A|B|A|I
Association for Behavior Analysis International

INSIDE BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS
NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS INTERNATIONAL

VOLUME 18
No 3
NOVEMBER
2026




FONDATION
LALLA ASMAA
مؤسسة للا أسماء
ABAI
Association for Behavior Analysis International
14th
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
Marrakech
2027 MOROCCO
SEPTEMBER 28 & 29
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

ON THE COVER

Under the Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge in Austin lives the largest urban bat colony in the world—an estimated 1.5 million bats. The female Mexican free-tailed bats raise approximately 750,000 bat pups per year under the bridge.

The bats are migratory and spend the winters in Mexican caves. By early spring each year, the female bats form large colonies such as this one where they give birth to one pup each in June. There are limited sites suited to accomodate such large maternity colonies, as the bats require high humidity and tempertures to thrive.

Now a well-loved attraction by tourists and locals alike, the bats first began roosting here in the early 1980s, shortly following the bridge's renovation. Viewing of the bat emergence is free and open to the public from the Austin American-Statesman's Bat Observation Area on the southeast side of Congress Avenue as well as from the bridge itself. Boat tours are available from March through October.

Photo: WOODY HIBBARD on FLICKR.com

Inside Behavior Analysis
Publication of the Association for Behavior Analysis International
Issue Date: November 2026
Issue Number: Vol. 18, 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

ABAI Executive Council

Mark Galizio	Past-President
Ramona Houmanfar	President
Mark Reilly	President-Elect
Alice Shillingsburg	Applied Representative
Karen Lionello-DeNolf	Experimental Representative
Mitch Fryling	At-Large Representative
Len Green	At-Large Representative
Dermot Barnes-Holmes	International Representative
Madison Imler-Brandt	Past Student Representative
Daniela Galvis-Quintana	Student Representative
Agness Aneno	Student Representative-Elect
Maria E. Malott	Chief Executive Officer

Editing and Graphic Design

Sofia Peters	Managing Editor
Hannah Cella-DeHarte	Copy Editor
Martin Burch	Layout Editor / Art Director

© 2026 Association for Behavior Analysis International
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the written permission of the Association for Behavior Analysis International. ABAI reserves the right to edit all copy. All advertisements are accepted and published on the representation of the advertiser and its agency that they are authorized to publish the entire contents thereof and that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, all statements made therein are true. The advertiser and the agency agree to hold the publisher harmless from any and all claims arising out of advertising published. Publication of articles, announcements, or acceptance of advertisements in Inside Behavior Analysis does not imply endorsement by ABAI. ABAI reserves the right to reject any advertisement or copy that ABAI, for any reason, deems unsuitable for publication in any association publication.

Association for Behavior Analysis International®
550 West Centre Avenue, Suite 1
Portage, MI 49024
269 492 9310
www.abainternational.org

Table of Contents

SABA Update: Investing in the Future of Behavior Analysis 2

SABA Grant Recipients 4

SABA Donors 14

2024 Supporting and Sustaining Members 15

Autism Conference Preview 16

Updates From ABAI's U.S.A. Affiliated Chapters 19

Updates From ABAI's Non-U.S.A. Affiliated Chapters 36

Updates From ABAI's Special Interest Groups 50

In Memoriam: Ruben Ardila 64

ABAI
Association for Behavior Analysis International

INSIDE BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS
NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS INTERNATIONAL

VOLUME 18
No 3
NOVEMBER
2026



Illustration: MARTIN BURCH

SABA Update: Investing in the Future of Behavior Analysis

BY MARK GALIZIO

For those unfamiliar with ABAI's sister organization, SABA (not to be confused with the lovely Caribbean island of Saba) is the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to the welfare and future of behavior analysis. Chartered in 1980, SABA has supported and recognized behavior analysts through the generous contributions of individuals and organizations. As President of SABA, I am pleased to share a brief summary of some of the organization's exciting efforts and accomplishments over the past year.

Awards

The opening event of our annual convention is always the SABA award ceremony, and it is not to be missed! The San Francisco SABA awards session featured great talks given by a group of distinguished and deserving award winners listed here:

SABA Award for Distinguished Service to Behavior Analysis: **Edward Morris** (University of Kansas)
Dr. Morris has made important scholarly contributions in many areas of behavior analysis and has been a leader in our field as a President of ABAI and the Behavior Analysis Division of APA and as editor of The Behavior Analyst (now Perspectives on Behavior Science) and two newsletters: the APA Division 25 Recorder and The Interbehaviorist. He opened the event with a talk appropriately titled: "Service Outside the Box for Inside and Outside the Box."

SABA Award for Scientific Translation:
Christopher Podlesnik (University of Florida)
It is difficult to imagine a career trajectory that better illustrates the value of translational research than Dr. Podlesnik's. He has made signal contributions to the experimental and applied analysis of behavioral relapse including pioneering work on resurgence. His presentation was "Behavioral Persistence and Flexibility in Life and Research."

SABA Award for International Dissemination:
Smita Awasthi (Behavior Momentum India)
Dr. Awasthi has played a major role in bringing applied behavior analysis to India and other countries in Southeast Asia. She founded the first ABA center in India and has provided workshops mentored students throughout the region. Her presentation was "From Vision to Reality: Laying the Foundation of Behavior Analysis in South Asia."

SABA Award for Effective Presentation of Behavior Analysis in the Mass Media:
Edward Wasserman (University of Iowa).

Dr. Wasserman has received numerous awards for his groundbreaking research on concept learning, but through his blogs and his best-selling book *As if by Design: How Creative Behaviors Really Evolve*, he has made behavioral approaches to understanding complex behavior accessible to a broad audience and his talk was "Starting Small: Mass Media and Me."

SABA Award for Enduring Programmatic Contributions: **University of South Florida**; **Accepting the award: Raymond Miltenberger.**
The University of South Florida began its master's program in behavior analysis 20 years ago and added a doctoral program in 2013, an undergraduate minor in 2014, and an online master's degree program in 2016. Dr. Miltenberger is an award-winning behavior analyst who has led the program from its inception. In accepting the program award his talk was entitled "Applied Behavior Analysis at the University of South Florida: Commitment to Excellence."

SABA Grants in 2026

Student Research Grants

SABA dispersed $91,603 in grants 2026 supporting student research, public awareness, and the international development of behavior analysis. Awardees are listed below:

Innovative Student Research – Doctoral

- Julian Camilo Velasquez Lancheros, University of Guadalajara
- Hailey Donohue, University of Florida Department of Psychology
- Carla Martinez-Perez, University of Florida

Innovative Student Research – Master's

- Hailey Stephens, University of Mississippi
- Thuan Tran, Louisiana State University
- Michael Catalano, Northern Michigan University

Innovative Student Research in DEI

- Lydia Lindsey, University of Florida
- Omar Elwasli, Eastern Michigan University

Sydney W. & Janet R. Bijou Grants

- Victoria Guthrie, Teachers College, Columbia University
- Lilian Morales, Teacher's College, Columbia University
- Lori Mastrogiacomo, Endicott College

Grants for International Development of Behavior Analysis

- Ugbe Ugbe, University of Calabar, Nigeria
- Jose Guillermo Ardila Sanchez, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana
- Maryam Tahir, Ziauddin University
- Anis Fuad, Universitas Gadjah Mada

Grants for Public Awareness of Behavior Analysis

- T. Ruba, Sethu Institute of Technology
- Aarif Gohar, Frontier Children's Academy

Micro-credential Development

- Claire St. Peter, West Virginia University

Doreen Granpeesheh Speaker Series Fund

- The 2026 Granpeesheh speaker was Lonnie Zwaigenbaum, whose talk was "Supporting Health Care Experiences of Autistic and Other Neurodivergent Youth."

Student Presenter Grants

- SABA donations provide financial support for students to present their research. This year, SABA supported 53 Senior Student Presenters attending the convention.

As you can see, SABA provides support for a wide-ranging set of purposes with the overarching aim of enhancing the welfare of behavior analysis. One of the most rewarding experiences that I have had as a member of the ABAI Executive Council has been the opportunity to participate in the grant award process that has funded proposals for cutting-edge behavior science from promising students and grants that help develop behavior analysis programs throughout the world. The success of these SABA programs depends entirely on your donations. Please consider making a gift to SABA! You can donate to the SABA Unrestricted Fund, which allows us to allocate your contribution where it is most needed. Of course, you can also specify exactly which SABA program you want your donation to support! There is still time to make a donation before the end of the 2026 tax year, and you can use this link to get started:

saba.abainternational.org

The Future of SABA Club was created this year to support the future of higher education in behavior analysis through SABA's Education Fund. Members commit to donating $1,000 annually for three years and are invited to an exclusive event at ABAI's annual conventions. Join the club today!

tinyurl.com/The-SABA-Club

Your gift to SABA is truly an investment in the future of behavior analysis! ❖

Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis

2026 SABA Grant Recipients

THE SOCIETY for the ADVANCEMENT of BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS (SABA) AWARDED the FOLLOWING GRANTS in 2026:

Sidney W. & Janet R. Bijou Grant

Victoria Guthrie
Teachers College, Columbia University
Project Title: *Enough is Enough: Comparing Teaching Opportunities to Acquire Tacts and Emergent Intraverbals*

Lilian Morales
Teacher's College, Columbia University
Project Title: *Establishing Fluent Echoic Responding through a Rapid Motor Antecedent Intervention*

Lori Mastrogiacomo
Endicott College
Project Title: *Effects of Contingent Voice and Touch on Infant Orienting and Vocal Responses*

Public Awareness Grant

T. Ruba
Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Sethu Institute of Technology
Project Title: *Safe Roads, Smart Behaviors: A Behavioral Campaign to Reduce Traffic Violations*

International Development Grant

Ugbe Ugbe
University of Calabar, Nigeria
Project Title: *Development of a Community Behavior Change Infrastructure for Diabetes Self-Management in Rural areas of Southern Senatorial District, Cross River State, Nigeria*

José Guillermo Ardila Sánchez
Pontificia Universidad Javeriana
Project Title: *Spanish Translation and Open-Access Dissemination of Strategic Nonviolent Power*

Maryam Tahir
Ziauddin University
Project Title: *Building a Sustainable Applied Behavior Analysis Workforce in Pakistan: A Training-of-Trainers Approach*

Anis Fuad
Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Population Health, Universitas Gadjah Mada
Project Title: *From Reminders to Reinforcement: An Applied Behavior Analysis–Informed Digital Intervention to Improve Health Insurance Payment Behavior in Sleman District, Indonesia*

Innovative Student Research—Doctoral

Julian Camilo Velasquez Lancheros
University of Guadalajara
Project Title: *How Does Punishment work?: Using Quantitative Models to Explore the Mechanisms of Behavioral Suppression*

Hailey Donohue
University of Florida
Department of Psychology
Project Title: *Psychological Flexibility and Cigarette Smoking: Smoking Status Comparisons and Ecological Momentary Assessment in a Digital Behavioral Treatment*

Carla Martinez-Perez
University of Florida
Project Title: *Parametric Manipulation and Quantitative Analysis of the Effects of On/off Alternative- reinforcement Cycling on Resurgence*

Innovative Student Research—Master's

Hailey Stephens
University of Mississippi
Project Title: *Motivational Operations on Music Deprivation: A Translational Study of Auditory Reinforcement*

Thuan Tran
Louisiana State University, Project Title: *Behavioral Skills Training for Law Enforcement working with Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Higher Education Settings*

Michael Catalano
Northern Michigan University, Project Title: *Anxiolytic Effects of Cannabinoids Under Procedures of Negative Reinforcement*

Innovative Student Research in DEI

Lydia Lindsey
University of Florida
Project Title: *Evaluating Culturally Tailored Generative Instruction Procedures for Promoting Language Acquisition in Learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)*

Omar Elwasli
Eastern Michigan University
Project Title: *Promoting Cultural Responsiveness in Behavior Analysis: Development and Validation of Arab-Focused Training Materials*

Sidney W. and Janet R. Bijou Grant



Victoria Guthrie
Teachers College, Columbia University
Project Title: *Enough is Enough: Comparing Teaching Opportunities to Acquire Tacts and Emergent Intraverbals*

Victoria Guthrie is a PhD student at Teachers College, Columbia University, studying under the supervision of Dr. Daniel Fienup. She also earned her MA in Applied Behavior Analysis from Teachers College. Her research focuses on instructional efficiency, specifically comparing how the number of exposures may affect direct and emergent learning.

