accomplish as a chapter for the coming year. Our membership voiced the desire to increase support for ABA providers' relationships with payors in our state, become more involved in public policy, launch our own public conference, and set up a mentorship program for newer BCBA's. We also had a small t-shirt sale to raise funds for our chapter.

After the conference, we formed committees, to include a publications committee (chaired by Dr. Nicolle Carr) which disseminates our quarterly newsletter, a program committee (also chaired by Dr. Carr) which plans for continuing education events and conferences, a membership committee, and committees for social events and community involvement (chaired by Bonny Reibert and Rowlena Hartman, respectively).

In addition, we formed a public policy committee, chaired by Mallory Fletcher, which began participating in an initiative to ban the use of corporal punishment on special education students in Oklahoma public schools. This committee has also outlined public policy initiatives identified by Oklahoma ABA providers, which will be brought to our state representatives. One of these initiatives is to push for billing opportunities to expand client access to care in our state.

Besides forming committees, OKABA has gradually become more active as a chapter in a

variety of ways. We started a private Facebook group to foster community amongst our members. We connected with the officers of another more experienced chapter (Colorado Association for Behavior Analysis) to learn new ways we can grow. We established a code of conduct. We hosted our first social events (one in the Tulsa area, and the other in the Oklahoma City area). We became an ACE provider and started providing monthly online continuing education events. Finally, perhaps OKABA's greatest milestone of this past year has been taking over the exciting task of hosting the annual ABA conference. We are so looking forward to this event next month.

It has been a busy year, but OKABA is only getting started. We are thrilled to see what the future holds as we continue to build out support and community for ABA providers in our beautiful state.

Oregon ABA

BY VICKEY FOSTER

ORABA increased its membership and provided members with additional opportunities to serve and engage. ORABA has worked hard to engage student analysts and increase its student membership. In 2023, ORABA hosted its annual conference virtually and in person to provide

continuing education to members across the state.

At the end of 2023, we have seen an increase in BCBA's and BCaBA's with 445 active Licensed Behavior Analysts compared to 388 in the previous year and 25 active Licensed Assistant Behavior Analysts compared to the previous 19. However, we have seen a decrease in the active Registered Behavior Analysis Interventionists in Oregon with current numbers at 1388 compared to the previous reporting of 1521. ORABA membership has made a slight increase over the year but is still relatively small with 111 certified members and 23 Student/Behavior Technicians with active memberships. One of ORABA's goals for the next year is to continue increasing membership while providing resources to the community.

In 2023, ORABA focused on student membership and engagement. ORABA sent two of our student representatives to the BABA Conference in Detroit with all their expenses paid. The ORABA Student Representatives group was also able to provide four scholarships to RBAI/Students in the state for our 2023 ORABA Conference.

ORABA's annual conference, "Seeing and Knowing: Pursuing Connection," occurred in November. The conference was held both virtually and in-person. ORABA's keynote speaker, Dr. Mari-Luci Cerda, Ph.D. BCBA, presented to members on the topic of Culturally Safe and Responsive Practices. Dr. Mari-Luci Cerda encouraged participants to understand how historical systems of bias can maintain cultural heredity within our practices, leading to inadvertent harm and limitations to providing truly responsive and safe care.

Opportunities for students to engage in behavior analytic studies through Oregon's higher education system include Portland State University, the University of Oregon, and the Oregon Institute of Technology. All institutions provide course sequences for certification in applied behavior analysis.

Pennsylvania ABA

BY JAMES CHOK

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

Mission and Vision

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

History

PennABA was incorporated in 1998. Richard Foxx and William Helsel saw a need to support behavior analysis in the state of Pennsylvania. In 2000, Richard Kubina chaired a meeting at the ABAI annual convention to help

elect PennABA's first set of officers. With the creation of PennABA, service providers, teachers, students, and families in Pennsylvania gained a resource that fosters the application and growth of behavior analysis.

PennABA Updates

Nicole Mastromatto, MA, BCBA, remains as the Secretary for PennABA and assists with conference planning and the logistics associated with recording continuing education credits. Jonathan Ivy, Ph.D., BCBA-D, continues to lend his effort and talents to PennABA as the Director of Planning and Development. Keith Williams, Ph.D., is currently the Executive Director and Treasurer for PennABA.

In October of 2023, PennABA held its first in-person conference this year since the Covid-19 pandemic. The conference was held in Lancaster, PA over the course of two days, and was attended by approximately 100 people. During the conference, PennABA was able to offer 12 CE credits for BCBA's and licensed psychologists, including CEs on ethics and supervision.

PennABA continues to offer free membership to anyone who has been a member in the past, as well as any person who resides in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. PennABA continues to offer free virtual continuing education sessions to its members.

Closing

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

Philadelphia Metropolitan ABA

BY ART DOWDY, AMANDA GUILD-FISHER, BETH ROSENWASSER, JESSICA KENDORSKI

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

advocacy issues relevant to local behavior analysts.

The PMABA chapter seeks to better serve as a scientific and professional reference and networking group for its members. This past year we were fortunate to have expert speakers share their behavior analytic knowledge with PMABA. The phenomenal group of expert speakers included Drs. Adam Briggs, Daniel Mitteer, Javid Rahaman, and Jessica Day-Watkins. PMABA chapter is led by the following executive council members: Art Dowdy PhD, BCBA-D, President; Amanda Guld Fisher PhD BCBA-D; Past President; Beth Rosenwasser PhD, BCBA-D, Information Officer, Jessica Kendorski, Secretary PhD BCBA-D. We are always looking for members interested in getting involved in the organization by joining or, paraps, taking on a leadership position. Please contact us using the email address provided above if you are interested.

Notably, PMABA is involved in supporting the ABA in PA initiative to support the proposed bill to license behavior analysts in Pennsylvania. PMABA has issued a formal letter of support for the bill, members of the board have advocated with legislators and helped to edit the bill language. We also held a joint CEU event between the ABA in PA initiative and PMABA about the licensure act and ethical issues.

Though Black Scorpion Society meetings, originally facilitated by Dr. Phil Hinline, have slowed some due to the pandemic. Our goal is to begin Black Scorpion meetings again in the upcoming year. These events consist of local behavior analysts who gather and discuss behavior science and journal articles at a local watering hole – only a few things in life are more fun! Most often a discussant leads the conversation who often selects an article which aimed to satisfy our cravings for fun and intellectual conceptual debates and discussions. Former discussant leaders have included Dr. Phil Hinline, Dr. Don Hantula and Dr. Saul Axelrod among others on a wide array of topics from consumer choice to the double agent robot procedure to deviancy training, and the future of behavior analysis.

PMABA (pmabainfo.wixsite.com/pmaba) acts as a resource for local behavior analysts providing membership information, local events, and other important information. We added an online payment option for membership and CEUs. We plan to hold a membership drive in the fall and are planning future CEU events as well.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the PMABA chapter should visit our website for membership information and contact Beth Rosenwasser at beth.rosenwasser@gmail.com to be added to our email listserv to receive information about upcoming events, job opportunities, and other local behavior analytic information. Also please like our Facebook page by searching PMABA where we post all upcoming events.

Puerto Rico Association for Behavior Analysis

BY YANIZ PADILLA DALMAU

The Puerto Rico Association for Behavior Analysis (PRABA) was established with the mission of disseminating information about behavior analytic research and best practices in Puerto Rico, cultivating an ever-growing behavior analytic community, increase access to behavior analytic services, in part by engaging in public policy endeavors (e.g., working towards licensure for behavior analysts, advocating for insurance coverage for ABA), and to serve as a scientific, ethical, and professional reference and as a networking group for its members.

PRABA became an official ABAI affiliate chapter on July 22, 2022 and held its first conference on July 23–24, 2022. With the funds gathered from its initial conference, PRABA's board has continued diligently working towards its mission. PRABA's major accomplishment this year was developing and launching its membership and benefits package. In addition to gaining ABAI member benefits, PRABA's members benefit from a 20% discount in our biannual conference, mentorship and professional guidance by behavior analysts in Puerto Rico, invitation to three annual meetings for professional development and access to newsletters. The formal membership announcement was launched in October 2023 and over 40 professionals have signed up to be members of the organization.

PRABA's board of directors has continued disseminating ABA in Puerto Rico in a variety of ways. The board attended the ABAI 2023 conference in Denver and held its first Expo poster presentation. PRABA's Vice President, Marta Riviere; Secretary, Ethel Rios Arroyo; and Board Member, Dagmar Millan; presented at a virtual CE Event for MASS ABA in which they shared information about delivery of ABA services to Puerto Rican clients and discussed cultural variables to consider when treating this population. President, Yaniz Padilla Dalmau, presented at FABA's Multicultural SIG Mini Conference to discuss the state of ABA in Puerto Rico and other countries along with colleagues from Brazil and Guatemala. PRABA's board has continued disseminating research pertaining to the Latinx community through its social media pages. In addition, board members have continued engaging with the Special Education division of Puerto Rico's Department of Education to improve ABA as a related service covered under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

In addition to launching membership and dissemination efforts, PRABA is planning its second hybrid conference in Puerto Rico to be held October 11 and 12, 2024 at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus and virtually through Behavior Live.

The conference will host various invited Latinx speakers including Corina Jimenez Gomez, Andrew Gardner and Haydee Toro. In addition, this year's conference includes a call for papers and poster presentations. The members of PRABA are looking forward to hosting our behavior analytic community in Puerto Rico again this year as we continue disseminating behavior analysis in Puerto Rico and other Spanish-speaking communities.

Rhode Island ABA

BY CODY MORRIS

RI-ABA has continued its efforts to establish an annual in-person conference. The second annual RI-ABA conference was held on Salve Regina University's campus on March 23rd, 2024. The conference included three invited speakers and a poster session.

South Carolina ABA

BY JACQUI WILLIAMS

2023 was a successful year for South Carolina ABA (SC ABA). Board members included President Katie Wolfe, President-Elect Jacqui Williams, Secretary Kim Snyder, Treasurer Anslie Patrick, At-Large board member Katie Franke, and Student Representative, Amy Eacho.

In 2023 we provided multiple high-quality free CEs to SC ABA members in addition to our annual conference, as well as one ethics event hosted by our ethics chair. We also had two invited speakers present CE sessions free to members in 2023, outside of the conference. Dr. Trina Spencer presented about collaboration and Dr. Nasiah Cirincione-Ulezi presented about leadership.

We continued our licensure efforts, detailed below, and continued conversations around working towards diversity, equity, and inclusion in the organization.

Legislative Affairs Committee: In 2023, the legislative affairs committee continued to work with our lobbyist to develop grassroots efforts to develop relationships with and educate state representatives about applied behavior analysis.

Social Committee: Jennifer Elkins remains our social chair for 2023. She organized several events around the state.

Ethics Committee: We held one Zoom ethics CE event in 2023 that was well-attended by SC ABA members. Nicole Orsini remains our ethics chair since January 2023.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs): In 2023, we developed five SIGs: Organizational Behavior Management, School-Based ABA, Business Owners, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, and Collaboration. SIGs meet every other month and are led by SC ABA members.

We had a few other changes in leadership in 2023:

- Anslie Patrick (treasurer) transitioned off the board and Stephanie Turner stepped into the role.
- Katie Franke (member at large) transitioned off the

board and Scott Herbst stepped into the role.

In addition to these efforts, we held an in-person conference in October 2023, with 228 attendees. We recorded all sessions and made recordings available after the conference to all attendees. An additional 50 people attend virtually, making this our largest conference to date. We continued to offer multiple tracks and for the first time we were able to offer 10 scholarships for both in person and virtual attendance. Our presenters included:

- Dr. Alice Shillingsburg, Strengthening Gestures: A critical component for Building Robust Communication Skills
- Dr. Colin Muething, Relapse when treating behavior targeted for reduction
- Dr. Scott Herbst, The language of leaders - applying principles of relational frame theory to upgrade team culture
- Dr. Susan Wilczynski, Diversity Affirming evidence based practice
- We also held breakout sessions! We had 4 sets of 3 concurrent sessions:

Dr. Shillingsburg, What you teach and how you teach matters: implementing an applied verbal behavior approach

Dr. Herbst, ACT for yourself....for others—Applying ACT personally as an access to using with clients, families and supervisees

Dr. Plattner, Improving Compassionate Care Skills through Motivational Interviewing Training: A group Design

Dr. Seiverling & Dr. Williams, Current state of the behavior analytics feeding interventions literature

Ms. Kelly Bryson & Ms. Beth Ann Daily, Grown-up ABA: Shifting to Assent-Based treatment with adults

Ms. Stephanie Turner, A spectrum of services: autism resources in South Carolina

Dr. Dawes, A model for providing comprehensive assent-based practice

Dr. LeJeune & Ms. Shaunita Grase, How effective collaboration can be your superpower as a behavior analyst

Dr. Plattner, Why didn't they teach us that in grad school? A curriculum for ethical practice and leadership skills amidst rapid growth

Mr. Aaron Check, Quality of life as a guiding construct for service provision

Ms. Annamarie Stoudenmire & Ms. Kaelynn Partlow, Should I select a Goal because an assessment told me to?

Attendees appreciated that recordings were available after the conference, which allowed them to access all the great content from concurrent sessions. We received great feedback on the presentations from our members!

Our 2024 conference will be in Greenville, SC on November 4–5, 2024.

For more information about our conferences,

membership, or upcoming events, please visit our website, 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 KATHRYN KESTNER

The Southeastern Association for Behavior Analysis (SEABA) is a regional affiliate of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (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 U.S.

History

In 1984, Aaron Brownstein (UNC Greensboro) rallied a group of prominent behavior analysts in the Southeastern U.S. around the idea of a regional conference on the science and philosophy of behavior analysis. The Southeastern U.S. contained a large number of strong but geographically scattered academic and research groups (e.g., Florida, North Carolina, West Virginia, Alabama, and others) and 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 JEAB and JABA 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 40th annual SEABA conference will be held in Greenville, SC, November 14th–17th. More information, registration, and CEU pre-purchase will be available at www.seabaorg.com/

Tennessee ABA

BY LINDSEY BRADY

The Tennessee Association for Behavior Analysis (TABA) was established in 1997 and continues to concentrate on providing quality continuing education opportunities to behavior analysts across the state, supporting various state ABA programs, and ensuring the availability of applied behavior analysis services throughout all three regions. TABA has shifted to providing continuing education units both in-person and online since the COVID-19 pandemic ensuring members can access not only the conference but the regional meetings without risking their safety. During the 2023, conference we were again able to provide a hybrid conference which allowed for attendees to choose their desired attendance modality and offered post-conference access to all CEUs, not only those they chose to attend during the conference.

Currently, TABA has over 400 members. In addition to the annual state conference, there are three regional meetings to ensure all members can access their three free CEUs and the discount for the conference. The annual conference is typically held in Nashville providing a central forum to discuss all aspects of applied behavior analysis: researching, planning, and delivering services. While the conference addresses the needs of behavior analysts across

the state, the regional meetings allow for those needs of local behavior analysts to be discussed. Some meetings were conducted in-person while others were conducted virtually.

The 26th Annual Conference was again a hybrid conference using the BehaviorLive platform on November 9th and 10th. During this conference, approximately 461 behavior analysts attended to hear the following qualified invited speakers: Dr. Holly Gover, Dr. Nicole Hollins and Dr. Jonathan Tarbox. Ms. Ruby Mannankara-Cabrera was a noted speaker as well. Dr. Tarbox focused his presentations on ABA practitioners providing trauma-informed care. Dr. Hollins discussed the current status of ABA Equality-Focused Research in Schools. She also presented a guide for practitioners focused on toilet training. Dr. Grover discussed addressing food selectivity by extending the intervention to additional settings and populations. She also discussed promoting assent and choice when addressing food selectivity. Ms. Mannankara-Cabrera provided two presentations concerning cultural competency. She addressed components of cultural responsiveness and the current state of culturally responsive care in ABA.

Our Executive Committee is made up of the following individuals: Lauren Weaver as President, Nea Houchins-Juarez as Past-President, Stephanie Marshall as President-Elect, Haley Kelso as West TN Regional Representative, Amber Groat, as Middle TN Regional Representative, Amy Jo Schamens as East TN Regional Representative, Scott Gerrell as West TN Student Representative, Eseoghene Oderhohwo as Middle TN Student Representative, and Jennifer Holder as East TN Student Representative. Our committee chairs include Michelle Hopton, Zachary Stevens, and Mollie Todt (co-chairs, Continuing Education), Erin Szarka (Publications), Ashton Fisher (Social Media), Clinton Smith and James Meindl (Professional Standards), and Zachary Stevens (Membership), Pablo Juarez and James Meindl (Public Policy Committee co-chairs). Lindsey Brady continues as the Director of Operations. Collectively, this group is dedicated to providing its members with the continuing education needed to provide quality services in TN.

Texas ABA

BY RACHEL L. KRAMER

TxABA Mission

The Texas Association for Behavior Analysis (TxABA) continues to be guided by the mission to advance the science of behavior analysis to improve the world in which we live by disseminating knowledge from the science and providing resources to the behavior analytic community and the public in Texas in an ethical and high-quality manner. For more information on TxABA please visit www.txaba.org.

