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[www.abainternational.org/events/autism-2025.aspx](http://www.abainternational.org/events/autism-2025.aspx)



**ON THE COVER**

Paul Manship's 1934 masterwork, *Prometheus*, overlooks the skating rink at the Lower Plaza of 30 Rock, one of the original art deco skyscrapers of Rockefeller Center. The 1936 skating rink was originally intended to be a temporary replacement for an unprofitable retail center, but the rink proved to be such a popular tourist attraction that a permanent rink was built in 1939. Paul Manship was one of the most important Art Deco sculptors of the 20th Century.

Illustration: MARTIN C. BURCH

**Inside Behavior Analysis**

Publication of the Association for Behavior Analysis International

**Issue Date:** November 2025

**Issue Number:** Vol. 17, No. 3

Frequency of Publication:

Inside Behavior Analysis is published three times annually. Subscriptions are provided with ABAI membership; others may subscribe from the ABAI website [www.abainternational.org](http://www.abainternational.org)

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VOLUME 17  
No 3  
NOVEMBER  
2025

INSIDE BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS  
NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS INTERNATIONAL

## Letter from SABA President

# SABA. SUPPORT FOR ONE; SUPPORT FOR ALL

BY KENT JOHNSON

**I**N MY THIRD YEAR AS PRESIDENT, I WILL focus on our not-for-profit arm, SABA. ABAI and SABA. Do you know the difference? No worries if you do not; lots of our members are unclear. All members know about ABAI—the Association for Behavior Analysis International. Many register to attend the annual convention hosted by ABAI. And many of us attend other ABAI-hosted conferences such as the annual autism conference, the bi-annual international, and our occasional Theory and Philosophy, Education, and single-case experimental design conferences (the latter is new this year!). Many of us also subscribe to ABAI journals and purchase books that ABAI has published.

But SABA? SABA is the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis, a not-for-profit corporation. As such, it is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue code, and is the tax-deductible mechanism for individuals and agencies to contribute money to behavior analysis. SABA funds important projects and provides funds to graduate students for attending our annual convention and conducting their research. Over almost five decades, SABA has sponsored 266 research, development, and dissemination projects through competitive grant programs, and has supported 2,440 graduate students to attend our ABAI convention. Let me describe our SABA awards and projects in more detail.

### 2025 SABA Awards

My favorite convention event each year is the opening one: the SABA Awards Ceremony. Here we recognize those who have significantly contributed to different aspects of behavior analysis. I love this event because I learn about so many different areas of behavior analysis that I don't encounter in my daily work.

#### In 2025, we awarded:

**Michael Perone**, from West Virginia University, for his Distinguished Service to Behavior Analysis. Mike has been

President of ABAI and SABA twice, chair of SABA's first capital campaign, coordinator of the Accreditation Board, chair of our task force on contingent electric shock, and delegate to the organization that focuses on animal care—the AAALAC International. Mike's superb leadership in so many aspects of ABAI and SABA functioning can't be beat. And his humor provides icing on the cake!

**Timothy Hackenberg**, from Reed College, for Scientific Translation of Behavior Analysis. Tim's research has always been oriented to a broad understanding of behavior analysis, from cross-species continuity to applied applications of basic research.

**Julio de Rose**, from the Universidade Federal de Sao Carlos, Brazil, for International Dissemination of Behavior Analysis. Julio founded the Brazilian National Institute of Science and Technology on Behavior, a fantastic network of research and application.

**Alexandra Kurland**, from The Clicker Center, for Effective Presentation of Behavior Analysis in the Mass Media. Her work includes podcasts, manuals, DVDs and books, all about training and caring for horses.

**Carlos de Jesus Torres**, for Enduring Programmatic Contributions to Behavior Analysis. Carlos hails from the Center for Behavioral Studies and Research at the University of Guadalajara. His research and practice spans a wide variety of areas including health psychology, temporal control of behavior, analysis of linguistic behavior, stimulus discrimination, and methodological strategies.

#### Grants to Students

Our grants to students are our most important contributions. They also provide significant returns in maintaining our membership.

#### Master's Thesis Research Grants: Up to \$2,500

Congratulations to **Nicole Markofski** (Effects of Gradual

I want to express my profound gratitude for being selected as the recipient of this award. I appreciate the thoughtful feedback and will be sure to consider them when finalizing my thesis. For ABA10, I plan on attending the conference and am excited to join you at the Opening Event and SABA as well and submit my work.

and Blocked Context Fading on Operant Renewal in Humans—\$2,500)!

#### **Doctoral Dissertation Research Grants: Up to \$5,000**

Congratulations to **Matias Avellaneda** (Unveiling the Mechanisms of Choice Between Multiple Alternatives—\$3,164), **Jonah Bann** (A Component Analysis of Evocative and Reinforcing Variables in the Assessment of Challenging Behavior—\$4,991), **Sergio Ramos** (Behavioral Chains and Self-Control: Investigating the Role of Schedule-Induced Behaviors in a Delay Discounting Task Under THC Chronic Exposure—\$4,870), and **Maribel Rodriguez Perez** (Using Hypothetical Purchase Tasks to Evaluate and Reduce the Reinforcing Value of Meat—\$5,000)!

#### **Senior Student Presenter Grants (registration waivers)**

Congratulations to all recipients!

#### **Research Grants in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

Congratulations to **Amanda Chastain** (Equivalence Class Formation and Attitudes Towards Neurodevelopmental Disabilities—\$5,000)!

#### **Micro-credentials Development Grant**

We award up to \$10,000 for developing a micro-credential. A micro-credential as an award based on a short, verifiable presentation, that demonstrates mastery of a specific, observable and measurable skill. An individual with a micro-credential can demonstrate competent, mastery-level performance of its corresponding skill—on demand. Congratulations to the following recipients of this year's micro-credential development grants:

**Ray Joslyn**, West Virginia University, for The Good Behavior Game: Basic Implementation (\$10,000)

**Catherine Williams**, University of North Carolina Wilmington, for Applied Learning Sciences: Categorizing Types of Learning to Facilitate the Design of Instruction (\$9,417)

Again, I thank you so much for the great news. I am honored to receive such an important grant from a cardinal of behavior analysis. I deeply appreciate your support and cannot wait to conduct and share my results and the requested info.

**Odessa Luna, Eunju Choi, Michele Traub**, St. Cloud State University, for Collecting Data and Remediating BCBA Trainee's Interpersonal Skills During Professional Interactions (\$9,193)

#### **International Development Grant**

These grants are for projects that promote behavior analysis internationally. We have awarded grants from more than 25 countries around the world. Three were awarded this year. Congratulations to **Alejandro Leon**, **Corina Jimenez**, and **Varsovia Hernandez** (Advancing Behavior Analysis: Strengthening Behavior Analysis Within a Biomedical Program in Mexico—\$5,000); **Yors Garcia** and **José Julio Carnerero** (Building Resilience and Reducing Burnout: A Behavior-Analytic Intervention for Latin American Practitioners—\$5,000); and **Gabrielle Torres** (Providing IBT Course Content to Increase Delivery of High Quality Courses in Nations With Limited Access to Behavior Analysis—\$4,760)!

#### **Public Awareness Grant**

These grants of up to \$10,000 fund projects that introduce and promote the science of behavior to the general public. Congratulations to **Rebecca Barall**, **Michael Mozzoni**, **Thurka Thillainathan**, and **Chris M. Schaub** (Applied Behavior Analysis for Neurorehabilitation: A Website to Disseminate Accurate Information and Resources—\$4,900); **Dena Kelly** (Public Awareness Campaign for Pediatricians on Behavior Analytic Solutions for Feeding Disorders—\$4,500); **Susannah Poe** (Spreading the Message Campaign—\$5,000); and **Pham Tuyen** (The Importance of Parent Education on ABA for Autism Spectrum Disorder—\$5,000)!

#### **Sidney W. and Janet R. Bijou Grant**

The Bijou's endowed SABA with money to fund basic and applied research in child development from a behavior

analytic perspective. SABA funds up to \$12,000 for each award. Congratulations to **Taylor Lewis** (Assessing and Guiding Visual Attending by Early Learners During Picture Book Reading — \$12,000)!

Our ABAI and SABA partnership constitutes the most comprehensive international organization for behavior analysis. I encourage you to provide a gift to SABA for a project or student fund that I have just described. Or you

can donate to SABA's unrestricted fund to allow us to distribute your contribution where needed. You can also include SABA in your estate planning. SABA recently launched a **Giving Day** initiative that many not-for-profit organizations have established. Our next **Giving Day is December 2, 2025**.

Thanks for your contributions. They are essential for behavior analysis to survive and thrive! ♦



**Society for the Advancement  
of Behavior Analysis**

**Thesis Grant Winner**

Nicole Markofski  
Northern Michigan University  
\$2,500

**Dissertation Grant Winners**

Maribel Rodriguez Perez  
University of Florida  
\$5,000

Jonah Bann  
Louisiana State University  
\$4,991

Matias Avellaneda  
Utah State University  
\$3,164

**THE SOCIETY for the ADVANCEMENT of BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS  
(SABA) AWARDED the FOLLOWING GRANTS in 2025:**

**Sergio Ramos-Solis**

Universidad Nacional de  
Educación a Distancia (UNED)  
\$4,870

**Sidney W. &  
Janet R. Bijou Grant**

Taylor Lewis  
University of  
North Carolina Wilmington  
\$12,000

**Innovative Student  
Research in DEI**

Amanda Chastain  
University of Illinois Chicago  
\$5,000

**Diana Perez**

Utah State University  
\$4,950

# 2025 SABA Grant Reports

**Public Awareness**

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

**International Development**

Yors Garcia  
Pontificia Universidad Javeriana  
\$5,000

**Gabrielle Torres**

Shaping Changing Lab  
Capella University  
& Find Your Impact  
\$4,760

**Alejandro León**

Universidad Veracruzana  
\$5,000

**Pham Tuyen**

RMIT University  
\$5,000

**Susannah Grimm Poe**

West Virginia University  
School of Medicine  
\$5,000

**Rebecca Barall**

University of Nebraska  
Medical Center  
\$4,900

## Master's Thesis Grants



**Nicole Markofski**

**Title:** *Effects of Gradual and Blocked Context Fading on Operant Renewal in Humans* Nicole Markofski earned her B.S. degrees in Biology and Spanish from the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh in 2021. After discovering an interest in behavioral science, she returned and earned her B.A. degree in Psychology in 2024. Since beginning her graduate training in the M.S. in Psychology program at Northern Michigan University, Nicole has focused on designing psychological research, creating experimental software, and developing a record of scholar-

ship under the mentorship of Drs. Cory and Forrest Toegel. Her main research interests include developing and refining strategies to treat severe behavior, promote procedural fidelity, and mitigate relapse. In some circumstances, such as those in which socially defined problematic behavior (e.g., substance abuse) is effectively suppressed by an intervention, the recurrence – or relapse – of that behavior is undesirable. Renewal is a subtype of relapse that occurs when a response that is reinforced in one context and suppressed in another context, returns to a relatively high rate when the original context is restored. Because the generalization of treatment effects from clinical settings to other environments is therapeutically relevant, it would be worthwhile to evaluate strategies capable of mitigating renewal.

Nicole's thesis is a human-operant translational study that investigates effects of three context fading procedures on the mitigation of renewal of suppressed operant behavior. This study uses a between-groups design to evaluate the mitigation of renewal in a three-phase A-B-A renewal procedure in which the stimulus associated with extinction (the B Phase) fades gradually from a unique stimulus to the stimulus used in acquisition and test phases (Phase A; Gradual Fade group), fades in large steps from a unique stimulus to the stimulus associated with acquisition and test phases (Blocked Fade group), or fades gradually from a unique stimulus to another unique stimulus (Novel Fade group). Results from each fading group will be compared against a group that is exposed to a Standard A-B-A renewal procedure. This study aims to evaluate renewal mitigation in a safe and highly controlled translational laboratory setting.

This SABA grant will support Nicole's work by providing study equipment and materials and travel funding to present her results at ABAI's annual 2026 convention in San Francisco, CA.

## Doctoral Dissertation Grants



### Matias Avellaneda

In a broad sense, choice refers to how organisms distribute the limited amount of time they have available among all possible alternatives. Richard Herrnstein famously argued that, under this definition, all behavior constitutes choice. His argument rested on the notion that no matter how impoverished an organism's environment might be, there will always be more than one alternative to engage in. For instance, a rat pressing a lever for food in an operant chamber might occasionally stop to groom, roam around, or even sleep. The study of choice under this framework led to matching theory, which in turn produced a gargantuan body of research throughout the years. Matching theory, and specifically the matching law, attempts to predict how much time an organism will allocate to one particular behavior as a function of the proportion of all reinforcers that this behavior produces. This is a significant achievement for behavior analysis, but several questions still remain: why do organisms behave according to the matching law? What prompts an animal to disengage from the activity they are currently emitting to do something else? Matias Avellaneda sought to develop a mathematical model that would shed light on these matters. To this end, he built on previous research showing that the distribution of visit durations in concurrent schedules of reinforcement is approximately exponential, which implies that concurrent-schedule performance can be modeled using continuous-time Markov chains. He also refined equations originally proposed by Randy Galistel and colleagues, which resulted in a successful model

of visit duration in two-alternative choice. In the dissertation research proposed for the 2025 Innovative Student Research Grant, Matias showed that different assumptions about which mechanisms underlie the decision to abandon an alternative to engage with another one result in different extensions of his model when more than two alternatives are considered. Using these extensions, he designed a critical experiment whose results will support at most one of the extensions, thus showing which of the posited mechanisms (if any) are plausible. The supported model would provide tentative but feasible answers to the questions raised above, thus greatly improving our understanding of choice.



### Jonah Bann

Jonah Bann is a first-year doctoral student in the Behavior Analysis PhD program at Louisiana State University, where he is currently a member of Dr. Sam Morris's lab. Jonah received his undergraduate degree in Disability Studies from Vanderbilt University and his master's degree from Rutgers University in Applied Behavior Analysis.

Jonah was awarded a grant for his study, "A Component Analysis of Evocative and Reinforcing Variables in the Assessment of Challenging Behavior." The study introduces the Component Functional Analysis (CFA), a functional assessment designed to address a critical gap in current methodologies: no existing functional analysis simultaneously identifies both independent and synthesized functions of challenging behaviors in children with disabilities. Inspired by the need to bridge the traditional functional analysis (FA; Iwata et al., 1982/1994), which identifies independent functions, and the IISCA/PFA (Hanley et al., 2014), which detects synthesized functions, the CFA aims to build upon the strengths of both approaches for more precise, function-based interventions.

The CFA systematically evaluates evocative and reinforcing variables by sequentially introducing establishing operations (e.g., withheld attention, tangibles, or presented demands) and, contingent upon the occurrence of challenging behavior, sequentially delivering putative reinforcers until challenging behavior stops persisting. This is intended to allow for an evaluation of the effects of evocative and reinforcing variables when presented independently and in combination. This study's primary aims are to assess the CFA's predictive validity against a multielement FA using a receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve analysis to determine accuracy and optimal cutoff scores, and to evaluate its efficiency by comparing session durations. Using a consecutive controlled case series (CCCS) design, the study ensures robust evaluation across diverse behavioral functions and topographies, minimizing bias and enhancing generalizability. If successful, the CFA could greatly improve the precision and efficiency of

behavioral assessments, leading to tailored interventions that enhance outcomes for children who exhibit challenging behaviors. Jonah expresses his sincere gratitude to the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis for supporting this research.



### Sergio Ramos

Sergio Ramos is a PhD candidate at the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED) in Madrid, Spain. His doctoral research focuses on the Experimental Analysis of Behavior, specifically on the basic processes that underlie impulsive choice —understood

as a preference for immediate small rewards over large but delayed ones (Vandelvert et al., 2016). Alongside his experimental work, Sergio has also been developing expertise in the applied field focusing on addictions, where impulsive choice plays a crucial role. In such cases, the consumption of certain drugs alters the sensitivity to the delay, thereby reducing the control of delayed rewards on current choices. By investigating the fundamental mechanisms of decision-making and identifying the factors that enhance self-control — as well as the mechanisms through which these factors exert their influence — his work aims to make a significant contribution to the field of behavior analysis, both at the experimental and applied levels.

Sergio's current research, supported by the 2025 SABA Innovative Student Research Grant, investigates strategies to reduce impulsive choice in chronic cannabis users. The project focuses on the development of Schedule-Induced Behaviors during delays to larger, delayed rewards, in contexts where cannabis impairs reinforcer discrimination. These behaviors are expected to reduce impulsivity by functioning as an immediate conditioned reinforcement of making self-controlled choice and mitigating delay-based devaluation through the formation of behavioral chains. The findings will contribute to a better understanding of the behavioral mechanisms underlying impulsive choice and their potential application in intervention strategies.

Although some behavioral effects of cannabis improve after cessation, growing evidence shows that others—such as increased impulsive choice—can persist over time. These long-lasting effects of THC may compromise therapeutic progress and increase the risk of relapse. Sergio's research addresses the need to reduce such short-term consequences, particularly during the early stages of abstinence, when new behavioral patterns must be established to support treatment engagement.

Receiving this grant is not only an academic milestone for Sergio, but also a meaningful step in his commitment to using behavioral science to better understand—and ultimately improve—the lives of those affected by addictions.

### Maribel Rodriguez Perez

**Title:** *Using Hypothetical Purchase Tasks to Evaluate and Reduce the Reinforcing Value of Meat.*

Maribel Rodriguez Perez is a third-year PhD candidate at the University of Florida working under the supervision of Dr. Meredith Berry in the Department of Health Education and Behavior. Her research interests involve applying behavioral economics to understand human decision-making regarding environmentally sustainable behaviors, particularly through dietary choices.

She has been awarded the 2025 Innovative Student Research Grant to support her ongoing dissertation work, which focuses on using behavioral economics demand to quantify the valuation of animal product consumption and testing different strategies to reduce it.

Meat consumption is a global concern due to its direct negative impact on the environment, human health, and animal welfare. Research on meat reduction has primarily focused on measuring attitudes and intentions. Maribel's project offers a novel behavioral approach to quantify meat purchasing using demand analysis, a method that will allow the prediction of meat consumption behavior beyond attitudes and intentions. This method would enable rigorous determination of the potential effectiveness of various interventions (i.e., behavioral manipulations, messaging strategies).

Her work thus far has demonstrated the initial incremental reliability and validity of a hypothetical meat purchase task and shown the potential applications of demand analysis for measuring meat consumption. The SABA grant will continue to support these efforts by allowing her to establish the ecological validity of this task and test its utility across larger and more diverse populations.

This project will offer valuable insights into the application of behavioral economic assessments for meat consumption with direct implications for improving public health, environmental conservation, and animal welfare. Additionally, this project will inform numerous future directions for behavior analytic and behavioral economic research relevant to public health. Such as the utility of the cross-price elasticity of meat and other plant-based alternatives to identify effective substitutes for meat and other animal products. This may have direct translational applications for marketing and public policy, such as labeling, meat taxation, and subsidies for alternative plant-based foods.



### Sidney W. and Janet R. Bijou Grant

#### Taylor Lewis

Taylor Lewis is a PhD student at the University of North Carolina



Wilmington, studying under the supervision of Dr. Tom Cariveau. She earned her BAEd from UNC Chapel Hill and her MS in psychology from UNCW. Her research focuses on leveraging stimulus control technologies to refine instructional methods and better support children experiencing learning difficulties. The Sidney W. and Janet R. Bijou Grant will support her dissertation, which examines visual attending and sources of stimulus control during picture-book reading with early learners.

Pictures are commonly presented alongside text in children's early reading materials, which may support errorless learning, reading comprehension, and motivation to read. However, research suggests that pictures may hinder development of other outcomes, including responding controlled by textual stimuli (see review by Kennedy & Cariveau, 2023). Typical picture-text arrangements may result in limited attending to text, as children may respond correctly by tacting the pictures rather than reading the text. This effect has been termed the picture-text problem. Taylor's master's thesis (Lewis & Cariveau, 2025) showed that remediation of the picture-text problem can be achieved by arranging compound stimulus arrays that require differential responding to the text. Although promising, there remain several other potential sources of stimulus control in early reading contexts that can impact reading development. For example, the presence of multiple stimulus elements in picture-text arrangements could produce responding under multiple control. Michael et al. (2011) argued that multiple control is the "rule rather than the exception" (p. 3) and Skinner (1957) noted that "...the strength of a single response may be, and usually is, a function of more than one variable" (p. 277). The current study will leverage eye-tracking technologies and stimulus control analyses to study multiple control in picture-book reading by young children. Using this approach, the project will seek to address questions about multiple sources of control in early reading, developmental changes in visual attending and stimulus control, and methods to promote textual responding during early reading experiences.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Grant

### Amanda Chastain

Amanda Chastain holds a master's degree in Psychology (Applied Behavior Analysis) from California State University, Sacramento, and is currently completing her doctoral degree in Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Illinois Chicago. In 2024, she was awarded a Certificate in Disability Ethics from the University of Illinois Chicago's Department of Disability and Human Development. Her dissertation integrates



findings on the equivalence model of social categorization, implicit attitudes, and stimulus blocking to investigate the role of prior history on the development and maintenance of bias toward individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities. This work contributes to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts by advancing the understanding of implicit bias and laying the groundwork for the development of effective stigma-reduction strategies aligned with the neurodiversity social justice movement. Specifically, she examines the mechanisms by which stereotypes are maintained and resisted. She has over a decade of clinical experience working in applied behavior analytic programs, where she has held roles including Program Director, Behavior Consultant, and Senior Behavior Therapist. She has worked as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst in school-, clinic-, and home-based programs with autistic children and adolescents. Most recently, Ms. Chastain began a position as an Assistant Professor of Applied Behavior Analysis at the Oregon Institute of Technology. Her primary research interest is the influence of language and cognition on behaviors and practices across individual, interpersonal, and cultural levels. She is committed to improving the availability and efficacy of individual and social supports for members of the broader neurodiversity community, emphasizing the need for neurodiversity affirming practice and social systems change. Additionally, Amanda currently serves as a Planner for the Behaviorists for Social Responsibility (BFSR) Special Interest Group within the Association for Behavior Analysis International organization, where she has played a key role in developing a Public Policy Working Group composed of researchers, practitioners, and community members working to integrate behavior analysis into public policy and advocacy.

## International Development Grants

### Jose Julio Carnerero and Yors Garcia

*Title: Building Resilience and Reducing Burnout: A Behavior Analytic Intervention for Latin American Practitioners*



*This grant will support the development and implementation of a culturally responsive intervention to reduce burnout and build resilience among behavior analysts in Latin America. The initiative addresses the urgent need for practitioner well-being in a region where professionals often work in under-resourced, unsupervised, and unregulated environments. These conditions contribute to emotional exhaustion, limited peer support, and high*

turnover, ultimately impacting the sustainability and quality of behavior-analytic services.

The project aims to strengthen the longevity and effectiveness of these services by equipping professionals with tools to manage stress, reconnect with their values, and increase psychological flexibility. Grounded in a behavior-analytic framework, the intervention will include values-based training, practical strategies to reduce burnout, and peer-led support components. The team will develop bilingual manuals, digital toolkits, and short-format videos tailored specifically to the Latin American context. These materials will be pilot-tested and refined based on user feedback, then made available on an open-access platform.

A distinctive feature of this initiative is its participatory design: practitioners from across Latin America will contribute to shaping the content, ensuring cultural and contextual relevance. The project will use validated measures to assess reductions in burnout and improvements in resilience. Ultimately, the initiative seeks to empower behavior analysts to remain engaged in their work long term, thereby improving the consistency and quality of care provided to children and families throughout the region.



#### **Varsovia Hernandez, Corina Jimenez, and Alejandro Leon**

##### **Title: Advancing Behavior Analysis: Strengthening Behavior Analysis within a Biomedical Program in Mexico**

Behavior analysis has a long tradition in Mexico but remains limited to a few psychology-focused programs and the focus has tended to be training of basic researchers. Thus far, the potential for building a strong applied branch with interdisciplinary collaboration remains underutilized. In 2023, a specialization track in behavior analysis was introduced within the biomedical doctoral program at Universidad Veracruzana (Veracruz, Mexico), providing an opportunity to integrate behavior analysis into the biomedical field and foster collaboration with medical doctors, nutritionists, biologists, and others. This terminal line builds on a rich history of collaboration between behavior analysis and biomedicine (e.g., behavioral pharmacology) and the interdisciplinary collaborations of applied behavior analysts with health professionals. The existing program offers courses on single-subject design, behavioral principles, health applications, and the experimental analysis of behavior, equipping students with both behavioral and biomedical expertise. A critical

challenge is the lack of translated materials (e.g., articles, videos) and equipment essential for effective instruction (video recording devices, timers, and data collection tools). These gaps hinder the program's ability to deliver education in behavior analysis aligned with global standards set by ABAI ([abainternational.org/higher-education.aspx](http://abainternational.org/higher-education.aspx)).

This proposal aims to strengthen the training provided in the behavior analysis specialization track by addressing resource gaps. The funds from this grant will support the (1) translation of essential materials, including six journal articles and three instructional videos, (2) acquisition of low-cost clinical and lab equipment, and (3) the development of two technical manuals for course use (single-subject design data analysis and behavioral data collection). The applicants, all native Spanish speakers who are fluent in English, will serve as translators.

Creating these resources in Spanish would provide a sustainable foundation for interdisciplinary education and advance behavior analysis applications in biomedical fields in Mexico. Improving the resources available to train students will, in turn, attract more students to behavior analysis and help position the program to meet Verified Course Sequence (VCS) criteria in a mid-term, solidifying its role as a leading initiative in Latin America.

#### **Gabrielle Torres**

##### **Title: Providing IBT Course Content to Increase Delivery of High Quality Courses in Nations with Limited Access to Behavior Analysis**

Across the globe there are many people seeking affordable culturally relevant coursework to become behavior analysts and behavior therapists. One of the requirements to become an International Behavior Therapist (IBT) through the International Behavior Analysis Organization (IBAO) is to complete a 40-hour course by an Approved Content Provider (ACP). Gabrielle Torres, an ACP, has been teaching both the IBT and International Behavior Analyst (IBA) courses to students from over 15 countries. She has noticed that in nations where ABA is still emerging, there are behavior analysts who want to provide their teams and other professionals with high quality ABA training like the IBT course, but they do not have the experience or time to design their own course.

This SABA grant will support a project that aims to remove some of these barriers by providing the content for a hybrid 40-hour course, as a combination of interactive online modules and live session course materials, that qualified instructors can sign up to use within their organizations.

To become a qualified instructor, behavior analysts must be from a country where behavior analysis is still emerging and complete and pass a free instructor training



course. Once they pass the instructor course, they may deliver the course using the materials created through this project. While the instructors may charge for their courses and time spent teaching, these materials will be available to them free of charge.

Instructors will need to attend quarterly instructor trainings that focus on best-practices in teaching and designing courses (CEU eligible). They will also report specific program data. Program data will be tracked on annual instructor enrollment, annual student enrollment and graduation per instructor, individual course satisfaction, and annual IBT exam take and pass rates. Instructors will also provide course improvement feedback. Initially this project is planned for five years, with the long term goal of enabling instructors to become independent ACPs and deliver their own IBT courses.

## Public Awareness Grants



**Rebecca Barall,  
Michael Mozzoni,  
Chris Schaub,  
and Thurka  
Thillainathan**

**Title:** *Applied Behavior Analysis for Neurorehabilitation: A Website to Disseminate Accurate Information and Resources*

This collaborative project brings together experts in behavior analysis



and neurorehabilitation, particularly in acquired brain injury (ABI).