In her pilot study (under review), she compared varying doses of instructional trials and the impact on the acquisition of primary and secondary behaviors. Specifically, she examined how the number of exposures affected the pace of learning. Currently, there is minimal guidance or research evaluating the number of exposures. This is an important research question because if there is not enough exposure to instructional trials this could slow down learning. On the other hand, too many exposures may result in an unnecessary allocation of teaching resources.

Beyond measuring the acquisition of behavior under direct reinforcement contingencies, she evaluated the emergence of bidirectional intraverbals. Researchers have recently begun to explore the prerequisites required for the emergence of intraverbals (DeSouza et al., 2019). Results showed that once the participants had mastered all prerequisites (set out by Sundberg & Sundberg, 2011), they emitted the target intraverbals at mastery levels without any direct training. Similarly, Rodriguez et al. (2022) found that intraverbal tacts were emitted only after all component skills were mastered (Rodriguez et al., 2022). However, the indirect learning of intraverbals has not been systematically researched (Conine et al., 2024). Her goal was to explore if an untaught bi-directional intraverbal would emerge after teaching two tacts with the same stimulus. This emergent behavior, or derived relation, supports the overarching goal of efficiency in the classroom.

The Sidney W. and Janet R. Bijou Grant will support her dissertation, which expands on efficiency by focusing specifically on instructional intensity for elementary-aged students who are at-risk or have an educational classification. Further, the grant will fund essential technology used during assessment and intervention. Finally, the grant will assist with expenses for disseminating past, current and future findings at professional conferences.



Lilian Morales
Teacher's College, Columbia University
Project Title: *Establishing Fluent Echoic Responding through a Rapid Motor Antecedent Intervention*

Lilian (Lily) Morales is a doctoral student studying applied behavior analysis at Teachers College, Columbia University, under the supervision of Dr. Daniel Fienup. She received her MA in applied behavior analysis and special education at Teachers College, Columbia University, and her BA in psychology from the University of Miami. Lily is interested in the establishment of verbal behavior cusps that allow children to contact novel reinforcers, such as, generalized imitation and mands (Greer & Ross, 2008). Specifically, she is interested in interventions that allow us to hear a child's first vocal responses, and in how correspondence between a model and a learner's behavior comes to function as a reinforcer. The Bijou grant will support her study of a rapid motor imitation procedure designed to induce echoic behavior and generalized imitation in preschool children who have limited motor imitation and no prior vocal verbal behavior.

Emission of early vocal verbal behavior has been associated to faster word acquisition (LeGrand et al., 2021), improved word learning and retention (Joseph et al., 2019), and reduced aberrant behavior (Girard et al., 2016). However, the complex nature of establishing echoics and mands under the appropriate motivating conditions limits the number of interventions that target this behavior, and their widespread use among practitioners. Assessing interventions that can establish echoics as a cusp that allows students to learn independent mands and tacts, would eliminate the barrier for practitioners working with minimally verbal learners, and provide a path from imitation to functional speech. Additionally, more studies are needed on how correspondence between a model and the learner's behavior is established as a conditioned reinforcer.

Lily's current project will investigate whether a rapid motor imitation antecedent intervention (RMIA) produces first instances of vocal verbal behavior (echoics and mands) and generalized imitation as verbal behavior cusps in preschool children with limited motor imitation and no previously observed vocal verbal behavior. The study will be conducted with preschool-aged children in a classroom that uses the Comprehensive Application of Behavior Analysis to Schooling (CABAS®). If the goals are achieved, the procedure will provide practitioners with an efficient, replicable method for establishing initial vocal behavior in learners for whom traditional echoic-to-mand training has been unsuccessful and will help assess the behavioral processes by which imitation emerges as a reinforcer in early childhood.



Lori Mastrogiacomo
Endicott College
Project Title: *Effects of Contingent Voice and Touch on Infant Orienting and Vocal Responses*

Contingent responding to infant orienting and vocalizations has been investigated as an intervention that may potentially contribute to critical early social and language development. The current study (under the mentorship of Dr. Mary Jane Weiss, Dr. Martha Pelaez, and Dr. Erin Michaud) examines the impact of contingent social interactions (combinations of smiles, voice, and touch) on behaviors critical to early child development (i.e., eye contact and vocalizations). Specifically, This study investigates (1) the effects of contingent synchronous reinforcement including voice only, touch only, and combined voice and touch on duration of infant orienting toward adult eyes and (2) the effects of contingent vocal imitation (CVI) alone and CVI combined with touch on frequency of infant vocalizations for typically developing four- to seven-month-old infants using modified alternating treatments designs including baseline, reversal, and follow up phases. This examination of observable interactions between infants and contingent environmental events directly relates to Bijou's definition of development: "progressive changes in interactions between the behavior of individuals and the events in their environment" (Bijou & Baer, 1978, p.2). The results of this study will replicate and extend previous work to directly inform child development and offer simple, concrete procedures that may be implemented by early childhood professionals and caregivers to enhance early social and language development.

The Sidney W. and Janet R. Bijou Grant funds provide opportunities for the acquisition of essential materials to conduct the research study and will support expenses for disseminating findings at professional conferences.

Public Awareness Grant



T. Ruba
Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Sethu Institute of Technology
Project Title: *Safe Roads, Smart Behaviors: A Behavioral Campaign to Reduce Traffic Violations*

Dr. T. Ruba is an Associate Professor in the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering at Sethu Institute of Technology, Tamil Nadu, India. She earned her Ph.D. from Anna University with a research focus on biomedical image processing and deep learning, completing a thesis titled "Accurate Brain Tumor Segmentation and Classification from MRI Images Using Novel Deep Learning Methods." Her research interests span biomedical image and signal processing, artificial intelligence, healthcare technologies, IoT-enabled smart systems, and automation for agriculture and industry.

Over the course of her academic career, Dr. T. Ruba has actively pursued interdisciplinary research that combines engineering innovation with solutions to real-world societal challenges. She has successfully secured and managed multiple externally funded research and innovation projects supported by organizations including MSME, EDII, AICTE, IE(I), and the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell. Collectively, these projects have attracted funding exceeding 31 lakh and have focused on areas such as smart healthcare devices, women's safety technologies, intelligent agricultural systems, waste management, aquaculture monitoring, and sustainable farming solutions.

Dr. T. Ruba has received several recognitions for her contributions to research and innovation, including the EDII Innovator Award and recognition as a Top Performing NPTEL Mentor. She also serves as a reviewer for international journals in biomedical engineering, medical imaging, and applied research, contributing to the advancement of scientific scholarship and innovation.

The Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis (SABA) Public Awareness Grant will support Dr. T. Ruba's project, "Safe Roads, Smart Behaviors: A Behavioral Campaign to Reduce Traffic Violations." The project aims to address unsafe road-user behaviors through evidence-based behavioral interventions, including visual prompts, behavioral cues, positive reinforcement messaging, and community engagement activities. Targeting young drivers and students, the initiative seeks to improve compliance with road safety practices such as helmet use, reduced mobile phone usage while driving, and adherence to traffic regulations.

By integrating behavioral science with engineering-driven public awareness strategies, Dr. Ruba's project demonstrates how interdisciplinary approaches can address pressing community challenges. The initiative is expected to serve as a scalable and replicable model for promoting safer road behaviors while increasing public awareness of the practical applications of behavior analysis in everyday life.

International Development Grant



Ugbe Ugbe
University of Calabar, Nigeria
Project Title: *Development of a Community Behavior Change Infrastructure for Diabetes Self-Management in Rural areas of Southern Senatorial District, Cross River State, Nigeria*

Dr. Ugbe Maurice-Joel Ugbe is a public health researcher, epidemiologist, and

scholar at the University of Calabar, Nigeria. His research focuses on behavioral and community-based strategies to tackle critical public health issues in resource-poor settings, particularly in the fields of chronic diseases, health promotion and health systems strengthening. His teaching, research and community engagement initiatives have contributed to the creation of evidence-based interventions to improve health outcomes and increase access to sustainable public health solutions.

Dr. Ugbe has been awarded a 2026 International Development Grant by the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis (SABA) for his project titled, "Development of a Community Behavior Change Infrastructure for Diabetes Self-Management in Rural Areas of Southern Senatorial District, Cross River State, Nigeria". The goal of the project is to address the growing burden of diabetes by transcending standard health education approaches and building a durable behavioral infrastructure to facilitate long-term self-management habits for adults with diabetes.

The initiative will set up a Community Behavior Change Infrastructure (CBCI) consisting of community level behavioral assessment, training of Community Behavior Support Champions, behavioral prompting and monitoring systems, monthly community review meetings and the setting up of a Behavior Change Resource Hub at the University of Calabar. The project will be guided by principles of applied behavior analysis and will include organized environmental supports and reinforcement mechanisms to improve medication adherence, healthy food choices, physical activity, glucose monitoring and other self-management behaviors.

Dr. Ugbe, as Principal Investigator, will be responsible for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all project activities, in collaboration with community leaders, health care providers and local stakeholders. The initiative is one of the few systematic attempts to apply behaviour analytic principles to chronic disease management in Nigeria, and by extension, in West Africa.

With this effort, Dr. Ugbe hopes to illustrate the potential for sustainable, community-based behavioral systems to enhance health outcomes in resource-constrained situations while building local capacity for behavior analysis. He sees the study as a scalable paradigm for chronic disease management and behavior modification interventions in Nigeria and other African countries.



José Guillermo Ardila Sánchez
Pontificia Universidad Javeriana
Project Title: *Spanish Translation and Open-Access Dissemination of Strategic Nonviolent Power*

José G. Ardila Sánchez is an adjunct professor at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, Colombia, where he works with culturo-behavior scientific frameworks. His research spans from the experimental analysis of cultural behavior to the logic of science, with a special interest in the dissemination of behavior-analytic approaches to social and cultural phenomena in Latin America.

The primary aim of this project is to translate Strategic Nonviolent Power (SNP) into Spanish and make it freely available online as a permanent open-access scholarly resource. SNP is a culturo-behavior analysis of nonviolent collective action, social movements, and systems-level change. The book integrates basic principles of behavior analysis with contemporary research on nonviolent resistance, offering a cohesive framework for understanding how large-scale social change occurs through organized patterns of collective behavior rather than individual action alone.

This project addresses a structural barrier to the dissemination of behavior-analytic approaches to social change by expanding access to a foundational text for Spanish-speaking students, researchers, practitioners, and educators. Rather than targeting individual-level training alone, the project is designed to support system-level development by creating durable academic infrastructure. The translated text can be incorporated into university curricula, graduate training programs, research, and professional practice across Latin America and other Spanish-speaking regions, thereby producing long-term and cumulative impact.

The translation will be conducted by Ardila Sánchez in close collaboration with Co-Presencias Editorial. The final product will be made available as a free open-access resource. This initiative represents an effort to strengthen the infrastructure for behavior-analytic scholarship in the Spanish-speaking world.



Maryam Tahir
Ziauddin University
Project Title: *Building a Sustainable Applied Behavior Analysis Workforce in Pakistan: A Training-of-Trainers Approach*

Pakistan faces a substantial and growing burden of neurodevelopmental conditions, with an estimated 350,000 children affected, yet the availability of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services remains extremely limited. Existing services are concentrated in a handful of private organizations in large urban centers, leaving low-income families, public-sector schools, rural communities, and children with developmental disabilities with little to no access to evidence-based behavioral support. Professionals working in these underserved contexts often lack formal ABA training, constraining their ability to manage challenging behavior, support learning, and implement effective interventions.

This proposal aims to address this capacity gap by establishing a scalable, national-level Training-of-Trainers (ToT) programme in ABA. The programme will directly train 200 professionals drawn from universities, NGOs, schools, and clinical settings, equipping them with foundational ABA concepts, applied competencies, and instructor-level teaching skills. Using a cascade training model, each trained participant will conduct a minimum of five follow-on trainings within their own institution, extending reach to over 1,000 additional practitioners within the first year and establishing a self-sustaining pipeline of trainers.