TxABA Membership

Membership in TxABA is a 365-day membership from the date of payment; individuals may join anytime during the year. Voting/affiliate membership is \$60 and student/RBT membership is \$30. Members receive discounts on conference registration as well as free registration and CEUs for the TxABA webinar speaker series. Members may serve on TxABA Committees to help shape behavior analysis in Texas and participate in TxABA SIGs. Voting members may vote in TxABA elections and those meeting all requirements may be nominated to serve on the executive council.

TxABA Executive Council (EC)

The 2023–2024 Executive Council consisted of President Dr. Summer Gainey, Past-President Jeffrey Dillen, Council Member Dr. Berenice de la Cruz, Council Member Dr. Joseph Dracobly, Council Member Dr. Leslie Neely, Council Member Dr. Janet Enriquez, Senior Student Representative Marcus Strum, Junior Student Representative Michelle Castillo (non-voting), TxABA Executive Director Rachel Kramer (non-voting), and TxABA Secretary-Treasurer Jennifer Hines (non-voting). The TxABA Executive Council (EC) gathered together in July to set the Strategic Plan for the next three years. The EC continued to meet monthly to discuss strategic plan progress, monitor the budget, discuss upcoming events, oversee TxABA Committees, approve SIGs, appoint TxABA PPG officers, and discuss current events/issues in the field.

TxABA Strategic Plan

During the Spring, we conducted a SWOT analysis with the Executive Council followed by a member survey for input on short-term goals relevant to the organization's long-term goals. The TxABA Executive Council met in person in July 2023 to set the TxABA Strategic Plan for the next 3 years. As we grow, TxABA has set short-term goals to reach our overarching long-term goals: 1) Develop the organizational infrastructure for committees, special interest groups (SIGs), the executive council, and administration; 2) Support the quality and growth of the science and practice of behavior analysis through expansion of funding opportunities for science, practice, and research, and through the expansion of service offerings beyond the annual conference; 3) Increase the visibility and awareness of behavior analysis and TxABA among the public, and; 4) TxABA will engage in activities that promote diversity, inclusion, and equity as it pertains to its members, constituents, and conference attendees. The majority of short-term goals will be implemented through TxABA Committees, supported by the TxABA Secretary-Treasurer, and by the TxABA Executive Director.

TxABA Annual Conference and Awards

TxABA hosted its 39th Annual Conference in Houston, TX on April 11–14, 2024. It was a hybrid conference with BehaviorLive streaming the conference and providing asynchronous viewing for most presentations after the conference. TxABA continued this year to offer pre-conference workshops on Thursday. The conference consisted of nine tracks with all invited presentations: Neurodevelopmental Disorders Track, Neurodevelopmental Disorder Track – Adults, Professional Track, General Track, Education Track, Social Issues Track, Organization Behavior Management Track, Research Track, and Niche Areas Track. New this year, we partnered with the OBM Network, an ABAI SIG, to host their conference and collaborate on the TxABA OBM Track. This was a great partnership that increased the visibility of the OBM Network to TxABA Members interested in OBM. Thank you to everyone who made the 2024 TxABA Conference a success! The 40th Annual Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Dallas, TX on April 24–27, 2025. We look forward to celebrating 40 years of behavior analysts gathering in Texas to discuss research and support practitioners.

Two awards were presented this year at the TxABA 2024 Conference. Dr. Wayne Fisher, who received his Ph.D. at the University of Texas, was presented with the Enduring Career Contributions to Behavior Analysis award for his many contributions to our field during his extensive and ongoing career. Dr. Fisher’s methodological

research advances and clinical research programs have shaped how the field assesses and treats severe behavior disorders and autism around the world. He has been a leader at three prestigious behavior analytic programs, Kennedy Krieger Institute, Monroe-Meyer Institute, and Rutgers University Center for Autism Research, Education, and Service. Dr. Fisher has mentored countless master’s students, doctoral students, and post-doctoral students, leaving a legacy of sophisticated and compassionate behavior analysts dedicated to helping individuals with severe behavior. Duy Le was presented with the Career Contributions to Behavior Analysis in Texas award for his dedication to Applied Behavior Analysis and his impact on the Texas behavior analytic landscape in his over 25-year and counting career. Duy has made contributions in both research and practice while developing a program that has brought behavior analysts to the state, mentored graduate & undergraduate students, advocated for behavior analytic services and families in Texas, and collaborated with pediatricians, psychologists, and other service providers. As Duy has moved up in management positions, he continues to work directly with children and families. Duy has served twice as a TxABA Council Member, on several TxABA Committees, the TxABA Public Policy Group’s advisory committee, and plays bass guitar in the Operant Lab Band, a conference favorite. TxABA was honored to recognize these two individuals for their numerous contributions to behavior analysis over their careers.

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more about our
treatment options

Other Activities

We continue to update the functionality, content, and style of our website to increase ease of use across platforms. We are growing our resources page on the website with contributions from two different committees. As we continue to update, you will find different Texas landscapes on our website, symbolizing TxABA's commitment to being an organization for the science and practice of behavior analysis for the entire state from the piney woods and coastal regions across the hill country and plains regions to the desert and mountain regions. TxABA values the diversity that makes Texas beautiful and unique. \

TxABA continued to increase dissemination beyond the annual conference with the TxABA Speaker Series webinars that are free to TxABA members. TxABA will continue the webinar series in 2024. In February, the Chair of the Program Committee and the Executive Director visited El Paso to start planning a regional conference this Fall 2024.

TxABA currently has nine standing committees that were created to implement the strategic plan. TxABA standing committees are the Awards Committee, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity for Everyone Committee, Grants and Funding Committee, Professional Issues and Development Committee, Program Committee, Public Dissemination Committee, Special Interest Group Committee, and Student Committee. TxABA has three Special Interest Groups (SIGs): Alamo City Behavior Analysts, Austin Area (ATX) ABA, and Severe Behavior. Our OBM SIG and BFSR SIG dissolved this year, we are encouraging our membership interest in those areas to get involved in the corresponding ABAI SIGs.

TxABA Public Policy Group (PPG)

The TxABA PPG is the sister organization of TxABA that focuses on legislative issues and lobbying. The 2023–2024 TxABA PPG officers consisted of President Mariel Cremonie-Fernandez Past-President Rany Thommen, Treasurer Berenice de la Cruz, Secretary Anna Sciarillo, and Communications Christina Martin. The TxABA PPG is working during the interim year to continue relationship development with legislatures, survey members to set priorities for the 2025 legislative year, and hired a new part-time lobbyist. The TxABA PPG officers provided a workshop at our annual conference with revenue going to the TxABA PPG and were invited speakers on the topic of improving the well-being of behavior-analytic consumers through public policy advocacy. For more information, please visit behavioranalysispu.wixsite.com/txabappg.

Utah ABA

BY CALEB STANELY

This past year in Utah has been very productive and exciting for the UtABA board and members. We have continued to embed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as a central part within all UtABA committees and have remained committed to promoting contemporary and ethical practice to UtABA members and practitioners in the state.

Our many committees have diligently engaged in various work and demonstrated continued commitment in ensuring the smooth operation of UtABA. The Public Policy Committee has worked incredibly hard the past year, as there has been ongoing legislation which affects practitioners in the state. The Public Policy Committee has worked to ensure such legislation is aligned with our ethical and practice standards. Our Professional Development Committee offered several webinars over the past year, as well as organized our annual conference. The theme of the annual conference this year was “contemporary practice in ABA” and we had several speakers who were able to provide us with content on this topic. The webinars and annual conference were received very well by our members, who reported on positive aspects and valuable content from the webinars and conference. Our Public Relations committee was busy keeping UtABA members up to date on the latest happenings in behavior analysis around the state. Among other things, they posted information about upcoming webinars and conferences, and shared tips for people getting ready to sit for the BCBA exam.

We are very grateful for all individuals who dedicate their time to the UtABA committees, as well as committed membership who continue to promote and provide ethical, contemporary practice in the state of Utah.

Vermont ABA

BY MEGAN MAYO

Vermont Association for Applied Behavior Analysis (VtABA), established in 2004, continues to fulfill its mission to support the growth of behavior analysis in Vermont. The current board consists of 10 members, including one student member. Our current membership is 170 professionals and 13 students.

VtABA hosted various events in person and online in 2023 and into the new year. Every January, we hold our annual meeting and offer our members a full-day CEU event at no cost. In 2023, Dr. Justin Garwood, an education researcher from UVM, presented “Inclusive strategies for Youth with Behavior Problems” and “Ways to Avoid Burning Out.” Dr. Siri Ming provided the training, “Starting from Psychological Flexibility: RFT, ACT, and Behavior Analytic Practice” this January. Our annual meeting and training are now online to honor the treacherous driving conditions of rural Vermont in the winter.

We also host an annual state conference each May. In 2023, the conference was in our state capitol, Montpelier. Peter Gerhart presented “Assent and Social Validity” and “Developing Meaningful Skills in Autistic Learners.” Our in-person, single-day, single-track conferences provide an opportunity for our community to network and learn in a collaborative environment.

This year, 2024, is our 20th anniversary as an association, and we are planning an enhanced conference experience. We will hold the conference at the Sugarbush Resort on May 10th, a beautiful location in Vermont’s Mad River Valley. This year will feature multiple national and local presenters and our first-ever poster session.

VtABA has provided a multitude of learning and collaboration opportunities in 2023, most are included with membership. In October, we launched the VtABA Book Club, a bimonthly online meeting to discuss member-chosen ABA literature and is free for members. We also hosted a free online ethics CEU opportunity for members in October. The team from the podcast ABA Inside Track presented “The Ethics of Collaboration.” Lastly, we donated the use of our online platform to The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council. We assisted them in hosting an all-day workshop with Dr. Patrick McGreevy on his framework and curriculum, Essentials for Living.

2023 was an active year for VtABA; this energy will continue into 2024. The year began with the publication of “A Survey of the State of the Field of Applied Behavior Analysis in Vermont” in Behavior Analysis in Practice (Mayo & Hoffmann, 2024). VtABA was proud to assist in this project and hopes to continue to support Vermont practitioners and researchers in their different endeavors. Our Vice-Chair, Megan Mayo, presented a paper at ABAI in Philadelphia, “Moving ABA Towards Greater Social Validity and Acceptance within Minority Identities and Vulnerable Populations,” and was excited to connect with representatives from other chapters to discuss ways to help Vermont become more active in the larger ABA community. We plan on boosting our online presence and connection with the local and broader ABA community through increased content on our website and reviving our newsletter. We are scheduling workshops with Adam Hockman from WiderReach to help us with this goal. For more information on our chapter and what we’re working on, check out the following:

Website: www.vtaba.org

Facebook: [VT ABA](https://www.facebook.com/vtaba) (Nonprofit)

Instagram and Threads: [@vt_aba](https://www.instagram.com/vt_aba)

Virginia ABA

BY CHRISTINE EVANKO

The Virginia Association for Behavior Analysis (VirginiaABA® or VABA) is the affiliate chapter of ABAI in Virginia. We represent behavior analysts in Virginia

and have over 600 members. We hope this year to get back to our pre-COVID numbers of over 800 members. The Commonwealth of Virginia has the 12th largest certified BCBA-Ds, BCBAs, BCaBAs, and RBTs (combined) in the United States. The association has been in existence since 2003 and is a 501c6 organization. This year we are celebrating our 20th Anniversary! VABA contracts with a lobbyist and has one paid contracted position, an Executive Director.

We have four goals that we use to achieve our mission of promoting and supporting the practice, research, and dissemination of behavior analysis throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. **Goal 1**—Improve Viability and Sustainability of the Organization; **Goal 2**—Provide Quality Service to Our Members; **Goal 3**—Strengthen the Diversity and Cultural Competence Within VABA and the Behavior Analysis Profession Across the Commonwealth; **Goal 4**—Advocate for the Science of Behavior Analysis in the Commonwealth. We are frequently monitoring our strategic plan to find better ways of serving our members.

This year our 20th annual conference was in Alexandria. We offer location-based special interest groups in Central VA, Tidewater, and Northern VA, which are providing additional professional development events to serve our members. Our Marketing & Membership, Student Engagement, Mentorship, and Public Policy Committees continue to meet and do the heavy lifting for our organization. We hired a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultant who spoke and our conference and delivered an actionable report.

In 2023, VABA distributed four newsletters that were each opened by 60% of our membership or more. We published 14 blog posts with information that affects practitioners in Virginia. We communicated to over 2400 people via Facebook, over 1100 via Twitter, and over 500 people on our newer Instagram account and over 100 on our newest LinkedIn account. We publicized more than 25 jobs on our website. Our 2023 Annual Conference sold out 40 days early at 300 attendees. We expanded to a capacity of 500 in 2024. We published an annual report on our website—www.virginiaaba.org/about/annual-reports/. This year we are going to give out three awards at our conference (names not available at the time of publication)—The E. Scott Geller Award for Distinguished Service to Applied Behavioral Science, The Virginia Association for Behavior Analysis Early Career Award, and The Virginia Association for Behavior Analysis Award for Excellence in Direct Service Provision. We plan to continue these awards annually.

VABA Membership offers many benefits, including an annual conference, networking opportunities, quarterly newsletter, CEU offerings (including the conference and beyond), members-only resources, lobbying and policy efforts, location-based special interest groups, and

discounts on a variety of outside products. The VABA Board of Directors works diligently to make sure we are relevant to behavior analysts in Virginia. We meet every other month and stay in continual contact to provide benefits that our members request and need. We are proud to represent behavior analysis in Virginia.

Wisconsin ABA

BY MEGAN SELLERS

The Wisconsin Association for Behavior Analysis (WisABA) is in its 20th year of supporting behavior analysts in the state of Wisconsin through networking and professional development opportunities. WisABA continues to promote awareness of behavior analysis and advocates for behavior analysts in the state of Wisconsin and the clients they serve. WisABA continues to collaborate with the Department of Health Services (DHS) in their stakeholder meetings that are held twice a year. Through this collaboration, information as well as any updates regarding the behavioral treatment benefit through the State of Wisconsin is disseminated to practicing behavior analysts that are members of WisABA. Our annual conference was held in Milwaukee this past October across two days. A variety of speakers presented, bringing informative talks and facilitated collaborative discussions among our members. The WisABA Award for Contributions to Behavior Analysis in the State of Wisconsin was awarded to Nicole Sorenson, BCBA and

Clinical Supervisor for her outstanding contributions to the practice of ABA in the state of Wisconsin. A focus of WisABA is to continue to provide opportunities for continuing education to practicing BCBAs, which our conference and quarterly general membership meetings provide. WisABA's website and marketing committee work hard to maintain our website to best suit our members and their needs. WisABA's membership grew in 2024 with the hard work of this committee. These efforts will continue in 2024 as we work to serve as a valuable resource for our members. WisABA's public relations committee is hard at work to grow awareness of WisABA by increasing access to information via social media as well as other outlets. In addition, the public relations committee has identified areas to increase WisABA's membership through outreach to students of behavior analysis and practicing registered behavior technicians (RBT). In 2024, WisABA will continue to collaborate with DHS to encourage and facilitate communication between this funding source and those providing services in an effort to increase access to behavior analytic services for clients in the state of Wisconsin. WisABA's conference committee has begun to plan the annual conference for 2024. This year's conference will take place October 4–5th in Milwaukee. We hope to have many of you join us as we welcome a wide range of speakers and poster presentations. For information on becoming a member and our conference, please visit www.wisaba.org. ❖



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

Hong Kong ABA

BY EMILY KWAN

HKABA Chapter Reorganizes and Charts a Path Forward

Introduction

The Hong Kong Association for Behavior Analysis (HKABA) has faced challenges during the pandemic years of COVID-19, leading to a period of inactivity. However, the chapter has recently taken significant steps towards reorganizing and revitalizing itself. A dedicated group of about 10 professionals, consisting of Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) and BCBA-Doctoral (BCBA-D) practitioners, has reconvened to discuss the future directions and activities of HKABA. This article provides a summary of the recent developments within the chapter, including the resignation of the past president, ongoing efforts to fill various roles, and the formulation of a development plan for 2024.

Inactive Years During the Pandemic

Like many organizations worldwide, HKABA faced disruptions and challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. The safety measures and restrictions necessitated by the global health crisis resulted in a temporary halt to chapter activities. However, with the situation gradually improving, HKABA recognized the need to revive its operations and continue its mission of promoting behavior analysis in Hong Kong.

Reorganizing and Resuming Activities

In a positive turn of events, a group of us comprising both BCBA and BCBA-D practitioners, has taken the initiative to rekindle the chapter's activities. These individuals, with their extensive experience and expertise in behavior analysis, have resumed regular meetings to discuss the future of HKABA.

Change in Leadership

It is important to note that during this reorganization process, the past president of HKABA has stepped down from their position. The resignation of the past president opens up opportunities for new leadership to emerge and guide HKABA in its next phase.