The project is led by **Rebecca J. Barall**, M.Ed., CBIS, BCBA, LBA, who is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Munroe-Meyer Institute. Rebecca is a Certified Brain Injury Specialist through the Brain Injury Association of America. She currently serves as President-Elect of the Rehabilitation and Independent Living SIG of the ABAI. Rebecca is passionate about increasing awareness and access to evidence-based behavioral services for individuals with ABI.

**Thurka Thillainathan**, MA, RBA (Ont.), BCBA is a PhD student in the ABA program at Brock University in Ontario, Canada. She brings extensive clinical experience working with adults with acquired brain injury at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute.

**Chris M. Schaub**, MS Ed, BCBA, LBA has worked in the brain injury field since 1995, primarily with adults in post-acute, intensive neurobehavioral settings. He has

presented at numerous professional conferences in both brain injury and behavior analysis and has published on the application of ABA in neurorehabilitation and in managing neurobehavioral complications.

**Michael Mozzoni**, PhD, BCBA-D, LABA, QBISP-T is a doctorate-level behavior analyst and certified brain injury specialist clinical trainer. Since 1985, he has worked with individuals with brain injuries and has served in key leadership roles, including treasurer for both the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) Interdisciplinary SIG and the Academy for the Certification of Brain Injury Specialists (ACBIS).

He has received numerous awards and has published widely in brain injury rehabilitation.

### Project Need and Description

In 2024, the International Brain Injury Association (IBIA) reported brain injury as the leading cause of death and disability worldwide. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), an estimated 5.3 million people live with a disability related to brain injury in the U.S., and in both the U.S. and Europe, brain injury accounts for over one million hospital admissions per year, per the CDC and IBIA, respectively.

The primary goal of this project is to develop a comprehensive website that promotes the education, dissemination, and advocacy of behavior-analytic science and practices across key target audiences in the context of neurorehabilitation, including educators, students, scientist-practitioners, healthcare providers, parents/caregivers of brain injury survivors, and brain injury survivors themselves. The site will focus on applied behavior analysis (ABA) principles and interventions specifically tailored for individuals with acquired brain injury (ABI) including traumatic brain injury (TBI) and non-traumatic brain injury (nTBI). This website will serve as a tool for the accurate dissemination of ABA for ABI while also fostering a shared community for resource exchange, including but not limited to opportunities for engagement, experience, supervision and career development.

This initiative addresses a significant gap in the behavior analytic field by promoting greater awareness, knowledge, and implementation of ABA in neurorehabilitation. Importantly, it seeks to improve the quality and accessibility of evidence-based services for individuals with ABI and their support networks, representing a critical area of global need.

### Dena Kelly

Dena Kelly, LPC, BCBA, LBS, is a behavior analyst and Licensed Professional Counselor with nearly two decades of experience supporting



children with feeding disorders. As the Founder and CEO of Focused Approach, she has spent her career developing and implementing behavior analytic feeding programs that are practical, compassionate, and rooted in evidence-based strategies. Dena is especially passionate about helping professionals and caregivers understand why children refuse food and how to support meaningful change through individualized interventions.

Her project, *Public Awareness Campaign for Pediatricians on Behavior Analytic Solutions for Feeding Disorders*, was developed in response to a common concern she hears from families: their child's feeding issues were dismissed by medical providers because the child followed a typical growth curve. Many pediatricians assume feeding difficulties are just a phase, and when weight becomes a concern, they often turn to nutritional supplements without addressing the root problem. This approach can delay intervention and make things harder for families in the long run.

The goal of this campaign is to help pediatricians recognize the early signs of feeding disorders and understand how behavior analytic strategies can make a real difference. The project includes a one-hour webinar, a downloadable toolkit for identifying and referring children for services, and a targeted digital promotion campaign to raise awareness. All materials will be grounded in behavioral science but designed to be practical and useful for busy medical providers.

This project is built to last beyond the initial funding period. The recorded webinar and toolkit will remain available online, and ongoing partnerships with pediatric networks will help expand its reach. Success will be tracked through webinar attendance, toolkit downloads, and engagement with the promotional campaign.

Dena's hope is that this initiative will lead to earlier identification and more effective referrals, ultimately improving outcomes for children with feeding disorders and helping families feel seen, heard, and supported from the start.



### Susannah Poe

The Mountaineer Autism Project (MAP) is launching the "Spreading the Message" campaign to build on its decade-long mission of raising awareness about Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) across West Virginia. With support from a previous private grant, MAP successfully developed and disseminated 14 positive ABA narratives statewide—one of which was featured in People Magazine, showcasing the transformative power of ABA for individuals and families.

The campaign's next phase, made possible through the SABA Public Awareness Grant, will amplify this

momentum by producing consistent, targeted messaging for key audiences. MAP will collaborate with experts to create a shared tagline and script that ensures clarity and compassion in ABA communications. Social media platforms and a dedicated webpage will serve as the launchpad for ongoing content celebrating ABA's effectiveness and scientific foundation.

To reach diverse groups, MAP will develop tailored educational materials for medical professionals, HR departments, libraries, and community events. Special attention will be given to career recruitment efforts, as coalition members engage high school and community college students to inspire future ABA professionals.

Each component of the project will reinforce the message that ABA is data-driven, scientifically validated, and delivered with care and individualization. Success will be measured through engagement metrics, regular content reviews, and feedback loops to refine the campaign's impact.

Ultimately, the initiative aims to close knowledge gaps about ABA throughout the state, build public trust, and establish West Virginia as a model for other regions seeking to raise awareness. MAP is committed to sharing all materials and outcome measures with peer organizations nationally, ensuring that the lessons learned and resources created benefit communities well beyond state lines.

"Spreading the Message" reflects MAP's belief that every story told can spark understanding, every resource shared can shift perspectives, and every young mind reached can become a champion for autism support through ABA.



### Pham Tuyen

Pham Tuyen, M.S., QBA, is a PhD candidate at RMIT University and the founder of an ABA center in Vietnam. She holds a Master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis from the Florida Institute of Technology and has been working with children with autism and developmental disabilities since 2018, with a primary focus on early intervention and child-centered practices. Tuyen believes that meaningful progress for each child happens when we empower not just the child, but also parents, educators, and caregivers. She is deeply committed to advocating for the child's best interests and delivering individualized, naturalistic, and culturally responsive supports that help each child reach their full potential.

To ensure the project's quality, consistency, and cross-setting effectiveness, Tuyen has invited a team of trusted colleagues with complementary international expertise:

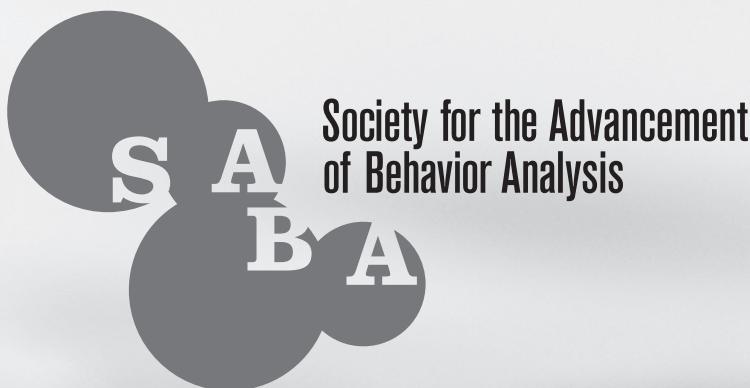
**Kim Bui** is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) who is currently working at Brighter Strides ABA in

Virginia. Kim Bui graduated from Florida Institute of Technology with Master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis in 2022. Since 2019, Kim Bui has supported individuals with developmental disabilities using ABA, CBT, RFT, and MI to build motivation, problem-solving, and independent living skills through individualized, naturalistic approaches.

**Phuong Anh Nguyen**, QASP-S, is based in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, specializing in ABA and play therapy for children and adolescents with developmental disabilities. She works across clinics, homes, and schools, providing tailored care for diverse clients. Phuong Anh empowers families through parent training and collaborates with educators on inclusive strategies. Her culturally

sensitive approach helps clients thrive in their communities.

**Nguyen Bui**, BCaBA, is an early intervention therapist and Board-Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst with a strong foundation in Psychology (Magna Cum Laude, University at Buffalo, SUNY) and advanced ABA training from Monash University and FIT. She has delivered thousands of hours of early intervention, supervised ABA therapists, and supported families through trauma-informed and individualized approaches. As co-founder of a non-profit ABA project in Vietnam, Nguyen is committed to accessible care, therapist training, and autism advocacy through creative initiatives like sensory workshops and children's books. ♦



# giving day 2025

***Giving Day is Tuesday, December 2nd!***

**Your donation to SABA will impact students by funding research projects and sending them to ABAI's annual convention to present their research. Help us create a brighter future for behavior analysis!**



**Donate here!** 

# 2024–2025 SABA Donors

On behalf of the SABA Board, we are grateful for all the ABAI members who contributed to SABA in the past year to help build our funds. These donations enable SABA to provide annual grants that support research in and the development of behavior analysis. This list reflects donations from September 1, 2024 through September 1, 2025.

**\$5,000–\$9,999**

**Unrestricted Fund**

David Lennox  
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**2024 Annual Convention Silent Auction**

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Cory Toegel  
Megan Valesey  
Hiroaki Blake Wemura

# ABAIE IN A NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

BY CHRIS NEWLAND AND TERRY FALCOMATA

The 20th ABAI Autism Conference will take place in Manhattan, in the heart of New York City! At the 2026 conference, we will hear from a variety of speakers across a range of topics focusing on collaboration with families and partners, stakeholder perspectives, service delivery, procedural applications, historical aspects of applied behavior analysis (ABA) and its application with autistic individuals and other disabilities, issues pertaining to profound autism, biomarkers of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and translational research. And, if that is not enough, evenings will be free for the exploration of all the cultural offerings of New York City such as Broadway theaters, world-renowned eateries, and world-class museums of art and history. We look forward with great anticipation to the 2026 Autism Conference, to be held at the Sheraton Times Square, New York City, January 15-17, 2026.

## Workshops

The conference begins with two workshops. Dr. Nicole Gravina will conduct one on "Driving Staff Excellence: Organizational Behavior Management (OBM) Strategies for Clinical Supervisors and Leaders" with a focus on staff performance, engagement, and retention. Among

the issues to be covered include the application of organizational behavior management strategies to enhance the performance and job satisfaction of clinical staff.

The second workshop, “PECS and Functional Communication: A Short History and Review” will be held by Dr. Andy Bondy. Participants will hear from Dr. Bondy about several aspects of the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) including information about its early development, the PECS process itself, and recent research that has focused on aspects of the treatment approach.

### **Voices from Clients, Advocates, and Collaborators**

We continue to feel that it is vital that we hear from the individuals we serve including their parents and other care providers. Lori Unumb, the parent of an autistic individual will discuss her experiences as a parent and advocate with “Favors, Facts & Fishnets: Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Autism, and the Parental Voice.” Her session will focus on the lessons learned from her participation in the parent-led autism insurance reform movement. She will also discuss how advocacy strategies might be applied to address necessary policy reforms.

It is also important that our field continue to enhance our collaborations with families and other care providers. We will hear two presentations on the topic of collaboration efforts to facilitate positive outcomes with ASD. Dr. Liliana Mayo will present “The Power of Two: How Families and Professionals in Peru Are Transforming the Future of Children With Autism” in which she will describe a partnership model for working together with families to increase positive outcomes with the children they serve. Dr. Mayo will describe strategies for intervention, support, and partnerships within the context of her collaborative model.

Also focusing on collaboration and with an emphasis on culturally responsive practice, Dr. Corina Jimenez-Gomez will discuss “Supporting Learners With Autism Through Culturally Responsive, Community-Based Collaboration.” In her talk, Dr. Jimenez-Gomez will describe culturally responsive collaborative strategies involving stakeholders, teachers, and ABA providers to enhance quality of previously constrained services.

### **Profound Autism: Voices in Pursuit of Clarity**

How autism is defined and how distinct groups on the autism spectrum are identified continue to be debated and discussed. This issue has clear and fundamental implications for clinical and research practices for individuals with profound autism who have high support needs. Dr. Matthew Siegel will present “Defining Profound Autism: Seeking Clarity to Advance Services and Science” in which he will focus on adaptive

functioning as well as key factors in the development of the term “profound autism” and the approaches used to determine it.

### **Voices from Child Psychiatry**

We believe it is important that we continue to expand and diversify our knowledge and incorporate findings of researchers and professionals from other empirical-based disciplines, including partners in the field of child psychiatry. Dr. James McPartland will present “Can Biomarker Development Advance Behavior Analysis in Autism?” In his presentation. Dr. McPartland will discuss his research focusing on brain-based indicators, or biomarkers, including biomarkers relevant to autism and the potential utility of focusing on biomarkers in ASD.

### **Service Delivery Voices**

Along with our field’s focus on science and empirically-support practices, it is important that we continue to investigate models by which we facilitate our clients’ access to our services. Dr. Doreen Granpeesheh will present “The Secret to Lasting Impact: Where Science, Service and Business Converge” in which she will share perspectives on successful ABA organization. She will discuss several aspects of ABA service delivery including vital business and financial considerations that impact sustainability of clinical services.

Telehealth has been established as a viable and effective service delivery strategy with continued growth across a variety of areas of clinical needs experienced by our clients. Dr. Kelly Schieltz will discuss telehealth-related issues with “Exploring the Clinical Applications and Conditions for Effective Telehealth in Behavior Analysis.” Dr. Schieltz will describe different applications of telehealth in ABA, conditions in which telehealth-based clinical services can be appropriate and desired, and future research directions in the area of telehealth.

### **Voices on Application**

We continue to believe that it is important that we understand our roots as a field, where we came from, and how our field developed in terms of application. In the spirit of providing important historical viewpoints, we will again platform a voice with insight and perspective from the early days of our field through today. Dr. Patrick McGreevy will provide history and context in “Components of Applied Behavior Analysis Often Necessary With Children and Adults With Very Limited Skill Repertoires.” In his talk, Dr. McGreevy will emphasize a focus on functional skills programming across a variety of everyday living skills; and he will do so while providing narratives from his own experiences as a seasoned applied behavior analyst.



Although procedural fidelity is often prioritized less than other elements of clinical practice, it is a crucial component of effective and ethical ABA-based services. Dr. Claire St. Peter will present on the vital topic of procedural fidelity in "Doing What We Say: Practical Strategies for Measuring Procedural Fidelity." In her presentation, Dr. St. Peter will discuss procedural fidelity, its purpose, different approaches to its measurement, strategies for improving it, and ethical considerations for monitoring it in applied settings.

#### **Translational and Conceptual Voices**

Translational research fills the gap between the basic behavioral lab and ABA clinical practice. As usual, translational voices will be heard at the conference. One area of particular concern for applied behavior analysts who serve individuals who engage in problem behavior is the worsening of treatment effects over time. Dr. Brian Greer will present on the topic of clinical relapse with "What Relapse Research Has Taught Us About Treatment Durability and Effectiveness." In his presentation, Dr. Greer will discuss common challenges to treatment when function-based procedures are applied as well as general and specific strategies for improving the durability and effectiveness of function-based interventions.

In addition to hearing from our translational voices, it is also important that there be a focus on conceptual issues. Dr. Andy Bondy will present "Gradualism: A Unifying Concept Across Teaching Strategies." In his presentation, Dr. Bondy will discuss a variety of teaching strategies (e.g., prompting, shaping, fading procedures, errorless learning) in terms of both concepts and procedures. He will describe a conceptualization referred to as gradualism which, he will discuss as potentially alleviating the confusion that exists around and among the variety of teaching strategies that we employ as applied behavior analysts.

Dr. Tom Cariveau will present a talk that is both highly conceptual and translational, but also practical, on the topic of stimulus control during learning in "Learner-Centered Approaches to Skill Acquisition: Stimulus Control, Applied Practice, and the Golden Goose." Dr. Cariveau will present on the concept of inconsistencies between "what is learned" and what the applied behavior analyst "intended to be learned" with a focus on stimulus control. He will discuss strategies for ensuring strong links between what is taught and what is acquired by the learner.

We hope to see you in New York City for the 20th Annual Autism Conference in January! ♦

# 2025

## 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](http://www.abainternational.org/membership).

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Travis Blevins  
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# learning center

[www.abainternational.org/learning-center.aspx](http://www.abainternational.org/learning-center.aspx)

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

### 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:

- Engaging more members through our state-of-the-art conference and regional networking events;
- Building upon the diversity of our field to strengthen the support to our members;
- Expanding upon our strong legislative efforts to advocate for our field.

#### Summary of 2024–25:

##### Annual Member Meeting and Election Update:

MassABA held an election on June 11, 2024. Four new directors were elected to the MassABA Board by members: Dr. Jescah Apamo-Gannon, Dr. Maria MacLean, Dr. Susan Rapoza-Houle, and Lisa Gurdin. Mike Lapre was elected as student representative. Dr. Paulo Guilhardi began a new term as MassABA President and Dr. Cheryl Davis began a term as MassABA President-Elect. Dr. Joe Vedora began a new term as MassABA Treasurer. Bethanne Miles completed a term as MassABA President.

#### Summary of Board of Directions Actions and Planning in 2024

MassABA's Board of Directors undertook a detailed review and update of the MassABA's bylaws in 2024, concluding with an adopted of a revised set of bylaws in February 2025. The revised bylaws are available on [www.massaba.net](http://www.massaba.net). In addition, MassABA's Board of Directors conducted a detailed review of MassABA's financial status and monitoring.

#### Public Policy & Advocacy Committee Update:

Two previous committees merged to form this new committee in 2024, which has as its mission to support the mission of MassABA by increasing the public's awareness of the myriad of ways in which applied behavior analysis is being utilized to improve humankind. Through close collaboration with key stakeholders, the committee will provide support to practitioners, consumers of ABA, and policymakers to ensure equitable and easy access to high-quality ABA services for the citizens of the Commonwealth.

#### The current 2024–2025 goals for this committee are:

- Collaborate with other trade associations, members, and stakeholders to create an ongoing public relations campaign to educate consumers, stakeholders, legislators, and the community at large about the science and profession of applied behavior analysis;
- Maintain consistent and ongoing meetings with funding sources, including health insurance, and DPH to address key issues that impact or slow the provision of ABA services to consumers;
- Through collaboration with stakeholders, including other ABA trade organizations, members, consumers, policymakers, and legislators, provide advocacy and training to improve equitable access to high-quality applied behavior analytic services;
- Advocate for business conditions that promote equitable access to treatment at parity with providers of general healthcare services;
- Through collaboration with membership, relevant topics in the field of ABA will be identified and position papers will be developed to support behavior analytic work in the commonwealth;
- Provide support, training, and education to providers and consumers of insurance-funded applied services to reduce barriers that prevent the immediate and equitable provision of insurance-funded ABA services;
- Provide support, training, and education to providers and consumers of ABA services that are not insurance-funded services with a consideration of providers utilizing ABA outside the realms of education, autism, and other developmental disabilities;
- Actively solicit input from members through bi-monthly meetings to ensure areas of concern are addressed;
- Collaborate with MassABA's diversity, social media, and licensure committees as needed to coordinate efforts, advocate, and communicate with members and stakeholders

The committee has been active working with membership, legislators, payors, and other key stakeholders to accomplish its mission and goals. Among initiatives/accomplishments:

- Ongoing meetings with MassABA organizational and individual members to receive input on barriers;
- Quarterly meetings with payors (BCBS of MA, Carelon (MBHP), MassHealth) to work on significant issues, including delays to credentialing, authorization processes, payor reimbursement issues, customer service responsiveness to members, impacts to members related to mergers and acquisitions;
- Worked with key stakeholders on unified authorization request form;

- Worked with national trade associations to review OIG report related to provision of ABA services and provide a MassABA response;
- Worked with Optum to ensure they met our state mandate requirements on paraprofessional staff qualifications. As a result of this MassABA ensured MA was the only state in which RBT was not a requirement for service provision with Optum Members. This accomplishment has been sought out by other states;
- Provided a response to an update on MassHealth requirements including a requirement that providers be accredited by an organization specialized in ABA. This and other initiatives are increasing the administrative burden on providers without a comparable decrease / relief in other areas;
- Worked with Optum to ensure they met our state mandate requirements regarding paraprofessional staff qualification. As a result of this MassABA ensured MA was the only state in which RBT was not a requirement for service provision with Optum Members. This accomplishment has been sought out by other states;
- Gave testimony to advocate for an increase in rates that reflect inflation and associated costs.

### **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee:**

This committee elected new co-chairs, Dr. Jescah Apamo-Gannon and Dr. Gabrielle Morgan. In the fall of 2024, this committee presented to the board a proposed position statement on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging, which was adopted by the MassABA Board of Directors in October 2024. For a copy of this position statement, please visit [www.massaba.net](http://www.massaba.net). During the spring of 2025, MassABA's DEIB Committee has scheduled and help CE Events and meetings for members to introduce this statement, its guiding principles and planned actions, among these: continuous education and training, transparent communication, collaborative partnerships, data-informed decision making, community engagement, leadership and membership.

### **Professional Development/ Conference & Events**

#### **Committee Update:**

MassABA's 2024 conference returned to an onsite format after 3 years of remote attendance. Over 350 members and supporters attended the day event in May 2024, which offered CEs, speakers, exhibitors, networking, resources, and lunch. MassABA's Annual Conference returns to Marlborough, MA on May 9, 2025.

MassABA's continued to plan and offer CE Events in partnership with its Public School Committee and in partnership with the Insurance Resource Center for Autism out of UMASS-Chan Medical School.

In 2025, MassABA Board of Directors will be review-

ing and updating its Strategic Plan, including seeking significant input from members on desired goals and initiatives for the upcoming 2–3 years.

## **Minnesota Northland ABA**

BY MICHAEL LAVERDIERE

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

We welcomed one new face to the executive board, Brooke Anderson (President-Elect). We said “see you later, never goodbye” to the past president, Dr. Odessa Luna.

In 2024, all of the hard work of many individuals, including our legislative chair, Dr. Eric Larsson, BCBA-D, LP, came to fruition with the passing of legislation for BCBA licensure. Minnesota joins all of its neighboring states in safeguarding its citizens and protecting the integrity of the field through licensure through the MN Board of Psychology effective Jan 1, 2025.

#### **Below are a few highlights of 2024:**

- Under the direction of our legislative chair, Dr. Eric Larsson, BCBA-D, LP, Minnesota passed legislation for BCBA licensure. License requirements took effect 01/01/2025.
- Continued our efforts to streamline communication efforts between members, our website, and social media platforms.
- We hosted our annual conference on September 26 and 27, 2024!

**Location:** Bloomington, MN

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Shahla Alai

**CEUs provided:** 9.5 Possible per attendee

**Four, 3-hour workshops**

**Six breakout sessions**

**Poster Session/Data Blitz:** 14 poster presentations

**Number of attendees:** 306

#### **Below are our goals for 2025:**

- Continue to make legislative efforts in advocating for ABA policies in Minnesota.
- 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 2025–2026 Board.
- Host our annual conference.

We look forward to all that 2025–2026 has to offer MNABA and its members, including our conference scheduled for September 22-23, 2025. Please check [www.mnaba.org](http://www.mnaba.org) often for details on this event and everything else we have going on—we would love to see you in Minnesota!

## Missouri ABA

BY ALI DUCHARME

The Missouri Association for Behavior Analysis (MOABA) is dedicated to supporting and advancing scientific research and the ethical application of behavior analysis across the state of Missouri.

This year, we welcomed Natalie Parks (president-elect), Madison Nieuwenhuizen (student representative-elect), and Andresa De Souza (treasurer) to the board. Returning board members include Miin-An Hošić (secretary), Sadiqa Reza (member-at-large), John Guercio (member-at-large), Madison Imler (student representative), Ali DuCharme (president), and Jordan Belisle (past president). We extend our gratitude to Madeline Burke (former past president) for her dedication to MOABA and her contributions to the field of behavior analysis in Missouri.

MOABA had a highly productive 2024, offering valuable professional development opportunities to behavior analysts statewide. On August 21, 2024, MOABA hosted a virtual summer workshop featuring Dr. John Guercio and Valeria Pascale, who presented *Conducting Ecologically Valid Research with Adults with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities: Building Meaningful Life Skills in Adults with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities*. This workshop focused on evidence-based strategies for improving the lives of adults with autism and intellectual disabilities.

Later in the year, MOABA's annual conference took place on November 21-22, 2024, in a hybrid format, allowing attendees to participate either in person or virtually. The event featured five presentations and two workshops, covering a wide range of topics relevant to behavior analysts. Discussions addressed neurodivergent-affirming practices, workplace stress and burnout in ABA, leadership development, acceptance and commitment training (ACT), interprofessional collaboration, and strategies for supporting individuals with severe challenging behavior and trauma.

The conference brought together a distinguished lineup of speakers, including Dana Palilunas, Aaron Libman, Stuart Libman, Lina Slim, Joe Dracoley, Ashton Benedict, Lindsey LeBrun, Julie Slowiak, and ShiQuita Lane. Their insights contributed to an engaging and informative experience, reinforcing MOABA's commitment to providing high-quality continuing education opportunities for behavior analysts across Missouri.

MOABA continued to support student research and professional development by hosting a student poster session during the conference, where students presented their research and received valuable feedback from experts in the field. For the first time, student poster-presenters attended the conference for free and cash prizes were awarded to outstanding posters, recognizing excellence

in behavior analytic research. The top three winners also received free admission to the 2025 Annual Conference. MOABA remains committed to fostering the next generation of behavior analysts by providing meaningful opportunities for students to showcase their work and engage with leaders in the field.

Looking ahead, MOABA will continue its mission in 2025 by providing high-quality professional development, expanding diversity and inclusion efforts, and enhancing member engagement. The 2025 Annual Conference will be held in November in St. Louis, Missouri, once again offering a hybrid format to accommodate both in-person and virtual attendees. MOABA will also host a virtual summer workshop, with details on speakers and topics to be announced.

MOABA remains dedicated to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) by ensuring diverse representation in speaker selection and presentation topics. In preparation for the 2024 Annual Conference, board members participated in a training on creating inclusive spaces, reinforcing MOABA's efforts to foster equitable learning and networking opportunities. These efforts will continue in 2025 as the organization remains focused on making all events welcoming and accessible.

The Student Poster Session and Contest will return at the 2025 Annual Conference, providing students with the opportunity to present their research, receive feedback, and compete for recognition and awards.

Enhancing member resources and networking opportunities remains a priority for MOABA. The board is actively working to identify new collaborations and initiatives that bring more value to members, with an emphasis on professional development and engagement. Membership dues remain bundled with the annual conference registration fee, and members are encouraged to take advantage of networking and continuing education opportunities throughout the year.

As MOABA moves into 2025, the organization remains dedicated to its core mission of supporting behavior analysts across Missouri by offering high-quality continuing education, expanding DEI efforts, and fostering professional growth. We are grateful for our members' dedication to using behavior analysis to improve lives, and we encourage continued engagement through events, research, and collaboration.

## Montana ABA

BY BRADLEY TIEFENTHALER

The Montana Association for Behavior Analysis (MTABA) is an organization founded in 2013 to support the education, research, and practice of behavior analysis in the beautiful state of Montana.