The project will develop a comprehensive, reusable ToT package, including a trainer manual, participant workbook, standardized slide decks, culturally relevant case studies, assessment tools, and demonstration videos. These materials will remain freely available to trained educators, enabling institutions to independently continue ABA training cycles well beyond the grant period. Delivery will be supported by a digital dissemination and collaboration platform, ensuring nationwide access to training materials and ongoing communication with participants across geographically diverse and remote regions.

By building a national network of trained ABA facilitators, this initiative will reduce reliance on a small pool of urban experts, foster peer learning and cross-institutional collaboration, and strengthen classroom practices, therapy planning, and community-based services across the country. Ultimately, the programme seeks to improve the consistency and quality of behavior-analytic support available to underserved populations, positioning Pakistan to build a durable, replicable model for expanding ABA training in low-resource settings across the region.



Anis Fuad
Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Population Health, Universitas Gadjah Mada
Project Title: *From Reminders toReinforcement: An Applied Behavior Analysis–Informed Digital Intervention to Improve Health Insurance Payment Behavior in Sleman District, Indonesia*

Mr. Anis Fuad is a researcher in population health informatics and a faculty member in the Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Population Health at the Faculty of Medicine, Public Health and Nursing, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia. His work focuses on the intersection of digital health, artificial intelligence, health financing, and behavior change to strengthen health systems. He has contributed to national and international initiatives on digital health transformation, health information systems, and AI applications for public health. Through his research, he seeks to translate behavioral science into practical digital solutions that improve access to healthcare and support Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

This SABA-funded project builds upon an earlier collaborative study with BPJS Kesehatan, Indonesia's National Health Insurance Agency, which developed a proof-of-concept generative AI chatbot to support participants with overdue premium payments. Guided by the Transtheoretical Model (TTM), the chatbot tailored conversations according to participants' readiness to change. The study revealed that individuals at similar stages of readiness often displayed markedly different payment behaviors. While some lacked knowledge about payment procedures or encountered financial and logistical barriers, many expressed strong intentions to pay but repeatedly postponed taking action.

The project will investigate how principles of behavior analysis can strengthen conversational AI by addressing the gap between intention and action. It will examine the effects of antecedent prompts, commitment strategies, immediate feedback, and reinforcement-based messaging within AI-driven conversations to encourage timely premium payments. Particular attention will be given to participants who consistently make commitments but fail to follow through. The study will also identify behavioral patterns that can inform personalized, evidence-based AI conversations tailored to participants' individual circumstances and needs.

The project aims to develop a behaviorally grounded framework for designing conversational AI interventions that support health financing programs. The findings will advance the integration of behavior analysis, AI, and digital public health. They will also provide practical guidance for scaling AI-enabled behavioral interventions to strengthen health insurance participation and support Universal Health Coverage.

Innovative Student Research in DEI Grant



Lydia Lindsey
University of Florida
Project Title: *Evaluating Culturally Tailored Generative Instruction Procedures for Promoting Language Acquisition in Learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)*

Lydia Lindsey is a first-year doctoral student in the Translational and Applied Behavioral Science (TABS) laboratory at the University of Florida, working under the advisement of Dr. Corina Jimenez-Gomez. She earned her M.S. in Behavior Analysis at Auburn University in 2019. Her research interests include evaluating methods to promote the emergence of novel responses and generalization in

diverse learners, adapting instructional strategies to meet diverse linguistic and cultural needs, social validity of interventions, and translating applied research to ready-to-use tools in clinical settings. The proposed project aligns with her long-term research goals of developing culturally responsive, evidence-based practices that lead to socially meaningful outcomes for the individuals and communities we serve.

The generous funds provided through the Innovative Student Research Grant in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will help evaluate the comparative effects of culturally responsive generative instruction procedures for diverse populations while also providing a model for implementation for educators and clinicians. Culturally responsive interventions are hypothesized to be more effective than traditional interventions; however, there is limited direct evidence to support these claims. Generative instruction procedures are effective and efficient for teaching functional language, but there is limited information on how collaborating with stakeholders can increase the efficiency and acceptability of the procedures. One of the main goals of Lydia's research is to demonstrate that collaborating with stakeholders increases the effectiveness, efficiency, and acceptability of both matrix training and instructive feedback procedures for promoting the emergence of novel verbal behavior compared to traditional procedures. By empirically testing whether caregiverinformed instruction leads to faster, more durable, and culturally congruent verbal skill acquisition, Lydia hopes to provide actionable guidance for clinicians and educators who serve families with diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds. The significance of this work lies in its potential to bridge a longstanding gap between research protocols and realworld family contexts. This grant will allow her to contribute to evidence-based solutions that empower practitioners, improve interventions, and generate tangible benefits for the communities they serve.

Lydia's work would not be possible without the grant's emphasis on diversity and inclusion. It enables the systematic consideration of family perspectives that have historically been overlooked in behavior analytic research.

Lydia is honored to be a recipient of this grant and looks forward to disseminating the results of this research at national conferences, peer reviewed journals, and practitioner forums. With this support, Lydia hopes to advance both the science of verbal behavior and the equity of services delivered to families.



Omar Elwasli
Eastern Michigan University
Project Title: *Promoting Cultural Responsiveness in Behavior Analysis: Development and Validation of Arab-Focused Training Materials*

Omar is a doctoral student in Clinical Psychology at Eastern Michigan University working under the mentorship of Dr. Adam Briggs. His project seeks to improve culturally responsive behavior analytic service delivery by developing and evaluating an empirically informed tutorial designed to help practitioners work more effectively with Arab families. Although behavior analysts are ethically expected to practice with cultural humility and responsiveness, there are few practical, evidence-based resources that translate these expectations into strategies for everyday clinical practice. This gap is particularly evident for Arab families, who remain underrepresented in behavior analytic research despite representing a rapidly growing and culturally diverse population.

Drawing on both the scientific literature and the perspectives of Arab caregivers, Arab autistic adults, and Arab behavior analysts, the project will develop a practical tutorial and accompanying resources that address culturally relevant variables influencing assessment, intervention, and caregiver collaboration. The materials are intended to provide behavior analysts with practical guidance for adapting services in ways that enhance communication, social validity, and family engagement while maintaining the integrity of evidence-based behavioral interventions. The project will also evaluate whether these training materials improve behavior analysts' knowledge and application of culturally responsive practices.

Ultimately, Omar hopes this project will contribute to ongoing efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within behavior analysis by supporting more culturally informed, ethical, and effective service delivery. By developing practical, evidence-informed guidance, the project seeks to strengthen partnerships between practitioners and families while improving the accessibility and social validity of behavior analytic services.

Innovative Student Research—Doctoral



Julian Camilo Velasquez Lancheros
University of Guadalajara
Project Title: *How Does Punishment work?: Using Quantitative Models to Explore the Mechanisms of Behavioral Suppression*

Julian C. Velasquez is a second-year doctoral student in Behavioral Science at the Centro de Estudios e Investigaciones en Comportamiento (CEIC) of the University of Guadalajara, Mexico, where he is supervised by Dr. Carlos Flores and Dr. Cristiano Valerio dos Santos, with external advisory support from Dr. Rafaela Fontes. Originally from Colombia, Julian completed his undergraduate training at Konrad Lorenz University under the mentorship of Dr. Camilo Hurtado-Parrado, focusing

on choice behavior and aversive control across multiple species. His research has earned him the 2026 SEAB Rising Star Grant, the APA Division 25 Innovate Student Research Award, and twice receiving the SQAB Tony Nevin Award.

Julian's doctoral dissertation addresses a profound theoretical and empirical gap in the science of behavior: the general misunderstanding of punishment mechanisms and its interactions with reinforcement. While contemporary behavior analysis has reconceptualized reinforcement in terms of stimulus value, quantitative models for punishment have lagged sharply behind since their peak in the 1960s and 1970s. Understanding punishment is critical not only for basic science, but also for conceptualizing clinical disorders like addiction.

Supported by the 2026 SABA Student Innovation Grant, Julian's project utilizes quantitative modeling to elucidate the underlying mechanisms of punishment. Specifically, his research extends the historical framework of Herrnstein's matching law by providing a rigorous test of the contemporary Concatenated Generalized Matching Law (cGML; Klapes & McDowell, 2025) punishment model, which mathematically integrates multiple consequence parameters into a unitary mechanism for behavioral control. Moving beyond traditional frameworks that focus primarily on punishment frequency, Julian's work expands the cGML framework by exploring the independent effects of punishment magnitude (manipulated as the number of shocks delivered) within a dynamic choice procedure. Furthermore, the project evaluates choice allocations under conditions of equal punishment density arranged through different dimensions across alternatives. Ultimately, this research aims to establish a more precise, predictive, and theoretically coherent account of punishment.



Hailey Donohue
University of Florida
Department of Psychology
Project Title: *Psychological Flexibility and Cigarette Smoking: Smoking Status Comparisons and Ecological Momentary Assessment in a Digital Behavioral Treatment*

Hailey Donohue is a fifth-year PhD candidate at the University of Florida working under the supervision of Dr. Jesse Dallery in the Behavioral Health and Technology (BHaT) Research Clinic. Hailey's current research focuses on technology-based interventions to promote health behavior, specifically contingency management (CM) for cigarette smoking cessation. She has been awarded the 2026 Innovative Student Research Grant to support her ongoing dissertation work, which aims to further our understanding of behavioral mechanisms underlying smoking cessation interventions.

Smoking remains one of the leading preventable causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide. One of the most promising approaches for addressing this gap is Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) delivered via mobile health (mHealth) platforms. Yet critical gaps remain in our understanding of how ACT promotes smoking cessation. Hailey's project includes two studies to investigate ACT processes in relation to cigarette smoking.

The first study is a cross-sectional assessment of psychological flexibility in adults who currently smoke cigarettes every day, some days, formerly smoked, and have never smoked. Characterizing psychological flexibility across smoking status will establish clinically meaningful levels of ACT mechanisms and strengthen the theoretical foundation for mechanismbased mHealth interventions. The second study is a longitudinal, single-case evaluation of the proposed mediators of a novel mHealth intervention, iCanQuit+Motiv8, that integrates ACTbased content (iCanQuit) and CM (Motiv8). Hailey's project will use ecological momentary assessment (EMA) to examine time-ordered relationships between psychological processes and smoking behavior, representing an innovative approach to investigating potential mechanisms of ACT-based smoking cessation interventions.

Completion of these aims will advance mechanism-based intervention science by clarifying the role of psychological flexibility in cigarette smoking and testing whether core ACT mechanisms function as temporally antecedent mechanisms of behavior change. This project will inform the optimization of scalable, theory-driven treatments for smoking cessation by identifying active mechanisms of change.



Carla Martinez-Perez
University of Florida
Project Title: *Parametric Manipulation and Quantitative Analysis of the Effects of On/off Alternative- reinforcement Cycling on Resurgence*

Carla is a PhD candidate in the Behavior Analysis program at the University of Florida under the mentorship of Dr. Chris Podlesnik. Originally from San Juan, Puerto Rico, Carla received her bachelor's degree from St. Lawrence University in 2021. She later received her master's degree from the University of Florida in 2024.

Relapse represents one of the greatest challenges to the long-term effectiveness of a range of behavioral interventions, such as differential reinforcement of alternative behavior (DRA). Carla's research aims to refine existing interventions and improve their durability by identifying the variables that influence the return of challenging behavior, a phenomenon known as resurgence.

Specifically, her dissertation evaluates a promising preclinical method to mitigate resurgence by arranging cycling between alternative reinforcement availability ("on") and unavailability ("off") during treatment while target remains on extinction.

Using a computer-based task with crowdsourced adults to simulate treatment procedures, Carla's dissertation consists of three experiments:

Experiment 1 examines whether resurgence is mitigated following exposure to on/off cycling versus constant alternative reinforcement.

Experiment 2 evaluates how different proportions of on/off cycles impact resurgence by parametrically manipulating the number of bins while keeping the duration of Phase 2 the same across groups.

Experiment 3 evaluated resurgence following on/off cycling by parametrically manipulating schedules of reinforcement for target responding during "off" bins.

This work utilizes quantitative theories (i.e., Resurgence as Choice in Context) to precisely formalize and evaluate how experience with dynamic, shifting contingencies drives behavior change and generalization.