Defining Roles and Responsibilities

As part of the ongoing reorganization, HKABA is currently in the process of filling various roles to support its operations effectively. Identifying suitable individuals who can contribute to the chapter's objectives is crucial in ensuring a well-rounded team. By allocating responsibilities and tasks to dedicated members, HKABA aims to enhance its organizational structure and streamline its activities.

Formulating a Development Plan for 2024

To ensure a clear and focused path forward, HKABA is actively working on formulating a comprehensive development plan for 2024. This plan will outline the

chapter's goals, strategies, and initiatives for the coming year. By setting specific objectives and outlining actionable steps, HKABA aims to maximize its impact on behavior analysis in Hong Kong and further strengthen the profession.

Conclusion

The Hong Kong Association for Behavior Analysis (HKABA) is undergoing a reorganization and revitalization process after a period of inactivity during the COVID-19 pandemic. With the dedication and expertise of our BCBA and BCBA-D professionals, HKABA has resumed meetings to discuss the future directions and activities of the chapter. While acknowledging the resignation of the past president, the chapter is committed to moving forward and embracing new leadership opportunities. Concurrently, efforts are underway to fill various roles within the organization to support its operations effectively. Additionally, a development plan for 2024 is being formulated to guide HKABA's initiatives and maximize its impact on behavior analysis in Hong Kong. With these positive steps, HKABA is poised to regain its momentum and continue its mission of promoting behavior analysis within the community.

Icelandic ABA

BY HANNA STEINUNN STEINGRÍMSDÓTTIR

The Icelandic Association of Behavior Analysis (ICE-ABA) 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 152 members. A part of the association's purpose is to introduce the different behavior analysis master's and doctoral programs available to Icelandic students. Currently there are two MSc programs in Applied Behavior Analysis, one at Reykjavik University and one at the University of Iceland. The first cohort graduated from Reykjavik University in 2021 and since then we have seen the profession and practice of behavior analysts grow fast in Iceland.

For the past couple of years ICE-ABA has been working on setting up educational, supervision, and continuing education standards for behavior analysts in Iceland. The board and other members of ICE-ABA have worked hard at setting up these standards and will present the final version of the educational, supervision, and continuing educational standards, and a draft of the ethical guidelines at our annual meeting this year.

In May 2023, ICE-ABA was changed into a professional organization. The purpose of the organization will be to oversee the registration of behavior analysts in Iceland, who meet the standards for Icelandic behavior analysts. The new website and registration system will be introduced at our annual meeting this year.

ICE-ABA's largest event this past year was the ICE-ABA conference in October. The invited speakers were the well-known Dr. Holly Gover, Dr. Einar Ingvarsson, Dr. Adithyan (Dithu) Rajaraman, Dr. Timothy Vollmer, Dr. Jennifer Austin, and Dr. Kristín Guðmundsdóttir. The conference was attended by approximately 120 participants, our biggest conference to date! We have already started planning our next conference that will be held in October 2025. We are excited to announce that we will be collaborating with the OBM Network when organizing the conference!

In 2023 ICEABA re-elected Berglind Sveinbjörnsdóttir, PhD, BCBA as president and Hanna Steinunn Steingrimsdóttir, PhD as secretary. Herdís I. A. Svansdóttir, MSc, replaced Steinunn Hafsteinsdóttir, MSc, BCBA as treasurer.

The members of ICE-ABA are excited for the future. We aim to continue working on promoting the science of behavior in Iceland and being a professional reference group for scientists and practitioners in the field of behavior analysis.

Israel ABA

BY MEY-ELLE NAVEH

The Israeli Association for Behavior Analysis (IABA) wishes to open its report for 2023 with the events of October 7th, 2023: the horrific massacre carried out by the Hamas terror organization against the citizens of the State of Israel. Children, babies, women, men, and soldiers were murdered, massacred, burned, raped, and kidnapped from what is supposed to be the safest place for all people—their own home in their own country, only because they are Jews.

We pray that all the hostages held by the Hamas terror organization will return soon to their homes and their families all safe and sound. We also pray for the health and well-being of the IDF soldiers and all security forces and hope for better days for Israel and the entire world.

During 2023, IABA actively promoted the field of behavior analysis and its practitioners. We wish to bring some of the organization's activities for 2023:

Professional Development

Two lectures by Prof. Esther Dromi about autism in the 21st century:

- *Myths about autism: What can be learned from scientific studies.*
- *Developmental model for clinical evaluation of children with autism.*

Both lectures were free of charge to IABA members.

Dr. Avner Fraidlin gave a lecture on the topic of training teachers in video modeling and providing behavioral feedback.

Dr. Shiri Ayvazo gave a lecture called *When N is Greater*

Than 1: Functional Assessment in Classroom Ecology.

Dr. Elian Aljadeff lectured about tools from the field of OBM for effective leadership of behavior analysts.

We have published a 100-page ethics folder on our behalf, which includes articles, a Hebrew-translated code of ethics, an informed consent form, an example of a contractual agreement, and more.

We published an informational article in the *Israel Hayom* newspaper about behavior analysis as a field proven to be beneficial and focus on improving lives and doing good while maintaining the principles of compassion, respect, integrity, and professional competence, as well as another article about the day-to-day life of a behavior analyst working with a population on the autistic spectrum. Thank you to Mrs. Rachel Tzur Hembra for her learning, sharing, and incredible contribution to the article.

Social promotion of a united professional community:

- We celebrated the International Anniversary of Behavioral Analysts with a celebratory presentation.
- We participated in the first international conference at Kinneret Academic College.
- Promotion of regulation of the profession:
- We are in regular and continuous communication with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, professional organizations, and Parliament members to promote the regulation of the profession.
- An open meeting was held for all community members on 2.7.2023 about the regulation and the draft of the Ministry of Health. We had an open dialogue and formulated an agreed draft for the definition of a behavior analyst in the Ministry of Health.
- We maintain contact between behavior analysts and professional organizations or individuals looking for behavior analysts.

Within the association framework, we have an ethics and law committee that provides an ongoing response to ethical dilemmas of behavior analysts.

We closed 2023 and opened 2024 with a professional conference on self-management from the perspective of science and practice.

IABA has existed since 2002 and is a professional, veteran, stable, and representative home for all behavioral analysts in Israel.

Istituto Europeo per lo Studio del Comportamento Umano (IESCUM)

BY PAOLO MODERATO

IESCUM (the Istituto Europeo per lo Studio del Comportamento Umano; www.iescum.org) is, since 2007, the Italian chapter of ABAL, established to translate into specific actions a vision of experimental and applied

behavior science in Italy. Since its founding, IESCUM has been committed to promoting the full range of behavior analytic scientific and humanistic potential. Based on this premise, IESCUM is dedicated to the training, development, and evaluation of behavior analysis in clinical settings in various forms.

IESCUM has offered in Italy over the past year experiential trainings in clinical behavior analysis, acceptance and commitment therapy, and applied behavior analysis with scholars and professionals such as P. N. Chase, Ruth Anne Rehfeldt, Siri Ming, and S. Ala'i-Rosales. The dissemination of a sound culture in ABA has been carried out institutionally through a 2-year postgraduate course sequence ("Master" in Italian) in Behavior Analysis, now in its XVII edition, along with several 180-hour and 60-hour courses targeting operators who aim to become assistant behavior analysts or behavioral technicians.

In collaboration with IULM University in Milan, IESCUM has promoted a postgraduate course in Behavioral Economics and Nudging. The course, now in its fourth edition, is the first of its kind in Italy and aims to apply behaviorally informed policies to organizations and society.

IESCUM is participating (2020–2023) in an Erasmus+ project entitled "Developing Professional Qualifications and Training for European Behaviour Analysts." The behaviour analyst occupation is not formally recognised in the European Union, equally no US/international certification/license can be formally acknowledged in UE. The overall objectives of this project, which is the result of the cooperation of international partners coming from the United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Ireland, Greece, Sweden, and Italy, are to ensure transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications for behavior analysts in Europe, tackle skills gaps, shortages, and mismatches and support persons with special needs and/or disabilities.

In January 2020, just before the pandemic, IESCUM played a pivotal role in founding ABA Italia. In Spring 2022, the IESCUM Board resolved to merge with ABA Italia to establish the largest Italian Association of BA'sts. ABA Italia (www.abaitalia.org) brings together 435 behavior analysts, 181 assistant behavior analysts, and 488 behavioral technicians who have passed the minimum training standards to ensure families. At the moment, 3879 are the students still in training.

In September 2022, the first ABA Italia congress was held, with the participation, among others, of Martha Pelaez, Thomas Szabo and Darin Cairns.

Over the years, IESCUM has developed a network of national centers for early intensive behavioral interventions with autistic children. The network includes centers that are either managed by IESCUM or whose equipment is systematically supervised by IESCUM. Since 2021, IESCUM is collaborating with Behaviour Labs, a software house focused on social robotics, VR application, and new

technologies dedicated to serving people in the Autism spectrum, to open a new center in Catania.

In March 2023, IESCUM is organizing a conference on ABA, Social Robotics, and New Technologies in Catania in collaboration with the Italian Society of Child Psychiatry. In 2023, IESCUM will also organize the third Italian conference on third-generation behavior therapies called Mindfulness, Acceptance, and Compassion. This conference has been held in Milan since 2017 and sees the attendance of about 500 professionals and researchers.

Japanese ABA

BY MICHIKO SORAMA

The Japanese Association for Behavior Analysis (J-ABA) was established in 1986 to promote the experimental, theoretical, and applied analysis of behavior in Japan. Currently, J-ABA has more than 1,000 members. Members come from a wide variety of professions and include academics, practitioners, teachers, social workers, medical doctors, nurses, animal trainers, and businesspeople. In 2023, we celebrated our 40th anniversary continuing from last year. We had special events for the celebration. The symposium titled "Connecting experimental behavior analysis to the future" was held at the annual conference. Also, the book titled *Language and behavior: Basic and applied analysis of verbal behavior* was reissued. The original book was published in 2001. The symposium which focused on the book was held on November 18 in Yokohama. The 41st annual convention was held in person at Ritsumeikan University in Osaka from September 8 to 10 in 2023. The 42nd annual convention will be held at Komazawa University in Tokyo from September 13 to 15 in 2024.

Jordanian ABA

BY MAHMOUD AL-SHEYAB

In the current landscape of applied behavior analysis, the absence of regulatory frameworks governing the practice of Jordanian behavior analysts poses significant challenges. Without defined guidelines or professional requirements, the field lacks a standardized approach to ensuring quality and adherence to best practices. In response to this gap, our collaboration with ABA Resources Academy has been instrumental in addressing these critical needs.

Through targeted training initiatives, we have successfully equipped over 100 families and 150 special education teachers with foundational knowledge in applied behavior analysis, facilitating their pursuit of RBT/ABAT certifications. This concerted effort aims not only to cultivate a deeper understanding of the intrinsic value of applied behavior analysis but also to catalyze a surge in demand for these specialized services. By advocating for greater recognition and support, we are advocating for the establishment of comprehensive policies and regulations that

will safeguard the integrity and efficacy of applied behavior analysis practices.

Moreover, our commitment to professional development extends to transforming a cohort of 15 specialists into qualified QBAs, BCBA's, and QASP-S. While this initiative represents a significant leap forward, the urgency for more qualified professionals and heightened awareness of the transformative impact of applied behavior analysis remains paramount. Looking ahead, our strategic collaboration with ABA Resources Academy will culminate in the launch of the inaugural Jordanian journal dedicated to applied behavior analysis in Arabic. Additionally, we are preparing to release a comprehensive textbook in Arabic that delves into the intricacies of applied behavior analysis and its multifaceted applications.

Embracing a spirit of collaboration and shared vision, we invite our esteemed colleagues to join us in fortifying our collective efforts towards advancing the frontiers of applied behavior analysis services within national institutions and centers. As we navigate this dynamic landscape, your steadfast support and unwavering commitment are invaluable assets, and we extend our heartfelt appreciation for your dedication and partnership in our pivotal mission.

Kenya ABA

BY POOJA PANESAR

Kenya Association for Behavior Analysis (KABA) is moving forward with local registration this year. The process has been quite lengthy and arduous, but all documents have been accepted and verified, and we are in the vetting stage. Hopefully this should be complete soon, making us a legal local entity and recognized as part of an international organization.

There are four BCBA's and one QBA in Kenya currently, and we have had a few meetings to discuss the chapter's way forward. This has been quite exciting as we all have different areas of expertise and areas of interest, which cover everything from parent training, journal reviews, and dissemination of ABA with professionals as well. Discussions are also ongoing on the development of a regulatory body, or registration with a local licensure to recognize ABA. The challenge faced in our community is unsupervised ABA services for families with autistic children which needs to be monitored.

KABA is still lacking the manpower and resources to pick up pace as we would like, but we celebrate a huge milestone with the local registration and added number of certificants. The main team is comprised of the certificants, and all have families and work (power to women led organizations!) which limits the time we can volunteer. We hope to reach out to the community and begin memberships and other activities in the near future. We celebrate every milestone as we go along and keep moving one step at a time to ensure ABA will be disseminated positively and

any services under the ABA umbrella will be of the highest quality and well regulated.

Korean Association of Child and Adolescent Behavior Therapy

BY YUNHEE SHIN

The Korean Association of Child and Adolescent Behavior (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 Korean clinical behavior therapists in connection with international licensure. KACBT's mission is to share ABA information and collaborate with behavior therapists, parents, and others. Since 2009, KACBT has held many meetings, seminars, and conferences, as well as a case conference in collaboration with Daegu Cyber University, which also has a VCS program and QASP-S program in its department of behavior therapy. We shared with them a list of Korean practice organizations and suggested a supervision training program. KACBT is focused on challenging behavior of children and adolescents, offering support to caregivers and practitioners via workshops and case conferences. We have also connected with many clinics and organizations to provide positive behavior support.

Conference

2024 Summer seminars

Date: June. Date is not decided.

Venue: Daegu Learning Center, Daegu Cyber University

Membership

KACBT consists not only of college members, including professors and undergraduate students, but practitioners, special education teachers, and behavior analysts. We hope this joining of professors, researchers, and teachers will aid in efforts toward progress in the field of behavior therapy, and we welcome new members.

For more information, visit: kacbt.kr

Manitoba ABA

BY JENNIFER L. COOK

The Manitoba Association for Behaviour Analysis (MABA) is proud to be in its 19th year as an affiliated chapter of ABAA. Hereafter, we will describe several objectives that we have met. As an ongoing ACE provider since 2013, MABA offered free CEUs to our BACB-certified members at the Annual Conference on September 21, 2023. We hosted an incredible all-female lineup of speakers in a virtual format, welcoming 142

online registrants. Our keynote presenter, Shahala Alai-Rosales, PhD, BCBA-D, CPBA-AP (University of North Texas) presented on the “Contingencies of Joy.” Florence DiGennaro Reed, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA (University of Kansas) discussed training and supporting group home staff. Sarah Richling, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA (Auburn University) reviewed research on performance criteria and the concept of “mastery.” Mandy Rispoli, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA described current research in repetitive and ritualistic behaviour. Jennifer Cook, PhD, BCBA-D introduced research on conjugate schedules as they relate to promoting activity with music reinforcement. As a final presentation, the speakers joined in a panel to discuss the application of research in clinical practice.

We are looking forward to our 20th Annual Conference, to be held in the fall of 2024, as our first in-person conference since 2019. Additional information can be found at maba.ca/conference as it becomes available. We were also proud to host Raymond Miltenberger, PhD, BCBA-D for a special in-person half-day event on April 4th, 2024 held at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Miltenberger presented to MABA members on his research in the areas of safety skills and sport and fitness, offering an additional unique opportunity for CEUs for certificants, provided by MABA.

For the upcoming year, we will continue to work on our new and ongoing objectives and goals. Our key objectives for 2024 include continued CE opportunities for our members and opportunities for our members to present behaviour analytic work and network in-person at events. At the end of our event with Dr. Miltenberger, MABA provided free appetizers and beverages for networking with the speaker, MABA directors, and with other members. With the recent addition of two ABA professors at the University of Manitoba, and the first in-person conference format since 2019, we will re-introduce the opportunities for poster presentations. We also plan on continuing to explore opportunities to promote behaviour analysis in Manitoba through partnerships with local organizations, universities, and other Canadian ABAI chapters. Finally, we would like to continue to work on increasing our membership through various recruitment initiatives.

Dr. Joseph Pear (1938–2022), In Memoriam

As a final note, we would like to acknowledge the passing of Dr. Joseph Pear on December 29th, 2022. Joe was a highly influential researcher and professor at the University of Manitoba for 56 years, inspiring generations of students and behaviour analysts alike. As ABAI members will know, Joe was one-half of the “Martin & Pear duo,” co-authors of the impactful textbook, “Behaviour Modification: What It Is and How To Do It.” Indeed, Joe was collaborating with Garry on the most recent edition of this text, completing it in his final days into late 2022.