In 2024, we celebrated our 11-year anniversary as an organization. At our annual chapter meeting,

we congratulated Traci Shinabarger for successfully completing her two-year term as president. As she assumes her new role as past-president, we look forward to her continued guidance and mentorship in promoting the vision and mission of MTABA in 2025 and 2026.

The board has also welcomed Bradley Tiefenthaler as president (2024–2026), Adam Rudolph as president-elect (2024–2026), and Mollie Schnorr as secretary (2024–2027).

We'd also like to thank each of our continuing board members as their time is entirely voluntary. Thank you, Autumn Kostka (treasurer), for managing our finances. Thank you, Tonya Blaney (member-at-large), for organizing an amazing conference for our members. Thank you, Lisa Jones-Park (member-at-large), for your unwavering support and dedication to our members. Thank you, Jesseca Collins (member-at-large), for your enduring commitment to delivering high-quality training opportunities for our members. And thank you, Rose Filteau (member-at-large), for creating a fostering collaboration and networking among members and state chapters.

In 2024, we held our 9th annual conference in Billings, MT, with renowned experts Drs. Tyra Sellers and Sarah Lichtenberger. These two distinguished professionals provided our members with comprehensive training in the ethics of behavior analysis, effective supervision, and managing staff performance. The MTABA members thoroughly enjoyed their guidance, charisma, and generosity. It was dazzling from start to finish.

Our Dissemination Committee remained active in 2024 by bringing in Nasiah Cirincione-Ulezi for a two-part, webinar series on Humble Behaviorism and Cultural Humility in Behavior. The Dissemination Committee also secured a grant to support tuition costs for individuals pursuing a master's degree. Three recipients were awarded funding, along with opportunities for supervision. Hats off to those in our Dissemination Committee.

MTABA also provided a free suicide prevention CEU training to satisfy our state's licensure requirements. Pat Friman, a native to our great state, also offered his time to present in Missoula this past year. He plans to return in 2025! Shout out to those who have convinced him for the last few years to spend time with us.

With all of the highlights, we must point out the loss of our only in-state university that provided BCBA coursework, Montana State University Billings (MSU-B). MSU-B was a cornerstone of BCBA education in Montana. The university will be sorely missed as it has been placed under moratorium.

The Montana Association for Behavior Analysis (MTABA) has experienced continued change and growth last year. Our drive to provide high quality opportunities to our members will continue into 2025 and beyond with

new talent in new positions. We look forward to seeing you soon!

## Nebraska ABA

BY ALEX NIELSEN

The Nebraska Association for Behavior Analysis successfully secured licensure for Behavior Analysts in Nebraska through the Licensure Act, passed in June 2023. A Board of Behavior Analysts was established to oversee the licensing process. As of November 2024, 364 Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) and 11 Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts (BCaBAs) have been licensed in the state of Nebraska. Dr. Steve Taylor presented a training titled "Licensure for BCBAs and BCaBAs in Practicing in Nebraska: What You Need to Know" to ensure understanding of rules and regulations set forth by the licensure board.

Our annual conference was held in Omaha in April 2024. Workshops were led by Dr. Ellie Kazemi and Tamara Kasper. Topics presented included occupational wellness, social play chains, cultural responsiveness, and advancements in treatment of pediatric feeding disorders. Throughout the year, we also offered our members free CEU opportunities in the form of a virtual speaker series. Speaker series topics have included: mand for information training, self-protection skills for bullying situations, supporting caregivers through compassionate care, culturally responsive care, and medically necessary treatment planning.

Following our annual conference, Alex Nielsen served as President, Ryan Jones as Vice President, Sara Kupzyk as Past President, Steve Taylor as Treasurer, Mary Halbur as Secretary, Melissa Valdez-Nuguid as Student Representative, and Zeinab Hedroj as Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Chair.

Looking ahead, we will continue to monitor licensure developments and provide resources for practitioners to stay informed on evolving insurance and licensure requirements. 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/](http://www.nebraskaaba.com/) or email us at [nebraskaaba@gmail.com](mailto:nebraskaaba@gmail.com).

## Nevada ABA

BY STEVEN ANBRO

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. The NABA Public Policy Committee is also working to address new legislation introduced during the 2025 session.

Additionally, NABA has made it a priority to offer learning opportunities throughout the year. In 2024, 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 2025 year.

With NABA's Outreach Committee taking over the role of organizing monthly speaker and CEU events for the membership and broader community, the Practice Committee continues its supportive, practical role for the state's practitioners at all levels. In particular, the Practice 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 2024, which featured a line-up of renowned speakers across four domains: basic, applied, theory, and organizational behavior management (OBM). 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 2025 conference will be held at a new venue, MEET Las Vegas, in October 2024, with another outstanding speaker lineup. For the 2025 conference, we are assessing working further with a third-party vendor to maintain our hybrid conference, 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 reinstating our Reno/Vegas conference rotation, which we hope will help further engage 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 see the return of our conference in Las Vegas.

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:	Steven Anbro, Ph.D., BCBA-D
President-Elect:	Gwen Johnson, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA
Treasurer:	Megan Szeto, M.A., BCBA, LBA
Treasurer-Elect:	Veronica Smith, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA
Secretary:	Nicole Tamura, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA
Secretary-Elect:	Kathleen Soyka, M.A., BCBA, LBA
At-Large Representative:	Delaney Carlovsky, M.A.
At-Large Representative-Elect:	Janet Dai, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA
Student Representative:	Brittney Pauli
Student Representative-Elect:	Finley Aavatsmark

#### NABA Committee Chairs:

Gwen Johnson, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA (Public Policy)

Laurie Tarter, Psy.D., BCBA, LBA (Practice)

Samantha Lemons, M.A., BCBA, LBA (Outreach)

#### For more information on NABA:

Website: [www.nevadaaba.org](http://www.nevadaaba.org)

Email: [board@nevadaaba.org](mailto:board@nevadaaba.org)

LinkedIn: [Nevada Association for Behavior Analysis](#)

Facebook: [Nevada Association for Behavior Analysis](#)

X (Twitter): [@NABAOfficial](#)

## New Hampshire ABA

SABRINA RANDO AND EILEEN MENDES

2024 was a year of growth and opportunity for NHABA, and 2025 is shaping up for even more. The energy and commitment from our community of behavior analysts is propelling NHABA forward in ways that strengthen our profession and ensure quality services throughout New Hampshire.

This year, we're setting our sights on deeper engagement with our membership, particularly with the frontline professionals who form the backbone of our field. Their daily work has a powerful and immediate impact on the lives of our clients, and it's time we formally recognize and elevate their contributions. Together, certified practitioners and frontline professionals will continue to advance our field in New Hampshire through education, advocacy, inclusion, and community.

## 2024 Conference Highlights

The 2024 annual conference, held in Concord, New Hampshire, was a resounding success. With nearly 120 attendees from all around New England, the conference represented the broad range of services and the diversity of providers in our area. Our impressive speaker lineup garnered interest from all over New England:

- Dr. Anita Li
- Matt Cicoria
- Courtney Tarbox
- Dr. Jonathan Tarbox
- Dr. Mahshid Ghaemmaghami

Their presentations sparked valuable conversations about current practices in public schools, in supervisory relationships, in cultural competency, and in the sensitive and trauma-assumed delivery of behavior analytic care.

This conference marked a significant evolution in NHABA's approach to professional development. For the first time, we offered a special ticket price for frontline professionals, making the event more accessible to behavior technicians, direct support professionals, and paraeducators. This simple change resulted in a notable increase in attendance among these essential members of our workforce, bringing fresh perspectives and energy to our discussions which we hope to see carry on for years to come.

The increased participation from frontline staff reinforced something we've always known but perhaps haven't always acted upon: the "table" is big enough for us all, and is better when everyone has a seat. For many students and frontline professionals, this was their first time attending a conference, and we hope that it sparked an interest in furthering their education, skills, or career in behavior analysis.

## Looking Ahead: 2025 Initiatives

### Enhanced Membership Structure

In line with our mission to promote and support both formal education and member engagement, we've revised our bylaws to include a new membership level specifically for frontline professionals. This change reflects our commitment to making NHABA a home for everyone in the behavior analytic community, regardless of credential level or role.

For frontline professionals, we're developing high-

quality continuing education opportunities aimed specifically at helping RBTs meet their upcoming 2026 CEU requirements. This initiative aligns perfectly with our mission to support professional development across all levels of practice.

### Expanding Our Leadership

We're excited to announce the addition of a new Board position: the Frontline Professional Representative. This role will ensure that the perspectives and needs of behavior technicians, direct support professionals, and paraeducators are represented in all chapter decisions and initiatives. The first Frontline Professional Representative will be elected in late 2025.

This expansion of our Board structure reflects our recognition that frontline professionals do the bulk of the important work in our field. Their voices deserve to be heard at every level of professional organization and advocacy.

### Advocacy Initiatives

NHABA is increasing its involvement in state-level advocacy this year. We'll be attending legislative information and listening sessions, with a specific focus on securing representation for behavior analysts on all councils and committees where our voices should be heard.

Additionally, we're connecting with DHHS and insurance department representatives to offer educational sessions for insurance-based ABA providers. These efforts will help ensure that our members have the information and support they need to navigate the complex regulatory environment of our field and to make use of every resource available to them when it comes to protecting access to their clients' services.

### Save the Date: 2025 Conference

Mark your calendars for October 24, 2025, for our annual conference in Plymouth, NH. We're thrilled to announce that Dr. Greg Hanley will be our keynote speaker. The conference will also feature a lineup of local New Hampshire speakers, showcasing the exceptional talent and expertise right here in our home state. This unique balance of national and local perspectives will ensure that our conference reaches all attendees and elevates voices representing varied perspectives and experiences.

Building on the success of last year's conference, we'll continue to offer accessible pricing for frontline professionals and ensure we have a lineup that meets the needs of behavior analysts at all levels of practice.

### Meet Your New Board

NHABA has welcomed several new Board members this year, including a new president, secretary, treasurer, members at large, and student representative. The Board is made up of brand-new representatives alongside returning

members and even one of the Chapter's founding officers. This combination of voices and experiences is helping us to build a behavior analytic community that is ready to tackle the challenges of the future of our field.

### Get Involved

The success of NHABA depends on the active involvement of our members. Here are some ways you can contribute to our community in the coming year:

- Attend our 2025 conference on October 24th in Plymouth
- Consider nominating yourself or a colleague for the new Frontline Professional Representative position
- Participate in our advocacy initiatives by attending meetings and information sessions
- Share your expertise by volunteering on a committee or presenting at a continuing education event
- Connect with us on social media to stay updated on NHABA news and events

Your participation strengthens our collective voice and enhances the quality of behavior analytic services throughout New Hampshire.

## New Jersey ABA

BY COURTNEY KENNEY

As we reflect on the past year, the New Jersey Association for Behavior Analysis (NJABA) is proud to share our accomplishments and our vision for the future. Our chapter remains dedicated to advancing behavior analysis, fostering a strong community, and supporting professionals in the field. This past year, NJABA was actively involved in the ABAI annual conference, where many of our members presented cutting-edge research, shared best practices, and engaged in meaningful discussions with colleagues from around the world. We are grateful to all who represented NJABA and contributed to the conference's success.

NJABA saw a significant increase in membership, reflecting the growing interest in behavior analysis across New Jersey. To support this growth and encourage participation, we removed membership fees for students and behavior technicians, offering free membership to those early in their careers. Advocacy efforts remained a priority as we alerted our members and the broader community about critical legislative changes affecting licensure for Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) in New Jersey. We also continued to highlight and advertise loan redemption programs through the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA), helping professionals access financial support for their education.

In addition to our advocacy work, NJABA hosted a variety of professional development events. Our almost quarterly Speaker Series provided members

with valuable continuing education units (CEUs) while promoting knowledge sharing within the community. We also celebrated another successful Science in Behavior Analysis conference and are excited for our fourth annual conference, which continues to grow in scope and impact. Moreover, NJABA proudly sponsored the AutismMVP Foundation, furthering our commitment to supporting initiatives that benefit individuals with autism and their families.

Building on the momentum of the past year, NJABA has ambitious plans for the future. We aim to expand our outreach efforts, provide more specialized training opportunities, and offer additional support for early-career behavior analysts. Strengthening our collaborations with other ABA chapters and organizations will remain a priority as we work to enhance resources and networking opportunities for our members.

We encourage ABAI members to consider joining NJABA. Membership offers numerous benefits, including access to exclusive events, discounted workshop rates, and opportunities to present research. Our continued focus on advocacy, professional development, and community-building makes NJABA a valuable resource for behavior analysts at all career stages. NJABA is thrilled to announce our upcoming annual conference, marking 20 years of supporting the behavior analysis community in New Jersey. This milestone event will feature esteemed pre-conference workshop speakers, influential keynote speakers, and high-level symposia and workshops. Additionally, we will continue our tradition of presenting the Distinguished Service Award to recognize behavior analysts who have made significant contributions to the field in New Jersey.

As we move forward, NJABA remains committed to advancing behavior analysis, supporting our members, and fostering a strong professional community. We look forward to another year of growth, collaboration, and meaningful contributions to the field. Thank you for being part of our journey—we are excited for what the future holds!

With gratitude and excitement, New Jersey Association for Behavior Analysis (NJABA)

## New York State ABA

BY NOOR SYED

We hope this update finds you all well, and we are excited to share our most recent chapter update. The New York State Association for Behavior Analysis (NYSABA), amongst other initiatives, has been focusing most extensively on the following:

### Legislative Agenda

The Public Policy Committee, co-chaired by Maureen O'Grady and Dr. Debbi Napolitano, has been focusing

on advocacy against the proposed cuts to ABA services under Medicaid in New York. At the time of this writing, the Public Policy Committee has: 1) submitted oral and written testimonies to the legislature; 2) organized letter and phone call campaigns to Senators and Assembly Members; 3) organized in-person advocacy days at the state capitol; 4) met with other organizations, such as the Council for Autism Service Providers (CASP) to discuss next steps; and 5) met with the governor's office. In addition to advocacy against proposed Medicaid cuts, the Public Policy Committee continues to work on other legislation, including a proposed bill to stop the use of aversive procedures.

### Research in Support of Policy Change

In addition to the legislative agenda outlined above, Drs. Noor Syed, President, and Deborah Napolitano have been engaging in research over the last few years to assess 1) New Yorker perspectives on the use of aversive interventions and 2) the state of resources in New York. We presented our findings at the 2024 NYSABA Annual Conference and followed this presentation with a panel comprised of individuals with varying identities, including but not limited to neurotype.

### 2024 Conference Information

NYSABA has been working diligently to increase accessibility to the conference via hybrid options, and were pleased to welcome presentations from a variety of topics, including but not limited to affirming practices, collaboration, residential supports, and supervision—empowering supervisees. Our keynote speakers included Drs. Linda Leblanc and Pat Friman. We are currently exploring alternative/additional in-person locations for events.

### NYSABA's Commitment to Equity

NYSABA continues to remain aligned with our mission, vision, and strategic goals of creating safe and inclusive spaces for individuals of diverse backgrounds and identities. As such, we have passed bylaw revisions that 1) increase accessibility and frequency of Board meetings; 2) increase accessibility of Board requirements by providing ways to mitigate financial hardships in attending in-person meetings; and 3) allowance of remote voting by all members, rather than voting on major issues in-person only at the yearly NYSABA conference. In addition to our bylaw revisions, we are committing to representing and lifting up diverse voices at our 2025 Annual Conference and in our continuing education events. Finally, we are increasing communication with membership, committing to transparency within the organization, and opening up 1:1 meeting times for members to connect with the President.

### Current Board of Directors:

Noor Syed	President
Nancy Dib	Past-President
Melissa Jackson	President-elect/Conference Committee Chair
Brian Healy	Treasurer
Lauren Lestremau Allen	Secretary/Student Activities and Behavior Technician Committee Chair
Amanda LaPrime,	
Gina Feliciano, & Alan Kinsella	Representatives-at-Large
Leanna Mellon	Membership Chair
Fernande Ikombo-Deguenon	Finance Chair
Rachael Atherley	Chair
Kozue Matsuda	Co-Chair, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Accessibility Committee
Lindsey Maffei-Almodovar	Education Chair
Bobbi Rogers	Parent & Family Committee Chair
Amanda Adams	Chair
Shannon Carr	Co-Chair, Marketing Committee
Maureen O'Grady	Chair
Deborah Napolitano	Co-Chair, Public Policy Committee

### Goals for the 2025 Calendar Year

- We will be engaging in infrastructure evaluation to develop, streamline, and improve our policies and procedures.
- Increased communication with and resources for membership.
- Increased equity initiatives, including but not limited to policy initiatives regarding the use of aversive interventions, celebrating diverse voices in ABA, and conference/continuing education accessibility.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions, feedback, comments, and/or interest in collaboration! We welcome your perspectives and inquiries. Emails can be directed to Dr. Noor Syed at [president@nysaba.org](mailto:president@nysaba.org).

Our sincerest thanks to all of you, the NYSABA membership, and all of those who have lent their lived experiences and guidance to us.

## North Carolina ABA

BY SARAH POPE AND HAJA JALLOW

The North Carolina Association for Behavior Analysis (NCABA) held its 36th annual conference in person from February 19–February 21, 2025. The conference was a great success thanks to the leadership of Haja Jallow (Caring Hearts Behavioral Services LLC), as well as the rest of our Executive Council including Nina Deese, Past President (Easter Seals PORT Health); Jacqueline Hamilton, President Elect (Easter Seals PORT Health); Tosha Owens, Vice President (East Carolina University); Han-Leong Goh (Cross River Therapy); Nancy Poteet, Treasurer (Private Consultant); Lauren Broadwell, Member-at-Large (Kind Behavioral

Health); Amanda Randall, Member-at-Large (Aces for Autism); Kayla Terhune, Student Representative (Wabash Center); Jamie Clary, Publications Editor (Riddle Developmental Center); Fred Spooner, Senior NCABA Advisor (University of North Carolina Charlotte); Leigh Ann Strain, NCABA Advisor (MySpot); 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 Soft Skills, Hard Truths: Mastering the Art of Avoiding Eye Rolls (Charity Floyd, M.S., BCBA) and Identifying and Overcoming Implicit Bias: Creating an Ethical Intersectional Feminist Framework (Gabriella Barrientos, Ph.D, MAE, BCBA, CDE, LBA, IBA, CSSC).

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

- Supporting Your Supervisors: How Continuous Learning Drives Clinical (Callie Plattner PhD., LPA, BCBA-D)
- Integrating ACT into Parent Education: A Guide for BCBA's (Oascha Hightower BCBA, COBA)
- The second day of our conference began with seven concurrent presentations. These presentations were then followed by invited presentations focusing on the following topics:
  - An Ethical Imperative: Bridging the Empathy gap Between ABA Services Providers and Autistic Individual (Selene Johnson, M.Ed., LBA, BCBA)
  - Exploration of the Use of Artificial Intelligence, Physiological Sensors, and Novel Technologies in Behavioral Prediction (Richard Lamb, Ph.D.)
  - Talk Less, Smile More: The Role of Coaching Conversations in Habit Development (Nic Weatherly, Ph.D., BCBA-D)
  - Life Beyond ABA. What's next? (Janice Crawford-Williams Ed.D, BCBA, LBA)

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

- Ethics in Sexual Behavior Analysis (Rachel Benson, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA, CSE, CBS 1 ETH CE)
- Using applied behavior analysis to shape gender affirming environments for transgender and autistic minors (Gabriella Barrientos Ph.D, MAE, BCBA,

CDE, LBA, IBA, CSSC)

- The Art of RBT Supervision: Helping Them Thrive (and Not Just Survive) (Charity Floyd, M. S., BCBA)

These invited presentations were followed by workshops on Shifting the Balance of Performance using the Deliberate Shift Tool (Nic Weatherly, Ph.D., BCBA-D) and Balancing Mind and Body: Integrating Acceptance and Commitment Training and Yoga to Reduce Burnout in BCBA's (Oascha Hightower BCBA, COBA).

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 16 BACB credits were available to participants (inclusive of seven ethics credits and nine supervision credits) as well as up to 17 NCPA credits.

A total of 722 registrants participated in the 2025 conference. This was an increase of 64 additional participants than our 2024 conference which included 658 registrants. NCABA was thrilled with the high level of participation and attendance.

At the opening of the conference, Haja Jallow welcomed all participants. Awards were given to several very deserving individuals during the opening remarks. Nickyla Silver (Kind Behavioral Health) received the Technical Utilization Award, and Alicia Ringgold (East Carolina University) received the Student Scholarship Award.

The NCABA Student Representative, Kayla Terhune (Wabash Center), organized an excellent student symposium for this year's conference, including presentations by Thai Williams (University of North Carolina Charlotte), Cheri Rubio (University of North Carolina Charlotte), and Amanda Rissmeyer (University of North Carolina Wilmington).

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

***Undergraduate Winner—Lane Williams:*** Expansion of the Operant Class: A Comparison Study of Functional Communication Training Approaches to Investigate Resurgence Mitigation

***Graduate Winner—Amanda Rissmeyer:*** MA, BCBA, LBA: Expansion of the Operant Class: A Comparison Study of Functional Communication Training Approaches to Investigate Resurgence Mitigation

***Professional Winner—Alexandria Espil:*** M.S., RBT: Effect of Peer-Led Intervention on BT Natural Environment Training Job Skills

This year's annual business meeting was well attended. The Board welcomes Lauren Broadwell (Kind Behavioral Health) in the position of Vice President, Amanda Moralez (Mosaic Pediatric Therapy) in the position of

Member at Large, and Alexis Taylor (Mosaic Pediatric Therapy) in the position of Student Representative. Nancy Poteet (Private Consultant) was re-elected for the position of Treasurer.

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 Nina Deese (Past President) and Lauren Broadwell (Member at Large) for all they have done to support and advance NCABA during their terms.

Please visit our website at [www.nc-aba.com](http://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 37th annual conference to be held next February 18–20, 2026 in Winston Salem, NC.

## North Dakota ABA

BY CRISTINE DEAVER

The North Dakota Association for Behavior Analysis (ND ABA) is currently made up of 107 full members, 10 affiliate members, and 26 student members.

ND ABA celebrated World Behavior Analysis Day the week of March 14–20, 2025. A couple board members met with a local television station to promote ABA in ND and was aired in March 2025.

At our 2024 conference, we began honoring a person who has contributed to ABA in North Dakota based upon dissemination, research, teaching or the practice of ABA within the state. Dr. Paul Kolstoe was honored in 2024 for the dissemination and practice of ABA within North Dakota.

Our 2025 Annual Conference was held in Fargo, ND on April 28–29, 2025. Our invited presenters included Dr. Sara Kupzyk, who led a workshop titled Promoting Cooperation with Medical and Dental Procedures, and Dr. Patricia Wright, who presented on Social Determinants of Health and Applied Behavior Analysis: Leveraging the Connection to Make the World a Better Place. A total of 12 continuing education units were made available for the workshop and conference.

Our Executive Board is made up of Cristine Deaver as President, Jackie Loepp as Vice President, Alee Smith as Secretary, Suzanne Carroll as Treasurer, and Dr. Alyssa Suess, Dr. Jordan Lill, and one empty Members-at-Large

position. The 2025 elections were held for four board positions including the President, Treasurer, and two Member-at-Large positions.

Our committee chairs for the Conference Planning Committee include Cristine Deaver, Jackie Loepp, Allison (Alee) Smith, Dr. Jordan Lill and Suzanne Carroll and our Legislative Workgroup includes Cristine Deaver and Dr. Jordan Lill.

## 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 the 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 from March 2024-March 2025 were held by the following professionals listed below.**

President, Nikki Williams, PhD, BCBA, COBA  
 Past President, Janet Hansen, PhD, BCBA-D, COBA  
 President-Elect, Ron DeMuesy, BCBA, COBA  
 Secretary, Kim Wolff, MS, BCBA, COBA  
 Treasurer, Dacia McCoy, PhD, BCBA-D, COBA

**The OHABA Full Board Members from March 2024-March 2025 were held by the following professionals listed below.**

DEI Chair	Juliana Carrus, M.Ed, MA, CCC-SLP, BCBA, COBA
Education Chair	Kate Anderson, BCBA, COBA
Membership Chair	Alexa Galloway, BCBA, COBA
Public Policy Chair	Jen Ghonda, BCBA, COBA
Professional Standards Chair	Dr. Bryan Droesch, LPC, BCBA, COBA
Program Co-Chair	Cara Brown, MA, BCBA, COBA
Program Co-Chair	Ashley Showalter, PhD, BCBA-D, COBA
Technology Chair	Kately Wallace, M.Ed, COBA, BCBA
Student Chair	Sara Martin

On March 8th and 9th of 2024, OHABA was proud to offer a two-day conference in-person at Bridge Park in Dublin, Ohio. Some of our speakers for the conference were Dr. Bruce Tino, Ron DeMuesey, Lor Choca, Anesa Doyle, Ulema Cruz, and Meredith, just to name a few.

In the past year, the board continued to focus on advocacy related to Medicaid and educational needs and changes, offered continuing education events for our members, and planned social gatherings such as a walk along a trail across different areas in Ohio.

**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	Year Ending	Number of Members
2012	46	2019	389
2013	114	2020	248
2014	127	2021	270
2015	148	2022	211
2016	208	2023	236
2017	226	2024	341
2018	280		

Individuals interested in joining OHABA, can find a membership form on our website at [www.ohaba.org](http://www.ohaba.org). Our Membership level and fees are as follows:

Full Membership	\$50.00
3 Year Full Membership	\$125.00
Affiliate Membership	\$40.00
Student, Registered Behavior Technician, or Behavior Technician	\$20.00
Parent/Guardian Member	\$20.00

**Annual Conference 2024**

The Conference was held on March 8th and March 9th at the Bridge Park in Dublin, Ohio.

**Certification in the State of Ohio**

The OHABA board has worked closely with the Ohio State Board of Psychology to educate BCBAs 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 for members. The Board continues to stay engaged with lobbyists on potential legislation that affects the practice of applied behavior analysis. We continue our commitment with legislative efforts to ensure the practice of applied behavior analysis continues to be recognized with the Ohio Department of Medicaid and other insurances as a medically necessary service. Alternatively, we are also engaged in any rules and policies related to the practice of applied behavior analysis in school settings under the direction of the Ohio Department of Education.

**Oklahoma ABA**

BY DAYNA PARKER

Oklahoma Association for Behavior Analysts: Advancing ABA Across the Sooner State

The Oklahoma Association for Behavior Analysts (OKABA) continues to grow as a strong advocate and resource for behavior analysts across the state. In 2024, OKABA focused on advancing professional development, strengthening advocacy efforts, and increasing member engagement — all in alignment with its mission to promote the science and ethical practice of applied behavior analysis in Oklahoma.

## Leadership

The chapter is led by a dedicated team of professionals committed to OKABA's growth and impact. The 2025 Board of Directors includes:

- President: Dayna Parker
- President-Elect: Sydney LaFleur
- Past President: Sara Morris
- Treasurer: Leslie Williams
- Secretary: Mallory Fletcher
- Member at Large: Nicolle Carr

## Mission, Vision, and 2025 Goals

OKABA's mission is to advance the science and practice of applied behavior analysis across Oklahoma through education, advocacy, and community engagement, promoting ethical and effective services for all individuals.

The chapter's vision is to cultivate a connected, inclusive community of behavior analysts and stakeholders who drive positive change through high standards, collaboration, and accessibility.