Carla is deeply grateful to SABA for supporting her her master's thesis research in 2023 and funding her current dissertation research. She would also like extend her gratitude to Dr. Podlesnik, her lab peers, and her family for their unwavering support over the years.

Innovative Student Research—Master's



Hailey Stephens
University of Mississippi
Project Title: *Motivational Operations on Music Deprivation: A Translational Study of Auditory Reinforcement*

Hailey Stephens is a doctoral student in Experimental Psychology at the University of Mississippi working under the mentorship of Anna Kate Edgemon, PhD, BCBA-D. Her research examines motivating operations, schedules of covariation, behavioral economics, and translational methods for studying continuous human behavior-environment relations.

The SABA Innovative Student Researcher Grant will support Stephens's master's thesis, Motivational Operations and Music Deprivation: A Translational Study of Auditory Reinforcement. Although motivating operations have been studied extensively in discrete response-reinforcer arrangements, little research has examined how they operate under schedules of covariation, in which ongoing responding continuously alters some dimension of reinforcement. This gap matters because many naturally occurring behaviors, including adjusting music volume, controlling grip force, and modulating speech, unfold through continuous relations rather than discrete response units.

To address this gap, Stephens will evaluate how short-term music deprivation affects reinforcer value using two complementary measures. Participants will complete a conjugate schedule task in which force exerted on a calibrated hand dynamometer controls music volume, providing a continuous measure of effort allocation for auditory reinforcement. Participants will also complete a behavioral economics music-purchasing task to assess demand as costs increase. By integrating response-force data with demand-curve analyses, the project will evaluate whether deprivation systematically changes motivation for music and whether these measures provide convergent evidence of motivating-operation effects on reinforcer value.

This work extends the conceptual analysis of motivating operations beyond traditional discrete schedules and contributes to translational research on schedules of covariation. Findings may strengthen understanding of how motivational variables influence behavior in dynamic environments and support future research on continuous behavior-environment interactions in basic and applied settings. SABA funding will provide the resources necessary to implement and evaluate this innovative translational research project. The grant will directly support the specialized equipment needed to implement the conjugate arrangement, collect response-force data, and establish a reusable methodological platform for Stephens's ongoing program of research.

Thuan Tran
Louisiana State University, Project Title: *Behavioral Skills Training for Law Enforcement working with Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Higher Education Settings*



Thuan Tran is a doctoral student in School Psychology at Louisiana State University (LSU), where her research focuses on improving systems of support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The School Psychology program at LSU collaborates closely with the Behavior Analysis program, providing an interdisciplinary foundation for her work. Her thesis examines how law enforcement officers (LEOs) can be better prepared to respond safely and effectively to behavioral crises involving adults with I/DD in post-secondary education settings.

LEOs are often the first responders when individuals with I/DD experience behavioral crises in the community. These encounters may escalate because of challenges related to communication, disability identification, and effective de-escalation strategies. Although training programs for law enforcement exist, many lack real-world applicability

and are not tailored to specific populations or settings. Thuan's research addresses this gap by focusing on post-secondary education, where the number of transition programs for students with I/DD continues to grow. These programs support students in developing independent living, social, and vocational skills, yet campus law enforcement officers often receive limited training for interacting with individuals with complex communication and behavioral needs. Thuan's study systematically replicates and extends previous research by using Applied Behavior Analysis and Behavioral Skills Training (BST) to train LEOs within university settings. A unique feature of the project is the inclusion of adults with I/DD as confederates during training, allowing officers to practice de-escalation and behavior management strategies in realistic scenarios while evaluating whether skills generalize across different individuals.

Funding from the SABA grant will support compensation for adults with I/DD serving as confederates and increase the number of confederates available to assess skill generalization. It also creates opportunities for confederates who have employment and career development goals, providing meaningful, skill-building opportunities. Lastly, the funding will improve the training materials provided to LEOs as well as the development of a finalized training product that will be shared for downstream dissemination with the local institution.

Thuan is the lead investigator under the supervision of Shawn Gilroy and is supported by an interdisciplinary committee of psychologists and behavior analysts. She will conduct the training, collect reliability data, and disseminate the findings, with the goal of expanding behavior analytic practices in law enforcement and improving crisis outcomes for adults with I/DD.



Michael Catalano

Northern Michigan University, Project Title: *Anxiolytic Effects of Cannabinoids Under Procedures of Negative Reinforcement*

Michael Catalano earned his B.A. in Psychology with a concentration in behavior analysis from Salve Regina University in 2025 and is currently pursuing an M.S. in Psychology at Northern Michigan University. During his time as a graduate student, Michael has been working to develop his scholarship, research, and technical skills. He contributed to publications appearing in both the Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior and the Journal of the Applied Analysis of Behavior. Under the mentorship of his advisors, Drs. Cory and Forrest Toegel, he has developed the skills to build and modify operant chambers for rat subjects, design well-controlled experiments, and analyze data and interpret results. Additionally, he has furthered his involvement in the field of psychology by serving on the board of Psi Chi. Michael's main research interests include studying behavior related to anxiety, understanding behavioral effects of drugs such as cannabis, and evaluating contingency management interventions aimed to reduce problematic use of psychoactive substances.

Michael's thesis project investigates potential anxiolytic and anxiogenic effects of cannabinoids and cannabinoid inverse agonists using a timeout from free-operant avoidance procedure. The phytocannabinoids delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD) are now used widely throughout the United States for recreational and therapeutic purposes, including, reportedly, for reducing feelings and behavior related to anxiety. Despite this widespread use, few studies have employed operant procedures to evaluate effects of these phytocannabinoids on behavior under aversive control. Michael's thesis is designed to address this gap in the literature by exposing rats to a timeout-from-avoidance procedure and testing behavioral effects of compounds with known anxiolytic effects (chlordiazepoxide and buspirone), phytocannabinoids (CBD and THC), and a cannabinoid inverse agonist (rimonabant). Results will provide information about how the tested compounds change the behavioral effects of the avoidance contingency and the value of escape from avoidance.

This SABA grant will support Michael's work by providing study equipment and materials and travel funding to present his results at ABAI's annual 2027 convention in New Orleans, LA. ❖

Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis

There's still time!

You can be the hero in someone's story *and* **save** on your 2026 taxes.

Your tax-deductable donation to SABA will impact students by funding research projects and sending them to ABAI's 53rd Annual Convention in New Orleans to present their research. Help us create a brighter future for behavior analysis together!



Donate here! ☛

2025–2026 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, 2025 through September 1, 2026.

$5,000+

LaVigna and Willis Fund
Geoff Potter

SABA Education Fund
Doreen Granpeesheh
Greg Stikeleather

$1,000–$4,999

Doreen Granpeesheh Endowment Fund
Doreen Granpeesheh

Education Fund
Mark P. Alavosius
Leonard Green
Linda Hayes
Ramona Houmanfar
Peter R. Killeen
Karen M. Lionello-DeNolf
Maria Malott
Marcus Marr
Michael Perone
David Pyles
Jessica L. Thomason-Sassi

Student Presenter Fund
Raymond G. Miltenberger

Unrestricted Fund
Morningside Academy
Larry Alferink
Darlene Crone-Todd
Bradley G. Frieswyk
Mark Galizio
Philip Hineline
Judi Komaki
Marcus Marr
Edward Morris
M. Christopher Newland
Michael Perone
Carol Pilgrim

$500–$999

Student Presenter Fund
Paul D. Neuman

Education Fund
Paul D. Neuman
Mary-Genevieve White

$250–$499

Student Presenter Fund
Luis Hara França Santos
Barbara J. Kaminski
Peter Sturmey
William J. Sweeney
David Wesch

Unrestricted Fund
Judah Axe
Harold Miller

$100–$249

Education Fund
Ann Galizio

Student Presenter Fund
Saul Axelrod
Nikia Dower
Ezra Hall
Edward Morris
Brady Phelps
Sherry Serdikoff
Diana Walker
Naoki Yamagishi

Unrestricted Fund
Gordon Bourland
Alyce Dickinson
Adrienne Fitzer
Grant Gautreaux
Ezra Hall
Thomas Higbee
Kenji Okuda
Martha Pelaez
Brady Phelps
Dag Strömberg
Robert G. Vreelandi

$50–$99

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Fund
Julie Ackerlund Brandt
Genae Annette Hall
Corina Jimenez-Gomez
Adam Magee
David H. Nevel

Education Fund
Michael P. Mozzoni

Student Presenter Fund
Genae Annette Hall
Miranda Macauley
Jenna Mrljak

Unrestricted Fund
Christine Hoffner Barthold
Robert Dlouhy
Richard F. Rakos
Kathryn Saunders

Other Amounts

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Fund
Jemma E. Cook
Jovonnie Esquierdo-Leal
Timothy R. Moore
Emma Stump

Education Fund
Jemma E. Cook
Berenice de la Cruz
Prisca Deliperi
Michelle A. Furminger
Jennifer Gutierrez
Suzanne H. Mitchell
Sherry L. Serdikoff

Student Presenter Fund
Julie Ackerlund Brandt
Jemma E. Cook
Niurka Cruz Ramos
Berenice de la Cruz
Jovonnie Esquierdo-Leal
Courtney Greulich
Alayna T. Haberlin
Sarah Veazey Kristiansen
Ira Meinhofer
Timothy R. Moore
Susan M. Schneider
Clinton Smith
James T. Todd

Unrestricted Fund
Julie Ackerlund Brandt
Alec Bernstein
Thomas R. Freeman
Yukie Kurumiya
Carla Martinez-Perez
Brittani Ann Mcclelland
Timothy R. Moore
Cynthia J. Pietras
Maria Reilly
Sherry L. Serdikoff
Forrest Toegel
Zeffy Zeffy

2026 ABAI Supporting and Sustaining Members

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

Sustaining Members

Rodney Asikhia
Chioma Ndalla
Meera Ramani
Brett Yarris
Christine Barthold
Mark Galizio
Grant Gautreaux
Seungsook Ha
Ezra Hall
William Helsel
Ramona Houmanfar
Kent Johnson
M. Christopher Newland
Melissa Olive
Greg Stikeleather
William Sweeney
Thomas Zwicker

Supporting Members

Kassi Balsbaugh
Leigh-Ann Brown
Brianne Cannady
Silvia Chaine
Szu-Yin Chu
Jennifer Corso
Nora Coyle
Victor Delefrati
Nelly Dixon
Chrystal Jansz Rieken
Julie Koudys
Anne Krawczyk
Yamila Lezcano
Alyson Lykken
Ashley Malin
La Keisha Miles
Jenna Odeh
Ryan Pabico
Jari Parkkisenniemi
Jessica Pizzica
Sarah Prevost-Walmsley
Diana Puentes
Kendall Ryndak Samuel
James Shaw
James Sperry
Claire Spieler
Alegria Terto Fires de Vendas
Ivana Trellova
Anette Antonsen
Darlene Crone-Todd
Andresa De Souza
Erick Dubuque
Stephen Eversole
Rebecca Gonzales
Anneka Hofschneider
Shane Isley
Karen Kellum
Jeff Kupfer
Joe Lucyshyn
Neal Perlman
Raymond Pitts
Christopher Podlesnik
Sherry Serdikoff
Zuilma Gabriela Sigurdardottir
Morgan Smith
Cristina Whitehouse



ABAI's 2027

BY TERRY FALCOMATA AND ALICE SHILLINGSBURG

The 21st ABAI Autism Conference will take place in Austin, Texas with the theme "Bridging Research, Practice, and Lived Experiences." At the 2027 conference, we will hear from presenters across a variety of topics such as neurodivergent perspectives, procedural applications, documentation practices and ethical considerations, issues around supervision, historical aspects of ABA, myths about autism, ABA-focused Medicaid and billing related issues, assessment and treatment of challenging behaviors, and translational research. In addition to our wonderful lineup of speakers, we are excited for attendees to have the opportunity to enjoy the many wonderful offerings that Austin provides, including the city's great food scene, its incredible live music venues, outdoor activities, and all the other offerings that "keep Austin weird." We are eagerly looking forward to the 2027 Autism Conference, to be held at the Hyatt Regency Austin, March 23–25, 2027.