Joe Pear was also instrumental in the founding of MABA. We dedicated a MABA newsletter to Joe’s impactful legacy in Manitoba, in which several former students and colleagues provided commentary on their memories of. However, we’d like to give the final words to his nearest and dearest colleague of nearly six decades, Dr. Garry Martin. In Garry’s words, this is what he wrote about Joe in the MABA newsletter:

I am very happy to contribute to the honouring of the life and contributions of Joe Pear for his role in the history of Behavior Analysis in Manitoba and the World. I will describe some of Joe’s early contributions to Behavior Analysis in Manitoba, which may not be familiar to many current MABA members.

In the Fall of 1966, Joe began teaching in the Psychology Department at the U of M, and I began teaching psychology courses at St. Paul’s College (which did its own hiring in those days). Although there were no undergraduate or graduate courses in Behavior Modification or Behavior Analysis in those days, we both taught our students about Operant Conditioning and Respondent Conditioning. Our mutual interest in those topics was brought to our attention by our students, and Joe and I began to communicate.

In the Summer of 1967, four of my undergraduates and I began a behavioural training program for 10 children with autism at the Manitoba Developmental Center (MDC) at Portage La Prairie. To continue the program in the Fall, Joe and I both gave our undergraduate students the option of writing several term papers, or carpooling to MDC in groups of 4, and each group being there for 2 hours each day for 2 weeks to continue the training sessions with the children. Joe and I described data on the effectiveness of the program in our first co-authored paper (Martin, G. L. & Pear, J.J.: 1970. Short term participation by 130 undergraduates as operant conditioners in an ongoing project with autistic children. *The Psychological Record*, 20, 327–336.)

In the Fall of 1968, a Behavior Modification Department was established at St. Amant, the main residence for persons with developmental disabilities and children with autism in Winnipeg. Joe was hired as a consultant, and he and two of his graduate students, John Beiberdorf and Carl Stephens, began the research program at St. Amant.

In the Fall of 1968, Joe and I jointly taught the first Behavior Modification graduate course at U of M. In 1969, St. Paul’s College became a part of the U of M, and Joe and I were both members of the U of M Psychology Department. In 1971, we established the Graduate Program in Behavior Modification (now the ABA Program).

By the mid-1970s, Joe and I were in communication frequently with two audiences: undergraduates taking courses in Behavior Modification, and practitioners applying Behavior Modification to persons with Developmental Disabilities and children with Autism. However there was

no textbook available to serve both audiences. Therefore Joe and I co-authored the First Edition of our book, *Behavior Modification: What It Is And How To Do It*, which was published in 1978. The 12th Edition will be published. In the coming year, Joe played a big role in helping me write the 12th Edition before he passed away. Various editions have been translated into Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Chinese, and Korean, and the book is used as a textbook at Universities in many countries.

In 2001, Joe and I, with Dickie Yu and Steve Holborn, formed the ABA Admissions Area in the Department of Psychology. In 2004, current and former ABA students founded MABA, with Kirsten Wirth and Kerry Walters playing a lead role in founding and directing MABA.

Since Joe first came to the U of M in 1966, he played a huge role in Manitoba's International Impact on Behavior Analysis. I am very thankful for Joe's Friendship, and for his many distinguished contributions to research, scholarship, and teaching at the U of M.

For a recent exploration of Joe's life's work, see also:

Crone-Todd, D. E., & Silva, F. J. (2023). Joseph J. Pear (1938–2022): Inventive, Innovative, Inquisitive. *The Psychological Record*, 73(4), 611–618.
doi.org/10.1007/s40732-023-00569-7

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.

The focus of NZABA is to host an annual conference in late August. In 2023 the conference was held at Victoria University of Wellington, returning to a tried-and-true venue. A primary purpose of the conference is to support graduate students to share their research in a positive, supportive and collegial atmosphere. Given this focus, we like to share the names and topics of student prize winners in this report. The topics of the awarded talks and poster also showcase the evolving variety of topics in experimental and applied behavior analysis discussed at our conference.

In 2023, the judges awarded prizes to Lana Perich (Auckland University) for her talk entitled *Effectiveness of Training Videos and Behaviour Skills Training to Teach Dog Training Skills to Dog-Rescue Foster Volunteers*, Liam Crowley-de Thierry (Victoria University of Wellington) for his talk entitled *Investigating Emotion Expression of the Body through Generative Modelling of Human Gait*, Svetlana Daly (Auckland University) for her talk entitled *Soft Skills: What does the sector want?*, Jack Drummond (Victoria University of Wellington) for his talk entitled *The Implications of Nudging to Encourage Pro-Environmental Behaviour: The Moderating Effects of Biospheric Values and Carbon Footprints*, Stephanie Xie (Auckland University) for her talk entitled *Behaviour*

analysis as a tool to support and understand sustainability related behaviours, and Chris Pouwels (Victoria University of Wellington) for his poster entitled the *Effects of "Should" and "Would" Decision Framing on Probability Discounting of Rewards for Self and Others*.

The NZABA conference also hosted a symposium run by our sister organisation the Society of Behaviour Analysis Aotearoa New Zealand, focused on professional practice issues of particular relevance to practitioners in Aotearoa. This continues to be a fruitful collaboration for both groups, and we plan to co-host another symposium offering CEUs.

In 2024 our conference will be held in Auckland, hosted by the Auckland Institute of Technology (AUT). Auckland is directly accessible from many international destinations. Our website at nzaba.wordpress.com/ 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 at facebook.com/newzealandaba for hosts more informal discussion and shares links to items of general interest to those working in the field of behavior analysis.

Norwegian ABA

BY ERIK ARNTZEN

In 2023 the Norwegian Association (NAFO) had about 550 members, and this number has decreased a bit over the last couple of years. Members of NAFO hold a bachelor's degree in social welfare, a master's degree in behavior science or a doctoral degree in behavior analysis.

The Norwegian Association arranges a five-day annual conference in April. About 500 people attended the conference at Storefjell, a venue in the mountains approximately a three-hour drive northwest of Oslo. Usually, an invited international scholar attends the conference.

The Norwegian ABA publishes two journals: *The Norwegian Journal of Behavior Analysis* and *The European Journal of Behavior Analysis*. *The Norwegian Journal of Behavior Analysis* is published twice a year. The journal is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes papers on research, practice, and conceptual issues in behavior analysis, mainly in Norwegian. From 2011 abstracts in English are included. *The European Journal of Behavior Analysis* (www.ejoba.org) is a peer-reviewed journal published twice a year. EJOBA is primarily for the original publication of experimental reports and theoretical or conceptual papers relevant to analyzing individual organisms' behavior. EJOBA has published several special issues since the first volume was published in 2000. EJOBA has a collaboration with Taylor & Francis Group.

Ontario ABA

BY KIEVA HRANCHUK

Our 2023 Year in Review:

Our current President, Jaime Santana, M.ADS, BCBA happily reports that our association has experienced consistent growth in our membership during the past year.

As we began the implementation of our strategic plan for 2023–2024, here are some highlights of our accomplishments for 2023 as reported by our past President, Dr. Nancy Marchese, Psyc. D., Ph.D., BCBA-D:

Strategic Priority 1: Build the capacity of ONTABA to achieve its mission and goals

- Hired and trained our first employee, Laura Amodio
- Starting to track data on volunteer hours
- Comparison of other professional organizations
- Benchmarking for hiring Executive positions
- Draft of new by-laws for ONCA compliance - Currently being voted on by the membership
- Updates on policies including AODA, privacy, and whistleblower. These can be found on our website

Strategic Priority 2: Provide leadership and advocate for ethical, effective and safe behavioural services in Ontario

- Continued work with CPO on professional regulation
- ABA working group
- Letter to CPO related to Tiered Service Delivery
- Town Halls Oct 2023 - Night #1 - 275 participants, Night #2—158 participants
- Government relations work including establishing a working group for government relations established.

Strategic Priority 3: Enhance services and supports for all ONTABA members, in all parts of the province

- Many events accessible virtually (townhalls, webinars, conference, AGM)
- Workplace Capacity Grant—Business Toolkit with PP-SIG
- Significant updates to member perks
- Locker storage clean up
- Draft of workplace capacity survey
- Updates to website (e.g., perks, jurisprudence resources, user experience improvement)
- Completed an analysis of our association fees and perks that we offer in comparison to other comparable professional organizations. The following two graphs illustrate these analyses

Other Notable 2023 Accomplishments:

- ABA Success Stories campaign
- The Analyst podcast
- 792 attendees at ONTABACon, 576 in person and 217 online! ONTABA celebrated their 30th birthday at this event!
- Successful evening for behaviour analysis event
- Successful Clinical Conversations CEU Event
- Website and benefit updates

Our Plans for 2024:

Dr. Marchese reported that she believes the future of behavior analysis in Ontario is incredibly bright. With over 1800 members, growth of membership continues to be on an upward trend. Members are looking for increased services and supports from the Association. Administrative Assistant and Consultants have been key to offering support, but it is not enough. Board is overstretched and work well exceeds reasonableness for volunteer positions and beyond vision, strategy and risk management. Hiring Executive positions will be key to the future.

Updates to our bylaws were successfully voted in by our membership and will come into effect during the 2024–2025 year.

We look forward to continuing to grow our membership, host valuable CEU events as well as our annual conference which will take place in Toronto, Ontario on November 7th and 8th, 2024.

Our most exciting update for 2024 is the achievement of regulation for behaviour analysts in Ontario beginning on July 1st, 2024. Members of the behaviour-analytic community in Ontario have been working tirelessly toward achieving regulation for our professionals for many years and we are very much looking forward to joining the umbrella of regulated health professionals within the province!

Our future is bright and our mission remains strong,

Philippines ABA

BY MARIA CONJUANGCO AND JOSEPHINE DE JESUS

2023 was a year that Philippine ABA (PABA) managed to complete its Phase 1 training programs initiated before the covid pandemic with the Local Government Units and its participating Community Health Services.

PABA offered several training workshops mostly to Community Health Centers who needed assistance in their programs for children with autism. Participants were mostly parents and caregivers of children with autism who had minimal financial means to avail of full intervention programs. Basic training and therapy programs were introduced in giving care, guidance and support to the intervention and improvement of the learned skills of these children in their homes and ability to assimilate in their communities. PABA developed post-training consultations for participants to avail and have easy access for them to maintain continuity and consistency and address difficulties experienced in their respective programs. PABA scheduled to launch its Phase 2 training program to the same beneficiaries in 2024 as a follow-up course.

PABA accommodated more on-line seminars requested and organized by ABA practitioners, institutions and parents coming from the Visayan Region of the country. The on-line programs basically addressed local issues to be adopted by ABA practitioners and bridging the gap of latest information and development in ABA practice.

The convenience and accessibility of on-line training and seminars attracted more interested organizations from other parts of the country in availing of PABA's services. More organizations started collaborating with PABA to give assistance in introducing ABA awareness and basic training programs adaptable to their local communities.

PABA hosted two workshops requested by two hospitals in support of their training and awareness programs for their credentialed professionals and paraprofessional practitioners by promoting ABA as an effective intervention for individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. More medical professionals have become more aware of the capabilities of this science-based program and indicated ABA programs in their recommended interventions.

PABA offered more on-line lectures and seminars to most institutions as this emerged as a more effective vehicle for PABA to achieve one of its goals in providing assistance and accessibility in educating students about ABA practice in the country. More students participated in the lectures and higher interest in pursuing further education in the field was indicated. Likewise, PABA extended assistance to individuals seeking guidance and mentorship in acquiring their certifications.

For the coming year 2024, PABA will be hosting more on-line lectures to accommodate requests from various groups outside of Metro Manila. It will aim to help address various issues and concerns of practitioners in promoting more effective ABA programs and to address the high demand for a quality intervention for children diagnosed with autism and related disorders.

PABA aims to bring more speakers and lecturers in its seminars and workshops to provide the latest information and resources in the field of ABA for its participants.

PABA will organize more fund-raising projects to help sustain its various training programs for the local community centers and expand its projects to other areas outside of Metro Manila.

Polish Association of Behavioral Therapy

BY PAWEŁ BAKALARZ

Our association is one of two major organizations in Poland concerned with dissemination of behavior analytic knowledge and services. We are a country-wide non-profit, the membership of which consists of both practitioners and family members of people with special needs. We cooperate with Polish Society for Behavioral Psychology, the other major organization in Poland (ABAI Chapter), and also with a number of universities and therapy centers.

Together with PSBS we oversee Polish Behavior Therapist License, a private certification system for practitioners, both line therapists and supervisors that

standardizes the requirements and establishes the standard of care for clients. There are currently over 200 licensed therapists and almost 40 supervisors, with a couple of thousands of candidates in different stages of professional development.

We also provide direct services. We are a managing organization for three schools for children and youth with special needs: in Kraków and Racibórz. There are currently 29 students in "Umiem" ("I can") schools in both cities. There is also behavior therapy consultation and therapy center that provides diagnosis (psycho-pedagogical, functional, ADOS-2), behavior programming and therapy to clients. Another form of direct help is Emergency Intervention Team that provides therapeutic services in severe cases of health- and life-threatening disruptive behaviors or learning deficits. Additionally, our association runs a project concerned with OBM and provision of behavioral services to business and organizations.

Currently we are monitoring the ongoing changes in legislation concerning psychotherapy in Poland. We are also planning to extend the range of professional development for it to include organizational behavior management. In addition, we want to start disseminating knowledge about the foundations of behavioral gerontology. Current plans include also closer cooperation with other Polish organizations that represent behavior specialists, especially "third wave" psychotherapists.

Polish Society for Behavioral Psychology

BY BARTŁOMIEJ J SWEBODZIŃSKI

During 2023 Society continuously worked on development of Polish certification system (license) for behavior analysts. Polish certification system was created and introduced in 2010 together with partner organization Polish Society for Behavioral Therapy (www.terapeutabehavioralny.pl). Its aim was to improve the quality of work of behavior analysts in Poland by establishing professional standards of good work and proper conduct 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 to the title of behavioral analyst according to standards of 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 system and providing consistent interpretation of its rules,
- Propagating knowledge about certification system and behavioral therapy in Poland as well.

In 2023, the association took patronage over the publication of the following books:

- Gareth Holman, Jonathan Kanter, Mavis Tsai and Robert Kohlenberg, *Functional Analytic Psychotherapy Made Simple. A Practical Guide to Therapeutic Relationships*, substantive editor: Dr. Joanna Dudek, member of PTPB,
- David N. Lorscheid, Stefan G. Hofmann, and Steven C. Hayes, *Learning Process-Based Therapy: A Skills Training Manual for Targeting the Core Processes of Psychological Change in Clinical Practice*.

PSBP is involved, together with many other psychological societies in Poland, in work on organizing the professional self-government of psychologists in Poland and in work on a new ministerial act on the profession of psychologist in Poland. The task of PSBP in 2023 was also to acquire Polish and foreign speakers for the planned scientific symposium in 2024.

Quebec ABA

BY MARISA SCAGLIONE AND KIRSTY ROBERTSON

The 2023 year brought on some exciting changes! Following the annual general meeting, which took place on April 14, 2023, the board acquired a new President (Kirsty Robertson) as well as a new vice-president (Marisa Scaglione). In 2022, the previous president, Malena Argumedes, had to resign due to health reasons. Therefore, Kirsty took on the responsibilities of the president in the interim. The board of directors would like to highlight the hard work and dedication that Malena has invested over the last few years within various roles on the board and thank her for her immense contribution to QcABA.

The QcABA hosted its 12th annual conference on April 14th, 2023, which was offered both in person as well as online. The total number of attendees was 96 people. The majority of the attendees participated in person, and 40 individuals attended online. This was the first conference that we hosted where we saw participation from other countries such as the United States as well as France.

The conference included several speakers, with our keynote speaker being Liz Lefevre, BCBA who addressed the notion of assent-based learning and ways to implement assent based practices into clinical intervention. Our second speaker was Dr. Keith Allen, BCBA-D who addressed interventions on how to manage distress during dental and medical interventions. Our third speaker consisted of Monica Peters, BCBA who shared her presentation on peaceful consultation using psychological flexibility and safety using ACT. Then, Theo Gossou presented on concurrent validity of open-ended functional assessment interviews with functional analysis as well as functional behavior assessment in psychoeducation: convergent validity of functional analyses with descriptive and indirect assessments. This presentation was provided

completely in French by the speaker. This had an added benefit to the French speaking population as they were able to enjoy a presentation that was entirely in their language. Our final speakers of the day were Holly Seniuk, PhD, BCBA-D and Sarah Lichtenberger, PhD, BCBA-D who presented an Ethics Update from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. This event provided simultaneous translation to all participants in order to make all content accessible to both English and French speaking individuals.

The QcABA also hosted two journal club events during which professionals in the field united and discussed specific journal articles. The first one took place on September 27, 2022 on “Concerns about ABA-Based intervention: an evaluation and recommendations” by Leaf et al., 2022. And was hosted by Daniela Mireles, BCBA. The second one took place on October 24, 2023 on “Soft Skills: The case for compassionate approaches or how behavior analysis keeps finding its heart” (Rohrer et al., 2021) with a discussion led by Janet Nacouzi, BCBA.