For 2025, OKABA has outlined the following strategic goals:

- Professional Development: Continue providing high-quality continuing education, including hosting the annual state conference and offering CEU events that promote growth, skill development, and collaboration among Oklahoma behavior analysts.
- Policy & Advocacy: Strengthen relationships with policymakers and stakeholders to support legislation that protects and expands access to ABA services. In 2024, OKABA partnered with the Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP) to address major Medicaid policy changes in the state — a key example of the chapter's commitment to effective advocacy.
- Membership Growth: Expand the chapter's reach and enhance engagement through targeted recruitment, improved communication, and ongoing member benefits.

## 2024 Highlights

OKABA has celebrated several major milestones and initiatives over the past year:

- Annual Conference: On October 17, 2024, OKABA hosted its 3rd Annual Conference and annual member meeting, bringing together professionals from across the state for networking, learning, and collaboration.
- After Conference Social Event: After the conference, OKABA hosted a social hour, providing opportunity to meet the speakers and continue collaborating.
- Continuing Education: The chapter delivered seven virtual CEU events, ensuring members had regular opportunities to expand their knowledge and maintain certification.
- Policy Collaboration: OKABA worked closely with

CASP on key Medicaid policy changes impacting ABA services in Oklahoma, demonstrating the chapter's growing role in shaping public policy.

- Networking: OKABA hosted two networking events to bring members together.
- Quarterly Newsletters: OKABA distributed informative newsletters to keep members up to date on state developments, upcoming events, and opportunities for involvement.
- Looking Ahead: Planning is already underway for the 4th Annual Conference, set for October 3, 2025, promising another impactful gathering for Oklahoma's ABA community.

## Get Involved

OKABA welcomes new members and invites behavior analysts, students, and allied professionals to join in advancing ABA across Oklahoma.

- Email: [info@oklahomaaba.org](mailto:info@oklahomaaba.org)
- Facebook: [OKABA on Facebook](#)
- Mailing Address: 3171 S 129th East Ave Suite A PMB 2015 Tulsa, OK 74134

As OKABA continues to grow, it remains focused on building a vibrant community of behavior analysts who are dedicated to ethical practice, collaboration, and improving lives through behavior analysis.

## Oregon ABA

BY MIRIAM ARELLANO

### February 2025 Agenda

1. Membership Updates
2. Fundraising/budget Updates
3. Committee Updates
4. 2025 Events
5. Discussion Points

	Student/ RBAI	Affiliate/ Associate	Certified/ Licensed
Last Quarter	23	7	111
Current Quarter	19	5	86

There are currently 32 listings in the Directory.

### Financial Updates

Income for this Quarter:

- Sales from On-Demand CEUs \$247.90
- Membership income \$

Meghan still is the account holder; this number has not been identified yet. We will follow up on this next Quarter.

**Fundraising Income**

\$301.44 earned from 2024 Conference raffles.

**Ambassadors Committee Updates**

Co-Chairs: Camille R W Silva & Sarah Cooper

**Last quarter (Oct-Dec): ORABA Conference BINGO****Game to get attendees involved**

- Lots of responses/involvement
- Winners received a free membership to ORABA

**This quarter (Jan-March):**

- Outgoing Co-Chairs Committee Members: Shaun Goodman and Nirvana Kowlessar
- Committee and Board Member System Details Doc (Camille)
- Creating a Relational Frame for each position and committees
- Interests related to the role
- Responsibilities (Time Commitment (MM/DD/YY))
- Within Committee and Board Member communication system (what's the most practical and non-invasive route of communication (Sarah))
- Suggestion: Google Chat (Public Policy is currently utilizing it—We can see the updates that are going on in real time without overwhelmed inboxes and responding from members)
- **Benefit:** Members can focus on the actions
- **Work investment:** Co-chairs maintenance with up-to-date info

**Next quarter (April-June):**

- Outreach Planning?
- Ambassador Committee Communications Systems finalized?
- Gathering prospects for a specific outcome
- Talking with prospects (ABA companies (BCBAs RBT\*\*\*), Community (Parents), Schools (BCBAs & Professional Staff—teachers, SEAs, School Psychs, School Counselors, Social Workers)

**Long-Term:**

- A well-oiled machine to help grow the ORABA organization that is sustainable for members who are involved and that reinforces a culture that promotes growth in all areas (professional career, community within our field in Oregon, and high-quality organizational structure).

**Conference Committee Updates*****Forging Connections:******Fostering Lasting Change Through Collaboration***

Dates: Friday November 8th—Saturday November 9th

- Friday- ½ day workshop + social event
- Saturday- full day 2 track conference

**Keynote Speaker:** TBD- awaiting board approval (announcement coming soon)

**Invited Speaker:** collaboration panel (OT, SLP, Dev. Ped, Psych, parent?)

**Key Dates:**

Call for Papers- Open May 1  
Sponsors Store- Opens June 15  
Early Bird Registration— Opens Aug 1

**Public Policy Committee Updates**

Chairs: Kiel Rotarious & Miranda Drake

- Meeting Schedule: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 5pm-6pm
- Current initiatives or activities
- In a long legislative session: What does this mean? More bills going through rapidly.
- HB 2023: The org did an amazing job of supporting HB 2023, thank you to our members and E-board for supporting. The response from ORABAs presence at the HB 2023 hearing, HERC requested more information on medical necessity of
- ABA for people that have intellectual disabilities. Kiel, Miranda, and Dr. Larsson provided research, information, and testimony to HERC.
- PPC members/attendance: Haven't had any members attend meetings so far this year.
- Sam and Amanda have expressed interest in the chair role; however, nothing has come of that yet. The E-board has not received any nominations.
- Need more engagement on the PPC, could we funnel student reps to provide support/attend PPC meetings?

**Meeting Dates**

- Conference Committee-1st Monday of the month 12-1 pm
- DEI Committee- N/A
- Ambassador Committee- 1st Tuesday of every month 11:30-12:30
- Public Policy Committee- 2nd Wednesday 5-6pm
- School committee—N/A

**Upcoming Events (Mackenzie)**

- Winter Quarterly event—March 14, 2025 5-6:30pm (BehaviorLive)

**Presenter:** Our newly appointed VP Miriam Arellano M.S., BCBA, LBA

Title: *¿Cómo se Dice Behavior?": Exploring Best Practices for Providing Culturally Responsive Supports for Spanish-Speaking Families*

Description: The field of ABA has recently seen a long overdue increase in the racial and ethnic diversity of its practitioners and of families eligible to receive ABA services. To support families with increasingly diverse needs, researchers and practitioners have taken positive steps in the development of culturally responsive and sustaining practices for English-speaking clinicians serving diverse populations. However, the body of ABA literature on culturally responsive practices for Latino clients with limited English proficiency (LEP) pays strikingly little attention to the need to support the cultural and professional competencies of Spanish-English bilingual clinicians. This presentation aims to provide practical guidance for clinicians serving LEP families, as well as

considerations for Spanish-English bilingual clinicians on best practices for providing services in Spanish.

- Fundraising events: More details to come

## Pennsylvania ABA

BY JAMES T. 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 2024, PennABA held a full-day Fall conference in Hershey, PA. During the conference, PennABA was able to offer six CE credits for BCBAAs and licensed psychologists, including CEs on ethics and supervision. We will be holding a full-day Spring

conference in March in Lancaster, PA, and will be offering a variety of CE workshops across two tracks.

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 SCOTT O'DONNELL AND ART DOWDY

The Philadelphia Metropolitan Association for Behavior Analysis (PMABA) is the regional chapter of the Philadelphia and 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 list serve 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 an expert speaker share their behavior analytic knowledge with PMABA. Javid Rahaman spoke on treatment on challenging behavior. PMABA is looking to increase the number of meetings per year back up to at least two CEU events and one Black Scorpion event.

PMABA had a special election for president. Two members ran and a clear winner was decided. The incoming president, Scott O'Donnell, is interested in restarting the Black Scorpion Events. Though Black Scorpion Society meetings, originally facilitated by Dr. Phil Hineline has 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 aims to satisfy our cravings for fun and intellectual conceptual debates and discussions. Former discussant leaders have included Dr. Phil Hineline, 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.

The incoming president is also looking closely at the bylaws to check wording, insuring the message reflects our mission, and update to ensure consistency with the guidelines set forth in the ABAI manual.

PMABA chapter is led by the following executive council members: Scott O'Donnell, PhD (President Elect), Art Dowdy PhD, BCBA-D, Current 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, perhaps, taking on a leadership position. Please contact us using the email address provided above if you are interested.

PMABA had planned a board meeting, which was conducted in January of 2025. Some of the topics discussed included forming the organization into an official non-profit, changes to the bylaws, officer assignments, and re-establishing events.

PMABA (<http://pmabainfo.wixsite.com/pmaba>) acts as a resource for local behavior analysts providing membership information, local events, and other important information. Frequently, open positions are shared, giving members an advantage in the local job market. We added an online payment option for membership and CEUs. We plan to hold a membership drive in the fall, involve more students, 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](mailto: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 our first conference, we established our nonprofit corporation, launched our membership and benefits package, conducted various professional development and social events, and organized our 2024 conference.

Our major accomplishment this year was holding our second biannual conference in the University of Puerto Rico on October 11-12, 2024. The hybrid and bilingual two-day event was attended by 158 people in person and 14 people virtually through Behavior Live. Presenters included Benjamin Giraldo who delivered the keynote address, Yaniz Padilla Dalmau who delivered the presidential address, and Latinx invited speakers including Andrew Gardner, Haydee Toro, and Miguel Avila. For this conference we held our first call-for-papers and had over 20 submissions for papers, panels and symposia plus nine submissions for poster presentations. Some of the presenting behavior analysts are well-recognized in the field such as Jennifer McComas, Natalia Baires, Naima Bhana-Lopez, Denise Rios Arroyo, Valeria Parejo, and Edward Sanabria. In addition, we had presenters from a variety of countries such as the Dominican Republic, Spain, Puerto Rico, Australia, and the USA. Presentation topic areas included the state of ABA in Puerto Rico, the history of ABA for special populations, Essentials for Living, assessment and intervention of challenging behavior for Latinx families, ethics, early intervention programs, parent training programs, verbal behavior, Acceptance and Commitment therapy for Latinx caregivers, telehealth, ABA in primary healthcare, responsiveness and collaboration, feeding disorders, compassionate care, pica, among others. We also held an EXPO during which local ABA corporations, local nonprofits, credentialing agencies, software companies, and self-advocates had booths across both days of the conference. This event contributed to one of PRABA's main goals which is to establish a cohesive professional community of behavior analysts in PR. The majority of the attendees this year were behavior analysts, therapists or were in similar professions and were seeking a community of professionals.

In addition to our conference, this year we continued working towards our mission of disseminating ABA through collaboration 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, disseminating research through our social media pages, and holding information sessions about how to become credentialed in ABA.

During 2025, PRABA will run its new membership campaign and will hold voting for new board members as all board members will complete their two-year terms. In June 2025, PRABA will hold two two-day continuing education events held by Miguel Avila to teach the basic training of Essentials For Living. In addition, we are working with the University of Puerto Rico's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD) to write legislation to obtain licensure for behavior analysts in Puerto Rico. Finally, PRABA is planning its third hybrid conference in Puerto Rico tentatively scheduled for February of 2026. The members of PRABA are looking forward to hosting our behavior analytic community in Puerto Rico again next year.

## Rhode Island ABA

BY CODY MORRIS AND MEGAN ELLSWORTH

RI-ABA has continued growing its 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 JACQUELINE WILLIAMS

2024 was a successful year for South Carolina ABA (SC ABA). Board members included President Jacqui Williams, Secretary Kim Snyder, Treasurer Stephanie Turner, At-Large Board Member Scott Herbst, and Student Representative Amy Eacho.

In 2024, we continued our licensure efforts, detailed below, and continued conversations around working towards diversity, equity, and inclusion in the organization. We held a hybrid conference using BehaviorLive, with great feedback about the experience.

**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.

**Ethics Committee:** Since November 2024, we have been in the process of finding a new ethics chair. We have talked to a few possible candidates for this role.

**SIGs:** In 2024, we continued 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:**

- Kim Snyder ended her time as Secretary in November 2024 and has become the president elect, Kristen Hubbard was appointed to as secretary in November 2024.

Our 2025 Conference will take place October 14 and 15, 2025, in Charleston, SC, please see our website [sc-aba.org](http://sc-aba.org) for more information.

For more information about our conferences, membership, or upcoming events, please visit our website, [www.sc-aba.org](http://www.sc-aba.org), or like us on Facebook (**South Carolina Association for Behavior Analysis**). As a perk of SC ABA membership, updates are regularly provided to members on relevant legislature, area events related to behavior analysis, and changes affecting providers.

## Southeastern ABA

BY 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 41st annual SEABA conference will be held in Richmond, VA. More information, registration, and CEU pre-purchase are available at [www.SEABAonline.org](http://www.SEABAonline.org).

## **Tennessee ABA**

BY LINDSEY BRADY

The Tennessee Association for Behavior Analysis (TABA) was established in 1997 and continues to focus 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 collaborates with BehaviorLive to not only provide the online access to the annual conference and CEUs, but to provide additional free CEU opportunities for members statewide.

Currently, TABA has approximately 502 members. BehaviorLive is the platform utilized for the annual conference and the quarterly CEU opportunities available to members. By providing free, virtual CEUs to our members quarterly, TABA is able to ensure our members continue to value their membership as they are able to access CEUs in the quarters opposite the conference. The annual conference provides a central forum to discuss all aspects of researching, planning, and delivering applied behavior analysis services that address the needs of Behavior Analysts across the state.

The 27th Annual Conference was held virtually using the BehaviorLive platform on October 24th and 25th, 2024. In-person attendance was held at the Music City Center in Nashville with BehaviorLive providing online access and CEU documentation. During this conference, approximately 479 behavior analysts or other professionals attended to hear the following invited speakers: Dr. Janet Twyman presented on Supporting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with Explicit Instruction; Dr. Jessica Minahan, presented on Practical Strategies to Reduce Anxiety-Related and Challenging Behavioral in the classroom; and Dr. Margo Uwayo presented on America's Reading Crisis: Recommendations from the Sconce of Behavior. Our poster session also highlighted some of the great research our students are completing statewide.

The conference also continued the tradition of hosting our Behaviorallympics which allows ABA students from across the state compete against each other in various games, highlighting skills utilized by BCBAs. Vanderbilt University ABA Students plan this event and ensure that all participants and spectators have a great time.

Our Executive Committee is made up of the following individuals: Lauren Weaver as President, Stephanie Marshall as President-Elect, Nea Houchins-Juarez as past president, Haley Kelso as West TN Regional Representative, Amber Groat as Middle TN Regional Representative, and Amy Jo Schamens as East TN Regional Representative. Our committee chairs include Cady Branch and Michelle Hopton (co-chairs, Continuing Education), Erin Szarka (Publications), Ashton Fisher Media, Clinton Smith and James Meindl (Professional Standards), and Zachary Stevens (Membership), Pablo Juarez and James Meindl (Public Policy Committee co-chairs). Kyla Langford (Volunteer Coordinator), and Lindsey Brady continues as the Director of Operations. Collectively, this group is dedicated to advancing the presence of TABA across the state by finally offering a hybrid conference option, providing engaging opportunities for regional meetings, attempting to reconnect with members in-person as permitted, and working to identify current and possible new benefits for TABA members in the future. TABA is active on Facebook and Instagram.

## **Texas ABA**

BY RACHEL 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.

## 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. For more information on TxABA please visit [www.txaba.org](http://www.txaba.org).

## TxABA Executive Council (EC)

### The 2024–2025 Executive Council consisted of

President: Jeffrey Dillen

President-Elect: Dr. Berenice de la Cruz

Council Member: Dr. Joseph Dracobly

Council Member: Dr. Leslie Neely

Council Member: Dr. Janet Sanchez Enriquez

Council Member: Morgan Nichols

Senior Student Representative: Michelle Castillo

Junior Student Representative: Cha Yong Patterson (non-voting)

TxABA Executive Director: Rachel Kramer (non-voting)

TxABA Secretary-Treasurer: Jennifer Hines (non-voting)

The TxABA Executive Council (EC) gathered together in July to review progress on the 2023–2026 Strategic Plan and set the annual budget. 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 of 2023, 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 Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Director.

## TxABA Annual Conference and Awards

TxABA hosted its 40th Annual Conference in Dallas, TX, on April 24–27, 2025. 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 (Dr. Samantha Bergmann), Neurodevelopmental Disorder Track – Adults (Dr. John Guercio), Professional Track (Rany Thommen), General Track (Dr. Joseph Dracobly), Education Track (Dr. Kathleen Strickland-Cohen), Social Issues Track (Dr. Lee Mason), Organization Behavior Management Track (Dr. Jason Hirst), Research Track (Dr. April Becker), and Niche Areas Track (Dr. April Becker). We expanded both the NDD-Adults and Education Tracks to include a presentation and networking event on the Sunday morning of the conference.

In celebration of our 40th Annual Conference, Ryan O'Donnell chaired a panel on the History of TxABA with Deborah Grossett, Dorothea Lerman, Berenice de la Cruz, and Rachel Kramer. The panel focused on TxABA's history through the lens of TxABA's mission. In lieu of an awards ceremony, we held a commemorative event to highlight past TxABA leaders and share conference memories from our membership. The history of TxABA was sprinkled throughout the conference. Thank you to everyone who made the 2025 TxABA Conference a success! The 41st Annual Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency in San Antonio, TX, on April 9–12, 2026.

## TxABA Regional Conference El Paso, TX

TxABA hosted its first regional conference in El Paso, TX, on November 16, 2024. It was an in-person-only conference that focused on the local community by partnering with local behavior analysts who served on the Regional Conference El Paso Committee. The one-day conference offered two tracks with invited workshops and presentations. The BCBA Track with BACB CEUs featured Dr. Samantha Bergmann, Dr. Andrew Gardner, Dr. Amanda Kelly, Dr. Amy Foxman, and Dr. Ben Seifert. The RBT/Student Track with no CEUs featured Dr. Andrew Gardner and Dr. Janet Sanchez Enriquez. The first conference welcomed 73 attendees, 9 exhibitors, and 1 sponsor. TxABA is planning to return to El Paso in the Fall of 2026.

## 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 2025.

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.

### **TxABA Public Policy Group (PPG)**

The TxABA PPG, a separate 501c6, is the sister organization of TxABA that focuses on legislative issues and lobbying. The 2024–2025 TxABA PPG officers consisted of President Mariel Cremonie-Fernandez, President-elect Ellen Rhoads, Treasurer Lupe Castaneda, Secretary Anna Sciarillo, and Communications Chair Christina Martin. The TxABA PPG had a busy legislative year working with their new lobbyist and hosting a TxABA Day at the Capitol on April 17, 2025. They offered their 2024 workshop on Texas Medicaid for purchase on Behavior Live. The TxABA PPG officers provided a workshop at our annual conference and donated their instructor revenue to the TxABA PPG. They were invited speakers on the topic of why legislative issues matter to behavior analysts and their clients. For more information, please visit <https://behavioranalysispu.wixsite.com/txabappg>.

## **Utah ABA**

BY MARCELLA JESPERSEN

This past year has been incredibly productive and exciting for the Utah Association of Behavior Analysis (UtABA) board and members. We 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 to ensuring the smooth operation of UtABA. The Public Policy Committee has been particularly active, assisting

with the Office of Public Licensing Review (OPLR) report, and collaborating with the Utah Psychological Association (UPA) to prepare statements as needed for Utah Senate Bill 26, the Behavioral Health Licensing Amendments, aimed to amend behavioral health licensing provisions to expand the types of licensees why may participate. This committee also created a list of resources to share on our website to support ABA business in our state, held a town hall regarding commercial payor policy changes, and disseminated information to members regarding these changes.

This year, we proudly unveiled a new UtABA logo, which was voted on by our members. Our Professional Development Committee organized our largest annual conference to date, offering the highest number of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) ever. We adopted the use of Behavior Live for our Annual Conference and webinars, enhancing the accessibility and quality of our events. The webinars and annual conference were very well received by our members, who reported positive feedback and valuable content.

We are very grateful for all individuals who dedicate their time to the UtABA committees, as well as our committed membership who continue to promote and provide ethical, contemporary practice in the state of Utah. Looking ahead, we are excited to continue our work and build on the successes of this past year.

## **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 180 professionals and 15 students.

VtABA hosted various events in person and online in 2024 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 2024, Dr. Siri Ming provided the training, "Starting from Psychological Flexibility: RFT, ACT, and Behavior Analytic Practice" this January. This year we hosted Dr. Kate Chazin who led an interactive ½ day event on "Centering Autistic Perspectives in Early Childhood Education." The rest of the day included journal article discussion and panels of local professionals speaking on supervision and leadership. 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 2024, the conference was held at the Sugarbush Ski Resort in Warren, VT. The day's schedule was headlined by Dr. Thomas Szabo speaking on ACTraining and social justice. The other speakers included Dr. Cath Burns on behavioral

interventions in pediatric integrated care, Dr. Sydney Batchelder on ABA for the treatment of substance use disorder, and local ABA pioneer, David Powsner, on the history of ABA in Vermont.

VtABA strives to provide a multitude of learning and collaboration opportunities. In addition to our annual conference and meeting, we provided a free ethics workshop on anti-oppressive practices to fulfill a new Vermont requirement for licensure renewal. We also hosted a mixer for VtABA members and membership curious folks. Many RBTs and ABA students attended, this led to our decision to drastically reduce our student cost for conference attendance and to include a free year of RBT/ student membership with proof RBT/student status. VtABA will also be hosting its first ever hybrid event for our 2025 annual conference on June 7th with a new partnership with BehaviorLive. This year's speakers include Dr. Lauren Allen, Matt Cicoria, Erin Bertolli, and a panel from NeurABA.

This year has more in store for the Vermont ABA community. VtABA is working on creating an action learning opportunity for local BCBAs interested in developing their knowledge and skill in RFT and ACT. We will continue to offer social mixers across the state to help local ABA professionals connect and help our field grow in Vermont. We also will again offer a free training on non-oppressive practices in ABA as well as other free professional development events for VtABA members. For more information on our chapter and what we're working on, check out the following:

Website: [www.vtaba.org](http://www.vtaba.org)

Conference Website: <https://behaviorlive.com/conferences/Vermont25/home>

Facebook: VT ABA (Nonprofit)

Instagram and Threads: @vt\_aba

## Virginia ABA

BY SARAH DIGIOIA

The Virginia Association for Behavior Analysis (VirginiaABA® or VABA) is the affiliate chapter of ABAI in Virginia. We represent the profession of behavior analysis in the Commonwealth of Virginia. At the end of the 2024 membership cycle, we had 975 members. This was the largest membership since VABA's launch in 2003. We hope to reach 1,000 members in 2025! As of the date of this report, the Commonwealth of Virginia has over 3,340 licensed behavior analysts (LBA) and over 240 licensed assistant behavior analysts (LABA). In 2024, Virginia welcomed 61 newly certified BCBA-Ds, 1,941 BCBAs, 244 BCaBAs, and 3,605 RBTs for a combined 5,851 new certificants. VABA is a 501c6 organization lead by a Board of Directors which includes President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, three Members at Large, and two student representatives. VABA contracts

with a lobbyist and has one paid contracted position, an Administrative 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 21st annual conference was in Newport News, VA. Our 2024 conference in Alexandria, VA, brought in over 500 attendees, our largest conference to date. We offer location-based special interest groups in Central VA, Southwest, Tidewater, and Northern VA, which provide additional professional development events to serve our members. We have active Marketing & Membership, Student Engagement and Mentorship, DEI and Public Policy Committees which help to strengthen our organization and help to carry out our goals.

In 2024, we welcomed our first annual awards presented at our conference – 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.

VABA distributes quarterly newsletters, public policy action updates and this year welcomed a DEI focused newsletter. VABA has four social media accounts, including Facebook with over 2430 followers, Instagram with over 600 followers, LinkedIn with over 300 followers, and X with over 1160 followers. Our website is designed to be a resource for anyone interested in the field of behavior analysis in the Commonwealth and contains a public resources page, provider directory, DEI resources page, and a members-only resource page. We are currently in the process of updating our supervisor directory and hope to launch a mentorship program and search feature in 2025.

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.

## Washington ABA

BY JEFFREY KALLES

### WABA Activities & Accomplishments – 2024

The Washington Association for Behavior Analysis (WABA) had a productive 2024, highlighted by a significant transition within our Executive Committee, continued legislative advocacy to protect ABA services, a successful Annual Conference on Compassionate ABA, and the launch of the first Behavior Supports in Schools Conference—a collaboration with Washington’s Educational Service Districts (ESDs) and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). We also updated our professional development approach to better meet the needs of ABA practitioners across the state.

### Leadership Transitions

In January, WABA welcomed a new Executive Committee:

President	Jeffrey Kalles
Treasurer	Ralph Pampino
Secretary	Chelsea Deaconson
Member at Large	Ivy Chung
Public Policy Chair	Carla Myers

This team has worked closely with WABA’s committees to improve internal systems, maintain a strong Annual Conference, and set the direction for the organization for the years ahead. In 2025, we’ll continue building collaboration among leadership, expanding professional development offerings, and creating more opportunities for BCBAs across Washington to connect, engage, and build their professional community.

### Legislative Advocacy

WABA stayed actively involved in legislative advocacy throughout the year, working to ensure access to quality ABA services across Washington. We provided testimony, met with policymakers on key issues, and encouraged member engagement on issues that could impact the field. Specifically, WABA public policy efforts prevented a Medicaid credentialing change that would have significantly increased provider costs, supported providers throughout the state in addressing concerns with managed care organizations, advocated for expanding telehealth availability throughout WA, and established relationships with key policy makers to help support our member’s voice in the future.

These efforts will remain a top priority in 2025 as we continue advocating for policies that support ethical, science-based, and fully funded behavior analysis services.

### Annual Conference: Compassionate ABA

WABA’s 2024 Annual Conference brought together professionals from across the state around the theme of Compassion in ABA. The event included sessions on partnering with parents, avoiding binary thinking, ABA services for adults with disabilities, and exploring compassion as the “eighth dimension” of applied behavior analysis. Attendees also had opportunities to connect, collaborate, and share ideas and network with colleagues.

Strong positive feedback reaffirmed the importance of this annual event as a key part of WABA’s mission to promote high-quality professional development and community connection for practitioners of ABA in our state. Our 2025 Conference will be held October 11, 2025 on the topic of “Collaboration & Connection: Care Coordination Across Fields”

### Behavior Supports in Schools Conference

In May, WABA helped launch the inaugural Behavior Supports in Schools Conference in partnership with ESDs and OSPI. The event brought together professionals from around the state to help address the need for effective, inclusive behavior support systems in K-12 settings. Sessions focused on practical, school-based strategies and interdisciplinary collaboration. Its success has laid the groundwork for future events focused on supporting behavior analytic professionals working in schools.

### Professional Development Revamp

This year, WABA modernized our professional development systems to improve access and relevance by integrating the Behavior Live platform into our system. We updated internal processes, added support for event organizers, and expanded offerings across in-person, virtual, and on-demand formats. In 2025, we plan to continue to increase our professional development offerings even further—ensuring professionals can access high-quality learning opportunities statewide throughout the calendar year.

### Looking Ahead

WABA enters 2025 focused on growth, connection, and advocacy. We’re working to:

- Strengthen collaboration among committees
- Expand continuing education options
- Support policy efforts that protect the field
- Build a stronger, more connected professional community across WA State

We encourage members to stay engaged and help shape the future of ABA in Washington. Follow us on Facebook & Instagram and enroll as a member at [www.WashingtonABA.org](http://www.WashingtonABA.org).