Workshops

The conference begins with three workshops. Dr. Matthew Brodhead will conduct a "Tutorial on Using Behavioral Systems Analysis to Improve Documentation Practices." Dr. Brodhead will discuss aspects of documentation including ethical benefits of proper documentation practices, a behavioral systems analysis approach to documentation, and other related topics focusing on documentation.

The second workshop, "An Overview of the 2027 CPT® Code Set for Adaptive Behavior Services/ Applied Behavior Analysis: Updates, Applications, and

AUTISM CONFERENCE HEADS to the LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL of the WORLD

Compliance" will be presented by the ABA Coding Coalition. This workshop will cover a variety of topics and issues regarding changes in the 2027 CPT® code set for adaptive behavior/applied behavior analysis services.

Day 1 will conclude with the third workshop that will be presented by Dr. John Austin. Dr. Austin will present on the topic of becoming "the ABA Leader Your Team Deserves: Organizational Behavior Management (OBM) Strategies That Can Immediately Level-Up Your Leadership." The workshop will explore a variety of topics and issues pertaining to effective behavior-analytic supervision.

Research: From the Lab to the Clinic

It is always our goal to consider the continuum of research, including translational-to-applied, and to ensure that our attendees hear from a variety of points on the continuum. The ABA practices we use with our clients are based on the science of behavior and Dr. Joel Ringdahl will provide an overview of the strong scientific foundation of ABA-based therapies. In his presentation "Autism, Applied Behavior Analysis, and the Curious Case of a Science Bigger Than a Diagnosis," he will discuss and highlight the role of underlying scientific principles and their origins in basic, non-human studies and their evolution to effective procedures with a focus on treatments for challenging behavior. From the translational space, Dr. Andy Craig will present "Synthesized Reinforcement: What We Learned From Our Rats and What It Might Mean for Your Child." He will describe results from his translational lab work focusing on synthesized vs. isolated reinforcement contingencies and how they might impact resurgence and treatment maintenance.

Further down the continuum of research, Dr. Sarah Frampton will discuss Skinner's (1957; 1984) conceptual framework for addressing problems and translate it into meaningful and practical applications focusing on problems encountered by individuals with autism. She will guide attendees through a process that involves identification of problems, assessment of the variables needed to address them, and the development of effective approaches to help learners acquire relevant skills to allow them to overcome problems they experience. Also focusing on applied research, Dr. Nicole Rodriguez will present on "Facilitating the Emergence of Intraverbal Tacts in Children With Autism: Component Skills, Joint Control, and Implications for Practice." In her talk, she will present findings from studies focusing on the emergence of intraverbal tacts and the potential impact of component skills. She will discuss strategies, based on the results of her studies, for assisting children with autism in acquiring vital language skills.

Practice: Evidence, Practical Outcomes, and Accountability

As usual, we have several presentations that will focus on aspects and variables important to the practice of ABA. We will hear from several presenters who will focus on evidence and the importance of prioritizing it as we approach and work with our clients and their families. Dr. Heather Forbes will present on an increasingly popular model and approach to language acquisition. In her talk "Beyond the Buzz: A Critical Look at Gestalt Language Processing and the Natural Language Acquisition Protocol for Children With Autism", she will provide a critical appraisal of this framework with a clear focus on popular vs. evidence-based practice. Continuing the focus and emphasis on evidence, Dr. Alycia Halladay will present "What's the Proof? Evaluating Evidence and



Photo: J DIMAS on FLICKR.com

Disproving Myths in Autism." She will discuss several issues faced by the autism community in the form of myths, misinformation, and misconceptions about topics including treatments and causes of autism and she will highlight the importance of focusing on scientific research when working with our clients and their families.

Supervision is a vital topic and aspect of clinical practice in ABA for a variety of reasons. It directly impacts the quality of services we provide and is fundamental to the health of the field. Dr. Amber Valentino will present "The Great Balancing Act: Enhancing Supervision Quality in Applied Behavior Analysis While Mitigating Burnout." In her talk, she will discuss aspects relating to supervision with a particular focus on burnout, its causes with supervisors and supervisees, and approaches to mitigating the risk of burnout.

A strong focus and emphasis on billing and related practices are vital to the work conducted with individuals with autism and their families. Kimberly Kennedy will present "Office of Inspector General (OIG) Audits of State Medicaid Applied Behavior Analysis Programs" in which she will discuss the Office of Inspector General's (US Department of Health and Human Services) recent audits on ABA services for children eligible for Medicaid. She will present key findings from the audits as well as recommendations for compliance.

Lived Experiences: Meaningful Outcomes in the Lives of Our Clients

This year, we have a variety of presentations that focus on meaningful outcomes and what successful results look like from the point of view of the clients and families with whom we work. Amy Gravino will present "To Boldly Go: Autistic and Neurodivergent Perspectives on the Future of Applied Behavior Analysis." She will discuss how the field of ABA defines meaningful outcomes and quality of life for autistic individuals with an overall focus on how the field can enhance its support of our clients and their families. Her talk with discuss meaningful outcomes beyond acquisition of skills and decreasing behaviors of excess and will provide her perspective on these topics as an autistic individual who works in the field of ABA. The constructional approach may offer some value to practices and procedures for producing meaningful outcomes in the lives of clients with its focus on building repertoires. Dr. Cody Morris will present "The Constructional Approach to Challenging & Disruptive Behaviors" in which he will apply the constructional approach to the assessment and treatment of challenging behaviors.

Social validity is imperative to meaningful outcomes with the clients and families we serve. Dr. Peter Gerhardt will present on the topic of social validity with a specific focus on community-based instruction. In his presentation "Evidence-Based Instruction in the Community: Overview and Recommendations," he will discuss community-based instruction including supporting research, challenges with its implementation, and considerations for developing socially valid, community-based procedures.

Culturally responsive ABA practice also continues to be a vital topic for our field and the clients and families that we serve. The outcomes of ABA procedures with multilingual clients and families are impacted considerably by the extent to which practitioners leverage culturally responsive practices. In this vein, Dr. Mirela Cengher will present "Multiple Languages, One Learner: Strategies for Teaching Bilingual Repertoires to Children with Developmental Disabilities." In her presentation, she will discuss bilingual instruction and how it can be effectively implemented with multilingual learners. She will highlight conceptualizations and evidence-based strategies pertaining to bilingual instruction.

We hope to see you in Austin for the 21st Annual Autism Conference in March! ❖

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

Minnesota Northland ABA

BY BROOKE ANDERSON

Mission

1 To provide a professional network and resources for behavior analysts in Minnesota.
2 Be a voice to promote the ethical and effective use of behavior analysis.
3 Be a resource for those seeking ABA services in Minnesota.
4 Organize our annual ABA conference.
5 Provide continuing education for ABA professionals.

Goals

1 Continue to attract highly qualified and knowledgeable presenters to our annual conference.
2 Find a larger venue for our annual conference to support increase demand from MN ABA professionals.
3 Disseminate important legislation and advocacy information to our members.

Leadership and Management

1 Added new board members:
a. Brooke Anderson – President
b. Jennifer Diederich – President Elect
c. Jarrod Erdmann – Administrative Director
2 2025 Annual Conference had 338 participants, compared to 310 in 2024. We had to turn away people who wanted to attend due to capacity of our venue.
3 Annual dues correspond to the registration cost of our annual conference. Anyone who attends the annual conference is considered a member.

Future Goals (upcoming year)

1 Revise bylaws and articles of incorporation to be clearer and more concise.
2 Identify additional membership benefits outside of our annual conference.
3 Create a pathway for individuals to become members without attending the annual conference.
4 Identify a larger venue for our 2026 annual conference so we have space for everyone who would like to attend.

Opportunities for Engagement

Website: www.mnaba.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/MNorthlandABA/
Instagram: www.instagram.com/mnorthlandaba/

Missouri ABA

BY NATALIE PARKS AND ALISON 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 Brandon May (president-elect) and Meara Schaefer (student representative-elect) to the board. Returning board members including Miin-An Hošić (secretary), Sadiqa Reza (member-at-large), John Guercio (member-at-large), Madison Nieuwenhuizen (student representative), Andresa De Souza (treasurer), Natalie Parks (president), and Ali DuCharme (past-president). We extend our gratitude to Jordan Belisle (former past president) for his dedication to MOABA and his contributions to the field of behavior analysis.

MOABA had a highly productive 2025, offering valuable professional development opportunities to behavior analysts statewide. On July 9, 2025, MOABA hosted a virtual summer workshop featuring Dr. Shahla Alai-Rosaes, who presented Cooking Metaphors from an Old Chef: Clinical Expertise and Supervision in Applied Behavior Analysis. This workshop focused on evidence-based strategies for providing supervision and mentorship.

Later in the year, MOABA's annual conference took place on November 6-7, 2025, in a hybrid format, allowing attendees to participate either in person or virtually. The event featured eight speakers who presented six presentations and two workshops, covering a wide range of topics relevant to behavior analysts. Discussions addressed using organizational behavior management to improve practices, ethical considerations for AI, school principals using behavior analysis, using behavior analysis to address anxiety and larger societal issues, verbal behavior, and precision teaching.

The conference brought together a distinguished lineup of speakers, including Adam Ventura, Trina Spencer, Allice Shillingsburg, Joshua Jimison, Patrick Friman, Sarah Frampton, Anthony Bigan, and Shannon Biagi. 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. As they did last year, 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 2026 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 2026 by providing high-quality professional development, expanding diversity and inclusion efforts, and enhancing

member engagement. The 2026 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. Board members are also planning to begin offering a spring hiring event paired with RBT continuing education credits to begin in 2027.

MOABA remains dedicated to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) by ensuring diverse representation in speaker selection and presentation topics. In preparation for the 2025 Annual Conference, to ensure speaker selection was focused both on research and a wide range of topics and speakers, we engaged in identifying the qualities of a great presentation and then rated presenters according to our identified variables. Speakers were then selected based on more objective and inclusive scoring. Looking forward to the 2026 conference, the board is opening a call for submissions in hopes speakers of all levels and years of experience will submit, making this an even more equitable event.

The Student Poster Session and Contest will return at the 2026 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 2026, 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 TIEFENTAHLER

In 2025, the Montana Association for Behavior Analysis (MTABA) celebrated our 12th year as an organization and almost an entirely new executive committee.

At our annual chapter meeting, MTABA congratulated Tonya Blaney and Lisa Jones Park for completing three successful years on the board. Tonya, we will miss your high-quality one liners and top-tier organization for our annual conferences. And Lisa, thank you for your advocacy for rural communities and keeping our snack tables filled.

At our annual chapter meeting, we also welcomed Hope Deschamps (2025–2028), Ashley Campbell (2025–2028), Kim Beaner (2025–2028), and Jesseca Collins (2025–2028) into their roles as Members-at-Large and JoLynn Blakely into her new role as treasurer (2025–2026). We look forward to continuing to support students and professionals in the field of behavior analysis in Montana through advanced educational opportunities.

This year, MTABA hosted our 10th Annual MTABA Conference with Drs. Linda LeBlanc, Mary Jane Weiss, and Jim Carr in Great Falls, MT. Dr. LeBlanc gave a workshop on providing high quality clinical supervision and an in-depth look at outcome measures for EIBI. Mary Jane Weiss advanced our understanding of compassionate care, collaboration, and ethical decision making in the context of clinical practice. And finally, Dr. Jim Carr gave our members an update from the BACB and its related ABA's sub-specialties. We thoroughly enjoyed the quality and charisma of these presenters and thank them for sharing their expertise with us. We hope they will join us again sometime!

In addition to the annual conference, MTABA's held three free CEU events: one on suicide prevention, one on Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA), and one on anxiety, mental disorders, etc. First, Dr. Melissa Neff and Traci Shinabarger spoke about the signs and symptoms of PDA, behavioral symptomology and criteria, and some potential treatment strategies from the perspective of an ABA practitioner and multidisciplinary collaboration. Secondly, Karl Rosston provided our members with a free, one-hour suicide prevention training to help our members maintain compliance with our state licensure regulations. And lastly, Pat Friman spoke on Anxiety: A Behavioral Approach, metaphysical sources of reinforcement and punishment, adolescence and other temporary mental disorders, and conflict resolution.