Internally, QcABA continues to try to improve its functioning as a non-profit organization. Our main objective at the moment is to increase membership, specifically members from the French speaking community. Our organization has mostly attracted English speaking members; therefore, we have decided to create objectives for the organization based on increasing services and information in French. We have also updated our strategic plan as well as created a business plan in order to define and measure our organization's goals. One of the means by which we are aiming to increase our membership and attendance to events is by updating our website to include a more comprehensive and user friendly platform that will be accessible in both languages. This year's conference will take place on September 20, 2024 online. Our speakers will include Dr. Paulie Gavoni who will present on leadership strategies, Dr. Adythian Rajamaran, who will present on trauma informed practices, Dr. Rachel Schwartz who will present on sexuality in autism, Dr. Geneviève Roy-Wsiaki who will present on early intervention and Danielle Pelletier and Isabelle Cowan, who will share with us the implementation of a PFA and SBT treatment model within their practice.

The number of certified individuals in the province continues to grow steadily. 2007 was the first year that any certified behaviour analysts appeared in Quebec (two BCBA's and one BCaBA), and at the time of this writing (March 2024) the province is now home to 69 certificants. Although these numbers may seem modest to our counterparts in the US, or even from BC or Ontario, it is important to remember the barriers that face our professionals that are unique to our conditions. Specifically, in addition to being a primarily Francophone province, there are no third parties (e.g. government or

insurance companies) that pay for services by certified individuals, nor any local educational institutions that offer the course content. In other words, becoming a certified professional in Quebec is an endeavour that is both difficult to obtain and carries little monetary incentive for those who decide to do so. QcABA is grateful that despite these barriers, our numbers continue to grow and recognition of board certification is on the rise. Our board is committed to offering CEUs for our regular events such as the conference and journal clubs at little or no cost in order to support our behaviour analysts, just as they have supported us over the years.

In 2023, the QcABA began to participate in Canadian Chapters meetings, which is a quarterly meeting for Canadian provinces who are ABAI affiliate chapters. These meetings were created with the intention of discussing and sharing what is happening within each Canadian chapter as well as to support one another as a Canadian organization. These meetings have provided members of the board with an opportunity to partake in discussions that are most relevant to ABA in Canada.

Thank you ABAI for your continued interest and support of our chapter over the years. Should you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me at the email or phone number below.

Sociedad Mexicana de Análisis de la Conducta

BY ROSALINDA ARROYO

The Mexican Society for Behavior Analysis (MSBA) is a non-profit organization established in 1975 whose purposes were a) disseminating behavior analysis among psychologist and other disciplines; b) establishing links with similar associations in Mexico and foreign countries; c) advising institutions and associations regarding behavior analysis issues; d) publishing the Mexican Journal of Behavior Analysis; and e) organizing seminars, scientific events, and annual meetings, promoting communication among behavior analysts in Mexico.

Therefore, one of the main activities is its annual congress; last edition, the XXXII Mexican Congress of Behavior Analysis, was held in Sonora, Hermosillo, from October 18 to 20, 2023. This congress returned to the northern part of the country after more than 20 years. Gladly, the congress was very successful, with 370 registered attendees, highlighting the fact that there was substantial student participation and interest: more than 200 undergraduate students attended the activities that included five keynote lectures, ten guest lectures, 23 symposia, and 4 poster sessions.

Like every year, Trajectory Awards were given, in this occasion to Dr. Guadalupe Mares Cárdenas in the Experimental Behavior Analysis category and Dr. María

de Lourdes Rodríguez Campuzano in the Applied Behavior Analysis category.

As a way of encouraging student enrollment, the 5th Behavioral Analysis Thesis Contest was held, which receives more and more applicants every year; for this edition, even the postgraduate category had to be separated into masters and doctorate submissions given the amount of applicants.

We also announce that the chair committee has been re-elected for a second term, 2024–2025: Rosalinda Arroyo (President), Felipe Patron (Secretary), and Juan Carlos Romero (Treasurer), who will gladly continue their efforts to disseminate and strengthen the analysis of behavior in Mexico, developing regional networks to take advantage of the wide spread of behavioral analysts of our country.

Additionally, we had the first meeting of the Special Group of Women in Behavior Analysis (GEMAC). This group's main objective is to promote, develop, and disseminate the knowledge and research conducted by Mexican women in behavior analysis, as well as to highlight the role and leadership of women and to serve as a link between young students and recognized professionals in the field.

The Mexican Journal of Behavior Analysis (MJBA), which this Society edits, welcomed our new General Editor, Dr. Mario Serrano Vargas for the 2024–2027 period, who will soon implement new strategies to maintain and improve the visibility and relevance of the journal. Therefore, we invite you to consult it and to send your research papers to rmac-mx.org.

Finally, given that part of the commitments of the chair committee led by Dr. Rosalinda Arroyo is to hold the congress in places where there is little representation of behavior analysis in our country, our next congress will be held in the city of Merida, Yucatan, from September 11 to 13, 2024, we hope you can join us. For more information about these projects visit our web page: www.smac.org.mx.

Swedish ABA

BY DAG STRÖMBERG

The Swedish Association for Behavior Analysis (SWABA) had 239 members at the end of 2023, an 8% increase since 2022. The chapter continued its activity on social media; at the end of 2023, 1677 people were following SWABA on Facebook, a 3% increase since 2022. The association also has accounts on LinkedIn, Instagram and X (Twitter), all with an increasing number of followers.

SWABA's fall meeting place took place October 21st 2023, in Stockholm, as a hybrid event. We enjoyed presentations by Peter Karlsson and Eva Thormann on a newly published book on positive behavior support in preschools, Sara Ingvarsson on deimplementation of ineffective health care interventions, Susanna Tagesdotter Hagstrand on integrative behavioral couples therapy, and

Rasmi Krippendorf (Norway) on precision teaching and the standard celeration chart.

The annual meeting took place March 22nd 2024 in Stockholm, again a hybrid event. The day included a presentation/workshop on private events and behavior analysis by Niklas Törneke. Furthermore, the recipient of the fifth annual "SWABA-prize" was announced: as a recognition of her work to disseminate behavior analysis in Sweden, the prize was awarded to Malin Östh.

During the year, the president of SWABA participated in a network that meets twice per year, connecting six different Swedish associations for behavior analysis, contextual behavior science and/or various types of behavior therapy, as well as a Swedish-speaking behavior therapy association in Finland.

SWABA was also participating in a collaboration between representatives from the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden), discussing quality assurance of behavior analysis within a Nordic context, including the establishment of the Nordic Association of Behavior Analysts, at a meeting in Copenhagen (Denmark) 26th January 2024. SWABA was represented at the 2024 ABAI Annual Convention in Philadelphia. As usual, a poster was presented at the ABAI Expo.

Our association supports the formation of special interest groups, providing information about each group on the website. This year the Certified Behavior Analysts SIG had meetings, while some of the other groups had contacts through social media.

SWABA would like to encourage anyone who plans to visit Sweden or other countries in Scandinavia to contact the board (info@swaba.se), to explore the possibility of meeting and/or lecturing. SWABA holds its annual meeting during the first quarter of each year and a fall meeting/conference in September or October. In September 2024, a meeting will take place in Gothenburg, including a presentation by Dr Francesca degli Espinosa. Please visit the SWABA website for updates concerning the program.

Taiwan ABA

BY KUO SHU FEN

In 2023, the Taiwan Association of Behavior Analysis (TABA) still continue to hold ABA lectures to promote behavioral science to therapists, parents, special education teachers, staff of private institutions, etc. Events were held this year include the 2023 Annual Conference and five lectures, and each of which was funded by the K-12 Education Administration Bureau of the Ministry of Education in Taiwan. Due to Covid-19, all lectures were held online.

As of the end of 2023, there are 49 certified analysts in Taiwan (including 7 BCBA-D, 26 BCBA, and 16 BCaBA). Since professionals in Taiwan are no longer able

to apply for the behavior analysis license of BACB, TABA will continue to hold more ABA lectures or seminars, as well as provide continuing education credits for certified behavior analysts. Through different service methods, we can meet the needs of relevant professionals and parents, and also make the promotion of behavioral science more diverse. The following are the events held in 2023:

- **The Annual Conference** was held on May 6-7, 2023. The theme was "Research Trends and Clinical Practice of ABA Intervention in Behavioral Problems." We invited three speakers: 1) Dr. James King, BCBA-D, Project Director of the ABA Department of SEEK Education (BCBA-D), the topic of the lecture is "The Latest Trend of Behavioral Problem Intervention," 2) Wan-chen Lin, Special Education Teacher, the topic of the lecture is "Case Study of Behavioral Function Analysis and Intervention Plan in Preschool Integrated Environment," 3) Dr. Grace Ho (BCBA-D), the topic of the lecture is "Application of Ethical Principles in ABA Center Intervention." A total of 35 people participated in this event, including parents, special education teachers, therapists in related fields, and certified behavior analysts.
- **During January to June 2023**, TABA held three online lectures, with a total of 83 participants. The topics were as follows: "Cultivating Reading Habits for Special Children," "Make full use of learning strategies - children will no longer get stuck in learning," "Improve and enhance the chatting skills of autistic children."
- **During July to December 2023**, TABA held two online lectures, with a total of 55 participants. The topics were "How Do I Play with My Children," and "Practical Application of Behavioral Principles-How to teach adults of autism."
- **Starting from September 2021**, in order to spread more certified behavior analysts to attach reference materials about ABA, TABA began to invite senior BCBA to introduce and recommend news, literature and review literature about ABA research or practice in Chinese every month. We are very grateful to SEEK for their strong support. In this way, we encourage people to select and find papers more easily. This part will continue in 2024.

In 2024, TABA will continue to hold online ABA lectures, and also design a series of workshops and CE courses (online/face-to-face) about problem behaviors intervention that most people are most interested in the questionnaire. Systematic training will help more parents and teachers effectively deal with client's problematic behaviors. We will also continue to fulfill our mission to disseminate behavior analysis knowledge to professionals and parents, promote science in Taiwan, and invite more members and professionals to join us. ❖

Updates From ABAI's Special Interest Groups

Evolutionary Sciences SIG

BY YUKIE KURUMIYA

The Evolutionary Sciences SIG (EvoSci SIG) was established in November 2023 to advance and evolve the science of behavior analysis through lenses of the evolutionary sciences, behavioral selection, and relational/symbolic learning at the cultural level—from micro to macro.

The EvoSci SIG will use evolutionary theory to explore how our science of behavior and its practice can evolve to induce the well-being of individual organisms, organizations, cultures, and societies, interdependently. Furthermore, through such explorations, we aim to discuss models and processes that address conditions resulting in harmful insensitivity to social-environmental variables.

Through evolutionary and cultural engineering models, we aim to advance, disseminate, and integrate the science of behavior analysis across diverse disciplines, and foster collaborations that can ameliorate current societal and global threats.

We invite experimental and applied behavior analysts, evolutionary scientists, and collaborators from related disciplines who work to improve the world with trust and psychological safety. Specifically, the organization shall:

- 1 Serve as a scientific and professional reference and networking group for its members.
- 2 Disseminate information to promote its mission to a wider audience.
- 3 Organize an annual meeting to provide a forum for discussion of the affairs of the SIG.

At the 2023 ABAI convention, behavior analysts in diverse disciplines met and discussed the purpose of the group. At the 2024 convention, we held the first official business meeting to discuss our vision and develop the method of dissemination of our SIG.

We invite all who are dedicated to advancing the science of behavior at any level of their careers and education. To join the EvoSci SIG, please contact Yukie Kurumiya at ykurumiya@thechicagoschool.edu.

Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior

BY DAVID J. COX

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. At the ABAI annual conference in 2023 the Distinguished Contributions Award was presented to Dr.

Timothy Hackenberg, Professor of Psychology at Reed College. At the 2024 ABAI Annual Convention, the Distinguished Contributions Award will be presented to Dr. Júlio César Coelho de Rose from Universidade Federal de São Carlos. The EAHB SIG continues to increase the size of its membership (currently 281 ABA members) by i) presenting a poster at the ABA Expo, ii) by promoting the annual Distinguished Contributions Award address, and iii) increasing the visibility of the EAHB Bulletin.

The SIG continues to be led by Dr. David Cox as the SIG Chair and Dr. Catherine Williams as the Vice-Chair. Additional individuals leading the SIG include Dr. Stephanie Jimenez who serves as the SIG Treasurer, Dr. Vanessa Ayres Pereira who serves as the SIG Social Media Coordinator, and Ramon Marin who serves as the SIG Student Representative.

In the coming year, activities will include:

- 1 Release of a special issue of The Bulletin on “Emerging Topics from Emerging Voices” (likely June/July);
- 2 Collaboration with VB-SIG on a special issue of The Bulletin around “The Intersection Of Verbal Behavior And Experimental / Translational Research”;
- 3 Reviews of manuscripts for 2024 Bulletin regular issue release (likely December) publication of a monthly Newsletter to the SIG membership; and
- 4 Continuing our social media presence to promote the Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior.

SIG Bulletin: ahb-sig.squarespace.com/

Forensic Behavior Analysis SIG

BY PRESLEY WANNER AND TIMOTHY J. TEMPLIN

Applied behavior analysis (ABA) has been useful in addressing societal problems related to the criminal justice field. For example, the role of teaching family homes in reducing recidivism and prison drug programs. An important impact has been on the treatment of adolescents and children to improve parenting for conduct disorder and reduce aggressive behavior and assaults in school.

Our special interest group (SIG) is Forensic Behavior Analysis (FBA). We have a website under development and have been producing newsletters and video content for our members. Our total membership has now grown over 3,000 at the time of this writing.

To ensure that those in the criminal justice fields have access to appropriate, evidence-based, behavior analytic, therapeutic resources to reduce crime and delinquency. SIG members have testified on behavioral intervention to reduce crime. Continued advocacy and research are needed to make behavior analytic services available to criminal justice, mental health, military and veterans' fields and to document the efficacy of behavior analysis in these applications.

A group of our SIG members presented at a college

in Pennsylvania in November of 2023 on the subject of forensic case conceptualization. Fortunately, we will present a similar workshop later this year.

Three SIG Members Presented at ABAI 50th Annual Convention in Philadelphia, PA. Details are below:

Title: *The Analysis of Crime:*

Forensic Behavioral Case Conceptualization

Workshop #W12 , Marriott Downtown, Franklin Hall 5

Date: Thursday, May 28th, 2024

Time: 4:00 PM–7:00 PM

Description: In this three-hour workshop, the presenters will introduce the application of behavior analytic principles to the civil and criminal justice systems. Most importantly, multiple criminal cases will be reviewed within a behavior analytic lens to derive a conceptualization of the delinquent acts as well as hypothesized functions for each. The participants in this workshop will then be presented with case vignettes and will work together to develop their own forensic behavioral case conceptualizations.

Learning Objectives:

- 1 Identify three key areas where behavior analysts can serve the justice system
- 2 State the components of a forensic behavioral case conceptualization
- 3 Examine a criminal case and develop a case conceptualization as part of a group project

A quarterly meeting is planned for the SIG to further the goals of improving our website, increasing membership and offering career advice for those interested in this exciting field.

Gambling SIG

BY GSIG OFFICERS

The Gambling Special Interest Group (GSIG) is a home base for behaviorists interested in gambling research and treatment. Our mission is to foster the growth of gambling research in behavior analysis through collaborative research efforts, the coordination of researchers and ideas, and the sharing of resources for the mutual benefit of the field, its adherents, and those who are impacted by such endeavors. We invite interested parties to join the GSIG for free. Our members are in the process of updating our web presence and software and plan to have new software on Github. We maintain a mailing list of members. Persons interested in gambling should also visit *Analysis of Gambling Behavior* at repository.stcloudstate.edu/agb for a journal devoted to behavioral research. The GSIG has had a long relationship with *Analysis of Gambling Behavior*, as many GSIG members supported the journal in various roles over the years.

History of Behavior Analysis

BY EDWARD K. MORRIS

The History of Behavior Analysis (HoBA) Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) was founded in 2011. Our Listserv was established in 2012. Our first business meeting was held at the 2013 ABAI conference and has been held there annually since, except during the COVID-19 pandemic. As of May 16, 2024, we had 285 members, one more than last year. Our membership is stable. To join the SIG and the ListServ, contact Pat Williams (University of Houston-Downtown) at WilliamsP@uhd.edu.

Aim, Mission, Objectives, Purview, and Audience

The SIG's aim is to advance behavior analysis nationally and internationally through its history and historiography. Our mission is to cultivate and nurture, improve and enrich, and disseminate the field's history. Our objectives are to advance (a) teaching the history of behavior analysis (e.g., content, pedagogy), (b) researching its history (i.e., historiography), (c) disseminating its teaching and research (e.g., presentations, publications), and (d) serving ABAI in these regards (e.g., leadership, communications). Our purview is the field's long past (500 B.C.E–1900), short history (1900–1930), and recent origins (1930–present). Our members and our audience include behavior analysts, other scientists and scholars, and the public at large.

Reasons and Rationales

Jack Michael (2004) offered the following reasons and rationales for teaching, researching, and disseminating the field's history:

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 of behavior analysis situates the field's (a) discipline (e.g., its conceptual foundations and its basic, applied, and translational sciences) and (b) its practice in relation to one another. The field is more than the sum of its parts. It has breadth, depth, and interdependencies. Its history also addresses the field's relation to other sciences, the humanities, the culture, and the world at large. The field is defined, in part, by its comparisons and contrasts with them.