# Wisconsin ABA

BY EMILY BAUMLER

Wisconsin Association for Behavior Analysis (WisABA) is excited to be entering its 21st year as a non-profit organization supporting professionals, parents, caregivers, educators, and researchers who continue to promote the science of behavior analysis. WisABA also continues to collaborate with the Department of Health Services (DHS) in their stakeholder meetings that are held throughout the year. Through this collaboration, information as well as any updates regarding the behavioral treatment benefit through the state of Wisconsin is disseminated to WisABA members. WisABA also continues its dedication to behavior analysis by being an affiliate chapter of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) and the Association for Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA).

Our 2024 annual conference was held in Milwaukee on October 4th and 5th, 2024. WisABA's 20th anniversary was celebrated during the conference. The keynote speaker was Emily Varon who provided a remarkable presentation on the important topic of sleep. Other presentation topics included Prader-Willi Syndrome, interprofessional collaboration, social/play skills, and cultural considerations for children with ASD. WisABA is excited for the 2025 conference (October 2nd and 3rd) after it experienced a record-breaking attendance at the 2024 conference.

WisABA honored one of its founders, Dr. Corrine Louise Russell Donley (1936–2023), by awarding the WisABA Award for Contributions to Behavior Analysis in the State of Wisconsin to Dr. Donley's son, Kevin R. Donely. WisABA was honored to present this award

to Mr. Donley, who spoke to the conference attendees about the incredible contributions his mother made to the field of behavior analysis. Dr. Corrine Donley will be remembered, and WisABA hopes to continue her legacy with its current initiatives and dedication to its members.

Amendments to WisABA's bylaws were voted and approved by its members during the 2024 conference. One major change was the addition of a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Director who will be in charge of the DEIB committee for a two-year term. DEIB will be one of WisABA's main initiatives to increase awareness and support diversity and inclusion within the field of ABA and the broader Wisconsin community.

Another main focus of WisABA is to continue to provide opportunities for continuing education to practicing BCBAAs and BCaBAAs, which the conference and quarterly general membership meetings provide. Members are welcomed to join quarterly general membership meetings virtually to hear updates from the committees and have the opportunity to earn one free Continuing Education Unit (CEU). The public relations committee continues to share resources to WisABA members via social media (Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn). Our website, [www.wisaba.org](http://www.wisaba.org), also features research opportunities, DEIB learning opportunities, and other helpful resources. A members only page consists of meeting notes from general membership meetings and DHS stakeholder meetings.

WisABA invites you to check out our website, follow on social media updates, become a member, and attend our conference in October. WisABA is looking forward to another successful conference and year! ♦

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

### ABA of Brazil

BY JOÃO LUCAS BERNARDY, DANIELA ROCHA-JURADO, MARCOS ROBERTO GARCIA E PEDRO BORDINI FALEIROS  
The Brazilian Association for Behavior Analysis (ACBr), founded in August 28th, 2013, was created to support and promote the growth of Behavior Analysis as a cultural and scientific practice in Brazil. It was established in response to the need for stronger institutional support and representation of the field within the Brazilian context.

At the core of ACBr's mission is the dissemination of behavior analysis, aiming to ensure that the principles and applications of this science are accessible to a broad audience. This includes not only academics and practitioners but also students and consumers of behavioral services. The association seeks to equip these diverse audiences with a clear understanding of the criteria that define Behavior Analysis, ensuring that individuals and institutions engaging with behavioral practices do so based on scientifically grounded concepts and procedures.

In addition to educational initiatives, the ACBr works to inform its members about the richness and diversity of research being conducted in the field, as well as the range of behavior-analytic treatments available. By keeping its members up to date with theoretical advances and empirical findings, the association fosters a deeper appreciation of behavioral principles and the methodological rigor that underpins them.

A particularly significant aspect of ACBr's work is its commitment to researching the landscape of Behavior Analysis in Brazil. This includes systematic efforts to map how the field is being taught in graduate programs across the country, how it is represented in professional training, and how it is being communicated to the general public. These insights not only help identify areas for improvement but also serve to promote and disseminate best teaching and dissemination practices, enhancing the quality and coherence of behavior-analytic education nationwide.

While the association does not serve as a regulatory or oversight body, it recognizes the importance of responding to the growing internal and external demand for contact with behavior analysis. This includes engaging with professionals, institutions, and the public who seek guidance about behavior-analytic principles and who are increasingly interested in evidence-based practices rooted in the science of behavior. ACBr strives to meet this demand by offering scientifically sound information, encouraging dialogue, and promoting ethical practices.

To support its mission, the association actively shares its initiatives and resources through multiple communication channels, including social media, publications, and events. By maintaining an open dialogue with its members and the broader community, the ACBr ensures that its activities are

transparent, inclusive, and continuously aligned with the evolving needs of the field.

Over the past year, the Brazilian Association for Behavior Analysis (ACBr) has undertaken important initiatives to promote and strengthen behavior analysis in Brazil. One of the key accomplishments was the organization of the survey "Panorama of Behavior-Analytic Training in Brazil," aimed at mapping and understanding the current landscape of academic training in the field, providing data to guide improvements in educational programs.

The association also launched PRODICT, the Integrated Program for the Dissemination of Science and Technology in Behavior Analysis, which focuses on accessible, high-quality scientific communication. ACBr further strengthened its ties with other representative organizations, such as ABPMC and ANPAC, including the publication of an open letter addressed to the Minister of Human Rights, reaffirming the field's ethical and social commitments. Lastly, the association played an active role in organizing the III National Congress on Behavior Analysis, which centered on the theme of "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion," bringing together professionals, students, and researchers for meaningful exchange and learning in a space committed to pluralism.

During its 2025–2026 term, ACBr will focus on promoting and disseminating behavior analysis in Brazil, while also expanding its efforts throughout Latin America. These initiatives will be guided by accessible and inclusive strategies, aligned with current scientific and societal demands, and developed in collaboration with other behavior-analytic associations. ACBr remains committed to advancing science and strengthening the behavior-analytic foundations of psychology. The association upholds ethical and responsible practices, supporting knowledge production, critical professional training, and the socially meaningful application of science.

Key planned actions include increasing the frequency of scientific and outreach events, with a focus on digital and hybrid formats that reduce geographic and economic barriers. Special attention will be given to encouraging participation from students, professionals, and collectives interested in behavior analysis, fostering a diverse and collaborative space for knowledge exchange.

The association also proposes the implementation of ongoing monitoring and dissemination of scientific content. This includes mapping and publicizing initiatives in behavior analysis across Brazil and Latin America, using social media and the institutional website to share curated, high-quality, and accessible information regularly.

Additionally, ACBr seeks to strengthen partnerships with nonprofit civil society organizations, as well as national and international scientific societies, to jointly promote science and expand access to behavior-analytic

knowledge. All collaborations will be guided by the shared goal of strengthening Behavior Analysis as a scientific field.

Here, ACBr reaffirms its commitment to human rights, equity, and social justice. The association acknowledges the importance of building a psychological science that actively opposes discrimination and values diversity in all its forms, including but not limited to gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, socioeconomic status, region, and religion. ACBr is dedicated to creating ethical, safe, and respectful spaces where everyone can contribute to the production, discussion, and application of behavior-analytic knowledge. To become a member of the Brazilian Association for Behavior Analysis (ACBr), individuals can choose from three categories of membership: full, affiliate, or student. Full membership is intended for professionals who hold at least a master's degree with a dissertation grounded in contemporary verbal behavior-analytic practices, have completed over three years of supervised training in the field, or can demonstrate significant contributions to behavior analysis.

Applications for full membership are subject to review. Affiliate membership is open to professionals from any background, as well as to members of the broader community, such as caregivers, parents, and community agents, who are interested in learning about or engaging with Behavior Analysis, but do not meet or seek the criteria required for full membership. Student membership is available to undergraduate and graduate students in any field of study.

Becoming a member of ACBr grants access to a range of institutional benefits. Members are encouraged to participate in the association's initiatives, engage in working groups, and contribute to the dissemination and advancement of behavior analysis in Brazil and Latin America. Membership also includes discounts on events, workshops, and congresses. In certain cases, members may take part in electoral processes and assume representative roles within the organization. ACBr offers a collaborative environment dedicated to active engagement, knowledge exchange, and the continued development of behavior-analytic science.

The next major event promoted by ACBr will be the IV National Congress of the Brazilian Association for Behavior Analysis, to be held in November 2026. This congress will be an opportunity to engage with the behavior-analytic community, share scientific knowledge, and promote the advancement of the field in Brazil and Latin America.

## ABA Germany

BY ANDREA WIDMANN

Over the past year, activity within ABA Germany has been limited, with most initiatives taking place at the individual and local level.

Nevertheless, these efforts continue to move in the right direction, particularly in building awareness of behavior analysis among professionals and public authorities. An important reference point for practitioners in Germany remains the S3 Autism Guidelines (2021), which explicitly mention behavior analysis for the first time. This inclusion provides a valuable basis for advancing recognition of ABA in the national context.

Looking ahead, ABA Germany intends to strengthen its connection to European initiatives, especially through the European Association for Behaviour Analysis (EABA) and the EuroBA project, to ensure alignment with international best practices and the development of shared professional standards across Europe.

## Caribbean ABA

BY JESSICA DERRICK AND GABRIELLE TORRES

We are excited to bring you this update on behaviour analysis in the Caribbean!

The Caribbean Association for Behaviour Analysis is dedicated to the advancement of the discipline of behaviour analysis across the Caribbean. We remain dedicated to supporting ethical, effective and humane use of behaviour analysis across our region.

Our Board of Directors includes members who support services in the Cayman Islands, Curacao, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Barbados, Trinidad, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Board members range from credentialed behaviour analysts to behaviour technicians/therapists and a parent of an autistic child, offering a broad range of perspectives as we navigate fulfilling our objectives in the Caribbean.

In 2024 we were proud to highlight a number of organizations that are making an impact in our communities. These organizations have seen their numbers grow, including adding more newly certified International Behavior Analysts and International Behavior Analysts. We look forward to continuing to spotlight organizations within our region, to listen and learn from members in our communities, and provide support to local change makers in 2025.

We are also bringing back more continuing education, and networking opportunities for our members and others interested in learning from and with the Caribbean. We are excited that Black Applied Behavior Analysts is holding their conference in Jamaica in September 2025 and look forward to collaborating with them, and are making plans to hold our own CABA conference soon! All these efforts are possible thanks to our board and committee members across the Caribbean.

### Our committees include:

- Membership Committee—focused on supporting our members' needs
- Marketing & Communications—keeping your

- informed of our activities
- Training & Development—providing professional development opportunities
- Advocacy—supporting the dissemination of our science, and supporting our region's parents and caregivers
- Public Policy—advocating for and providing resources to those promoting high standards of practice in our region

#### Become a member:

<https://caribbeanba.org/become-a-member/>

Contact us: [info@caribbeanba.org](mailto:info@caribbeanba.org)

Visit us online!

## Central China ABA

BY XUEYI DENG

In 2024, Central China ABA (CCABA) has successfully carried out of the comprehensive advancement of development of various operational activities in the field of behavior analysis in China. There are four major activities: Certified Training, Continuing Education, Membership Development, and Conferences and Workshops.

### Certified Training

As of today, CCABA has successfully developed a localized behavior analyst certification training system in China (CNABA SYSTEM), which currently covers five levels of training and certification: Assistant Behavior Analysts (CCaBA), Behavior Analysts (CCBA), Supervisory Behavior Analyst (CCBSA), undergraduate level Supervised Behavior Analyst (CCBSA-B), master's level Supervised Behavior Analyst (CCBSA-M), and one honorary level- Supervised Behavior Analyst doctoral level (CCBSA-D).

As of now, over 200 people have received CNABA Fundamental level training, and none of them have obtained CCaBA qualification yet. Over 500 people received Advanced level training from CNABA, and over 40 people obtained CCBA qualification. Over 50 people received SBT training, and over 30 people obtained CCBSA certification. Over 70 people received CNABA High Level training, and nine people obtained CCBSA-B qualification; three people received CNABA supreme level training and obtained CCBSA-M qualification. Also, there has been three people receiving the honorary level CCBSA-D qualification due to the tremendous work in the field of behavior analysis in China.

### Continuing Education

Since 2024, CCABA has cooperated with multiple BCBA and BCBA-Ds to work on continuing education. One of the major events is that CCABA kept providing online continuing education credit courses once a month, with the following course themes:

- Apr 30th 2024, "How to manage Challenging Behaviors in Inclusive Class (1)." Provided by Meng Lyu, BCBA#1-19-39044.
- May 25th 2024, "How to Implement the ESDM." Provided by XiongBao Zhu, BCBA#1-20-44851.
- Jun 26th 2024, "How to manage Challenging Behaviors in Inclusive Class (2)." Provided by Meng Lyu, BCBA#1-19-39044.
- Jul 25th 2024, "How to assess and formulate a 12-Weeks-Plan in ESDM." Provided by XiongBao Zhu, BCBA#1-20-44851.
- Aug 20th 2024, "How to improve social skills in the inclusive environment." Provided by Meng Lyu, BCBA#1-19-39044.
- Sept 24th 2024, "Break up Teaching Objectives & Follow up on Teaching Progress." Provided by XiongBao Zhu, BCBA#1-20-44851.
- Oct 31st 2024, "Communication between Family and School—How to Protect Children's Basic Rights and Interests." Provided by Meng Lyu, BCBA#1-19-39044.
- Nov 26th 2024, "ESDM:Developing Teaching Plans and Frameworks." Provided by XiongBao Zhu, BCBA#1-20-44851.
- Dec 27th 2024, "What should Shadow Teachers really do?" Provided by Meng Lyu, BCBA#1-19-39044.

### Membership Development

According to the statistics, CCABA has grown to 456 members, including 362 individual members and 94 institutional members. CCABA provides various members benefits including free online broadcast continuing education, discount of online courses and workshops, and so on.

### Conferences and Workshops

CCABA successfully held an Annual Conference on ABA in 2024. The conference invited Chongying Wang, BCBA-D; Meng Lyu, BCBA; Xueyi Deng, BCBA; and Linmei Liu, BCBA. Along with Guangxi College for Preschool Education and China-ASEAN Autism Research Institute, CCABA provided several workshops during the conference.

Not only that, CCABA has also collaborated with other BCBA to conduct more online and offline ABA related themed workshops during the year 2024.

Overall, CCABA has successfully completed our mission in 2024 and played a crucial role in the development of ABA in China. CCABA will maintain our consistent level of work in the new year.

## Chinese ABA

BY KARINA MIAO MIAO CHEUNG

This annual report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the initiatives and achievements made

in 2024 towards enhancing the quality of autism rehabilitation services. The efforts have been led by the China Association for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (CARPD) and its affiliated committees, with the goal of establishing standards, empowering institutions, and improving the overall quality of rehabilitation services for children with autism. The report covers key areas such as the establishment of a certification system for behavior analysts, the development of group standards for autism rehabilitation, the creation of training systems, and support for local institutions.

## I. Establishment of a Certification System for Behavior Analysts

### Background

In 2021, the CARPD was entrusted by the Department of Rehabilitation of the China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF) to prepare for the certification of professional skills of behavior analysis practitioners. A working group was formed, comprising representatives from the Autism Rehabilitation Professional Committee, the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Professional Committee, the Office of the National Autism Rehabilitation Research Center, the China Association for the Mentally Disabled and Their Relatives, and Huaxia Publishing House. The group, chaired by Cao Yuejin, the executive director and secretary-general of the CARPD, held 15 preparatory workshops. In 2024, the preparatory group was officially renamed the "Behavior Analysis Professional Personnel (Professional Skills) Certification Work Committee."

### Key Activities and Achievements

- Information Collection: In September 2021, the collection of information on registered behavior analysts in China was initiated, resulting in the collection of data from over 500 valid behavior analysis practitioners (approximately 63%). By November 2024, the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) reported 501 BCBA-D and BCBA, and 629 BCaBA in China. Within the CARPD's ABA Professional Committee, there were over 330 BCBA-D and BCBA, and over 500 BCaBA (approximately 73%).
- Development of Group Standards: In 2021 in collaboration with experts from Peking University Sixth Hospital and frontline practitioners, developed two group standards: "Norms for Children's Applied Behavior Analysis Services" and "Skill Requirements for Applied Behavior Analysis Personnel." These standards were released on December 14, 2021, and officially implemented on January 1, 2022. Subsequently, multiple conferences, workshops, and online live broadcasts are implemented to provide training and popular science for behavior analysis practitioners, institutions, rehabilitation therapists, and

parents, thereby promoting public understanding and awareness of behavior analysis.

- Training System Development: Based on the "Skill Requirements for Applied Behavior Analysis Personnel" group standard, the CARPD organized experts to establish a growth path for behavior analysis practitioners from behavior technician to senior behavior analyst. The requirements for registration qualifications, theoretical and practical hours, supervision, and assessment standards for each level were clearly defined. To standardize training qualifications and processes, and to improve training quality, the CARPD also released application and review requirements for training, soliciting excellent courses from member units to cultivate more qualified behavior analysis practitioners for society.
- Certification Examination: In October 2024, in accordance with the "Implementation Plan for the Care and Promotion of Autism Children (2024–2028)," the Behavior Analysis Professional Personnel (Professional Skills) Certification Work Committee organized the first certification examination for behavior analysis practitioners. This examination was designed for learners who had completed ABAI (Association for Behavior Analysis International) authorized VCS courses offered by other institutions or universities but had not yet obtained certification.

## II. Development of Training Systems and Professional Training for Autism Rehabilitation

### Overview

The CARPD has supported and organized experts and outstanding frontline professionals from various fields to develop a training system for autism rehabilitation education, launching a series of excellent courses. The ABAI-China Chapter has been in a mutually supportive relationship with the CARPD's ABA Professional Committee, contributing to the development and implementation of these training systems.

### Key Initiatives

- Position Training Courses: Development: Under the guidance of the China Disabled Persons' Federation, the CARPD organized industry experts to develop and record basic courses that position teachers should know and be able to do. The training system includes 2,700 minutes of online training and position practical training. As of October 2024, nearly 40,000 people had participated in the training across the country. Participating in position training has gradually become a consensus in the industry and a criterion for institutions to select and employ personnel. It has also become one of the standards for some provinces and cities to determine the professional personnel

- configuration of rehabilitation designated institutions.
- Dual-Teacher Model for Practical Training: The CARPD uniformly stipulated the practical course syllabus, content, teaching standards, and modes. Lecturers were recruited and assessed based on these standards, and those who passed the examination were hired as position practical lecturers for the association. Lecturers taught online and offline, with the association providing online supervision and review. Since January 2024, 25 practical cooperation units have been selected nationwide, and three training sessions have been completed, with a total of 551 participants.
- VB-MAPP Training: The CARPD supported the ABA Professional Committee, Wuhan Linjie, Enqi, and other units to jointly conduct VB-MAPP series training. A total of 2,177 people have passed the examination and obtained certificates. The association also established a cooperation with Beijing Union University to offer VB-MAPP offline training courses for students.
- Carolina Curriculum for Preschool Special Education: In 2018, the CARPD introduced the Carolina Curriculum for Preschool Special Education. In 2021, the CARPD and Huaxia Publishing House jointly launched the "Carolina Special Education Online Course." After the course was launched, a supporting assessment toolbox and online assessment system were developed. In 2024, based on learner feedback, multiple offline practical training sessions were conducted.
- Preschool Inclusive Education Teacher Training: In January 2023, Huaxia Publishing House and the Inclusive Education Research Center of Beijing Normal University jointly launched the "Construction of Preschool Inclusive Education Teacher Capacity Building Training Course System" project. A survey was conducted nationwide, covering 702 frontline teachers across 21 provinces, providing empirical evidence for the construction of the course system. The project resulted in two achievements: the "Survey Report on Preschool Inclusive Teachers' Professional Quality and Training Situations" and the "Preschool Inclusive Support Training Course System."

### III. Future Plans

- Certification System: Further refine the behavior analyst certification system to ensure it meets international standards while being adaptable to China's unique context.
- Group Standards: Continue to develop and update group standards to cover more aspects of autism rehabilitation, ensuring comprehensive and consistent service delivery.
- Training Systems: Expand the coverage and improve the quality of training systems to reach

more practitioners and institutions, enhancing their capabilities and skills.

- Local Support: Strengthen support for local institutions to build their capacity and improve the professional skills of their staff, thereby enhancing the overall quality of autism rehabilitation services nationwide.

### Conclusion

In 2024, the CARPD and its affiliated committees have made significant progress in enhancing the quality of autism rehabilitation services, with Chinese-ABA providing consistent professional support for CARPD's ABA-related initiatives. Through the establishment of a certification system for behavior analysts, the development of group standards, the creation of comprehensive training systems, and support for local institutions, the association has contributed to the standardization and professionalization of the autism rehabilitation industry. Looking ahead, Chinese-ABA remains committed to its mission of improving the lives of persons with disabilities and their families through continuous innovation and collaboration. Together with all stakeholders, we look forward to creating a brighter future for children with special needs and their families.

## French ABA

BY LAURENT MADELAINE AND ARTHUR PRÉVEL

In 2024, members of French ABA actively contributed to developing the field of behavior analysis in France through a variety of impactful initiatives and collaborations. Students from the University of Lille participated in two major international conferences: the Society for the Quantitative Analyses of Behavior (SQAB) and the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI). These events provided valuable platforms for presenting their work, engaging with global researchers, and staying informed about the latest advancements in behavior analysis.

In collaboration with colleagues from KU Leuven, French ABA members organized a series of monthly online conferences under the banner of PALM (Online Meetings on the Psychology of Associative Learning and Memory). These sessions featured invited speakers who presented talks on learning processes, associative learning, and memory, followed by in-depth discussions. This initiative facilitated international academic exchange and provided valuable insights into current research.

With the support of a University of Lille grant, French ABA invited Professor Kennon A. Lattal from West Virginia University for a one-month residency. During his stay, Professor Lattal delivered lectures, conducted workshops, mentored students, and engaged in collaborative research projects. His visit not only enriched

the academic offerings but also strengthened ties between institutions, paving the way for future collaborative projects in behavior analysis.

Members of the association have actively contributed to securing funding for a five-year interdisciplinary project grant on decision-making under radical uncertainty. This initiative involves experimental behavior analysis, behavioral economics, comparative psychology, and computer science. French ABA members contributed significantly, with one member serving as co-leader. A doctoral seminar organized at the University of Lille in June 2024 brought together researchers from Ghent University, ENS Paris, and UCL London to discuss decision-making. This event fostered a rich exchange of ideas and strengthened collaborative networks, resulting in a funding application for a new research project to develop AI systems for personalized learning programs.

French ABA has initiated the process of renewing the certification for the master's program in behavior analysis at the University of Lille. Granted by the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI), this certification aims to ensure alignment with international standards. Collaboration with relevant stakeholders is ongoing to achieve successful renewal.

Plans are underway to organize an annual meeting for French professionals in applied behavior analysis (ABA). This event aims to strengthen the community by bringing practitioners together, promoting the exchange of best practices, encouraging collaborations, and addressing needs in training and institutional representation. By fostering a cohesive and supportive network, the initiative seeks to enhance service quality and provide professionals with essential resources. In a similar vein, a directory of alumni from the master's program in behavior analysis at the University of Lille is being developed. This directory will establish a professional network to encourage connections among graduates, promote knowledge exchange, and support career advancement within the field.

Through these initiatives, French ABA continues to advance its mission of fostering research, education, and professional development in behavior analysis, ensuring its sustained growth and impact both nationally and internationally.

## Hong Kong ABA

BY EMILY KWAN

### Introduction:

The Hong Kong Association for Behavior Analysis (HKABA) made active efforts in reorganizing and revitalizing ourselves in the past year, yet it has been a difficult journey due to the limited number of members who can contribute their time. The economic structure and demographics in Hong Kong have changed considerably in the past year, leading to stress and struggles for many

practitioners in the private sector.

In the previous year, 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. It was the plan to first refresh the website and provide updated information. Unfortunately, we have not been able to move forward with our action plan due to the limited time everyone could contribute to.

**Reorganizing and Resuming Activities:** In a positive turn of events, a few number of us have taken the initiative to rekindle the chapter's activities again. These individuals, with their extensive experience and expertise in behavior analysis, have had discussions on the new content of the website and we aimed to have it refreshed by end of June.

**Change in Leadership:** It is important to note that since the past president of HKABA has stepped down from their position, we have not been able to gather enough members to fill the different positions for the board.

**Defining Roles and Responsibilities:** Therefore, HKABA is still 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. We are still striving to seek the appropriate members to form the board, and to enhance its organizational structure and streamline its activities of HKABA.

**Formulating a Development Plan for 2025:** To ensure a clear and focused path forward, HKABA will work on formulating a comprehensive development plan for 2025 again. 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 in the past two years. 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 2025 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 KARL F. GUNNARSSON, HANNA STEINUNN STEINGRÍMSDÓTTIR, AND HERDÍS INGIBJÖRG AUÐAR SVANSDÓTTIR

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.

In May 2024, ICE-ABA held its annual meeting, where several key topics were addressed. The board presented its report on the previous year's work, including ongoing efforts to establish standards for supervision, education, and continuing education requirements. The membership also discussed a shift toward more stringent educational requirements beginning January 2025, aiming to formalize who may register as a clinical behavior analyst. Drafts of the code of ethics were introduced, drawing on guidelines from other professional bodies in Iceland and adapted with permission from the BACB. The group reviewed and approved annual financial statements, voted on membership fees and name for the profession in Icelandic (which is "klínískur atferlisfræðingur"), and elected new president, Karl F. Gunnarsson, board members (re-elect, Hanna Steinunn Steingrímsdóttir, Herdís I. Auðar Svansdóttir) and committee chairs. In September the board invited all members to celebrate ICE-ABA's 20-year anniversary.

In the fall of 2024, ICE-ABA opened the application process for registration as a klínískur atferlisfræðingur (clinical behavior analyst) encouraging individuals to submit required education and supervision documents by January 1, 2025. Those seeking professional membership—and particularly those working toward clinical designation—were asked to submit degree transcripts, proof of supervision, and any relevant continuing-education certifications. Updated registration requirements were posted online, providing clear guidelines for eligibility and detailing how different types of membership (e.g., professional, student, auxiliary) would be recognized under the new rules. Currently there are 110 members who have successfully registered and been certified by ICE-ABA as clinical behavior analysts.

In addition, in 2024 SATÍS began a partnership with the OBM Network to co-host a conference in Iceland in October 2025. This collaboration is designed to attract an international audience to the organization's semi-annual

conference, providing a valuable forum for sharing best practices and fostering global connections in the field of behavior analysis.

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 MICHAL SAGOR

The Israeli Association for Behavior Analysis (IABA) wishes to open its report for 2024 with the events of October 7th, 2024. 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 2024, IABA actively promoted the field of behavior analysis and its practitioners.

We wish to bring some of the organization's activities for 2024:

### Professional Development:

- A lecture by Dr. Coral Shahar about neuroscience and ABA.

### 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.
- 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.

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; <http://www.iescum.org>) is, since 2007, the Italian chapter of ABAI, established to translate into specific actions a vision of experimental and applied behavioral 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.

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](http://www.abaitalia.org)) brings together 680 behavior analysts, 291 assistant behavior analysts, and 499 behavioral technicians who have passed the minimum training standards to ensure families. At the moment, 3879 are students still in training.