MTABA also remained active in their efforts to improve access to ABA services across Montana. MTABA was awarded an educational grant through the state of Montana's Developmental Disabilities Program to expand ABA services to our state's rural areas by providing tuition assistance of $3k to three individuals. MTABA also developed plans to acquire a business, Microsoft TEAMS subscription to provide a secure, centralized hub for board and membership communications, document collaboration and security, file storage, and video conferencing capabilities.

The Montana Association for Behavior Analysis (MTABA) has accomplished a lot in the past year. We look forward to supporting our members into the future.

Nebraska ABA

BY RYAN JONES

As of February 24, 2026, Nebraska has 18 active BCaBAs,

339 active BCBAs, and 40 active BCBA-Ds, with licensure requirements from 2024 still required without amendment or change to the licensure requirements. Our annual conference was held in Omaha on March 27-28, 2025. Workshops were led by Dr. Timothy Hackenberg, Dr. Francesca degli Espinosa, and Dr. Alice Shillingsburg. Topics covered a variety of areas, including expanding communication repertoires, use of token economy systems, and generalized intraverbal tacting, among other areas. While we have offered free CEU opportunities through a virtual speaker series, this has been more sporadic than in prior years due to scheduling constraints and lower rates of participation.

Following the 2025 conference, Alex Nielsen served as Immediate Past President, Ryan Jones served as President, Briana Lucke was elected as Vice President, Steve Taylor served as Treasurer, Todd Owen was elected Secretary, and Guangyi Lim was elected Student Representative.

Nebraska faced restrictive cuts to reimbursement rates in August 2025. This essentially cut the reimbursement rates for ABA services in half and has been a contributing factor for some companies no longer accepting Medicaid funding and has likely contributed to declining growth rate in the state. Legislature has been proposed at the state level without consultation with NEABA that would result in further cuts at the state level, with NEABA formally opposing this proposed legislation (LB 911) and formal outcome of this matter pending at the time of writing this report.

Looking ahead, we will continue to monitor developments related to funding sources and rates and continue to inform members and the public of situations of this nature as they arise. We will continue to work to increase awareness and access to behavior analytic literature and resources. We will also work to develop and provide PDUs for RBTs in accordance with the 2026 changes. Finally, we will continue to enhance our efforts related to diversity, equity and inclusion as it pertains to behavior analysis in the state.

Individuals interested in becoming members of NEABA can visit our website at **www.nebraskaaba.com** or email us at **nebraskaaba@gmail.com**.

Nevada ABA

BY GWEN JOHNSON

NABA has continued to work on key initiatives that were put in place by the previous board 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 and credential). NABA will be reviewing bylaws and revising as deemed necessary in 2026. Another main initiative is the continued recruitment of organizations and their Registered Behavior Technicians. NABA hopes to increase involvement with our newer colleagues into the field both for training and dissemination of our practical but to also grow mentorship and encourage newer members of our field into leadership positions.

NABA continues to take an active role in matters of public policy that impact behavior analysts in our state. During the 2024 session, the public policy committee worked to educate members on several bills impacting practice and our profession. These included an attempt to combine individual autonomous boards under larger combined boards. This would have reduced the representation of behavior analysts, as well as muddy licensing rules and regulations given the unique needs of each professional board vying to have their needs met. Public policy testified in opposition to a proposed bill which would have reduced critical background rules, risking consumer safety. Finally, public policy worked in collaboration with authors of a bill promoting applied behavior analysis services by private providers to be required to be delivered in our public schools. NABA offered concerns and alternative solutions to the language of the bill, ultimately not being able to support the final version. 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 2027 session.

NABA's Outreach Committee has continued to prioritize offering learning opportunities throughout the year. In 2025, Outreach organized monthly 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. Outreach virtual events continue to be very successful at drawing participants from Nevada as well as surrounding states.

The Practice Committee continued 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 Registered Behavior Technicians, newly licensed Board Certified Behavior Analysts and Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts in the state, who are not yet in need of CEUs but who are often in need of guidance and informal supports from veteran practitioners who can offer a wide array of practical knowledge and wisdom.

The NABA Board, in reviewing the Outreach and Practice committee's goals and initiatives, found many shared goals and objectives. Paired with challenges in sustaining volunteers to lead both committees, the

board voted to combine these two committees. The vote passed unanimously.

NABA held an outstanding single-track conference in October 2025, which featured a line-up of renowned speakers across four domains: basic, applied, theory, and organizational behavior management (OBM). The conference was held at MEET in downtown Las Vegas and was well attended, allowing NABA to continue to operate with financial stability. Our 2026 conference will be held at the Whitney Peak Hotel in downtown Reno, in October 2026, with another outstanding speaker lineup. Given the equitable success, attendance and fiscal revenue, NABA aims to continue the bi-annual north and south locations to support and engage practitioners from all regions of our state. We are working to identify a multi-year contract with a venue in Las Vegas similar to our contract with the Whitney Peak in Reno. We have engaged with Behavior Live, a third party vendor, to maintain our hybrid conference, allowing attendees from out of state to attend virtually, obtain CEUs, and hopefully generate additional revenue for NABA.

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

President	**Gwen Dwiggins**, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA
President-Elect	**Matthew Sosa**, M.A., BCBA, LBA
Past President	**Steven Anbro**, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Treasurer	**Veronica Smith**, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA
Treasurer-Elect	**Jennifer Woodie**, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA
Secretary	**Kathleen Soyka**, M.A., BCBA, LBA
Secretary-Elect	**Donna West**, M.S.
At-Large Representative	**Reynafe Aniga**, M.Ed, BCBA, LBA
At-Large Representative-Elect	**Mariela Castro-Hostetler**, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA
Student Representative	**Finley Aavatsmark**, MA
Student Representative-Elect	**Hayden Claiborne**, B.A.
NABA Committee Chairs	**Gwen Johnson**, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA (Public Policy)
	Laurie Tarter, Psy.D., BCBA, LBA (Practice and Outreach)

For more information on NABA

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

New Hampshire ABA

BY SABRINA RANDO, MEGHAN VANNOSTRAND, AND COLLEEN BURNHAM

2025 was a year of growth and opportunity for NHABA, and 2026 is shaping up for even more. The energy and commitment of our community of behavior analysts and frontline support professionals are 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.

2025 Conference Highlights

The 2025 annual conference, held in Plymouth, New Hampshire, was a resounding success. With over 200 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. Gregory Hanley, PhD, BCBA-D, LABA
- Jeron Trotman, MS, BCBA, IBA
- Dr. Sabrina Rando, EdD, BCBA, LABA, IBA
- Sarah Ferreira, MS, BCBA
  - Carrie Cote, RBT
  - Jaden Turner, RBT
  - Kira Barrows, RBT

Dr. Hanley's presentation was an impactful reminder of the importance of assent, communication between client and service provider, and the need for compassionate assessment and treatment of problem behavior across settings. Jeron Trotman presented an interactive, engaging, and challenging workshop on diversity, equity, and inclusion in ABA. Attendees engaged with each other and with their beliefs and practices in a safe and welcoming environment. Dr. Rando's presentation challenged practitioners to apply a sociological lens to their supervisory relationships and provided practical strategies to adapt the traditional supervision approach to meet the unique needs of Gen Z supervisees. And finally, Sarah Ferreira, joined by a panel of RBTs, gave supervisors a look into the experiences of those who they train and support. Supervisors learned what works and what doesn't, directly from those who know best.

This conference marked a significant evolution in NHABA's approach to professional development. For the first time, we welcomed direct support professionals to be part of the continuing education experience for BCBAs and other professionals. We believe this simple addition to our annual conference will pave the way for RBTs to be an active part of the improvement of behavior analytic training and service delivery, and will lead to NHABA

being a trusted provider of RBT Professional Development Units (PDUs) in the near future.

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: 2026 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 and Successes

In July 2025, NHABA answered one of the most challenging advocacy calls to date. With little notice, NH DHHS announced that the services covered under CPT code 97155 would no longer be covered for any Medicaid beneficiary. The rationale was based on a misunderstanding of the difference between the medically necessary services in the code and the administrative tasks typically known as "supervision." Due to the connections built throughout 2024 with payers and DHHS leaders, NHABA was able to respond swiftly and with the backing of providers across the state. Providers welcomed representatives from DHHS to visit clinics to see the services that would be at risk with this change, and to educate DHHS leaders on the importance of the clinical direction included in 97155. As a result of the cooperation, education, and mutual respect between DHHS and NHABA, the decision to remove 97155 from the Medicaid fee schedule was reversed, protecting access to this critical service.

NHABA is increasing its involvement in state-level advocacy once again 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. Our Public Policy Committee is active and meeting monthly to engage providers and other stakeholders in conversations to protect services.

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: 2026 Conference

Mark your calendars for September 18th, 2026, for our annual conference in Portsmouth, NH. Our speaker lineup will include Dr. Pat Friman, who will deliver talks on topics that are unique and have been requested by our membership.

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 two new board members this year: a new President-Elect and our first Frontline Support Professional Representative. This combination of voices and experiences is helping us 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 2026 conference on September 18th in Portsmouth
- Consider nominating yourself or a colleague for Board positions when announced
- 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 FRANCES PERRIN

Core Identity & Objectives

The New Jersey Association for Behavior Analysis (NJABA) is committed to advancing the science and ethical practice of behavior analysis throughout New Jersey. Our mission is to support behavior analysts, students, technicians, and allied professionals through high-quality continuing education, professional networking, advocacy, and community engagement.

NJABA's primary goals include:

1 Expanding professional development (PDUs) and conference offerings, including a newly formatted annual conference with an RBT-focused mentorship track.
2 Expanding membership tiers, including the introduction of a Supporting (voting) membership category.
3 Strengthening advocacy and statewide engagement across service delivery settings.

Key Accomplishments (Past Year)

This year, NJABA successfully hosted a multi-event Speaker Series, with increasing attendance and strong engagement across practitioners and students. Planning is well underway for the 2026 Annual Conference at The Palace (June 25–26, 2026), featuring nationally recognized keynote speakers Pat Friman, Mary Jane Weiss, and Robert LaRue, along with an expanded RBT-focused mentorship track.

NJABA also continued its tradition of recognizing professional excellence through the Distinguished Member Award, honoring individuals who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to the science, practice, mentorship, and advancement of behavior analysis within New Jersey.

Financially, NJABA remains stable and well-positioned for growth, concluding 2025 with total assets nearing $100,000. NJABA ended 2025 with just under 1,000 members in good standing, reflecting sustained statewide engagement.

Leadership & Membership

NJABA maintained an active and engaged Executive Board this year, with continued leadership across events, membership, communications, government affairs, continuing education, university programs, and service delivery.

Member Benefits

- Discounted conference registration
- Access to ACE-approved continuing education events
- Networking opportunities and job postings
- Advocacy representation within New Jersey

How to Join

Visit **njaba.org**, select the appropriate membership category, and complete the online registration process.

Annual Dues

- Supporting Member (voting): $125
- Full Member (voting): $60 per year or $55 recurring
- Affiliate Member (non-voting): $60 per year or $55 recurring
- Student Member: Free
- Behavior Technician Member: Free

Challenges & Adaptations

Membership retention remains a priority. Board discussions focused on strategies to re-engage BCBAs, RBTs, and students statewide, including renewal campaigns and exploration of membership workgroups to strengthen connection and value.

Future Goals (Upcoming Year)

Looking ahead, NJABA will:

- Launch targeted membership recruitment and renewal initiatives.
- Expand student and RBT engagement opportunities.
- Continue strengthening fiscal management and sponsorship development.

Opportunities for Engagement

Members can participate by presenting at conferences, volunteering on committees, contributing to advocacy efforts, nominating colleagues for the Distinguished Member Award, or attending CE events.

NJABA looks forward to continuing its work in advancing behavior analysis across New Jersey and strengthening its connection with the broader ABAI community.

Learn more or join: **njaba.org**
Instagram: **www.instagram.com/nj_aba**

New York State ABA

BY NOOR SYED

Core Identity & Objectives

The New York State Association for Behavior Analysis (NYSABA) is committed to advancing the science and practice of behavior analysis across New York State through education, advocacy, and community-building. Guided by our mission and strategic plan, NYSABA works to elevate ethical, inclusive, and accessible behavior analytic services while supporting professionals, students, technicians, families, and advocates.