History also has more general rationales. The Roman philosopher, Marcus Tullius Cicero (106–43 BCE), offered perhaps the first: "Those who know only their own generation remain children forever." Another is based on an observation by the American author, Mark Twain (1835–1910), about travel in *The Innocents Abroad*, but here about history: "[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" (Twain, 1869, p. 243). Perhaps the most common rationale for history is attributed to the Spanish-American philosopher, George Santayana (1863–1952): "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it" (Santayana, 1905). In 1949, the Irish historian, Benjamin Farrington, summarized 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; see also Coleman, 1995)

More recently, Carl Sagan (1934–1996) observed, "You have to know the past to understand the present" (www.quteslyfe.com). Ibram X. Kendi (1982–present) elaborated: "To know the past is to know the present. To know the present is to know yourself" (Reynolds & Kendi, 2020, p. ix).

Membership

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

Governance

Of late, the SIG's governance has consisted of just its president, Edward K. Morris (University of Kansas), its vice-president, Karen Wagner (Behavior Service of Brevard, FL), and its Listserv moderator, Pat Williams (University of Houston-Downtown).

Business Meetings

Our primary activities have been hosting the ListServ for our members and holding business meetings at the annual ABAI conferences. Despite the number of SIG members, attendance at the business meetings has become modest (e.g., Morris and Wagner plus $n \sim 4$ –6 members) compared

to earlier years ($n \sim 20$). This probably reflects the SIG's current lack of engagement with its members other than through its Listserv. The SIG's activities have changed little since its founding—and neither has its leadership.

Preceding the 2023 Business Meeting, the SIG leadership addressed these issues with its members via its Listserv and invited them to participate in the SIG's revitalization and expansion at the SIG meeting that year. Attendance was ~ 30 members. The SIG discussed changes in its structure and functions, the most fundamental being establishing By-Laws (e.g., for its governance and structure) and setting a calendar for elections and the succession of leadership. Its expansion could be addressed, in part, through committees. These 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., a syllabus bank), dissemination committee (e.g., bibliographies, a YouTube directory), obituary committee (e.g., published obituaries), archival committee (e.g., listing and promoting archives), and awards committee (e.g., for the best annual HoBA presentation or publication). Of the members in attendance, more than half signed up to serve as committee chairs or members.

Toward the end of the meeting, the SIG's leadership and members discussed two pressing issues. The first was based on an initiative taken by then-ABAI president Chris Newland to correct misrepresentations of ABAI in the ABAI Wikipedia page. The page is not managed by ABAI. The SIG supported establishing a History of ABAI Committee to develop and maintain an ABAI history for ABAI's website. The second issue was based on conversations with several members of the ABAI leadership prior to the SIG's 2023 Business Meeting about the SIG's leadership and its member involvement in ABAI's 2024 50th anniversary conference. The SIG supported its involvement, making this a priority over its 2023–2024 revitalization and expansion. In the end, ABAI did not notify the SIG's leadership of any involvement in the 2024 conference, but then, none was promised. On August 14, ABAI invited the SIG president to write a history of ABAI for its website, but with insufficient time and access to archival materials (e.g., minutes of ABAI's Executive Council meetings). After writing half a history, he requested an extension to December 31. ABAI did not reply. In the end, the HoBA SIG defers to the 2024 ABAI Board Coordinator and Program Committee Chair and the ABAI CEO for writing ABAI's history (see, e.g., M. Malott, 2024, May).

Goals for 2024

Given the SIG's anticipated shift of its 2023–2024 goals to

the 2024 ABAI conference, the SIG's 2023 goals became its 2024 goals, discussed at its 7:00 to 8:00 PM Business Meeting on Friday, May 24, 2024 in the Marriott Hotel (Franklin Hall 4) before the conference. Discussion again involved establishing SIG By-Laws and a committee structure, but with a new initiative: a daily calendar of noteworthy events in the history of behavior analysis. In 1994, Warren Street published a related calendar for APA titled, "A Chronology of Noteworthy Events in American Psychology" (Street, 1994; see Eshelman, 2023). Travis Thompson began a calendar for behavior analysis, but did not complete it before his death last year (see R. Malott, 2023; Newland, 2023; Rehfeldt, 2023). The SIG has his hard-copy files and thumb drive for the calendar and plans to complete and post it on its website. The future of the history of behavior analysis looks bright.

Correspondence may be sent to the **Department of Applied Behavioral Science**, 4001 Dole Human Development Center, 1000 Sunnyside Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66044. Email: ekm@ku.edu.

LGBTQ+ SIG

BY JONATHAN K. FERNAND, MATTHEW R. CAPRIOTTI, DANIEL E. CONINE, AND TARA A. FAHMIE

In a groundbreaking moment at the 2023 annual convention for the Association for Behavior Analysis International in Denver, the LGBTQ+ Special Interest Group (SIG) was informally formed. At last year's conference, many interested members of the LGBTQ+ community attended several conference events focused on issues related to sexual and gender minority people. These events ignited motivation for advocacy within behavior analysis, leading to the inception of the LGBTQ+ SIG. Our current mission is to: provide space to discuss, advocate, and support matters directly related to the treatment of LGBTQ+ people in behavior analysis. We currently count over 40 members among us, and we look forward to growing in the future!

Over the past year, the SIG has applied and been approved as an officially recognized SIG, created systems for SIG operations, held our first meetings, and disseminated our first scholarship awards. At the May 2024 convention, we held our first business meeting and formal social event. Our inaugural board included Matthew Capriotti (President), Jonathan Fernand (President-Elect), Daniel Conine (Treasurer), and Tara Fahmie (Secretary). The SIG's officers have also been supported by many talented volunteer members including Zoë Akin-Amland, Victoria German, and Crystal Slanzi who have assisted with our social media accounts, dissemination efforts, and scholarship award materials.

The LGBTQ+ SIG seeks to raise awareness of LGBTQ+ topics, catalyze innovation in research and clinical practice, and provide opportunities to educate

and engage in critical discussions. The SIG will foster mentorship for researchers and practitioners interested in applying behavior analysis to better the lives of LGBTQ+ people. The SIG will explore, debate, and advocate for persons at the intersection of LGBTQ+ and the practice of behavior analysis.

Individuals who are interested in joining can find us on Facebook (**LGBTQ ABAI SIG**) and Instagram (@[lgbtqabaisig](https://www.instagram.com/lgbtqabaisig)) where links to our membership application can be found; or, they can email Jonathan Fernand (jfernand@fit.edu). All interested in joining a network that strives for improving the lives of LGBTQ+ people are encouraged to join, regardless of gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.

This year, we launched our SIG scholarship program, which aims to increase the presence of LGBTQ+ perspectives within ABAI by defraying the cost of convention attendance for students and early-career professionals. Over the next year, we will continue our efforts to grow our membership, expand our equity-focused scholarship program, and take action toward research and clinical collaborations. As we reflect on our progress over the past year, we are filled with excitement for the impact our ongoing efforts will make in the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals. We hope those who are interested will join us in creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for all.

Military and Veterans' Issues

BY ABIGAIL CALKIN

The Military/Veterans (MilVet) SIG is entering its twentieth year of ABAI operation. The SIG focuses on how the field of applied behavior analysis (ABA) can contribute to those who have served our country. There are also many issues the military and veteran communities currently to address (autism, suicide, PTSD, and TBI). Chair Abigail Calkin and members remain excited about discussing the issues and needs of this specific population. During the SIG's 20 years of existence, a significant amount of time was devoted to increasing membership, while also examining viable ways of accessing the military and veteran community. Finally, some projects are officially in progress, which we hope increases the activities of the SIG members.

At present, the Tricare ECHO program for treating autism spectrum disorder (ASD) among the children of active-duty beneficiaries remains federal law and the only official entry point into the Department of Defense (DOD) healthcare system for behavior analysts. According to the most recent data, behavior analysts are currently treating .059% of the military/veteran population through these official and reimbursable means that includes qualifying beneficiaries diagnosed with ASD. Moreover, the only federally authorized positions for behavior

analysts within the DOD and the Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) are for those who practice as licensed psychiatrists, psychologists or social workers. There are no known official positions or other policies addressing the role of behavior analysts within the DOD and the DVA healthcare systems. Given these challenges, the current activity of the MilVet SIG continues to work to raise awareness about the obstacles that lie in the path of delivering applied behavior analysis to a broader audience in the military and veteran population other than just those on the autism spectrum. We continued our grassroots approach to penetrating the DOD and the DVA in order to spread ABA to the MilVet community.

At the 2024 ABAI Annual Convention the SIG was involved in three activities. A new group of people, some active duty and others military spouses, attended the 2023 SIG meeting and have taken a very active role in the group. This continued during the year and at the 2024 ABAI convention. This is an exciting and significant landmark for the SIG given that immense barriers remain to opening doors within the DOD and the DVA.

Four members presented the symposium, "Behavior Analysis in the Military and Veteran Families: A Review of the History, Current Efforts, and Suggestions for the Future"-- Abigail Calkin, Selena Kalapatapu Cruz, Joshua McQuillen, and Daniel Coe. The other events were the MilVet Sig poster at the EXPO, and the business meeting.

The chair is pleased with the SIG's membership growth. When Kent Corso and Abigail Calkin, then co-chairs, first applied to be a SIG there were 14 members. The membership in 2016 was 50 members. One of the MilVet SIG members, Megan Miller, created a Facebook page on 28 May 2014, Behavior Analysis in Military and Veterans' Issues SIG. The site, a closed group, grew to 86 members in its first year and as it approached the end of its second year, it then hosted 190 members – an increase of 220%. In 2024, membership stands at 719.

Other critical news includes Dr. Corso continuing to work on and lead more behaviorally based suicide prevention projects. He now conducts a third direct suicide prevention work in Wyoming with military and civilian communities. For several years, he has participated in dozens of projects with suicide prevention in the military.

Dr. Corso has resigned as co-chair of the Behavior Analysis in Military and Veterans Affairs due to his workload on suicide prevention within the military. Dr. Calkin is now the sole chair.

The field of ABA can contribute much to evaluate functional communication deficits associated with TBI, improve the management of suicidal behavior and prevention programs, aid those with PTSD using the standard celeration chart to monitor individual and program changes, and offer occupational training for veterans and service members.

Membership in the Mil/Vet SIG is free and the SIG will continue its presence at future ABAI EXPOs. This remains a great opportunity to meet prospective members of the Mil/Vet SIG, current members, and the chair. Any parties interested in the MilVet SIG, contact Dr. Calkin at abc@abigailcalkin.com.

Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Intervention SIG

BY SOPHIA D'AGOSTINO, MELANIE PELLECCIA, ELIZABETH HORTON, EMMA SIPILA-THOMAS, ANA DUEÑAS, AMY MATTHEWS & MEGHAN KANE

The Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Intervention (NDBI) SIG is proud to share its fourth annual report. The NDBI SIG was founded in May of 2020 by Sophia D'Agostino (president), Melanie Pelleccia (member at large), Elizabeth Horton (secretary-treasurer), Emma Sipila-Thomas (student member/secretary-treasurer), Ana Dueñas (member at large), Amy Matthews (member at large), and Meghan Kane (member at large). The NDBI SIG aims to bring together professionals who have an interest in understanding and advancing the dissemination and implementation of Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Interventions for individuals with autism spectrum and related disorders. The NDBI SIG has three primary purposes: (1) Advance the understanding of NDBI among behavior analysts; (2) Disseminate the latest research and practice related to NDBI in the treatment of individuals with autism; (3) Provide a forum for behavior analysts interested in NDBI to network and collaborate.

NDBIs are empirically validated interventions implemented in natural settings using components from developmental and behavioral science. Common examples of NDBI approaches include Incidental Teaching, Pivotal Response Treatment, Early Start Denver Model, Enhanced Milieu Training and many more. In order to bring parsimony to the field, Schreibman et al. (2015) proposed the common use of the term NDBI to refer to interventions that combine ABA with developmental science. The core elements of NDBIs as identified by Frost et al. (2020) include (1) face-to-face on the child's level, (2) follow child's lead, (3) use positive affect and animation, (4) model appropriate language (5) respond to communicative attempts, (6) use communicative temptations, (7) provide frequent direct teaching episodes, and (8) provide quality direct teaching episodes. A recent meta-analysis recognized NDBI as a promising intervention approach for children with autism (Sandbank et al., 2020). Please see our website (linked below) for a list of recent NDBI publications and other resources including handouts, videos, and books to learn more about NDBI.

During the past year, we have maintained a website

(sites.google.com/sdsu.edu/ndbispecialinterestgroup/home), twitter account (@ndbigroup), and Facebook group (www.facebook.com/NDBI-Special-Interest-Group-for-ABAI-106003411312893) designed to grow interest in NDBI and share links to relevant resources. Our group hosted bi-monthly NDBI focused article discussions (provided CE at no charge) led by members. In addition, a subset of members has focused on writing publications with the underlying mission to support wide-scale implementation of NDBI. Our plans for the upcoming year will focus on dissemination efforts.

To become a SIG member or if you are interested in learning more about NDBI, please contact us at NDBISIG@gmail.com. Membership is currently free and we welcome anyone to join. We hope to engage more practitioners in discussions around NDBI and provide resources to increase NDBI implementation.

Neuroscience

BY SUZANNE MITCHELL

The Neuroscience SIG brings together researchers, academics, clinicians, and students interested in the intersections of behavior analysis and neuroscience and has four primary missions: (1) to introduce behavior analytic research to the neurosciences and introduce neuroscience research to behavior analysis; (2) to serve as both a meeting place and training environment for students and professionals alike interested in basic and applied neuroscience research; (3) to serve as a forum for collaborative relationships, funding applications, and the sharing of best practice; and (4) to advocate for and promote high standards in the application of behavior analytic treatments for individuals with neurological dysfunction. A business meeting and presence at the Expo were included in the 2021 ABAI Annual Convention (virtual meeting). Increasing the profile and relevance of the SIG to ABAI members is a major focus, 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. This year we have launched a SIG website collecting resources of interest to members and a SIG-specific email.

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.

Occupational Therapy SIG

BY AMY STANGO

Mission

The occupational therapy special interest group's mission

is to promote the development and dissemination of behaviorally oriented occupational therapy research, and to promote interdisciplinary collaboration between behavior analytic and occupational therapy professionals. This collaboration between occupational therapists and behavior analysts is a boon for members of the public who receive services to address deficits in meaningful behaviors, or occupations, such as activities of daily living, education, work, play, leisure, social participation, and rest and sleep.

Gratitude

The occupational therapy SIG is grateful for the support of the ABAI members who helped to form the group: Jessica Dean, Adrienne Fitzner, Jenna Weisz, Susan Silvestri, Kristine Quinby, Josh Pritchard, Hallie Ertel, Christine Barthold, Ansley Hodges, Lina Slim-Topdijan, Rebecca Tagg, and Amy Stango. We also wish to extend our thanks to the Speech Pathology Applied Behavior Analysis (SPABA) SIG, which has offered ongoing support in the development of our SIG.

Membership

The occupational therapy SIG provides free access to SIG information and interaction through our Facebook group. We have 3,132 Facebook users who have joined our SIG in this manner.

Financial

There are currently no fees associated with joining the occupational therapy SIG.

Sig Member Activities

Formal and informal members of the SIG have been active conducting research, disseminating information regarding evidence-based practice, applying the principles of applied behavior analysis to the research and treatment of occupational performance, publishing scholarly articles, conducting webinars, creating digital material, speaking and conducting workshops at professional conventions, and mentoring students in both the fields of ABA and occupational therapy.

Open Educational Resources

BY VERONICA J. HOWARD

Cost and access are significant barriers to recruiting diverse future behavior analysts. For example, up to 60% of undergraduate students skip purchasing textbooks due to cost (Florida Virtual Campus, 2018), jeopardizing their ability to learn the material and be successful in classes. Students also report that the cost of educational materials is a significant barrier to success, requiring them to choose between basic living expenses like rent and food or their course materials (The Hope Center, 2021), which has only been exacerbated since the COVID-19 pandemic

(US PIRG, 2021). Free and openly licensed educational resources improve student success and retention, particularly among groups historically underrepresented in college (e.g., Fischer et al., 2015, Colvard et al., 2018). Our volunteer-led community seeks to promote educational affordability by promoting the use of Open Access (zero cost) and openly licensed Open Educational Resources (OER) to better support students and promote diversity and inclusion in the field of behavior analysis.

Mission

The Open Educational Resources SIG aims to promote the adoption, creation, and dissemination of open educational resources in behavior analysis. We do this by providing educational events and opportunities to teach about the value of low-cost educational, training, and research resources. We also build community, providing a forum for OER creators to collaborate on new projects and highlight amazing new resources, reducing the individual workload required to create and manage OERs. We also work to disseminate news about OER and the empirical benefits of these resources within and beyond our membership.