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. Chase, C. Nikopoulos, S. Ming, S. Alai-Rosales, V. Carbone, T. Thompson, P. McGreevy, L. McHugh, N. Martin, J. Guercio, C. Luciano, P. Sturmey, J. Ax, D. Cairns, and T. Cihon. 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 XVIII edition, along with several 180-hour and 60-hour courses targeting operators who aim to become assistant behavior analysts or behavioral technicians.

IESCUM participated in the 19th Conference on Quality of Life for People with Disabilities in Brescia (September 2024), contributing to discussions on innovative approaches in applied behavior analysis (ABA) and early intervention. The event explored the use of metaphorical contexts to support individuals with rigid and limited repertoires, as well as technology-assisted ABA interventions, presenting empirical evidence on the effectiveness of an ecosystem platform. A case study was discussed on the relationship between autism, OCD, and the need for belonging, while another presentation focused on integrating ABA principles with the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) to promote social reciprocity and spontaneity in young children. Additionally, Prof. Presti chaired a session featuring Ethan S. Long, who presented a treatment model for autistic adults, while

Prof. Moderato chaired Peter Sturmey's session on addressing psychopathological issues in autism and intellectual disabilities.

In 2025, IESCUM will participate in two major international conferences. At the 51st Annual ABAI Convention in Washington, D.C. (May 24-26), it will contribute to a symposium on the exploratory use of social robotics and other technologies in ABA interventions. Later in the year, at the 12th ABAI International Conference in Lisbon (November 11-13), IESCUM will lead a symposium on integrating technology in ABA to enhance intervention efficiency and accessibility.

At the ABAI International Conference in Lisbon in 2025, IESCUM will also lead a symposium chaired by Prof. Peter Sturmey with Carmen Luciano as the discussant. The symposium will explore innovative applications of acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) and applied behavior analysis (ABA) to support individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Key topics include enhancing metaphor comprehension and social cognitive skills in children with ASD through interventions combining ACT and ABA, as well as strategies to improve psychological flexibility using metaphor-based ACT training. Another presentation will focus on perspective-taking as a foundational skill for understanding deception and irony, while a pilot study will examine the effectiveness of the KidStarter Program in supporting children with ASD.

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

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 équipe is systematically supervised by IESCUM.

In October 2025, IESCUM is organizing the fourth 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.

In 2025, IESCUM will also contribute to the dissemination of acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) in the field of behavior analysis with the publication of the Italian translation of the book Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Behavior Analysts: A Practice Guide from Theory to Treatment by Dixon, Hayes, and Belis (in press). This publication will provide a valuable resource for practitioners looking to integrate ACT principles into ABA interventions.

## 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 been increasing its number of members, it has reached more than 1,000 members. Members come from a wide variety of professions and include academics, practitioners, schoolteachers, social workers, medical doctors, nurses, animal trainers, and businesspeople.

The 42nd annual convention was held in person at Komazawa University in Tokyo from September 13 to 15, 2024. The convention had a total attendance of 415 participants, 11 symposiums, and 55 poster presentations. Since the annual conference in 2024, to encourage student members, we have started funding support for student members to present their research at the annual conference. Seven student members presented their interesting research for “Young Researcher Presentation Award.”

Additionally, the J-ABA Award for Contributions to Practice was selected in February 2024. This award is the honor given to individuals or organizations which utilize behavior analysis for dealing with social issues. Ayumi Aoki, who introduced behavioral analysis to animal welfare including animal care at zoo and aquarium, received the award.

We have formed a work group to consider a diversity policy statement. The work group developed a diversity policy statement for J-ABA in May 2024.

The 43rd annual convention in 2025 will be held in a hybrid format. The online convention will be held from August 19 to 21, and then, the in-person convention will be held from August 23 to 24, 2025 in Fukui city.

## Jordanian ABA

BY MAHMOUD AL-SHEYAB

In the evolving landscape of applied behavior analysis (ABA), the lack of regulatory frameworks governing the practice of behavior analysts in Jordan presents considerable challenges. The absence of established guidelines and professional standards has resulted in a non-uniform approach to ensuring the quality and adherence to best practices within the field. To address this critical gap, our partnership with ABA Resources Academy has been pivotal.

Through targeted training initiatives, we have successfully empowered over 250 families and 500 special education teachers with fundamental knowledge in applied behavior analysis, enabling them to pursue RBT/ABAT certifications. This collective effort aims not only to deepen understanding of the intrinsic value of ABA but also to stimulate a significant increase in demand for these specialized services. By advocating for greater recognition

and support, we are working towards the establishment of comprehensive policies and regulations that will protect the integrity and effectiveness of ABA practices.

Additionally, our commitment to professional development extends to nurturing a cohort of 30 specialists into qualified QBAs, BCBAs, and QASP-S. While this initiative marks a substantial advancement, the need for more qualified professionals and increased awareness regarding the transformative potential of applied behavior analysis is more critical than ever. Looking ahead, our strategic collaboration with ABA Resources Academy will lead to the launch of Jordan's inaugural journal dedicated to applied behavior analysis in Arabic. We are also in the process of releasing a comprehensive Arabic textbook that explores the intricacies of applied behavior analysis and its methodologies.

Furthermore, we are actively working on licensing ABA through the Jordanian government and engaging with colleagues across Arab countries to establish the Behavior Analysis Arabic Board (BAAB). This endeavor aims to further strengthen the framework and recognition of ABA practices in the region.

## Kenya ABA

BY POOJA PANESAR

A hearty welcome to Kenya Association of Behavior Analysis. 2024 was an exciting year whereby we have seen the number of behaviour analysts in the country grow, along with the behaviour technicians providing ABA services. It is also heartwarming to see dissemination efforts bear fruits as more parents seek information on ABA.

Our local university began a program for the 40-hour course where enrolment has increased, and two of KABAs officers were invited to give speeches during graduation. The president of KABA is involved in teaching this program and has begun offering the QASP-S and ABAT courses locally at an affordable cost. These are exciting developments as we disseminate ABA in Kenya and work diligently to increase the number of professionals in the field in this region.

It has also come to attention that many parents ask about the detrimental effects of ABA as they hesitantly seek services. This goes to show the great level of awareness and gives us an opportunity to dispel any misconceptions around ABA as professionals seek continuing education around the topics of patient-centered care, cultural sensitivity, and others pertaining to providing the best care. Families continually gain confidence in our skills through this process.

There are still many challenges through the positives. Due to the low number of behaviour analysts, they are all overwhelmed. Due to this, finding enough time to meet and brainstorm additional ways to disseminate ABA and increase the efficiency of KABA is challenging. This relates to the limited advertising of KABA, activities, and low

membership rates. As the president of KABA continues pushing for this, we hope to see a breakthrough.

We hope 2025 will see an increase in the activities pertaining to KABA and continual progression of the field in the country.

## Manitoba ABA

BY JENNIFER COOK

The Manitoba Association for Behaviour Analysis (MABA) is proud to be in its 20th year as an affiliated chapter of ABAI. Hereafter, we will describe several objectives that we have met during our 19th year.

As an ongoing ACE provider since 2013, MABA offered free CEUs to our BACB-certified members at the 19th Annual Conference on September 12, 2024. This was our first in-person conference since the start of the pandemic. We welcomed approximately 60 attendees at the University of Manitoba's conference space. Jennifer Cook, PhD, BCBA opened the conference talks with her presidential address, "Role of the Anecdote: Anec-Do or Anec-Don't?" This was followed by our invited speaker Gina Green, PhD, BCBA-D (Consultant, former Executive Director and CEO of the Association of Professional Behavior Analysts), who presented "Regulation of ABA Practitioners." Our Keynote address was presented by Vivian Ibañez, PhD, BCBA-D (University of Florida), titled, "Behavior-Analytic Feeding Therapy: What Have We Learned?" The afternoon began with a touching tribute to the life of Joseph Pear, by our local presenter, Geneviève Roy-Wsiaki, PhD, BCBA-D (Université de Saint-Boniface), titled "A Celebration of Dr. Joseph Pear and His Lifetime Contributions to Behaviour Analysis." This tribute included a beautiful and personal address from Dr. Pear's widow, Fran Falzarano, who spoke about Joe Pear's passion for science and ABA, inspiring attendees to continue the legacy of excellence in ABA in Manitoba. We met our goal to offer the first poster session since our pre-pandemic poster sessions, presented by MABA members, all of whom were also the University of Manitoba graduate students. We continued the tradition of completing our conference with a panel event including all speakers, discussing the "Evolution of ABA." We are looking forward to our 20th Annual Conference, to be held in the fall of 2025, which we intend to present as a hybrid event. Additional information can be found at [maba.ca/conference](http://maba.ca/conference) as it becomes available.

For the upcoming year, we will continue to work on our new and ongoing objectives and goals. Our key objectives for 2025 include continued CE opportunities for our members and opportunities for our members to present behaviour analytic work and network in-person at events. 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. As well, we would like to find new ways to support new students and research initiatives in behaviour analysis

through the development of new awards. Finally, we would like to continue to work on increasing our membership through various recruitment initiatives.

## 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.

NZABA's primary purpose is to host a conference each year in late August. In 2024 the conference was held at Auckland University of Technology for the first time. 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.

In 2024, the judges awarded prizes to the following outstanding student presentations: Jacob Jensen (University of Auckland) When screen time turns sour: Metaanalysing interventions for challenging behaviour maintained by access to tangibles, Tess Austin (AUT) Reply now or later? Delay discounting and phone use while driving Reply now or later? Arihant Ambalam, Holly Hatchell & Jessica Lints (University of Waikato) Scent discrimination and visual matching in dogs: Training dogs to provide specific information about what they are sensing, Iwan Downie (University of Waikato) Developing an approach for studying dogs' ability to use timing information in odour plumes, Kristina Naden (University of New England) Assessment of affective state for horses engaged in therapeutic riding.

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. This symposium allows New Zealand ABA practitioners to develop their skills and knowledge of practice issues of particular relevance to the New Zealand cultural context.

In 2024 our conference will be held in Hamilton, hosted by Waikato University. Our website at <https://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](https://facebook.com/newzealandaba) 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 2024, the Norwegian Association (NAFO) had about

300 members, but this number has decreased over the last couple of years. Most of the NAFO members 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 organizes a five-day annual conference in April. In 2024, 649 people attended the conference at Storefjell—a venue located in the mountains approximately a three-hour drive northwest of Oslo. Last year, we had 209 presentations. Usually, an invited international scholar attends the conference.

The Norwegian ABA publishes two journals: The Norwegian Journal of Behavior Analysis (NTA) and the European Journal of Behavior Analysis (EJOBA). NTA is published twice a year. This peer-reviewed journal accepts papers on research, practice, and conceptual issues in behavior analysis, primarily in Norwegian. Since 2011, English abstracts have been included. EJOBA ([www.ejoba.org](http://www.ejoba.org)) is also a peer-reviewed journal published twice a year. EJOBA is mainly focused on publications of experimental reports and theoretical or conceptual papers relevant to the analysis of individual organisms' behavior. EJOBA has published several special issues since its first volume in 2000 and maintains a collaboration with the Taylor & Francis Group.

## Ontario ABA

BY JAIME SANTANA

This year has started with a lot of work for our chapter. In July 2024, Behaviour Analysts in Ontario were regulated as an independent profession through the renamed College of Psychologists and Behaviour Analysts of Ontario. This change brought many challenges, including changes in practice requirements, expectations, and of course, the announcement by the BACB to remove themselves from Ontario completely as of June 30, 2026. As an association we have continued to explore options to maintain BACB credentialing in Ontario and are working with the appropriate decision makers to gauge our options and next steps.

In order to ensure that our membership was prepared for regulation and the expectations that come with it, we established a Regulation Resource Task Force that developed and released various resources, including FAQs, Title Protection Clarification, and webinars throughout the year. We received some great feedback from our membership on these and are continuing to look at how we can meet the needs of our members through these changes.

We have continued to advocate for the appropriate funding for services that behaviour analysts deliver, including, but not limited to, services to individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. This has been an ongoing advocacy goal for ONTABA over the years.

We have seen our membership increase over the last 12 months, remaining consistently over 1700 members for the last six months. This is a record for ONTABA, and we are

proud to continue to grow as an association. We have been able to deliver to our members multiple events, including our annual conference, which is always well attended. For this year, we have multiple events planned, including:

- An Evening for Behaviour Analysis, where our members can enjoy a meal, earn CEUs, and socialize
- Student Conference, where students in our province can practice and build their capacity as effective disseminators of our science
- ONTABAcon2025, where our members can enjoy two days of CEUs, learning, and socializing

We have also partnered with other provincial organizations to develop materials and sessions for parents and caregivers to support them through regulation as well.

Looking ahead into 2025, ONTABA aims to continue to build and grow, in order to establish a stronger ABA presence in Ontario, and in Canada through collaborative work with other Canadian associations. The future of ABA in Ontario is bright, and we are excited to be the ones leading the charge!

## Philippines ABA

BY MARIA CONJUANGCO AND JOSEPHINE DE JESUS

Philippine Association for Behavior Analysis (PABA) in 2024 introduced its PHASE II program with participating local government health units in Metro Manila giving training to health care providers in incorporating training programs assisting families create their own home programs for children with autism. The programs were carefully designed according to the needs of each family with no financial assistance or capabilities to obtain interventions for children with autism. The programs focused in preparing and educating family members to assist their children on their daily home and learning activities. The goal of the local government health units for parents to achieve a functional home set up for their children to lessen their dependence and wait time in getting services from the health centers. With such set-up, families saw the importance of having a home program in place at the same time the health centers were less burdened or no longer limited in extending support to families in need. It allowed a more improved monitoring system by health care providers on families under their home care program.

PABA continued to assist health care providers in upgrading their parent home training programs by introducing more attainable goals for all family members. A regular consultation was extended by PABA to allow health care providers to address their concerns.

PABA continued its collaboration with hospitals in providing a more comprehensive workshops for medical practitioners and enrolled health care providers in implementing an ABA program. Several PABA member

centers offered their services to interested participants in receiving post training for online consultations and on-site observations. Likewise, PABA made available its online awareness and training lectures with two more colleges in the Visayas Region participated by educators, parents, and health practitioners. More special education teachers participated seeking mentorship and guidance in ABA to equip them with proper tools helpful in their teaching goals.

For the year 2026, PABA is aiming to extend its support and accommodate more local government health centers in the Visayas Region requesting for more training and post lecture consultations. PABA intends to give assistance to these health centers to achieve a more effective ABA program and expand the range of their services in their communities.

PABA will continue to engage more in fund-raising activities to sustain its training projects in collaboration with the local government health centers.

## Polish Association of Behavioral Therapy

BY PAWEŁ BAKALARZ

Polish Association of Behavioral Therapy is a country-wide, non-profit organization for behavior analysis professionals and people with neurodevelopmental disorders and their families that dates back to 2002.

Together with Polish Society of Behavioral Psychology, we co-operate the Polish License of Behavior Therapist (<https://pltb.pl/>). We set standards of practice, provide training and certify behavior specialists that work mainly in the field of treatment of neurodevelopmental disorders.

In 2024, we mostly working on redesigning the training and certification system. These works continue and will finalize with a uniform programme for behavior therapy school. We are also in contact with IBAO with regards to mutually honoring the titles between both systems. Our members participated in a bi-annual Polish Behavioral Symposium organized by Polish Society for Behavioral Psychology. We gave talks on the history of ABA in Poland and behavioral self-management strategies.

Our members continue to provide their services to the communities in need; they work in schools, both public and private, and have private practice. As an association, we provide continuous services: psychological and educational diagnoses, functional assessments, behavioral programming and therapy. We provide out-patient clinic services in Krakow. We also run special schools that provide strictly ABA-based education and treatment: elementary and work-preparation schools for children and youth with special needs in Krakow and elementary school for children with special needs in Raciborz.

## Polish Society for Behavioral Psychology

BY BARTŁOMIEJ J. SWEBODZIŃSKI

### Introduction

The Polish Society of Behavioral Psychology (PTPB) continues its mission to promote and develop behavioral psychology in Poland. As an organization affiliated with the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI), PTPB undertakes numerous initiatives aimed at integrating the professional community, educating specialists, and supporting the professional development of behavior analysts.

### Statutory Activities in 2024

#### Development of the Polish Behavior Analyst

##### Certification System

PTPB continued its work on the development of the Polish behavior analyst certification system, established in 2010 in cooperation with the Polish Association of Behavioral Therapy. This system sets professional standards for behavior analysts, improving the quality of their work in Poland. Two PTPB members regularly participated in the system's executive committee, engaging in activities such as:

- Evaluating applicants for the title of behavior analyst,
- Developing training program standards and assessing new courses proposed by supervisors within the system,
- Ensuring consistent interpretation of certification rules,
- Promoting knowledge about the certification system and behavioral therapy.

### Legislative Collaboration

PTPB actively participated in the parliamentary working group discussions regarding the law on the profession of psychotherapist in Poland.

### Integration of the Behavioral Therapy Community

The society undertook activities aimed at integrating associations related to behavioral psychology to strengthen cooperation in this field.

### Patronage and Support for Scientific Initiatives

#### Conference Patronage

- PTPB provided patronage for the international conference of the Polish Association of Cognitive and Behavioral Therapy, titled "Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy. Tailor-Made" (May 2024).
- Patronage of the report by the Polish Society of Clinical Psychology and Evidence-Based Psychotherapy: "Needs and Preferences of Polish People Regarding Psychotherapy Services." The report's findings were presented at the conference.
- "What's Next?," attended by PTPB President Przemysław Bąbel.

## Patronage of Publications

PTPB granted scientific patronage to the following books:

- "ACT with Love: Stop Struggling, Reconcile Differences, and Strengthen Your Relationship with Acceptance and Commitment Therapy" by Russ Harris, edited by Paweł Ostaszewski and Joanna Dudek,
- "Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Behavior Analysts: A Practice Guide from Theory to Treatment" by Jordan Belisle, Mark Dixon, and Steven Hayes, edited by Paweł Ostaszewski and Joanna Dudek,
- "Behavioral Activation for Depression: A Clinician's Guide" by Christopher Martell, Ruth Herman-Dunn, and Sona Dimidjian, edited by Paweł Ostaszewski and Joanna Dudek.

## XIV International Scientific Symposium

PTPB co-organized the XIV International Scientific Symposium of CTB and PTPB, titled "From Unity to Diversity. Behavioral Psychology in Action," which took place in Gdańsk on October 5–6, 2024. The symposium included presentations on various streams of behavioral therapies, including behavior analysis, cognitive-behavioral therapy, ACT, DBT, FAP, and schema therapy.

## Plans for the Future

### Symposium in 2026

PTPB plans to return to organizing its symposium in March, commemorating the birth anniversary of B.F. Skinner, who was born on March 20, 1904.

### b) "Behavioral Wednesdays" Webinar Series

Starting in April 2025, PTPB will launch a new educational initiative—weekly online meetings titled "Behavioral Wednesdays," aimed at popularizing knowledge about behavioral psychology.

### c) School of Behavioral Therapy

In cooperation with the Polish Association of Behavioral Therapy, PTPB is working on the program for the School of Behavioral Therapy, which aims to raise training and practical standards in this field and expand the number of professionals interested in training as behavioral therapists.

## Summary

The year 2024 was a period of intensive activity for PTPB, including the development of behavior analyst certification, legislative collaboration, integration of the therapeutic community, and support for scientific and publishing initiatives. Plans for 2025 and 2026 include further development of educational activities and the organization of large-scale scientific events, reinforcing the society's commitment to promoting behavioral psychology in Poland and internationally.

## Quebec ABA

BY KIRSTY ROBERTSON

The 2024 year brought on some exciting changes!

Following the annual general meeting, which took place on April 21, 2024, the board acquired a few new board members (Yulia Tkachenko, student representative and Aurélie Fock, regular member representative). The board of directors would like to highlight the hard work and dedication that previous board members have contributed.

The QcABA hosted its 13th annual conference on September 20th, 2024, which was offered online. The total number of attendees was 63 people. This was the second 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 Dr. Paul Gavoni who presented on The Behavior Science of Leadership: Achieving Behavioral Excellence in Organizations. Our next speaker was Dr. Adithyan Rajaraman who spoke about Advocating for Trauma-informed Care and Incorporating it into Behavioral Services for Individuals Who Exhibit Dangerous Behavior. Next, we had Isabelle Cowan, MASP, L.Psych, BCBA, Directrice Régionale, Services Thérapeutiques VIVA and Danielle Pelletier, MOA, Orthophoniste, BCBA, PDG, Services Thérapeutiques VIVA- Soins sensibles aux traumatismes par l'application du Traitement Basé sur les Compétences followed by Geneviève Roy-Wsiaki, PhD, BCBA-D- Rendre l'ABA plus accessible, mais pour qui et pourquoi? Une évaluation des perceptions de l'ABA en milieux francophones au Canada. These two presentations were entirely in French in order to appeal to our French speaking members. Our final speaker was Dr. Rachel Schwartz, PhD, BCBA-D who presented on sexuality and autism.

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 in which we are aiming to increase our membership and attendance at events is by updating our website to include a more comprehensive and user-friendly platform that will be accessible in both languages.

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 BCBAAs and one BCABA), and at the time of this writing (February 2025) the province is now home

to 74 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

### Challenges and Prospects for the Sociedad Mexicana de Análisis de la Conducta (SMAC)

The Mexican Society for Behavior Analysis (MSBA) is a non-profit organization established in 1975 whose purposes were

- Disseminating behavior analysis among psychologist and other disciplines
- Establishing links with similar associations in Mexico and foreign countries
- 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 XXXIII Mexican Congress of Behavior Analysis, was held in Merida, Yucatan, from September

9 to 11, 2024. This congress was held for the first time in the southern part of the country, which allowed us to make strategic contacts, sign a collaboration agreement and have a very successful congress. We had more than 500 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, 10 guest lectures, 18 symposia, and four poster sessions.

Like every year, Trajectory Awards were given, on this occasion to Dr. Maria Luisa Cepeda Islas in the Experimental Behavior Analysis category and Dr. Silvia Morales Chaine in the Applied Behavior Analysis category. As a way of encouraging student enrollment, the 6th Behavioral Analysis Thesis Contest was held, which receives more and more applicants every year.

Additionally, we announce the Mentorship Program developed by the Special Group of Women in Behavior Analysis (GEMAC). The main objective of this mentoring program is to empower Mexican undergraduate and graduate female students, as well as to highlight the role and leadership of women.

A very important announcement is that this year our society celebrates its 50th anniversary. In addition to our annual convention, we will have different activities such as webinars, videos and contests. We invite you to stay tuned for more information <https://www.smac.org.mx>

## Swedish ABA

BY DAG STRÖMBERG

The Swedish Association for Behavior Analysis (SWABA) had 243 members at the end of 2024, a 2% increase since 2023. The chapter continued its activity on social media; at the end of 2024, 1711 people were following SWABA on Facebook, a 2% increase since 2023. The association also has accounts on LinkedIn and Instagram, all with an increasing number of followers.

SWABA's fall meeting took place September 7th, 2024, in Gothenburg, as a hybrid event. We enjoyed presentations on various topics in Swedish by Gustav Jonsson, Linda Eklund, Maria Härnesand, Elin Mellgren, Tove Kihl, Eva Bertilsson, Johanna Edervall, and Hedvig Zetterberg. Furthermore, an invited international speaker, Francesca Degli Espinosa (Italy/UK), presented on assent in behavioral interventions.

The annual meeting took place March 15th, 2025, in Stockholm, again a hybrid event. The day included three presentations: on learning psychology, machine learning and AI by Robert Johansson; on PAX for children with special needs by Maria Jornevald; and on OBM by Martin Carlström.

During the year, the president of SWABA participated in a network that meets twice per year, connecting five different Swedish associations for behavior analysis,

contextual behavior science and/or various types of behavior therapy. For the first time, this network collaboratively published an online magazine called "Samlad kraft" (Joined forces) in March 2025, including contributions from all associations.

SWABA was also collaborating with representatives from the other Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden), discussing quality assurance of behavior analysis within a Nordic context, in the context of the newly created Nordic Association of Behavior Analysts. A major goal during the year was the establishment of common ethical guidelines.

SWABA was represented at the 2025 ABAI Annual Convention in Washington, DC. 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, and a journal club, 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](mailto:info@swaba.se)), to explore the possibility of meeting and/or lecturing. SWABA holds its annual meeting during the first quarter of each year and a fall meeting/conference in September or October. In October 2025, a fall meeting will take place in Stockholm, including various presentations in Swedish and/or English. Please visit the SWABA website for updates concerning the program.

## Taiwan ABA

BY SHU-FEN KUO

Over the past year, the Taiwan Association for Behavior Analysis (TABA) has continued to promote behavior science to parents, special education teachers, therapists, and other professionals. The activities organized this year included a behavior intervention workshop and several lectures, most of which were fortunately funded by the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education in Taiwan. Due to the impact of COVID-19, most events were conducted online. By the end of 2024, Taiwan had a total of 52 certified behavior analysts, including seven BCBA-Ds, 27 BCBAAs, and 16 BCaBAs.

TABA remains committed to offering more ABA (applied behavior analysis) lectures and seminars, as well as providing continuing education credits for certified behavior analysts. Through diverse service approaches, we aim to meet the needs of professionals and parents while expanding the promotion of behavior science.

### Below are the activities held in 2024:

From January to June 2024, TABA organized seven online lectures and workshops, with a total of 135 participants. The topics covered included:

- "Social Skills Training Oriented to the Life of Special Children"
- "Promoting Communication and Interaction – Verbal Behavior Teaching Applications"
- "Using Positive Behavioral Support in the Family Environment"
- "Teaching School-Age Learners with Developmental Disabilities to Develop Socially Valid Functional Skills with Community References"
- "The Triangular Relationship Between Teachers and Students in Junior High School"
- "How to Choose Appropriate Transition Placements and Case Sharing for Students with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders"

From July to December 2024, TABA held six online lectures, with 158 participants. Topics included:

- "Applying ABA in the Family for Children with ADHD"
- "Assessing and Teaching Social Skills for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Other Developmental Disabilities"
- "Social-Emotional Behavior Learning Strategies for Young Children"
- "The Causes and Interventions for Picky Eating Behavior in Special Children"
- "Tips for Parents – Creating an Independent Structured Life for Children at Home"

Looking ahead to 2025, TABA will continue to host online ABA lectures and develop a series of workshops and continuing education courses (both online and in-person) on topics such as problem behavior intervention, academic skills training (e.g., mathematics), and transition placement for youth and adults. These topics were selected based on survey feedback to ensure they align with public interest. Additionally, the annual conference will be held in December 2025, focusing on the latest advancements in functional analysis and showcasing case studies from both the United States and Taiwan. Systematic training will equip parents, teachers, and therapists with effective strategies to manage clients' problem behaviors.

TABA remains dedicated to its mission of promoting behavior analysis, advancing scientific knowledge in Taiwan, and inviting more members and professionals to join our efforts in fostering the growth of behavior science. ♦

## Updates From ABAI's Special Interest Groups

### Ethics and Behavior Analysis

BY MALIKA PRITCHETT

The Ethics and Behavior Analysis Special Interest Group (EBASIG) of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) was established in 2012 and, after brief hiatus for rebuilding and rebranding, has recently been reignited with new leadership, mission, and plans for the upcoming year. The renewed mission of the EBASIG is “to advance the science and practice of behavior analysis through active engagement and exploration of the ethics of behavior change across the species.” In fulfillment of this mission, the EBASIG has several exciting opportunities for anyone with a special interest in ethics of behavior change.