Our primary goals this year included:

- strengthening equity and access across NYSABA programming,

- expanding member engagement and infrastructure, and
- amplifying our collective voice in policy and legislative spaces.

Leadership & Membership

NYSABA continued to evolve organizationally this year, with refinements to board operations, meeting structures, and electronic membership voting capabilities to improve transparency and responsiveness. We also advanced several proposed membership changes to broaden inclusion—most notably expanding rights for affiliate and consumer members, including voting and leadership eligibility.

Members benefit from robust professional development opportunities, advocacy efforts at the state level, and increased access to hybrid and asynchronous learning. NYSABA welcomes behavior analysts, students, behavior technicians, educators, families, and allied professionals. Membership and dues information is available on our website.

Key Accomplishments (Past Year)

A major highlight was NYSABA's 36th Annual Conference in Albany, which reflected our ongoing commitment to equity and innovation. New offerings included hybrid and asynchronous access, free professional headshots, a designated quiet space, and expanded DEIA scholarships. Conference programming intentionally elevated diverse voices across research, practice, advocacy, and lived experience, including a keynote panel centered on neuro-affirming perspectives from parents, professionals, and self-advocates.

Beyond the conference, NYSABA's committees made meaningful impact. The Public Policy Committee worked tirelessly to oppose Medicaid cuts, advocate within the legislature, expand scope of practice, and advance additional pathways to licensure in New York. Education, Marketing, Student & Behavior Technician, DEIA, and Membership Committees all contributed to member engagement, vetting of educational content, and organizational growth.

Challenges & Adaptations

Like many professional organizations, NYSABA navigated challenges related to infrastructure, revenue diversification, and evolving member needs within a rapidly changing field. These challenges reinforced the importance of listening closely to members and adapting with intentionality.

Future Goals (Upcoming Year)

Looking ahead, NYSABA will pilot regional conferences and events across New York State, launch organizational membership in 2026, and continue embedding equity into all programming. We also aim to deepen member engagement through feedback, open board meetings, and expanded leadership opportunities.

Opportunities for Engagement

Members are encouraged to vote, attend events, respond to surveys, and get involved in committees or leadership—at whatever level works best for them. Learn more at **www.nysaba.org** or contact us at **info@nysaba.org**.

North Carolina ABA

BY SARAH POPE

The North Carolina Association for Behavior Analysis held its 37th annual conference in person from February 18 - February 20, 2026. The conference was a great success thanks to the leadership of Jacqueline Hamilton, President (Easter Seals PORT Health), as well as the rest of our Executive Council including Haja Jallow, Past President (Caring Hearts Behavioral Services LLC); Tosha Owens, President Elect (East Carolina University); Lauren Broadwell, Vice President (Kind Behavioral Health); Han-Leong Goh, Secretary (Magical Moments ABA); Nancy Poteet, Treasurer (Private Consultant); Amanda Moralez, Member-at-Large (Mosaic Pediatric Therapy); Amanda Randall, Member-at-Large (Aces for Autism), Alexis Taylor, Student Representative (Mosaic Pediatric Therapy), Jamie Clary, Publications Editor (Riddle Developmental Center); Fred Spooner, Senior NCABA Advisor (University of North Carolina Charlotte); Leigh Ann Strain, NCABA Advisor (Discovery ABA); 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); Anna Tillery, NCPA Coordinator (Worry Free Psychology), 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 Reflection to Affirmation: Evaluating Assent to Build an Ethical & Neuro-Affirming ABA (Charlotte Watts, Cindy Andree-Bowen, Jack Gulley, and Jennifer Storrs-Spencer) and FCT: From Assessment to Implementation (Joel Ringdahl).

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

- When Values Drift: Why Good Intentions Aren't Enough (Shanun Kunnavatana)
- FCT: Additional Considerations (Joel Ringdahl)

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

- Measuring Medication Impact Through Diverse Lenses (Alison Cox)
- Resources for Marginalized Autistic Communities and the Role of Behavioral Health Providers within Current Events (Amanda Rissmeyer, Charlotte Watts, and Seph Bartholomew)

- Move More, Sit Less, and Build Strength: Using ABA to Improve Health and Wellness (Nicholas Green)
- Beyond Autism, Beyond Silence: Advocating for ABA (Christine Evanko)

The third day of our conference began with three concurrent presentations. These presentations were then followed by invited presentations covering the following topics:

- Effects of Declarative Language and an Indirect Reward System on Participation in Adult-Selected Activities in an Autistic Child with Features of Pathological Demand Avoidance (Lizzy Donovan and Becky Payton)
- From Ethics Codes to Clinical Decisions: Training EBP Decision Making in ABA (Audrey Hoffman)
- Measuring what matters: Assessment approaches to monitor the behavioural impact of psychotropic medication in individuals with intellectual and developmental disability (Alison Cox)

These invited presentations were followed by workshops on Measuring what matters: *Assessment approaches to monitor the behavioural impact of psychotropic medication in individuals with intellectual and developmental disability* (Alison Cox) and *The Gift of Conflict: Turning Tension into Curiosity and Alignment* (Shanun Kunnavatana).

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 20 BACB credits were available to participants (inclusive of 6 ethics credits and 2 supervision credits) as well as up to 20 NCPA credits.

A total of 801 registrants participated in the 2026 conference. This was an increase of 79 additional participants as compared to our 2025 conference which included 722 registrants. NCABA was thrilled with the high level of participation and attendance.

At the opening of the conference, Jacqueline Hamilton welcomed all participants. Awards were given to several very deserving individuals during the opening remarks. Ted Giordano (ABC of North Carolina) received the Technical Utilization Award and Naveah Harris (East Carolina University) received the Student Scholarship Award.

The NCABA Student Representative, Alexis Taylor (Mosaic Pediatric Therapy), organized an excellent student symposium for this year's conference, including presentations by Kendalee Marcus (UNC Charlotte), Cheri Vandermey Rubio (UNC Charlotte), Nevaeh Harris (ECU) and Victoria Omekenge (ECU). \

We hosted a poster presentation with the following posters winning in their respective categories:
Graduate Winner— Kailey Galloway-Mays, et al: *Implementation of a Modified Picture Exchange Communication System Protocol With an Infused Speech-Generated Device*
Professional Winner— Sean Yocum, et al: *G.A.I.N. Protocol: Fostering Caregiver Confidence & Competence for Successful ABA Discharge*

This year's annual business meeting was well attended. The Board welcomes Leigh Ann Strain (Discovery ABA) in the position of Vice President, Jane Carlson (Northeastern University Charlotte) in the position of Member at Large, and Sydney Calcaterra (Kind Behavioral Health) in the position of Student Representative. Han-Leong Goh (Magical Moments ABA) was re-elected for the position of Secretary.

Deserving a special thank you and acknowledgement are Jamie Clary, Ruth Hurst, Fred Spooner, Duke Schell, Sarah Pope and Anna Tillery 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, Anna Tillery services as our NCPA Coordinator, and Fred Spooner and Duke Schell serve as Senior NCABA Board Advisors. We want to sincerely thank out-going board members Haja Jallow (Past President) and Amanda Randall (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** 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 38th annual conference to be held next February 17–19, 2027 in Wilmington, NC.

North Dakota ABA

BY CRISTINE DEAVER

The North Dakota Association for Behavior Analysis (ND ABA) is currently made up of 112 full members, 13 affiliate members, and 26 student members.

For the past two years, ND ABA has partnered with World Behavior Analysis Day. In 2026, World Behavior Analysis Day was celebrated during the week of March 14–20, 2026. As part of our efforts, a couple board members collaborated with a local television station to highlight the impact of ABA in North Dakota; this segment aired in March 2026.

At the 2025 ND ABA Annual Conference, the Association recognized an individual for outstanding contributions to the dissemination of behavior analysis within the state. Holly Johnson was honored for her exceptional advocacy and dissemination efforts in North Dakota. Her work has included testimony before the North Dakota Legislature and played a critical role in securing

licensure for behavior analysts, student loan forgiveness for behavior analysts, and Medicaid reimbursement of behavior analytic services.

The 2026 Annual Conference was held in Bismarck, ND on April 20 - 21, 2026. Invited presenters included Dr. Tyra Sellers and Dr. Nicholas Green. Dr. Sellers presented on *Ethics in Action: Professional Responsibility and Ethical Obligation in ABA Practice – Why Professional Code of Ethics are Necessary AND Insufficient*. Dr. Nick Green delivered two presentations: *Movement is Behavior: Applying ABA to Build Strength, Reduce Sitting and Improve Health and Fitness* and *Beyond Spreadsheets: Building Analytics and Dashboards that Support ABA Organizations*. A total of 12 continuing education units were available to attendees.

The ND ABA Executive Board is made up of Cristine Deaver, President; Jackie Loepp, Vice President; Allison (Alee) Smith, Secretary; Suzanne Carroll, Treasurer; and Members-at-Large Dr. Jordan Lill, Taylor Hill, and Hannah Johnson. Elections for three board positions—Vice-President, Secretary, and one Member-at-Large—were held in 2026.

The Conference Planning Committee is chaired by Cristine Deaver, Jackie Loepp, Allison (Alee) Smith, Dr. Jordan Lill, Suzanne Carroll, Taylor Hill, and Hannah Johnson. The Legislative Workgroup is chaired by Cristine Deaver and Dr. Jordan Lill.

Ohio ABA

BY JULIANA CARRUS

The Ohio Association for Behavior Analysis (OHABA) is currently focused on strengthening the growth and sustainability of applied behavior analysis across Ohio through professional collaboration, continuing education, and legislative advocacy. With a membership of more than 300 professionals, the organization continues to expand its role in supporting practitioners and consumers of ABA services.

On March 12th and 13th of 2025, 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 Barbara Esch, PhD, who spoke on Vocal Language and Applied Behavior Analysis, and Denisha Gingles, who presented on Compassionate Support for Caregivers.

OHABA remains active in policy discussions and works to monitor and advocate for legislative changes that align with our mission by facilitating communication between stakeholders and policymakers. Public Policy Chair Emily Karhoff recently represented OHABA at the Ohio Statehouse regarding House Bill 453, proposed legislation addressing insurance and Medicaid coverage for autism therapy, specifically ABA. The bill aims to update regulations to expand coverage for treatment and allow qualified technicians to practice. OHABA remains focused on improving access to high-quality ABA services across Ohio.

The organization also continues to grow its professional community through expanded continuing education opportunities, regional networking events, and its annual conference, while promoting ethical practice, research dissemination, and leadership development among behavior analysts throughout the state.

Individuals interested in joining OHABA, can find a membership form on our website at **www.ohaba.org**.

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

Please find us online at **www.ohaba.org**
Instagram at **ohio_behavioranalysis**
Facebook at **The Ohio Association for Behavior Analysis**

Oklahoma ABA

BY SYDNEY LAFLEUR

The Oklahoma Association for Behavior Analysis (OKABA) has had a year of meaningful growth, strategic advocacy, and increased member engagement. Our primary focus this past year has been advancing licensure efforts within the state. As the demand for high-quality behavior-analytic services continues to grow, we have worked diligently with stakeholders to support legislation that protects consumers while strengthening the professional standing of behavior analysts in Oklahoma. Advocacy remains a top priority, and we are committed to keeping our members informed and involved as licensure efforts continue to evolve.

This year also marked a significant step forward in modernizing our infrastructure. OKABA launched a new website designed to streamline membership management, improve communication, and provide easier access to resources. Members can now join, renew, register for events, and stay updated on legislative developments through a more user-friendly platform. This investment reflects our commitment to transparency, accessibility, and long-term sustainability as a chapter.

Our annual state conference continued its strong upward trajectory. Attendance increased, sponsorship expanded, and we were proud to showcase high-quality clinical, ethical, and research-focused presentations from professionals across Oklahoma and beyond. The enthusiasm and collaboration at this year's event reinforced the strength of our behavior-analytic community. In response to continued growth and demand, we are excited to announce that beginning in 2026, the OKABA State Conference will expand to a two-day event. This expansion will allow for additional CE opportunities, more diverse content tracks, and increased networking time for professionals at all stages of their careers.

Looking ahead, OKABA plans to continue strengthening advocacy efforts, expanding professional

development opportunities, and increasing student involvement across the state. We are particularly focused on cultivating leadership pathways for emerging professionals and enhancing collaboration among service providers, universities, and policymakers.