Governance

Our community is currently led by Brian Middleton (Mindful Behavior, Bearded Behaviorist). Our board includes Ryan Sain (Mary Baldwin University/PsychCore), Tara Fahmie (University of Nebraska, Munroe-Meyer Institute), and Jennifer Haddock (University of Kansas). Our Scribe is Veronica Howard (Mary Baldwin University).

Events & Activities

The SIG offered eight new continuing education events during the 2023 calendar year:

- January 26, 2023—Solving Today's Ethical Dilemmas: A Values-Focused Approach featuring Kate Fox, BCBA & Barbara Kaminski, BCBA-D
- February 20, 2023—Going Beyond the Code featuring Christy Evanko, BCBA & Kathy Matthews, BCBA-D
- March 23, 2023—Affirming Practice in the Context of the LGBTQ+ Community: Professional and Ethical Considerations featuring Rose Froelich, MS & Rachel Potter, BCBA-D
- March 30, 2023—Uncovering the Open Educational Resource: Behavioral Pedagogies and Online Learning featuring Adam Brewer, BCBA-D, Mirari Elcoro, BCBA-D, & Aura Lippencott
- April 13, 2023—Relational Frame Theory and Acceptance and Commitment Training—The Basics and Connections featuring Scott Herbst, PhD, BCBA-D
- May 11, 2023—"Wait, That Counts as Supervision?!" featuring Shauna Costello, MA, BCBA
- September 28, 2023—Dissemination Dilemmas in the Pursuit to Post: Ethical Considerations in Content

Creation featuring Jennifer Klapatch Totsch, PhD BCBA-D

- November 8, 2023—Cultivating an Assent-Based Practice: Perspectives and Considerations featuring Janani Vaidya, MS, BCBA, IBA

CE credit for all events generously sponsored by the Mary Baldwin University Department of Applied Behavior Analysis & Autism Studies. All of these sessions were recorded and are available for free for our members to access through our OER SIG member forum.

SIG leadership also shared resources to the community, including links to related groups' conferences, free-to-access webinars, and openly-published resources within and beyond the field.

2024 Goals

The community is gearing up for another year of timely CE opportunities. We are eager to recruit new leadership interested in developing and disseminating free-to-access and openly licensed resources to better serve our field.

Get Involved!

The OER SIG is open to any behavior analysts working in research, teaching, and practice who are interested in promoting the free and open dissemination of behavior analytic materials using open licenses. Students are very much welcome. More information about our free membership can be found at the SIG's website:

www.openbehaviorsig.org/

Organizational Behavior Management Network

BY LORI LUDWIG

Accomplishments this past year

- Revised Bylaws: These bylaws reinforce our commitment to transparency, fairness, and inclusivity, ensuring the success of the Network.
- Bi-annual Conference: Our flagship event where scholars, practitioners, and experts from diverse areas of OBM converge to explore the latest trends and innovations in OBM held in partnership with TxABA in Houston, Texas in April 2024.
- OBM Instructor Resources: One of the OBM Network Research & Education Committee's goals is to elevate the quality of instruction in OBM as the demand for OBM increases. Recent achievements of the Committee include 1) the recent publication in the *Journal of Organizational Behavior Management*, "Guidance and Recommendations When Developing an Introductory Graduate-Level OBM Course"; 2) a member-only website page: "Curated List of OBM Articles" to guide instructors and students in OBM

toward the latest research in OBM by topic area; 3) an Instructor Group on the OBM Network Membership Portal to facilitate collaboration between OBM instructors to ensure the quality growth of our field.

- The OBM Experience Podcast: The OBM Experience is a series of exclusive interviews with prominent figures in the field, offering valuable insights and perspectives.

Goals for this upcoming year:

- Add new instructor resources and researcher resources to the portal
- Monthly OBM Experience podcast
- Establish a conference curation service where the Network assists in matching relevant OBM presenters, tracks, and topics to professional organizations wanting to feature insights from our field.
- Expand our international presence (e.g., increase international members, publish OBM articles in other countries/languages, facilitating more collaboration with international members)

Sign up for membership at www.obmnetwork.com
 \$79 Full Member; \$49 Student Member

Pediatric Feeding Disorders

BY VIVIAN IBAÑEZ

It has been several years since the Pediatric Feeding Disorders Special Interest Group (PFD SIG) held an in-person annual meeting for members at the ABAI annual convention. However, interest in renewing the activities of this SIG has been growing. As such, the first goal will be to hold a meeting at next year’s annual convention to discuss how the PFD SIG can be reactivated (e.g., appointing board members according to ABAI SIG guidelines) and meet the needs of previous, current, and future members.

At present, the mission of the PFD SIG is to generate interest, foster collaborative research, share clinical information, and impact training, practice, and reimbursement for the evaluation and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders. In previous business meetings, the PFD SIG has discussed how to establish parameters for best practices (e.g., training needs, considerations for the multifactorial etiology of feeding disorders and care coordination needs, referrals to specialized behavior-analytic day-treatment programs), international training opportunities, and access to empirically supported treatment. Records of the PFD SIG also show a history of frequent discussions about working with insurers, and there have been recent inquiries on this topic. Therefore, in addition to reviewing guidelines for establishing the PFD SIG board at the next meeting, there will be time allocated to exchanging thoughts on how to navigate reimbursement for intensive feeding services and possible

barriers that impact efficient and sustainable care by qualified providers for children with feeding disorders in day-treatment programs.

Anyone interested in joining or getting involved with the PFD SIG in some capacity is encouraged to contact Dr. Vivian Ibañez at vibanez@ufl.edu. I look forward to seeing everyone next May in Washington, DC!

Positive Behavior Support

BY JODIE SORACCO

The Positive Behavior Support Special Interest Group (PBS-SIG) promotes research-based strategies that combine applied behavior analysis and biomedical science with person-centered values and systems change to increase quality of life and decrease problem behaviors. The PBS SIG’s main objective is to create awareness of how behavior analytic principles are applied in PBS activities and promote PBS interventions in schools, communities, agencies, and homes, and supporting practitioners in its use. The PBS SIG members are those engaged in experimental and applied analyses of behavior who are interested in positive behavior support. The SIG was established in 2005 and has experienced four presidents since its inception.

There are 2.3K members in the Behavior Analysts for Positive Behavior Support Facebook group, a 77% increase from 2021. The PBS-SIG values include person-centered planning, socially significant outcomes, networking/partnership, dissemination, and broad applications of PBS.

For 2024 the PBS-SIG will evaluate SIG needs and continue to implement short- and long-term goals focusing on the following areas:

- Development of a SIG Leadership Team
- Increase SIG Leadership Team presence on the Behavior Analysts for Positive Behavior Support Facebook page.
- Increase participation through networking and partnership opportunities.

Anyone interested in behavior analysis and positive behavior support is welcome to join the SIG. Currently, the membership is free. To become involved, email Jodie Soracco at soraccoja@vcu.edu.

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 24 and also maintain a Facebook page for communication among members.

This SIG has worked with members and other SIGs on legal and ethical issues pertaining to the practice of behavior analysis. We promote and support means of ensuring the continued ability for behavior analysts to practice independently. The SIG provides a means of communicating about current trends and concerns pertaining to the practice of behavior analysis and efforts to place barriers for such practice by outside organizations or individuals. We help support and promote the ability for behavior analysts to provide high quality services to family members with autism and other areas of application of behavior analytic methods. We also have interest in the support of expansion of behavior analytic approaches to various populations outside autism and developmental disabilities.

There are currently 35 states which have licensure laws in place with more states considering legislation at this time for the practice of behavior analysis.

In the past year, the SIG has reached out to other relevant SIGs to promote our mission and work collaboratively with all SIGs. Given the growth in the number of states with licensure bills in place and ongoing expansion of this process, our SIG can be a place for practitioners to share information and discuss opportunities and strategies to promote the practice of behavior analysis. We also participate as an integral part of ABAI overall by working together with the other SIGs on this matter of great importance and concern in our evolution as a profession.

We extend our support to efforts of the ABAI Practice Board on such efforts. This may include providing training, linking practice to the research literature, and making resources available to practitioners.

The SIG is involved in support efforts to promote the practice of behavior analysis, public policy and practice matters, promoting application of behavior analysis with various client populations and types of behavior. We promote the science of behavior, evidence-based practice, and support linkage between these aspects of behavior analysis.

We are seeking nominations for officers for the coming year. Please join our PIBA SIG List Facebook 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. We do not keep a separate list of our SIG members. We have 37 on our Facebook list.

Members in this SIG can be found on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/groups/629483010970310

Rehabilitation and Independent Living

BY CHRIS SCHAUB

The Rehabilitation and Independent Living (RaIL) Special Interest Group, established in 1981, is committed to supporting and promoting the acceptance of behavior analysis as an integral discipline in rehabilitation, neurorehabilitation, and other related areas, particularly for those individuals who have experienced a brain or neurological injury. Individuals with acquired brain injuries and other neurological disabilities benefit from behavior analysts working collaboratively with their interdisciplinary teams and stakeholders, to develop treatment programs in settings such as hospitals, free-standing clinics, and private rehabilitation facilities. The science of behavior analysis is well equipped to help address the challenges these individuals face, including complex, neurobehavioral sequelae, related medical conditions, intense psychosocial challenges and significant disruption to their lives.

The Rehabilitation and Independent Living SIG has been a small group of dedicated and engaged rehabilitation professionals, including BCBAAs, who meet and communicate innovative ideas, gather support to expand the field, and compare program and treatment challenges. Over the last ten years, the RaIL SIG has hosted participants from multiple states and from as far away as India, Canada, and Ireland. The primary function and event for the RaIL SIG continues to be our group meetings at the annual ABAI conference. Active and engaged discussions have resulted in plans for ongoing development and growth, and an expansion in our membership over the last year. This has included an increased presence of academic and research professionals, as well as their students, furthering the cause and footprint of the group, while also providing additional opportunities for internships, research collaborations, and advancing the presence and value of ABA in the rehabilitation field.

Over the last two years, at the annual conference meetings, the group has been particularly excited to discuss and explore collaboration with the neuroscience SIG. This connection would allow both groups to utilize their collective expertise and experience toward advancing the concepts and relationship between neurology and behavior, ultimately to inform ABA services in this arena. A previously mentioned challenge facing the RaIL SIG is recognition of the core population represented by the group, specifically neurologically impaired individuals, recognizing that the name of the SIG may not clearly convey the focus of the group particularly well. However, the settings in which the members typically work with neurologically impaired individuals include clinical and academic settings focused on rehabilitation, and so it remains steeped in history within the organization.

The SIG continues to support expanding the

understanding of brain injury and the need for behavior services. RaIL SIG members previously helped develop, together with the BACB, a long-term action plan for growing the field of behavior analysis in acquired brain injury. A persistent consensus among the group is that more research and contributions are needed from professionals in the rehabilitation space to expand the knowledge base in this area. This further points to the great need for practical training and supervision of students including internship opportunities and partnerships between current treatment programs and BCBA verified practicum programs remains. Collaboration amongst treating BCBA's and other professionals is vital to successfully integrating sound practices into rehabilitation settings. Finally, guidelines for conceptualizing and implementing behavior analytic programming in brain injury rehabilitation need to be formulated, though research on interventions with brain injured patients has been limited and has lacked some of the rigor needed to provide valued results.

The RaIL SIG has continued to welcome members from such diverse backgrounds as physical medicine, psychology, neurology, etc. as well as other brain injury professionals, students and concerned family members. The power of that diversity is evident in lively discussions, informative exchanges of information and long-standing relationships that provide much needed support. Members are encouraged to share articles, program ideas and professional experiences. Members of the RaIL SIG must be a part of the solution. Growth of the RaIL SIG has come from current members networking with their peers and having the courage to step up to significant challenges this treatment population presents. It will also be furthered through more formal collaborations between the applied and academic fields, to include student involvement that expands their understanding of the scope of behavior analysis and introduces them to the unique settings and populations within the rehabilitation field where behavior analysts practice.

Visit the SIG Facebook page to check it out and join/like, the URL is: www.facebook.com/pages/ABA-Rehab-Special-Interest-Group/118243448217580

SIG Español

BY MAPY CHAVEZ ASKINS

El SIG Español fue fundado en el 2004, y nace de la búsqueda de espacios de habla hispana para el intercambio de experiencias, ideas, recursos e iniciativas por parte de analistas del comportamiento quienes tienen como primera lengua el español, o quienes trabajan con poblaciones cuya primera lengua es el español.

Nuestra misión tiene a su base establecer lazos de comunicación y colaboración entre miembros de ABAI. Otro objetivo importante del SIG es promover la investigación en

países de habla hispana, trayendo dichos resultados como presentaciones a la convención anual de ABAI.

A futuro, nos interesa re-establecer oportunidades para que este intercambio pueda ocurrir en español. El SIG Español se reúne cada año durante la Convención Anual de ABAI.

Aquellos interesados en obtener más información, o hacerse miembros, pueden comunicarse con:

Mapy Chávez Askins, PhD

mapy.chavez.askins@alcanzando.org

Speech Pathology SIG

BY NIKIA DOWER

Mission

The mission of the Speech Pathology Applied Behavior Analysis (SPABA) SIG is dedicated to fostering the advancement and dissemination of empirically supported research and interprofessional practice-based interventions in the intersecting fields of speech-language pathology and applied behavior analysis. Furthermore, SPABA is committed to advocating for the application of evidence-based practices across the spectrum of services offered by speech-language pathologists and behavior analysts. Lastly, SPABA strives to bridge the gap between research and practice through educational initiatives, training opportunities, and mentorship.

Gratitude

SPABA SIG is grateful for the ongoing support and guidance of the founder of the SIG and former chair, Barb Esch. We would also like to thank our current Board of Directors: Nikia Dower (President), Lina Slim (President-Elect), Tracie Lindblad (Secretary), Lilith Reuter-Yuill (Treasurer), Heather Forbes (Treasurer-Elect), Sophie Millon and Janine Shapiro (Event and Continuing Education Committee Chairs), Tamara Kasper (Communications Committee Chair), Sari Risen (Membership Committee Chair), and Deirdre Muldoon (Awards Committee Chair).

World-Wide SLP-BCBA and SLP-BCaBA

We are delighted to share that the number of Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) who hold Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) credentials has reached 525 globally. Our presence spans across 43 states in the United States, including Washington DC, Puerto Rico, and extends to 19 countries worldwide. Furthermore, we are committed to offering and upholding an online database featuring practitioners dually certified as SLPs and BCBA's/BCaBA's from various corners of the globe. Explore the database here: www.behavioralspeech.com/find-an-slpbcba.html.

Membership

In the 2023 membership cycle, we saw a rise in paid membership to 71, including 46 dual credentialed individuals and 6 student members. SPABA SIG remains committed to providing extensive access to SIG information and fostering interaction through social media channels. Considering both formal members and participants in the SPABA SIG Facebook group, we are thrilled to announce a total of 9,814 members, marking an increase of 304 from our previous report. The SPABA SIG Facebook group has proven instrumental in facilitating member connections, allowing for the swift exchange of relevant information. Since opening the group to all interested individuals, regardless of SIG paid membership, we have observed a steady uptick in interest year after year.

Financial

Membership fees and donations serve as direct funding for our annual grant competition. Over the past seven years, our approach of requesting a nominal membership fee along with a donation has yielded mixed results. For 2023, 23% of our members donated additional funds to the SIG above and beyond the membership fee. Since 2020, we have dedicated significant efforts to enhance our membership drive and express our appreciation publicly on social media platforms whenever a member signs up and contributes.

Annual Grants

SPABA is proud to offer three annual grants, each valued at \$500: the Giri Hegde Empirical Research Grant, the Barb Esch Application Grant, and the Nikia Dower Dissemination Grant. These grants are open to students and practicing clinicians who are engaged in empirical research or advocacy efforts to promote behavior analysis within the speech-language pathology (SLP) community. Research projects supported by these grants contribute to the evidence base for behavior-analytic approaches to treating speech, language, communication, and feeding disorders. Application projects focus on the effective application of behavior analysis principles by SLPs, which may include research studies enhancing the understanding of ABA or aligning with SPABA's mission. Dissemination projects aim to share accurate information about speech pathology and behavior analysis across disciplines. We are excited to note that several previous grant recipients have seen their research published, underscoring the impact of these grants in advancing knowledge and practice in the field.

SPABA SIG's 2023 grant recipients presented their research virtually in October 2023. Ph.D. student, Jessica Tran, MS, BCBA received the 2023 SPABA Giri Hegde Research Grant. The project was titled "Comparison of Mand Acquisition and Preference in Children with Autism who Exhibit Problem Behavior." Her advisor is Dr. Cynthia Livingston at the Munroe-

Meyer Institute | University of Nebraska Medical Center. SLP Graduate student, Grace Lafo for receiving the 2023 SPABA Nikia Dower Dissemination Grant. The project was titled "Assessment of Augmentative and Alternative Communication Modalities for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder." Her advisor is Dr. Lesley Shawler Ph.D. BCBA at Southern Illinois University - Carbondale. Brittany Loder, BCBA for receiving the 2023 SPABA Barbara Esch Application Grant. The project was titled "Response Restriction: A Path Toward Ensuring No Individual is Left Without Communication." Her advisor is Dr. Amanda Zangrillo, PsyD, BCBA-D at the Munroe-Meyer Institute | University of Nebraska Medical Center.