The EBASIG is a home base for anyone interested in ethics of behavior change as it pertains to human and/or non-human species. Members of EBASIG have a variety of interests within behavior analysis including conceptual and theoretical scholarship, teaching ethics in behavior analytic graduate programs, ethical considerations in clinical settings, animal welfare, research ethics, bioethics, and more. This diversity in membership areas of interest and expertise provides opportunities for robust and dynamic innovation and collaboration toward advancing mission of the EBASIG.

In the upcoming year we look forward to growing our membership by hosting ethics webinars with CE opportunities, updating web and social media presence, and participating in a business meeting and Expo poster at the upcoming 2026 ABAI Annual Convention in San Francisco, California.

We encourage anyone interested in the ethics of behavior change to join EBASIG and we are particularly hopeful that registered behavior technicians (RBTs), undergraduate, and graduate students, and others will become some of our newest members in the upcoming year. We look forward to an exciting year and welcome all who are interested in joining EBASIG!

### Evolutionary Sciences SIG

BY YUKIE KURUMIYA

The EvoSci SIG was created in 2023 and founded in 2024 with the mission 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. Our mission is to foster an analytic view of relational/symbolic learning and evolution—variation, selection, and retention—at the phylogenetic, ontogenetic, and cultural levels within an individual, a group, and groups and groups (from genes to humans). Our overarching objective is to expand this vision across disciplines and cultures through research, education, and practice collaborations. The EvoSci SIG will use a multilevel selection approach to analyze direct,

indirect, and cultural contingencies in contexts where behavior changes within small groups can be nurtured to prevent resurgence after behavior analytic treatments. Furthermore, through such explorations, we aim to explore models and processes that address conditions resulting in harmful insensitivity to social-environmental variables. Our members and those who consume the products of our work will include 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:

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

### Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior

BY DAVID J. COX

Report of 2024 activities. The SIG remains focused on our three primary goals: Promoting the experimental analysis of human behavior and basic behavioral research by encouraging student research and scholarship in the experimental analysis of human behavior (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 2024, the Distinguished Contributions Award was presented to Dr. Júlio César Coelho de Rose from Universidade Federal de São Carlos. At the 2025 ABAI Annual Convention, the Distinguished Contributions Award will be presented to Dr. Bryan Roche from Maynooth University. The EAHB SIG continues to increase the size of its membership (currently 284 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. Catherine Williams as the 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 Jack Black and Denise Aparecida Passarelli, who serve as the SIG Student Representatives.

#### In the coming year, activities will include:

- Release of a special issue of The Bulletin in collaboration with the VB-SIG on “Advances in the Experimental Analysis of Verbal Behavior” (likely June/July);

- Continued collaboration with VB-SIG on webinars from researchers conducting work at “The Intersection of Verbal Behavior and Experimental/Translational Research”;
- Reviews of manuscripts for 2026 *Bulletin* regular issue;
- Publication of a monthly Newsletter to the SIG membership; and
- Continuing our social media presence to promote the Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior.

## Forensic Behavior Analysis SIG

BY 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 been producing newsletters and video content for our members. Our total membership is now 3,213 at the time of this writing.

Our mission is 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. Our SIG members have provided trainings on lie detection, child welfare, and forensic case conceptualization.

### A group of our SIG members presented at a previous ABAI Convention Workshop:

ABAI 50th Annual Convention in Philadelphia, PA.  
Details are below:

**Title:** *The Analysis of Crime: Forensic Behavioral Case Conceptualization*  
**Workshop:** #W12

**Date:** Thursday, May 28th, 2024;  
**Time:** 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

### Previous Presentation by SIG Members:

ABAI 51st Annual Convention in Washington, DC.  
Details are below:

**Title:** *Bridging Behavior Analysis and Forensic Settings: Innovations and Challenges*

**Panel:** #361  
**Location:** Convention Center, Street Level, 158 AB  
**Date:** Monday, May 26th, 2025  
**Time:** 11:00 – 11:50 AM

**Description:** This panel will explore emerging trends in forensic behavior analysis, including the integration of technology in assessments and interventions, and the ongoing research driving this evolving field. Panelists will examine the complexities of understanding criminal behavior and mental health through applied behavior analysis (ABA), focusing on the challenges of implementing function-based consequence interventions for populations often unaffected by social consequences. Potential intervention strategies tailored to these unique needs will be discussed, along with implications for treatment through successful, evidence-based interventions designed to reduce recidivism. The panel will also explore the development and validation of risk assessment tools informed by behavior analytic principles, comparing these methods with traditional approaches and addressing reliability and ethical considerations. Ethical dilemmas, such as issues of consent, coercion, and the dual roles of practitioners, will be critically examined to guide best practices. Challenges and opportunities in collaborating with law enforcement, legal professionals, and correctional systems will be addressed, with an emphasis on strategies for effective communication and advocacy of behavior analytic approaches.

### Objectives:

- Understanding Criminal Behavior: Explore the complexities of criminal behavior and mental health issues through applied behavior analysis (ABA).
- Risk Assessment Tools: Discuss the development and validation of risk assessment tools based on behavior analytic principles, comparing them with traditional methods while addressing reliability and ethical implications.
- Intervention Strategies: Address the challenges of implementing function-based interventions for populations resistant to social consequences, showcasing successful strategies that apply behavioral principles.
- Ethical Considerations: Analyze ethical dilemmas in forensic behavior analysis, including consent, coercion, and the dual roles of practitioners as assessors and interventionists.

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. A monthly meeting is scheduled for SIG officers.

### SIG Officers

Presley Wanner	Chair
Kodey Lai	Vice Chair
Timothy J. Templin	Director of Public Relations
Mark Harvey	By Laws Development

# 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](http://repository.stcloudstate.edu/agb) for a journal devoted to behavioral research. The GSIG has had a long relationship with Analysis of Gambling Behavior, as many GSIG members supported the journal in various roles over the years.

## History of Behavior Analysis

BY EDWARD K. MORRIS

### Author's Note

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### Update from ABAI's Special Interest Group for the History of Behavior Analysis 2025

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 annually since then, except during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Aim, Mission, Objectives, Purview, and Audience

The SIG's aim is to advance behavior analysis nationally and internationally through its history and historiography. Its mission is to cultivate and nurture, improve and enrich, and disseminate the field's history. Its objectives are to advance (a) instruction in the history of behavior analysis (e.g., content, pedagogy), (b) research on its history (i.e., historiography), (c) the dissemination of its instruction and research (e.g., presentations, publications), and (d) service to ABAI in these regards (e.g., leadership, communications). Its purview is the field's long past (500 B.C.E.–1900), short history (1900–1930), and recent origins (1930–present). Its audience is behavior analysts, other interested 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 basic, applied, and translational sciences and their conceptual foundations) 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 it 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 an almost 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)

As the cosmologist, Carl Sagan (1934–1996), stated: "You have to know the past to understand the present" (Sagan 1980, p. 57).

A few years later, the American novelist, William Faulkner (1897–1962), offered a more personal rationale for history, writing:

The past is never dead. It's not even past. All of us labor in webs spun long before we were born, webs of heredity and environment, of desire and consequence, of history

and eternity. Haunted by wrong turns and roads not taken, we pursue images seen as new, but whose providence dates to the dim dramas of childhood, which are themselves but ripples of consequence echoing down the generations. The quotidian demands of life distract from this resonance of images and events, but some of us feel it always. (Faulkner, 1951, Act 1, Scene 3)

In a 2008 campaign speech, Barack Obama (1961-present) adapted and adopted Faulkner: "The past isn't dead and buried. In fact, it isn't even past" (Obama, 2008). More recently, Ibram X. Kendi (1982-present) extended Faulkner and Obama: "To know the past is to know the present. To know the present is to know yourself," that is, to be mindful about what you know and do not know (Reynolds & Kendi, 2020, p. ix).

## Membership

At the end of 2024, the SIG had 277 members; membership has been stable. It 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, Cheiron: the International Society for the History of the Behavioral and Social Sciences, the History of Science Society), and (d) independent scholars. The SIG's members need not be ABAI members. The SIG has no membership fees. To join the SIG and the ListServ, contact Pat Williams (University of Houston-Downtown) at [WilliamsP@uhd.edu](mailto:WilliamsP@uhd.edu). The SIG's members are its ListServ members and vice versa (see [HOBA@LISTSERV.UHD.EDU](mailto:HOBA@LISTSERV.UHD.EDU)).

## Governance

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

## Business Meetings

Its activities have been hosting the ListServ for its members and holding business meetings at the annual ABAI conferences. Despite having over 277 members, attendance at the business meetings had become modest (e.g., Morris, Wagner, n ~ 4-6 members) compared to earlier years (n ~20). This probably reflects the SIG's lack of engagement with its members other than through its Listserv. The SIG's activities and its leadership have changed little since its founding.

Preceding the 2023 and 2024 Business Meetings, the SIG leadership addressed these issues with its members

via the ListServ and invited them to participate in the SIG's revitalization and expansion at the SIG Business Meetings. The Business Meeting attendance increased to 10–20 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 at these meetings, about half signed up to serve as committee chairs or members.

Toward the end of the 2024 meeting, the SIG's leadership and members discussed two issues. The first was based on an initiative taken by then past-ABAI president Chris Newland to correct misrepresentations of ABAI on 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, but received no communication from ABAI Council about this. The second issue was based on informal conversations with several members of the ABAI leadership prior to the SIG's 2023 Business Meeting about the SIG's leadership and its members' involvement in ABAI's 2024 50th anniversary conference. This became the SIG's priority over its 2023–2024 efforts at revitalization and expansion. In the end, ABAI did not notify the SIG's leadership of any involvement, but then, none was promised. On August 14, 2023, 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 deferred 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 2025

The SIG's goals for 2025 are to begin, again, the revitalization and expansion described above (e.g., by-Laws, committees). To re-start the process, the SIG's president – Ed Morris – will propose appointing a new President and an Executive Council and then step aside from the

SIG's formal governance. The process was discussed at the Saturday, May 24, 2025 HoBA SIG Business Meeting. The outcome will be announced later. In addition, the SIG's new initiative for 2024 may roll over to 2025: 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 (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.

## LGBTQ+ SIG

BY JONATHAN K. FERNAND

This year our 2024–2025 LGBTQ+ SIG Board included Matthew Capriotti (Past President), Jonathan Fernand (President), Daniel Conine (President Elect), Lauren Goodwyn (Treasurer), and Victoria German (Secretary). The SIG's officers have also been supported by many talented volunteer Chairs including Zoë Akin-Amland and Mary (Max) Llinás who have assisted with our social media accounts, dissemination efforts, and scholarship award materials. Now in our second year, much of our activities involved building operating systems for a sustainable and successful future for the SIG.

The LGBTQ+ SIG's mission is to provide space to discuss, advocate, and support matters directly related to the treatment of LGBTQIA+ people in applied behavior analysis (ABA). The LGBTQ+ SIG seeks to raise awareness of LGBTQ+ topics, and provide opportunities to educate and engage in critical discussions. The SIG will foster mentorship for practitioners interested in serving the LGBTQIA+ community. The SIG will explore, debate, and advocate for persons at the intersection of LGBTQIA+ and the practice of ABA.

Individuals who are interested in joining can find us on Facebook (LGBTQ\_ABAI SIG) and Instagram (@lgbtqabaisig) where links to our membership application can be found; or, they can email the SIG ([abailgbtqsig@gmail.com](mailto:abailgbtqsig@gmail.com)). All interested in joining a network and community striving to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ people are encouraged to join, regardless of gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.

This past year, we have continued 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. We also extended our efforts to recognize individuals who are making impact within LGBTQ+ communities by starting our LGBTQ+ SIG Contributions Award. The LG-BTQ+ SIG Contributions Award honors individuals who

have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the LGBTQ+ and broader gender, sexual and romantic minority communities through research, clinical practice, education and training, public policy and advocacy, mentorship and leadership, or a combination of these areas.

As we look to the year ahead, we are excited to expand our efforts in growing membership, enhancing our equity-focused scholarship program, and facilitating research and clinical collaborations. As we reflect on our progress over the past year, we are uplifted by the impact our ongoing efforts have made 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.

As we look to the year ahead, we are excited to expand our efforts in growing membership, enhancing our equity-focused scholarship program, and facilitating research and clinical collaborations. Reflecting on our progress so far, we are energized by the positive impact our work is having on the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals within the ABA community. We invite all who share our vision of a more inclusive and supportive environment to join us in making a difference.

## Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Intervention

BY SOPHIA D'AGOSTINO, MELANIE PELLECCHIA, 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 Pellecchia (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 applied behavior analysis (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.

Our focus for this year was on dissemination efforts. During the past year, we have maintained a website ([sites.google.com/sdsu.edu/ndbispecialinterestgroup/home](https://sites.google.com/sdsu.edu/ndbispecialinterestgroup/home)) and facebook group ([facebook.com/NDBI-Special-Interest-Group-for-ABAI-106003411312893](https://facebook.com/NDBI-Special-Interest-Group-for-ABAI-106003411312893)) and added a LinkedIn and Instagram page designed to grow interest in NDBI and share links to relevant resources. We have focused on improving our website and developing our social media presence with the assistance of volunteer members. These efforts included redesigning and enhancing our website with additional resources and creating templates for posts and strategies to promote engagement on our social media platforms. We also participated in the NDBI Connections Conference and funded attendance for three students.

To become a SIG member or if you are interested in learning more about NDBI, please contact us at [NDBSIG@gmail.com](mailto:NDBSIG@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](mailto: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

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.

### Membership

The occupational therapy SIG provides free access to SIG information and interaction through our Facebook group. We have 3,224 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

Members of the SIG, both formally affiliated and informally engaged, have contributed significantly to advancing research and knowledge dissemination. Their efforts include conducting studies, promoting evidence-based practices, integrating applied behavior analysis into research and interventions related to occupational performance, and publishing scholarly work. Additionally, they have led webinars, developed digital resources, delivered presentations and workshops at professional conferences, and provided mentorship to students in the fields of applied behavior analysis and occupational therapy.

## Organizational Behavior Management Network

BY ALISON BETZ

### Reflecting on 2024 Accomplishments

As the year wraps up, I'm pleased to share some highlights:

**Membership:** While total membership is down slightly from last quarter, we're holding strong at over 400 members with a 60% renewal rate. Looking ahead to 2025, we're exploring new benefits to make membership even more valuable.

**ABAI Conference:** We held a highly successful business meeting and conference at the ABAI 2024 Annual Conference in Philadelphia. The turnout and enthusiasm were fantastic—thank you to everyone who participated!

**Expanding Our Global Reach:** We're thrilled to announce our partnership with Iceland ABA, and we'll be co-hosting an incredible international conference in October 2025.

Get ready for an experience that expands our reach across the globe!

### Looking Ahead

Our board is actively working on achieving our 2025 strategic plan. Our focus remains on increasing membership, enhancing member benefits, expanding networking opportunities, and supporting OBM research, education, and practice.

If you're looking to get involved, we'd love to hear from you! We have plenty of opportunities to make a difference within our community—just reach out at [director@obmnetwork.com](mailto:director@obmnetwork.com)

Here's to a bright future for OBM!

## Rehabilitation and Independent Living

BY REINDEAU, A. AND SCHAUB, C.

The Rehabilitation and Independent Living (RaIL) SIG was established in 1981, by Behavior Analysts dedicated to the rehabilitation of individuals with acquired brain injury and other neurological disabilities. Its founders were among the first clinicians to expand our science to this population, and current members remain committed to advancing the role and impact of behavior analysis, as well as providing opportunities for networking, mentorship and collaboration for students and professionals.

### Benefits of RaIL SIG Membership

As a member of the RaIL SIG, you will be able to access an ever-growing network of students, professionals and faculty from applied and academic settings focused on neurorehabilitation.

### The RaIL SIG in 2024

At ABAI 2024 in Philadelphia, seven brain-injury related sessions were hosted.

- After ABAI 2024, the SIG formed 4 member-based committees focused on:
- Neurobehavioral Research Group (NRG) Committee
- ABI-ABA Student Committee

- ABAI Connection Committee
- Merch and Fun Stuff Committee
- In 2024, we held four virtual whole SIG meetings, as well as additional committee meetings.
- At ABAI 2025, we will host four events, a BF Skinner Lecture Speaker, and hold our annual meeting.

### RaIL SIG Officers 2024

Past President	Chris Persel
Current President	Dr. Megan Heinicke
President Elect	Chris Schaub
Secretary	Arielle Reindeau

### RaIL SIG Board Members 2024

Research (NRG) Chair	Dr. April Becker
ABI-ABA Student Chair	Becky Barall
ABAI Connections Chair	Dr. Alison Cox
Merch & Fun Stuff Chair	Clara Cordeiro

## Pediatric Feeding Disorders

BY VIVIAN IBÁÑEZ

The Pediatric Feeding Disorders Special Interest Group (PFD SIG) held an in-person meeting at the ABAI annual convention, bringing together a vibrant community of practitioners and researchers. The discussion primarily focused on reactivating the PFD SIG, including appointing board members in accordance with ABAI SIG guidelines, and addressing the needs of past, current, and future members. As such, Dr. Ibañez will follow up with attendees regarding next steps and plans to establish forums for ongoing communication between ABAI conventions. The PFD SIG aims to serve as a hub for exchanging information on key topics, such as standards of care in specialized feeding programs, strategies for securing reimbursement for intensive feeding services, and expanding training opportunities to meet service delivery needs. Finally, 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. We look forward to connecting in the coming year and engaging in activities and discussions that advance our mission! 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](mailto:vibanez@ufl.edu).

## 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; promote PBS interventions in schools, communities, agencies, and homes; and support 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.

The Behavior Analysts for Positive Behavior Support Facebook group has 2.5K members, a 92% increase from 2021. The PBS-SIG values include person-centered planning, socially significant outcomes, networking/partnership, dissemination, and broad applications of PBS. This past year, the focus was on developing a new leadership team and developing a survey to provide membership feedback on the future of the SIG.

For 2025, the new leadership will evaluate SIG needs and continue to implement short- and long-term goals focusing on the following areas:

- Disseminate survey focusing on analyzing data to evolve the future of the SIG so that it is aligned with current membership needs.
- 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](mailto:soraccoja@vcu.edu).

## Practitioner Issues in Behavior Analysis

BY MICHAEL WEINBERG

### The Practitioner Issues in Behavior Analysis (PIBA)

SIG is a special interest group that focuses on all areas of specialization for behavior analyst practitioners. This SIG developed a model licensing act for behavior analysts in 2007. The BACB's model licensing act also drew heavily from the PIBA SIG's model act to meet the needs and concerns of BCBA and BCaBA practitioners. We currently have a membership of 75 and also maintain a yahoo list-serve for communication among members.

This SIG provides a means of discussion, support and potential for action if warranted among ABAI members. The SIG collaborates with other SIGs and boards of ABAI or external organizations as individual members on legal and ethical issues pertaining to the practice of behavior analysis. We promote and support means of ensuring the continued ability for behavior analysts to practice as independent practitioners. The SIG provides a means

of communicating about current trends and concerns pertaining to the practice of behavior analysis, licensing matters, legislation issues, insurance regulations and billing practices and updates, and efforts to place barriers for such practice by outside organizations or individuals. We help support and promote the ability for behavior analysts to be on insurance panels to provide services to family members with autism and other areas of application of behavior analytic methods.

There are currently over 32 states which have licensure laws in place or about to be in place for the practice of behavior analysis and now all 50 states as of this report with "autism insurance mandate" laws.

Via a Facebook page, the SIG provides a platform for discussion and communication amongst its members.

As the field of applied behavior analysis continues to grow and change, the SIG provides a place for practitioners to share information and discuss opportunities and strategies to promote the practice of behavior analysis as well as expansion of insurance coverage to areas outside of autism. The ongoing efforts by the BACB to restrict offering of certification outside the U.S., and the creation of new behavior analyst credentialing organizations present new challenges as well as opportunities for practitioners, and those who own and operate ABA practice organizations.

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

We are seeking new members and involvement for the coming year. We welcome new members and hope to meet with those interested at the annual convention and other ABAI conventions.

## Public School Behavior Analyst

BY LAURA KENNEALLY

B.F. Skinner believed that understanding human behavior scientifically is essential for creating systems and policies that lead to a better, more efficient, and compassionate world. Thus, the best place to apply the science of applied behavior analysis (ABA) is public schools, which play a vital role in community development by equipping students with essential life skills. However, challenges such as declining national test scores and teachers struggling with behavior management due to insufficient training hinder educational progress. Behavior analysts are in a unique position to help improve both behavior management and instructional effectiveness.

The Public School Behavior Analyst SIG (PSBA) is addressing these challenges through research, teacher training, and policy influence. This spring, the group hosted CEU journal clubs, guest speakers, research

meetings, and presented at the NJABA conference on public school behavior analysis standards. They also participated in ABAI's leadership program at the annual conference.

Looking ahead, the PSBA SIG plans to conduct regional surveys on behavior analytic services in schools and continue to explore ways to enhance education through behavior analysis, particularly amid the ongoing national conversation on public education. Join PSBA for free monthly continuing education and networking opportunities to help improve public schools using applied behavior analysis as all of us have a stake in the future of public schools.

## Sexual Behavior: Research and Practice

BY FRANK CICERO

Some of you may have wondered why it's been a while since you heard from the Sexual Behavior: Research and Practice SIG. Back in February of 2023, the SIG leadership, after taking a poll of some members of the SIG's Facebook group, decided to formally disassociate from ABAI. Therefore, it has not been a special interest group of ABAI since that time. However, I am happy to report that the Sexual Behavior: Research and Practice SIG is back up and running as of 2025! We would like to thank the ABAI administration and Executive Council for accepting the SIG back into the organization. Dr. Frank Cicero volunteered to restart the SIG and serve as President until officer elections are held. Dr. Sorah Stein volunteered to serve as SIG Secretary.

Although our first meeting is being held at the annual convention, which is after the writing of this report, we are already receiving feedback from ABAI members that they are excited for the SIG's return. Since the reinstatement of the SIG, we have been actively working with the previous leadership on transferring all files and webpages over to the new leadership team. We would like to thank the previous leadership for their hard work and dedication to running the SIG prior to 2023 and in their accomplishments of significantly moving the SIG forward in many areas.

At this time, we are in the process of reconnecting with ABAI, figuring out our short-term goals, and re-establishing a formal SIG membership roster. We are excited to report that we are keeping the current Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/558576094164806> up and running and that we have over 2800 group members! We are also maintaining the current website <https://sbrpsig.wordpress.com/> and email address [sbrpsig@gmail.com](mailto:sbrpsig@gmail.com). Please connect with us and let us know what you would like the Sexual Behavior: Research and Practice SIG to focus on over the next year. We would love to hear from you!

## SIG Español

BY MAPY CHAVEZ ASKINS

El SIG Español, fundado en 2004, surgió como respuesta a la necesidad de crear espacios de intercambio en español dentro de la comunidad del análisis del comportamiento. Este grupo está dirigido a profesionales cuya lengua materna es el español o que trabajan con poblaciones hispanohablantes, ofreciendo un foro para compartir experiencias, ideas, recursos e iniciativas.

Nuestra misión principal es fortalecer los vínculos de comunicación y colaboración entre los miembros de ABAI. Además, nos enfocamos en impulsar la investigación en países de habla hispana, facilitando la presentación de estos hallazgos en la convención anual de ABAI.

Mirando hacia el futuro, aspiramos a revitalizar oportunidades para que este intercambio pueda realizarse en español, enriqueciendo así la diversidad lingüística y cultural dentro de nuestra disciplina.

El SIG Español se reúne anualmente durante la Convención de ABAI, ofreciendo un espacio vital para la conexión y el diálogo entre profesionales hispanohablantes en el campo del análisis del comportamiento.

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

Mapy Chávez Askins, PhD

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## Speech Pathology SIG

BY NIKIA DOWER

Originally formed in 2005, SPABA celebrated its 20-year anniversary in 2025! SPABA has made significant strides in expanding our reach, fostering professional development, and strengthening our impact in both the speech-language pathology and behavior analysis communities. A significant milestone for SPABA was becoming a US-registered 501(c) (3) charitable nonprofit solidifying its commitment to advancing research and collaboration.

### Mission

SPABA is dedicated to:

- Promoting the development and dissemination of empirically sound research and interprofessional, practice-based interventions within the overlapping fields of speech-language pathology and applied behavior analysis.
- Advocating for the application of evidence-based practices across the full spectrum of services provided by speech-language pathologists and behavior analysts.
- Bridging the research-practice gap through education, training, and mentorship.

## Vision

SPABA envisions a future where interprofessional collaboration between speech-language pathologists and behavior analysts leads to meaningful improvements in the lives of individuals and their families.

By fostering collaboration, we enhance outcomes in speech, language, and feeding disorders while strengthening communication between our fields. This is achieved through conference presentations, collaborative research, workshops, podcast appearances, publication of treatment protocols and materials, publication of scholarly literature and other initiatives that drive progress in our shared domains.

## Gratitude

SPABA SIG is grateful for the ongoing support and guidance of the founder of the SIG and former chair, Barb Esch. The SPABA Board extends our deepest gratitude to our departing Executive Board members, Tracie Lindblad and Lina Slim, for their invaluable contributions and dedication. Their professionalism and commitment have played a pivotal role in SPABA's growth and success.

We would also like to thank our current Board of Directors: Nikia Dower (President), Lilith Reuter-Yuill (Secretary), Heather Forbes (Treasurer), Sophie Millon and Janine Shapiro (Event and Continuing Education Committee Chairs), Tamara Kasper (Communications Committee Chair), Sari Risen (Membership Committee Chair), Deirdre Muldoon (Awards Committee Chair), and our newest General Board Members Carly Dragan and Jean Jarrett.

## WORLD-WIDE SLP-BCBA and SLP-BCaBA

The number of Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) who also hold Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) credentials has decreased from 525 to 484 globally at this writing. Our presence spans across 44 states in the United States, including Washington, DC, and extends to 20 countries worldwide. This decline is primarily attributed to retirements, professionals relinquishing one of their credentials, and, sadly, the passing of some members. Despite this shift, SPABA remains dedicated to maintaining and expanding our online database of dually certified practitioners worldwide, ensuring access to interdisciplinary expertise. Explore the database here: [behavioralspeech.com/find-an-slpbcba.html](http://behavioralspeech.com/find-an-slpbcba.html)

## Membership

We welcomed 75 members in 2024, which included 26 new members and 8 student members. This increased our global reach across various professional sectors, including clinicians, researchers, educators, and students. As of March 1, 2025, we have 42 members, which includes

eight new members and four student members. Our social media engagement continues to grow as well on Facebook, LinkedIn, X, and Instagram as we continue to share resources, discussions, and thought leadership.

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 10,345 members, marking an increase of 531 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

Membership fees and donations had served as direct funding for our annual grant competition. 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.

## Donations & Sponsorships

Over the past eight years, our approach of requesting a nominal membership fee along with a donation has yielded mixed results. Now that SPABA is a registered nonprofit, significant donations are occurring in the form of philanthropic donations through both PayPal Giving Fund and Facebook Fundraising platforms.

We secured 11 sponsors for our inaugural conference which paid for the BehaviorLive platform we used and the honorariums paid to the speakers.

## Inaugural Conference

In 2024, SPABA's revenue increased substantially as we offered our inaugural conference virtually in the fall. The event featured outstanding presentations on overlapping areas of speech pathology and behavior analysis, including speech acquisition, feeding interventions, the AMIC-A model, and critical analyses of gestalt language processing. The conference served as a crucial platform for interprofessional dialogue and learning with nearly 300 attendees.

## Annual Awards

Each year, the Speech Pathology Applied Behavior Analysis (SPABA) SIG provides at least three \$500 grants to deserving students in ABA or SLP/CSD programs and to practitioners in the fields of speech/language or behavior analysis: the Giri Hegde Empirical Research

Award, the Barb Esch Application Award, and the Nikia Dower Dissemination Award. These awards 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 awards 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 applied behavior analysis (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 award recipients have seen their research published, underscoring the impact of these grants in advancing knowledge and practice in the field.

In 2024, two MN "Giri" Hegde Research Awards, one Barbara Esch Application Award and one Nikia Dower Dissemination Award were awarded, SPABA SIG's 2024 award recipients presented their research in a pre-recorded presentation at SPABA's inaugural conference. To view the presentations for free, visit [behaviorlive.com/conferences/SPABA/courses/2024-spaba-annual-grant-awards](http://behaviorlive.com/conferences/SPABA/courses/2024-spaba-annual-grant-awards)

### **Hedge Research Awards:**

Research Projects advance the evidence base for behavior-analytic conceptualization for treatment of speech, language, communication, and feeding disorders.

- Grace Lafo, MS, CF-SLP | Advisor: Dr. Lesley Shawler, Ph.D., BCBA, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale  
**Co-Author:** Valerie Boyer, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
**Project:** "Using Behavioral Skills Training to Train Clinicians to Conduct an AAC Assessment"
- Lori Mastrogiacomo, MA, BCBA, LBA | Advisor: Dr. Mary Jane Weiss, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LABA, Endicott College  
**Project:** "Effects of Contingent Parentease and Vocal Imitation on Vocalizations of Infants at Risk for Autism"

### **Esch Application Awards:**

Application Projects involve the effective use of the science-based principles of behavior by SLPs and may include research studies that contribute to the science of ABA and/or studies that reflect the mission of SPABA. Whitney Trapp, MS, BCBA | Advisor: Dr. Alice Shillingsburg, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LP, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Munroe-Meyer Institute  
**Co-Author:** Mary Halbur, PhD, BCBA-D

**Project:** "Use of Asynchronous Training to Teach Clinicians to Deliver Direct Instruction to Children with Autism"

### **Dower Dissemination Award:**

Dissemination projects can be cross-discipline dissemination of accurate information about speech pathology and behavior analysis.

Kennedy Cloe, BS | Advisor: Dr. Lesley Shawler, Ph.D., BCBA, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale  
**Project:** "Teaching Traveling to Speech Generating Device: An Extension"

**2025 SPABA Awards:** The application window for the 2025 awards closed on July 15, 2025. The recipients of the SPABA SIG's 2025 awards will be showcasing their projects virtually in the fall of 2025. Each calendar year, both student members and practitioners can access the latest information regarding award proposal submissions for the ongoing year on our website, [www.behavioralspeech.com](http://www.behavioralspeech.com).

### **Dual Credentialed Individuals' Activities**

Throughout 2024, 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 207 presentations in 2024, including appearances at events such as the ABAI 2024 Annual Convention, ASHA 2024 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 2024 presentations, please visit: [pinterest.com/SPABASIGofABAI/2024-slp-bcba-slp-bcaba-presentations/](http://pinterest.com/SPABASIGofABAI/2024-slp-bcba-slp-bcaba-presentations/)

Nine dual credentialed individuals conducted workshops and/or were discussants/presenters at the ABAI 2024 Annual Convention and fourteen dual credentialed individuals conducted workshops and/or were discussants/presenters at ABAI 2025 Annual Convention. For a comprehensive list all 2025 presentations by dual credentialed individuals, please visit: [pinterest.com/SPABASIGofABAI/2025-slp-bcba-slp-bcaba-presentations/](http://pinterest.com/SPABASIGofABAI/2025-slp-bcba-slp-bcaba-presentations/)

## Initiatives

### Past

- 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's 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 produced an end-of-year electronic newsletter as a paid member benefit.
- In 2024, SPABA SIG offered free community practice events (SCOPE). We hosted five events with Dr. Deirdre Muldoon (Stimulus Equivalence), Dr. Sarah Frampton (Matrix Training), Dr. Ellie Kazemi (Artificial Intelligence in Speech-Language), Landria Seals Green (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Social Skills Instruction), and lastly with Drs. Bronwyn Hemsley, Lucy Bryant, Howard Shane, and Katharine Beals (Systematic Review of Gestalt Language Processing and Natural Language Acquisition).
- SPABA SIG was a CE provider via the BACB. Those who attended any SCOPE were able to purchase a CE for a nominal fee.
- 2024 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

- The SPABA SIG offers CEs for attending SCOPEs in 2025.
- The SPABA SIG will offer a virtual conference in the fall of 2025.
- The SPABA SIG is regularly active via our Facebook group, Facebook page, as well as X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, Pinterest accounts and our LinkedIn page.
- SPABA SIG and VB SIG held a joint Reunion, Social and Networking Session at the ABAI convention in 2025.

### Future

- The SPABA Board of Directors looks forward to expanding our membership through various initiatives, social media, and increasing member participation within our committees.
- We will 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.

- We will continue disseminating speech-language information to ABAI members and BACB certified individuals via various behavior-analytic Facebook groups and list-servs as well as presenting at ABA conferences and conventions.
- We will 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.
- We will explore grant opportunities and additional fundraising efforts to ensure long-term sustainability.
- We would like to complete several projects over the year to support our members and colleagues:
- 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.
- Develop web-based coursework for RBTs and newly certified BCBAAs focusing on typical speech and language development birth to teen.

The success of these initiatives hinges on greater financial backing and volunteer time from our members. We invite you to consider offering us your expertise or services, making financial donations, or offering committee support. With your assistance, we can effectively address the needs of our membership, needs of SLPs, BCBAAs, BCaBAAs and RBTs delivering direct clinical services and successfully fulfill our planned activities and initiatives.

If you are interested in learning more about the SPABA SIG, wish to volunteer to sit on a committee, or assist with a specific project, please visit us at [www.behavioralspeech.com](http://www.behavioralspeech.com) and join or follow us on social media:

Facebook Group: **SPABA.SIG**

Facebook Page: **SPABASIGofABA**

X (formerly Twitter): **SPABASIG**

Instagram: **SPABASIG**

Pinterest: **SPABASIGofABA**

LinkedIn: **speech-pathology-applied-behavior-analysis-special-interest-group-of-abai**

LinkTree: <https://linktr.ee/spabasig>

## Standard Celeration Society

BY THE SCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Standard Celeration Society (SCS) became a special

interest group (SIG) of ABAI in 1995. Our mission is to uphold and advance the defining features and conventions of the Standard Celeration Chart. The SCS strives to be a welcoming and enduring forum, supporting the application and dissemination of Standard Celeration Charting across an expanding range of practitioners and stakeholders.

### **Guiding Values of the Standard Celeration Society**

The values of the Standard Celeration Society serve as guiding principles that shape our actions in fulfilling our mission.

- **Community:** We actively foster a dedicated group that encourages contribution and connection among members, emphasizing respect and generosity in all interactions.
- **Authenticity:** We pledge to align our decisions with our values, ensuring transparency and welcoming member input.
- **Inclusivity:** We strive to create an open, inviting, and supportive space that embraces diversity and promotes equity within our community.
- **Legacy:** We honor the history and contributions of the science and practice of Standard Celeration Charting, building upon the foundations laid by those before us, often described as "standing on the shoulders of giants."
- **Kindness:** We are committed to fostering an environment where all members engage with one another with kindness in both verbal and nonverbal interactions.

Together, these values form the foundation of the Standard Celeration Society, guiding our collective efforts to advance our mission and positively contribute to the field.

### **Organizational Structure**

Since 2015, the SCS has operated under an organizational structure composed of a Board of Directors, an Executive Director, and volunteer leadership teams, ensuring the implementation and sustainability of initiatives aligned with our mission.

- The Board of Directors consists of five members serving three-year terms, who provide guidance and decision-making support for the society.
- The Executive Director is responsible for implementing board initiatives, overseeing day-to-day operations, and working closely with vice presidents, associate vice presidents, and volunteers to advance the mission of SCS.
- A five-member Advisory Council provides expertise and professional knowledge to support the society's work.
- Leadership teams oversee key areas, including finance and operations, programs, membership, scientific and academic relations, communications, and international relations.

Our leadership teams have worked diligently to develop the underlying systems necessary to support the SIG's structure, ensuring institutional memory and continuity in leadership transitions, a vital component for maintaining productivity within volunteer-driven organizations.

### **Strategic Initiatives and Membership Growth**

The Standard Celeration Society is embarking on a series of priority initiatives designed to strengthen our community and advance the field of Precision Teaching.

### **Membership Expansion and Benefits**

We are actively engaged in a membership recruitment drive to expand our network of committed professionals. Membership in the SCS provides exclusive benefits, including discounted conference rates, access to the historical publication database of the Journal of Precision Teaching and Celeration, and web-based continuing education events.

In 2023, we introduced a values-based dues model, allowing members to select their contribution level based on their financial situation. Suggested membership dues are \$130 for Sustaining Members; \$70 for Full Members; and \$35 for Student Members.

### **Mentorship Initiative**

In alignment with our commitment to learning and collaboration, the SCS continues to expand its mentorship initiative to foster knowledge-sharing within our community. This program connects experienced professionals with those seeking guidance, creating a supportive environment for skill development and career advancement. By tapping into the expertise within the SCS, we aim to nurture the next generation of Precision Teaching practitioners and researchers.

### **Launching a Continuing Education (CEU) Platform**

To further support professional development, the Standard Celeration Society is launching a Continuing Education (CEU) initiative. This platform will offer accessible, high-quality CEU opportunities tailored to Precision Teaching and Standard Celeration Charting. Through web-based courses, live events, and on-demand sessions, users will have the opportunity to earn CEUs while deepening their expertise in standard measurement and behavior analysis.

This initiative aligns with our mission to expand access to precision measurement and provide ongoing educational opportunities for practitioners, educators, and researchers. More details on the CEU platform will be available soon, and we encourage both members and non-members to take advantage of this new professional growth opportunity.

### **Updated Mission, Vision, and Commitment to Diversity**

As part of our ongoing efforts to refine and strengthen our organizational direction, the Standard Celeration Society

has updated its mission, vision, and diversity commitment to better reflect our goals and values. These updates reinforce our commitment to expanding access to precision measurement, fostering inclusivity, and advancing the science and practice of Standard Celeration Charting.

### Upcoming Conferences

#### 38th Annual Conference of the Standard Celeration Society

The 38th Annual Conference of the Standard Celeration Society will be held November 6-8, 2025, in Savannah, Georgia, at The Desoto Savannah hotel. 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 symposia, panel and paper presentations, poster session, annual chart share, and expo.

#### Second International Standard Celeration Society Conference

Finally, 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 2026, 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. More details are available on our website.

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! Please visit our website at [celeration.org](http://celeration.org).

## Theoretical, Philosophical, and Conceptual Issues

BY LEE MASON

### Theories are Fun

In his 1949 presidential address to the Midwestern Psychological Association, B.F. Skinner asked, Are Theories of Learning Necessary? Having defined theory as “any explanation of an observed fact which appeals to events taking place somewhere else, at some other level of observation, described in different terms, and measured, if at all, in different dimensions” (p. 193), Skinner (1950)

concluded, “Perhaps to do without theories altogether is a tour de force that is too much to expect as a general practice. Theories are fun” (p. 215).

Skinner himself was prone to extending the implications of his research beyond the collected data and encouraged others to follow suit. “The reader will have noticed that almost no extension to human behavior is made or suggested,” said Skinner (1938, p. 441). “Let him extrapolate who will” (p. 442). Skinner (1957) posited that his experimental work could be applied to the analysis of verbal behavior; Skinner (1953) extended his laboratory findings to the roles of government, religion, and education; and Skinner (1948) postulated the implications of his work on society at large. Of course, Skinner was not the only one to advance the theory and philosophy of behaviorism; behavior analysts from various disciplines continue to contribute their conceptual work to journals such as *Perspectives on Behavior Science and Behavior and Philosophy*, and textbooks like Zilio and Carrara’s (2021) *Contemporary Behaviorisms in Debate*. Indeed, the conceptual side of our field is alive and well!

In graduate classrooms across the country, it is common to hear arguments rooted in, “Skinner says....” Just as at annual conferences it is not unheard of for presenters to tout, “Skinner was wrong!” In both cases we must be careful to designate the use of these Skinnerianisms as either intervening variables or hypothetical constructs (MacCorquodale & Meehl, 1948). Any importance of such remarks cannot be found in the degree of validity with Skinner’s own writings. As Frazier, in *Walden Two*, declared, “We never mark any member for special approbation.... Our decision to eliminate personal aggrandizement arose quite naturally from the fact that we were thinking about the whole group. We could not see how the group could gain from individual glory” (p. 156).

As the founder of radical behaviorism, we owe Skinner no special gratitude. “This is a world without heroes,” said Frazier (1948, p. 220), “In a pre-scientific society the best the common man can do is pin his faith on a leader and give him his support, trusting in his benevolence against the misuse of the delegated power and in his wisdom to govern justly and to make war successfully” (p. 221). Skinner helped to develop a branch of science that has become sustainable to the point that we need not acknowledge his own personal contributions, right or wrong. Rather, we can return to the data he taught us to collect. As Sidman (1960) reminds us, “Good data are always separable, with respect to their scientific importance, from the purposes for which they were obtained” (p. 3). To the extent that a theory serves as an intervening variable which merely abstracts the empirical relationships, “It will not stand in the way of our search for functional relations because it will arise only after

relevant variables have been found and studied" (Skinner, 1950, p. 216)."

See, Skinner was right: Theories are fun!

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thank the judges: Drs. Judah Axe, Mirela Cengher, Mary Halbur, and David Ruiz.

The VB SIG published three full issues of the VB News, our newsletter. These issues highlighted our members' achievements and highlights, including VB-related conferences and publications, a practitioner interview, details about a special issue of the Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior Bulletin, verbal behavior research, information about our online series, and valuable verbal behavior resources. Our Newsletter Editor has ensured that the newsletter is designed to enhance the experience of our members. VB News is an exclusive member benefit, accessible via our website and distributed by email. We are proud of the quality of our newsletter, our ability to share it online with members, and the positive feedback from our readers.

The VB SIG maintained a strong online and social media presence this year to further the dissemination of verbal behavior. Over the past year, we transitioned to a new website that provides members-only access to archived newsletters and exclusive VB content as part of their membership benefits. The new website also streamlines group membership renewals and online donations, making the SIG's membership application and renewal processes more efficient. Our Facebook page continues to grow, now with 3.9K likes and 4.4K followers. We actively share important updates, including student and professional awards, ABAI presentations, and other key events. Additionally, we use our social media platforms to promote the SIG's online CEU events and collaborate with the Newsletter Editor to share significant updates related to The Analysis of Verbal Behavior. In the past year, we expanded our digital presence by launching an Instagram account, which has already built a healthy following with 190 followers and 50 posts. We also created a LinkedIn page, which has grown to 135 followers. Looking ahead, we plan to maintain and further expand engagement across these platforms to strengthen our connection with the VB SIG community.

The VB SIG membership showed a large increase in 2024, with 158 members compared to 122 members in both 2023 and 2022. There was a considerable increase in student membership, with 46 student members in 2024 compared to 29 in 2023 and 39 in 2022. The increase reflects a strong dedication to the study of verbal behavior and continued support for the VB SIG by students and professionals. Our members enjoy eight benefits: (1) receiving VB News and having exclusive 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

## Verbal Behavior SIG

BY ANDRESA DE SOUZA

The Verbal Behavior Special Interest Group (VB SIG) had another outstanding year. We continued to fulfill our mission of advancing the theory, research, and practice of Skinner's (1957) analysis of verbal behavior by presenting awards to recognize exemplary work by students and professionals, supporting the efforts 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 during the 2024 ABAI Annual Convention. There were four winners of the 2024 VB SIG Student Grant Competition: First Place – Karina Zhelezoglo (Endicott College); Second Place (tie) – Armando Angulo (California State University, Sacramento) and Grace Lafo (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale); and Third Place – Michelle Castillo (University of North Texas). We extend our gratitude to the reviewers of this competition: Drs. J. Stephanie Gonzalez, Megan Harper, Nicole Pantano, and doctoral student Vanessa Lee. Additionally, three winners were recognized in the 2024 VB SIG Student Research Competition: First Place – Dr. Elizabeth Sansing (Marcus Autism Center); Second Place (tie) – John R. Wooderson (University of Technology Sydney, Australia) and Dr. Rachel R. Thomas (Caldwell University); and Third Place – Becky Furry (Lindenwood University). We sincerely thank the judges: Drs. Anna Linnehan, Tracy Lepper, Charlotte Carp, and doctoral student Sara Sato.

In 2024, the VB SIG presented two professional awards. The Clinical Supervisor in Verbal Behavior Award was awarded to Dr. Sarah Connolly (Munroe-Meyer Institute). We extend our gratitude to the judges: Dr. Francesca degli Espinosa, Dr. Alice Shillingsburg, Manish Goyal, and Karina Zhelezoglo. The Excellence in Teaching Verbal Behavior Award was awarded to Dr. David Palmer (Western New England University). We

group; (7) gaining professional development and accessing our mini-conferences and webinars at a discounted rate; and (8) joining an active community of people passionate about verbal behavior.

To maintain and grow our membership, we plan to continue offering research and practice awards, publishing high-quality newsletters, providing a forum for graduate students to discuss verbal behavior, and promoting VB-related opportunities and events online. In 2023, the SIG's Board Members launched the Mentorship Program, a new benefit for student members in collaboration with The Analysis of Verbal Behavior (TAVB). Drs. Mirela Cengher (past Membership Coordinator) and Tiffany Kodak (TAVB past Editor) worked together to develop this resource, which pairs students and junior researchers with doctoral-level senior researchers to enhance their peer-reviewing skills. Two mentor-mentee pairs successfully piloted the program in 2023, and in 2024, two new pairs met the criteria to graduate from the program. The SIG, in collaboration with the new TAVB Editor Dr. Alice Shillingsburg, is currently selecting the next cohort of mentor-mentee pairs. In 2024, we launched the John Mabry Fund, which will provide two annual funding opportunities for our members: the Student Travel Grant and the Research Grant for early career researchers. We are proud to offer this valuable new benefit and deeply grateful to our 158 members for their support of the VB SIG.

The VB SIG reinstated the Student Group this past year. The group was composed of 15 graduate students located both nationally and internationally. They held monthly video conference meetings to discuss their research and to interview expert researchers in verbal behavior (i.e., Dr. Andresa De Souza, Dr. Haven Niland, Dr. Caio Miguel, and Dr. Barbara Esch). They also collaborated with the SIG's Newsletter Coordinator to feature an interview with Dr. Caio Miguel in the January 2025 issue. Tianjiao Li, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, served as the leader of the Student Group this year. Tianjiao also serves as the Student Group Liaison to the VB SIG Board and attends monthly VB SIG Board meetings. Additionally, board members attend the monthly Student Group meetings throughout the year. The VB SIG 2024 Student Group members include Amalix Flores, University of South Florida; Rebecca (Becky) Jane Barall, University of Nebraska Medical Center; Ky Jackson, University of Nebraska Medical Center; Eilís O'Connell-Sussman, Endicott College; Carolyn Crysdale, Endicott College; Kat Flores, Marquette University; Skye Nelson, Florida Institute of Technology; Ryan Ortega, University of Georgia; Isabelle (Izzy) Williams, University of Georgia; Taylor Lucas, Hunter College; Giulia Ferrazzi, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy; Masaya Yamaguchi, University of Tsukuba, Japan; Ava Minolli,

California State University, Sacramento; Sydney Stern, California State University, Sacramento.

The VB SIG has continued to host online events in 2024. Last year, the VB SIG collaborated with the EAHB SIG to offer the Experimental Analysis of Verbal Behavior series. Speakers for this series included Dr. Caio Miguel, who presented An Experimental Analysis of Bidirectional Naming (July); and Dr. Anna Petursdottir, who presented What's in a Name? On the Measurement of Bidirectional Naming (September); Dr. Charles Catania, who presented To Change Human Behavior, Shape What People Say, Not What They Do (October); and Dr. Daisy de Souza, who presented A Behavior Analysis of Learning to Read and Write: From Textual Behavior to Reading Comprehension (January 2025). The format of these talks is unique, with each presenter speaking for approximately 60 minutes, followed by a 30-minute interview conducted by a board member, and concluding with a 30-minute open discussion and Q&A session. 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 2025.

In 2021, we launched a new website design; in 2022, we unveiled a new VB SIG logo, making our brand more visually recognizable and expanding our reach. In 2023, the SIG began distributing swag featuring this logo during the business meeting at the annual ABAI conference, further supporting these efforts. Notably, the VB SIG has seen increased engagement from both potential new members and long-standing members of the verbal behavior community over the past year, reflected in higher donations, greater interaction with our Dissemination Coordinator, and more offers and requests to speak at our online events. We look forward to sustaining this momentum in the coming year.

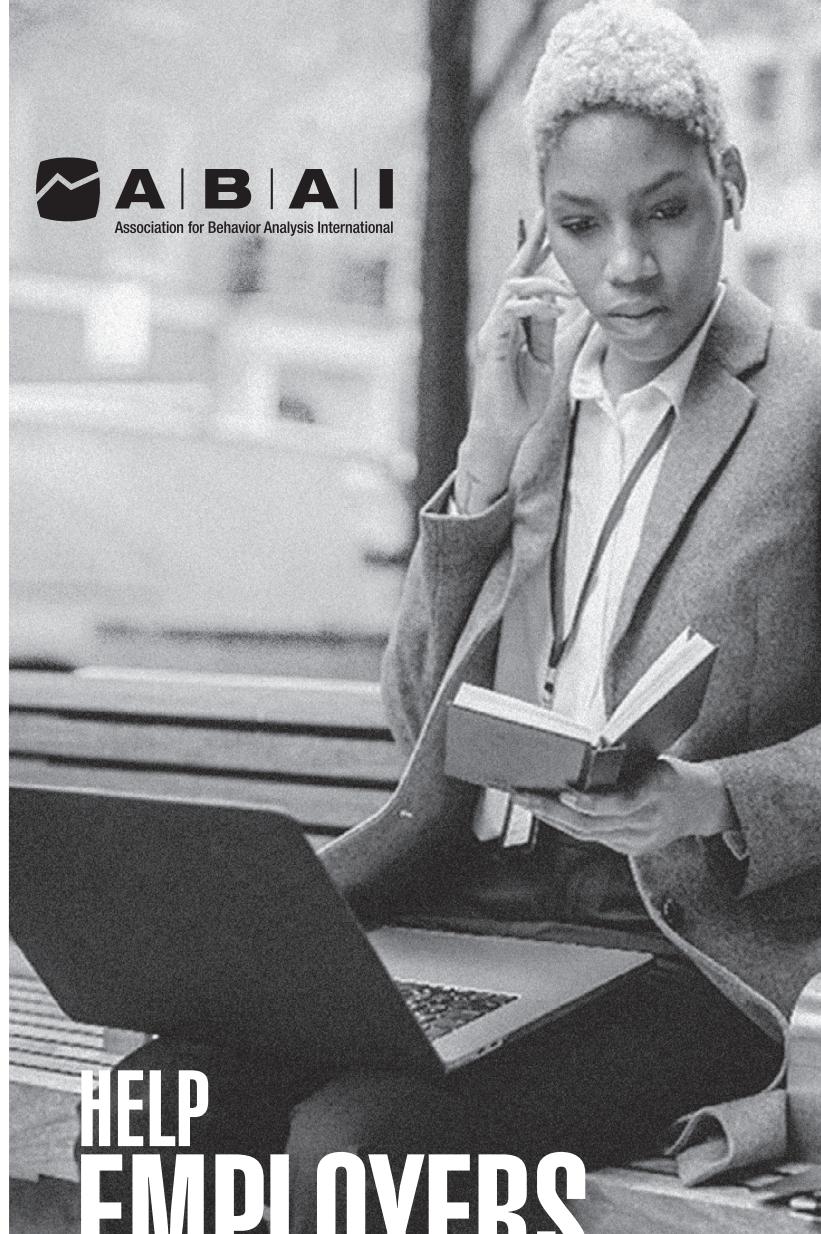
The SIG has established collaborative initiatives with the Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior Special Interest Group (EAHB SIG) and the Speech Pathology Applied Behavior Analysis Special Interest Group (SPABA SIG) to support our dissemination efforts. Additionally, the SIG's board members have developed a plan to actively engage clinicians and researchers interested in verbal behavior by inviting them to join our community and access our resources. This initiative includes more targeted email campaigns directed at authors publishing in this area, as well as outreach and collaboration with academic programs, faculty, internship sites, and clinicians to help spread awareness of the SIG and its offerings.

Finally, the VB SIG's Treasurer, Dr. Samantha Bergmann, worked closely with both an accountant and the SIG's lawyer, guiding the board members through the process of obtaining non-profit status. In February 2024, all the required documentation for non-profit status was filed and submitted. We are extremely excited to announce that as of March 2024, the VB SIG has officially achieved non-

profit status. This milestone, which provides additional benefits to both members and potential donors, was announced during the 2024 Business Meeting at ABAI.

The work of disseminating and promoting verbal behavior would not be possible without the diligent efforts of the VB SIG Board Members. Four new VB SIG board members were elected this past year: Dr. Janet Sanchez Enriquez, Ph.D., BCBA-D, who took over as the SIG's Newsletter Editor; Dr. Chrissy Barosky, Ph.D., BCBA-D, who took over as the SIG's Professional Awards Coordinator; Dr. Haven Niland, Ph.D., BCBA-D, who took over as the SIG's Website Coordinator; and Dr. Videsha Marya, Ph.D., BCBA-D, who took over as the SIG's Secretary. The SIG was also pleased to welcome Tianjiao Li as the Student Group Liaison. We will continue refining existing processes to ensure the effective and efficient transfer of responsibilities following elections. The SIG maintained a close working relationship with Dr. Tiffany Kodak, past Editor of *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*, and is now collaborating with the new Editor, Dr. Alice Shillingsburg, to continue our joint initiatives. We warmly welcome our new VB SIG board members and look forward to hosting elections for one board position in 2024, as the current Grant Competition Coordinator reaches the end of their term.

Current VB SIG board members include: Andresa De Souza, Ph.D., BCBA-D (President); Samantha Bergmann, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Treasurer); Videsha Marya, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Secretary); Ji Young Kim, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Membership Coordinator); Adrienne Jennings, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Research Competition Coordinator); Ciobha McKeown (Grant Competition Coordinator); Chrissy Barosky, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Professional Awards Coordinator); Janet Sanchez Enriquez, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Newsletter Editor); Meral Koldas, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Dissemination Coordinator); Haven Niland, Ph.D., BCBA-D (Website Coordinator); and Tianjiao Li (Student Group Liaison). ♦



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**Monastery of São Vicente de Fora as seen from St. Jorge Castle in Lisbon. The church of was built between 1582 and 1629, while the rest of the monastery was finished in the 18th Century.**

Photography: KELLY KOHLER