The recipients of the SPABA SIG's 2024 grants will be showcasing their projects virtually in October 2024. The application window for the 2024 grants closed on July 15, 2024. Each calendar year, both student members and practitioners can access the latest information regarding grant proposal submissions for the ongoing year on our website, www.behavioralspeech.com.

Dual Credentialed Individuals' Activities

Throughout 2023, dual credentialed individuals remained actively engaged in a variety of endeavors, spanning research, information dissemination, and the application of behavior analysis principles to address speech, language, feeding, and communication disorders in individuals of all ages. These efforts included publishing scholarly articles, publishing chapters in speech-language textbooks and behavior-analytic textbooks, conducting webinars, hosting and/or participating in podcasts, speaking at professional conventions, presenting posters at conferences, and mentoring students in the fields of ABA and speech pathology. While most activities occurred in North America, several also took place internationally, thus aligning with the SIG's overarching mission. In total, dual credentialed individuals delivered at least 174 presentations in 2023, including appearances at events such as the ABAAI 2023 Annual Convention, ASHA 2023 Annual Convention, various state speech/language association conferences, various state applied behavior analysis association conferences, various webinars, podcasts, and even local news interviews. Additionally, many dual credentialed individuals contributed presentations at non-speech/non-behavior analytic conferences. For a detailed list of 2023 presentations, please visit: www.pinterest.com/SPABASIGofABAAI/2023-slp-bcaba-and-slp-bcaba-presentations/. Nine dual credentialed individuals conducted workshops and were discussants/presenters at the ABAAI 2024 Annual Convention. For a comprehensive list all 2024 presentations by dual credentialed individuals, please visit www.pinterest.com/SPABASIGofABAAI/2024-slp-bcaba-slp-bcaba-presentations/.

Past Initiatives

- SPABA SIG upheld its dedication to distributing ABAI's Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Between Behavior Analysts and Speech-Language Pathologists resource document to professionals in both fields. We are thankful for ABAI's leadership in creating this significant document and take pride in noting that one of our current SPABA Board members was among the four authors.
- SPABA SIG maintained the presence of M.N. Hegde, PhD work on our website, showcasing his invaluable contributions to the speech-language field through a behavior-analytic perspective, which serves as a source of inspiration for all.
- SPABA SIG continued to produce an end of year electronic newsletter as a paid member benefit.
- In 2023, SPABA SIG continued to offer free, community of practice events (SCOPE). Topics for SCOPE included the Early Echoic Skills Assessment and Program Planner; Pseudoscience: A Discussion about Facilitated Communication, Rapid Prompting Method, and Spelling to Communicate; and Analyzing Popular Practice Approaches with Low-Quality Evidence: Gestalt Language Processing.
- SPABA SIG continued to be a CE provider via the BACB. Those who attended any SCOPE were able to purchase a CE for a nominal fee.
- 2023 SPABA SIG members were able to earn 2.0 CEs as part of their membership benefits.
- SPABA SIG's ongoing and consistent social media presence helped in dissemination across disciplines.

Current Initiatives

- The SPABA SIG will continue to offer CEs for attending SCOPEs in 2024.
- The SPABA SIG is hopeful that we can offer our inaugural conference in the fall of 2024.
- The SPABA SIG will continue to be regularly active via our Facebook group, Facebook page, as well as Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest accounts and our LinkedIn page.
- SPABA SIG has been working to become a non-profit organization in 2024.

Future Initiatives

- The SPABA Board of Directors is looking forward to expanding our membership through various initiatives, social media and increasing member participation within our committees.
- 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 speech/language conferences and conventions.

- Continue disseminating speech-language information to ABAI members and BACB certified individuals via various behavior-analytic Facebook groups and listservs as well as presenting at ABA conferences and conventions.
- Continue disseminating interprofessional collaboration information across related disciplines and fields to maximize outcomes for shared consumers of our services. This collaboration has strong benefits and enhances communication between our related professions.
- SPABA SIG would like 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, communication and feeding disorders in children and adults.
 - Work with the Verbal Behavior SIG and Behavioral Gerontology SIG on joint programs and initiatives. The success of these initiatives hinges on greater financial backing from our members. We invite you to consider contributing your expertise or services, making financial donations, or offering committee support. With your assistance, we can effectively address the needs of our membership and successfully fulfill our planned 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 and join or follow us on social media:

Facebook Group: SPABA.SIG

Facebook Page: SPABASIGofABAI

X (formerly Twitter): SPABASIG

Instagram: SPABASIG

Pinterest: SPABASIGofABAI

LinkedIn: [speech-pathology-applied-behavior-analysis-special-interest-group-of-abai](https://www.linkedin.com/company/speech-pathology-applied-behavior-analysis-special-interest-group-of-abai)

LinkTree: linktr.ee/spabasisg

Standard Celeration Society

BY THE SCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Standard Celeration Society (SCS) became an ABAI special interest group (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 Standard Celeration Society serve as guiding principles that shape our conduct in fulfilling our Mission. Central to our ethos is the commitment to community, where we actively

work towards building a dedicated group that fosters contribution and connection among members, emphasizing respect and generosity in all interactions. Authenticity is another core value that informs our decision-making process, as we pledge to make choices aligned with our values, ensuring transparency and welcoming input from our members. Inclusivity is paramount, as we strive to create a culture and space that is open, inviting, and supportive of differences within the community, promoting equity. Recognizing the importance of legacy, we value the history and contributions of the science and practice, (e.g., “standing on the shoulders of giants”), aiming to build upon the foundations laid by those who came before us. Finally, kindness is a fundamental principle that underscores our commitment to fostering an environment where all members engage with one another with kindness in both verbal and nonverbal interactions. Together, these values form the bedrock of the Standard Celeration Society, guiding us in our collective efforts to advance our mission and contribute positively to the field.

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-yr terms, an executive director, vice presidents, associate vice presidents, and committee members. The board of directors provide guidance and decision making for the SCS executive director, who implements board initiatives with vice presidents, associate vice presidents, and volunteers. We also have a five-member advisory council that supports the work of the SCS by providing expertise and professional knowledge. Current leadership teams include finance, programs, membership, scientific and academic relations, non-conference programs, operations, communications, international relations, diversity, and website services. Our leadership teams have actively developed the underlying systems to support the SIG’s structure and facilitate institutional memory as individuals transition into leadership roles, a vital component for voluntary leadership teams to maintain productivity.

The Standard Celeration Society (SCS) is embarking on a series of impactful priority initiatives aimed at strengthening our community and advancing the field of Precision Teaching. First, we are actively engaged in a robust membership recruitment drive to expand our network of committed professionals. Membership in the SCS 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 web-based continuing education events. Last year the organization implemented a values-based dues model.

The suggested dues amount fees range from sustaining membership for \$130, full membership for \$70, and student membership for \$35. The minimum amounts are \$130 for sustaining membership, \$50 for full membership, and \$25 for student membership. The member may also direct any additional dues they choose to pay to be directed toward a specific initiative or to the SCS general fund.

In addition to membership recruitment, the SCS is launching a mentorship initiative to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing within our community. This program will connect experienced professionals with those seeking guidance, creating a supportive environment for skill development and career advancement. By tapping into the wealth of expertise within the SCS, we aim to nurture the next generation of Precision Teaching practitioners and researchers. This mentorship initiative aligns with our commitment to continuous learning and collaborative growth.

Furthermore, we are excited to announce our second international conference, scheduled to take place in the picturesque setting of Italy. Mark your calendars for this momentous event set to unfold with a backdrop of rich history and vibrant culture. The conference, slated for September 2025 will feature renowned keynote speakers and provide a platform for participants to engage with pioneering research, innovative practices, and collaborative discussions. This gathering in Italy is not just a conference; it is a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the global Precision Teaching community, forging connections, and contributing to the evolution of our field. Join us in Italy as we elevate the discourse and chart the course for the future of Precision Teaching.

Finally, our 37th Annual Conference of the Standard Celeration Society will be held November 7–9, 2024 in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town. The conference spans three days, with the first day offering invited interactive workshops for practitioners and scientists of all kinds. The last two days feature invited and submitted symposium, panel and paper presentations, poster session, annual chart share, and expo. The scheduled invited speakers are Dr. Richard Kubina, Dr. Peter Sturmey, Dr. Bill Heward and Dr. Elle Kirsten.

Please visit www.celeration.org for more information regarding all of our upcoming conferences. 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 DANIELLE LAFRANCE

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 2023 ABAI Annual Convention. There were three winners of the 2023 VB SIG Student Grant Competition—First Place: Jacqueline Pecoraro, University of Missouri, St. Louis; Second Place: Sara Sato, Endicott College; Third Place: Sydney Stern, California State University, Sacramento. We would like to thank the reviewers of this competition: Drs. Regina Carroll, Sarah Frampton, Kendra Guinness, and Kent Johnson. In addition, there were three winners of the 2023 VB SIG Student Research Competition: John Wooderson, University of Technology, Sydney; Vanessa Lee, California State University, Sacramento; and Todd Owen, University of Nebraska Medical Center’s Munroe-Meyer Institute. We thank the judges: Drs. Maya Fallon, Nicole Pantano, Juliana Oliveira, and doctoral student Karina Zhelezoglo.

The VB SIG also presented one professional award. The Clinical Supervisor in Verbal Behavior Award was given to Dr. Francesca degli Espinosa. We thank the judges: Drs. Mary Halbur, Ji Young Kim, Ciobha McKeown, and Nicole Pantano.

The VB SIG published three full issues of VB News, our newsletter. Features of these issues included highlights of our student group and board members, a student article review, information related to a special issue in TAVB, verbal behavior research highlights, information about our online series, and verbal behavior resources. Additionally, the SIG’s Newsletter Editor has updated the look of our newsletter to support efforts in enhancing the experiences of our members. This update also increased the efficiency with which the SIG generates its newsletters, given the superior software program used to develop it (i.e., Canva), and allowed the VB SIG’s Website Coordinator to provide members-only access to this particular benefit via our website. We are excited about the quality of our newsletter, our ability to share it online with our members, and the positive feedback from readers.

The VB SIG maintained a strong presence on the web and social media this year in an effort to continue dissemination of verbal behavior. The VB SIG transitioned to a new website in the past year, which allows for members only to access material such as archived newsletters and special VB content as part of their membership benefits. The new website also allows for renewal of group memberships and donations online, which has helped the SIG manage its membership applications and renewals. The SIG’s Facebook page currently has 3.7k likes and 4.2k followers. Of note, in 2023 the SIG consolidated its Facebook accounts (there was previously an official Facebook Page and a separate

Facebook group), as activity in the Facebook group over the course of 2022 pulled focus away from the SIG’s mission. 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. We have also used our social media platforms to disseminate information about the SIG’s online CEU events, and in collaboration with the Editor, to share important information and announcements related to *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*. In the coming year, we plan to continue using social media platforms to contact VB SIG supporters and share information of interest to them, and are in preliminary discussions about increasing our social media presence to platforms such as Instagram and LinkedIn.

The VB SIG membership remained strong (i.e., 122 members in 2022 and in 2023 as compared to 141 in 2021). 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 2023 ABAI convention through March 1, 2024, we maintained membership at 122 members, which shows tremendous dedication to the study of verbal behavior and support of the VB SIG. We also gained 17 new members in 2024 alone so far. Our members enjoy eight benefits: (1) receiving VB News 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 VB SIG awards; (5) becoming eligible to be elected to positions on the VB SIG Board; (6) becoming involved in the VB SIG student group; (7) gaining professional development; accessing our mini conferences and webinars at a discounted rate; and (8) joining an active community of people passionate about verbal behavior. Additionally, the SIG’s Board Members launched a new benefit for student members this past year, which consists of a mentorship program. Drs. Mirela Cengher (Membership Coordinator) and Tiffany Kodak (TAVB Editor) collaboratively outlined the process of developing this new resource for members. Within this program, students and junior researchers are paired with doctoral-level senior researchers, who shape their peer-reviewing skills. Two pairs of mentor-mentees piloted the mentorship program, and the SIG is in the process of identifying its next pairs of mentor-mentees as all previous mentees have successfully met criteria to graduate out of this program. We are very proud to offer this newest benefit, and we are grateful to the 122 members who supported the VB SIG this year.

The VB SIG has continued to host online events

in 2023. Speakers for these events included: Dr. Andy Bondy, who presented a talk entitled, A Deep Dive into the (Mis)Application of Skinner's Verbal Behavior (July); Drs. Maria de Lourdes Passos, David Eckerman, David Palmer, Sakurako Tanaka, and Robert Vreeland, who participated in a panel entitled, Dr. John Mabry: A Memorial Celebration Panel Discussion (September); Drs. Judah Axe, Traci Cihon, April Kisamore, William Potter, and Mark Sundberg, who participated in a panel entitled, The VB SIG - A Historical Account from the Lens of Past Chairs (September); and Drs. Lina Slim, Barbara Esch, Heather Forbes, and Joanne Gerenser, who participated in a panel entitled, Behavior Analysts and Speech-Language Pathologists: Sharing Space in Practice and Research through Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practices (December). The style of these talks is unique in that each presenter speaks for about 50 min and then a member of our student group spends approximately 20 min interviewing the speaker after which we open the discussion to attendees for a 15 min question and answer period. We received positive feedback following each event, and the SIG is currently in the process of identifying speakers for a new series to be hosted in 2024.

In 2021, we marketed a new website design; in 2022, we unveiled a new VB SIG logo, making our brand easily visually recognizable and allowing us to expand our reach. In 2023, the SIG began distributing swag with this logo during the business meeting at the annual ABAI conference, further supporting these efforts. Notably, the VB SIG has seen increased engagement from potential new members and long-standing members of the verbal behavior community this past year in the form of increased donations as well as engagement with our Dissemination Coordinator and offers/requests to speak at our online events. We look forward to continuing this momentum into the next year. Further, the SIG has begun the process of establishing more formal collaborative initiatives with the Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior Special Interest Group (EAHB SIG), and there is discussion of doing so with the Speech Pathology Applied Behavior Analysis Special Interest Group (SPABA SIG) as well to further support our dissemination efforts. Finally, the SIG's board members have also generated a plan to actively reach out to clinicians and researchers interested in Verbal Behavior to invite them to our community and provide them with access to our resources. This plan includes more targeted email campaigns to authors publishing in this area, as well as communication and collaboration with academic programs and faculty working with internship sites and clinicians to help spread the word.

Finally, the VB SIG's Past Treasurer, Dr. Kathryn Glodowski, worked extremely closely with the SIG's current Treasurer, Dr. Samantha Bergmann to ensure continuity in our efforts to obtain non-profit status

and ensure a smooth pass off of these responsibilities. Dr. Bergmann continues to work closely with both an accountant and the SIG's lawyer, guiding the rest of the board members on these efforts. We are extremely excited to announce that as of February 2024, all the required documentation to obtain non-profit status has been filed and submitted. The VB SIG eagerly awaits the results, and plans to announce this change as an additional benefit both to members and potential donors, once governmental approval has been obtained.

The work of disseminating and promoting verbal behavior would not be possible without the diligent efforts of the VB SIG Board Members. There were three new VB SIG board members elected this past year: Dr. Meral Koldas, Ph.D., BCBA-D, who took over as the SIG's Dissemination Coordinator; Dr. Ji Young Kim, Ph.D., BCBA-D, who took over as the SIG's Membership Coordinator; and Dr. Samantha Bergmann, Ph.D., BCBA-D, who took over as the SIG's Treasurer. Additionally, after the unexpected resignation of Dr. Stephanie Keesey-Phelan, Dr. Ciobha McKeown graciously took over as the SIG's Grant Competition Coordinator. The SIG has yet to fill the position of Student Group Liaison, but is hopeful that this will occur prior to the annual convention in May. We will also continue to modify existing processes to ensure effective and efficient transfer of responsibilities following elections. The SIG also continues to maintain a close working relationship with Dr. Tiffany Kodak, as the Editor of *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*. We would like to welcome our new VB SIG board members, and will be hosting elections for several board positions in 2024, as several of our current board members come to the end of their terms (i.e., Newsletter Editor, Professional Awards Coordinator, Secretary, Website Coordinator).

Current VB SIG board members include: Adrienne Jennings, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Grant Competition Coordinator), Andresa De Souza, Ph.D., BCBA-D (President), Angelica Aguirre, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Newsletter Editor), Ciobha (Grant Competition Coordinator), Danielle LaFrance, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Past President), Ji Young Kim, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Membership Coordinator), Lesley Shawler, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Professional Awards Coordinator), Meral Koldas, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Dissemination Coordinator), Robbie Hanson, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Secretary), Samantha Bergmann, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Treasurer), and Videsha Marya, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Website Coordinator). ❖



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Costumed revelers chat outside Cornet, a restaurant housed in a c. 1842 Greek Revival building at the corner of Bourbon Street and Saint Peter Street, featuring a covered cast iron gallery.

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