We invite ABAI members in Oklahoma who are not yet involved to join OKABA and contribute to shaping the future of behavior analysis in our state. Membership offers access to advocacy updates, discounted conference registration, networking opportunities, and the ability to directly influence legislative and professional initiatives.

We are grateful for the dedication of our members and look forward to another year of growth and impact.

Pennsylvania ABA

BY JIM 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

In March of 2025, PennABA held a full-day, Spring conference in Lancaster, PA. During the conference, PennABA was able to offer six CE credits for BCBAs and licensed psychologists, including CEs on ethics and supervision.

PennABA recently conducted elections for various leadership positions, and elected members began serving in their new positions in January of 2026. Please join me in welcoming our newest Leadership Council members:

President	**Kimberly A. Schreck**, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Member-at-Large (West)	**Lacey R. Bailey**, M.A., BCBA
Member-at-Large (East)	**Heather Richards**, M.A., BCBA
Student Representative	**Julianna Brensan**

The following individuals will remain on PennABA's Executive Council:

Executive Director	**Jonathan W. Ivy**, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Financial Officer	**Keith E. Williams**, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Conference Manager	**Nicole Mastromatto**, M.A., BCBA

PennABA continues to offer free virtual continuing education sessions to its members. Current objectives include surveying the membership and collecting feedback to improve the organization and prioritizing future initiatives.

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 A. O'DONNELL

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 listserv provides announcements on local PMABA events including workshops, conferences, expert speaker events as well as employment opportunities and recent legislative or advocacy issues relevant to local behavior analysts. The PMABA chapter seeks to better serve as a scientific and professional reference and networking group for its members.

This past year we had two events: a board meeting and a meeting of the black scorpion society.

Though Black Scorpion Society meetings, originally facilitated by Dr. Phil Hineline, have slowed some since the pandemic, our goal is to continue Black Scorpion meetings in the upcoming year. These events are typically student-lead and 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! A discussant selects an article aimed to satisfy our cravings for fun and intellectual conceptual debates and discussions and leads a discussion designed for collaborative input. Former discussant leaders have included Dr. Phil Hineline, Dr. Don Hantula, Dr. Saul Axelrod, and Dr. Scott O'Donnell 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 most recent topic was on behavior analytic views of freedom and free will in preparation for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

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, Tess Fructman MA, BCBA, LBS, LBA student representative. This year, we were fortunate to add Naa Garrido, who volunteered as event coordinator.

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 has a board meeting planned for March of 2026, where we will be discussing and planning more events for the year 2026.

PMABA (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 may hold a membership drive depending on the attendance to the events, 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 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 ETHEL RIOS ARROYO

The Puerto Rico Association for Behavior Analysis (PRABA) was founded to promote the dissemination of behavior analytic research and evidence-based practices throughout Puerto Rico, support the development of a strong and connected professional community, and expand access to behavior analytic services. As part of this effort, PRABA engages in public policy initiatives, including advocating for the licensure of behavior analysts and broader insurance coverage for applied behavior analysis (ABA). The organization also functions as a scientific, ethical, and professional resource while providing networking opportunities for its members.

On July 22, 2022, PRABA was recognized as an official affiliate chapter of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI), followed by its first annual conference on July 23–24, 2022. Proceeds from this inaugural event enabled PRABA to formally establish itself as a nonprofit organization, introduce its membership structure and associated benefits, host professional development and community-building events, and begin preparations for its 2024 biannual conference.

In 2025, PRABA continued advancing its mission by collaborating with the Special Education Division of Puerto Rico's Department of Education to strengthen ABA as a related service under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The organization also disseminated ABA through its social media platforms and hosted informational sessions on pathways to credentialing in behavior analysis. PRABA remained actively engaged in public policy efforts to advocate for the development of licensure for behavior analysts in Puerto Rico and advancing the recognition of ABA professionals as essential healthcare providers—an essential step toward improving access to ABA services. While progress is ongoing, PRABA continues to participate in key discussions to advance this goal. PRABA met with representatives from the Puerto Rico Department of Health to collaborate on drafting legislative proposals aimed at establishing licensure for behavior analysts in Puerto Rico. We have also sought meetings with legislators to advocate for the recognition of behavior analysts as healthcare providers and to emphasize the importance of licensure in expanding access to care.

This year, PRABA also launched a new membership campaign and conducted elections for its new board of directors. In June 2025, PRABA hosted a two-day continuing education event led by Miguel Ávila, BCBA, focused on foundational training in Essentials for Living. Looking ahead, PRABA will host its next biannual conference on March 19–21, 2027, featuring pre-conference workshops on March 19, followed by two full days of conference programming on March 20–21.

Rhode Island ABA

BY CODY MORRIS

RI-ABA has continued growing its annual in-person conference. The third annual RI-ABA conference was held on Salve Regina University's campus on March 22nd, 2025. The conference included four invited speakers and a poster session.

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 42nd annual SEABA conference will be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, October 22–24, 2026. More information, registration, and CEU pre-purchase are available at **www.seabaorg.com**.

South Carolina ABA

BY JACQUELINE WILLIAMS

South Carolina ABA (SCABA) 2025 accomplished several key objectives throughout the year. The organization implemented new initiatives to improve industry standards, fostered collaboration among stakeholders, and hosted a successful annual conference that brought together experts and innovators. SCABA 2025 also devoted significant efforts to legislative and advocacy work, championing policy reforms and engaging with government bodies to advance important industry issues. Additionally, the organization focused on expanding educational resources and supporting research projects that contributed to advancements in their field. These achievements positioned SCABA as a leader and set the stage for continued progress in the years ahead.

Tennessee ABA

BY DANIELLE BUSE AND ALEXIS WITKIN

As an affiliate chapter of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, the Tennessee Association for Behavior Analysis is pleased to share updates with readers of Inside Behavior Analysis regarding our accomplishments over the past year and our continued growth across the state.

2025 was defined by strategic progress in strengthening our infrastructure and expanding engagement. We began the process of bylaw revisions to ensure balanced regional representation, reinforcing our commitment to inclusive leadership and statewide collaboration. We also welcomed Alexis Witkin as Director of Operations, enhancing administrative systems and supporting long-term sustainability. To further advance our public policy efforts, we engaged registered lobbyist Allie Jones from Capitol and 5th Public Strategies to represent the interests of behavior analysts and the communities we serve in legislative discussions.

Membership growth was a notable success. Over the previous two years, TABA welcomed more than 200 new professional and student members, reflecting increasing interest in behavior analysis throughout Tennessee. We streamlined communications by focusing our social media presence on Instagram, which allowed for more consistent outreach and member engagement.

Practice and research in Tennessee continued to

expand across settings. Schools implemented positive behavior supports, functional behavior assessments, and data driven systems to address discipline, tiered supports, and disproportionality. Clinical providers broadened access to early intervention, social skills groups, and parent coaching, with increased emphasis on naturalistic and person-centered care. Research efforts extended beyond autism services to include mental health, trauma informed care, and organizational behavior management, demonstrating the breadth and adaptability of our science.

Our 2025 annual conference remained a cornerstone of professional development and connection. Invited speakers included Jennifer Austin on effective school-based practice, Cody Morris on private equity and client involvement in therapeutic decision making, and Portia James on building inclusive and mission aligned organizations. In addition to the conference, TABA offered quarterly webinars that provided accessible continuing education and timely discussion of emerging issues.

As we moved forward, our priorities included expanding advocacy, strengthening student involvement, and increasing regional networking opportunities. We continued to invite ABAI members in Tennessee and neighboring states to join TABA. Membership provided continuing education, leadership development, advocacy updates, networking opportunities, and reduced conference registration rates. Together, we remained committed to advancing the science and practice of behavior analysis in Tennessee.

Texas ABA

BY RACHEL KRAMER

TxABA Mission and Strategic Plan

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. We remain focused on our Strategic Plan long-term goals while monitoring progress on short-term goals set to achieve between 2023–2026. For more information on TxABA, including our Strategic Plan & Short-Term Goal Update, please visit **www.txaba.org/about/**.

TxABA Values

In 2025, TxABA's Executive Council developed five core values with committee and membership input, which were approved by Voting Members: Integrity (over-arching), Trustworthy, Collaborative, Accountable, and Inclusive.

TxABA Membership

Membership lasts 365 days from the date of purchase. Voting/affiliate membership is $60, student/RBT membership is $30. Benefits include discounted conference and workshop registrations, free TxABA Speaker Series webinars with CEUs, and committee and SIG participation. Voting members, who meet requirements, may be nominated for Executive Council. Membership has remained stable, and efforts continue to engage more BCBAs across Texas.

TxABA Executive Council

The 2025–2026 Executive Council included President Dr. Berenice de la Cruz, Past-President Jeffrey Dillen, Council Members Dr. Janet Sanchez Enriquez, Dr. Morgan Nichols, Dr. Samantha Bergmann, and Elyana Martinez, Senior Student Representative Cha Yong Patterson, Junior Student Representative Aaron Sanchez (non-voting), Executive Director Rachel Kramer (non-voting), and Secretary-Treasurer Jennifer Hines (non-voting). The Council met in July to review strategic progress, finalize values, and set the annual budget. Meetings continue monthly to oversee committees' progress, approve SIGs, monitor events, and discuss current issues.

TxABA Annual Conference and Awards

The 41st Annual Conference was held April 9–12, 2026, in San Antonio, TX, as a hybrid event via BehaviorLive. Dr. Berenice de la Cruz delivered the Presidential Address on public policy advocacy. The conference featured nine tracks with invited speakers, pre-conference workshops, and introduced the TxABA Two-Step format of six five-minute presentations followed by discussions. The annual poster session was a fun event with the student poster competition. Two Kopp Memorial Scholarships were given to student members presenting at ABAI. TxABA Awards included: Dr. John Guercio (Enduring Career Contributions to Behavior Analysis), David Whitcher (Career Contributions to Behavior Analysis in Texas), Dr. Amy Wood (Public Service Contributions to Behavior Analysis in Texas), Jeffrey Dillen (Distinguished Service to TxABA), and Dr. Berenice de la Cruz (Behavior Analysis Trailblazer in Texas). The 42nd Annual Conference will be April 22–25, 2027, at Royal Sonesta Galleria, Houston, TX.

Other Activities

TxABA continued to improve governance documents and administrative processes, started a LinkedIn business page, continued the Speaker Series webinars for members, and will host a Regional Conference in El Paso, TX, on September 12, 2026.

TxABA Public Policy Group (PPG)

The TxABA PPG, a 501c6 sister organization, focuses on legislation and lobbying. Officers in 2025–2026 were President Ellen Rhoads, Past-President Mariel Cremonie-Fernandez, Treasurer Lupe Castaneda, Secretary Anna Sciarillo, and Communications Chair Michelle Castillo. In this off-legislative year, the PPG worked behind the scenes preparing for the 2027 session.

More information: **www.txabappg.org**

Vermont ABA

BY LIANNE LUSSIER

Vermont Association for Applied Behavior Analysis (VtABA), established in 2004, spent 2025 continuing previous traditions and instituting some new ventures. Our chapter's mission includes promoting the development of behavior analytic services and standards of practice within the state, as well as providing educational opportunities to its members and the general public. We currently have 105 dues-paying members, which is the largest membership since 2019.

In the first quarter, we held our Annual Meeting virtually and heard Dr. Kate Chazin speak, along with featuring two panel discussions and an article review session. We also held a social mixer, hosted by one of our state's most distinguished ABA companies, Keene Perspectives, to provide an opportunity for members to connect in person.

In quarter two, we held a hybrid conference at Capital Plaza in Montpelier where we transitioned to using the BehaviorLive platform for CEU coordination for the first time. We presented speakers that included Matt Cicoria from the Behavioral Observations Podcast, Erin Bertolli, and Dr. Lauren Allen.

In the fall, quarter three, we welcomed new board members. One of our newest board members is the parent of an individual who receives adult services for an autism spectrum diagnosis, which is new for VtABA. Previously, the board had only been composed of service providers, so this was a positive step in the direction of diversifying representation. Additionally, despite both the Chair Emeritus and Chair officers stepping down unexpectedly for personal reasons halfway through the year, we were able to fill most of the vacant positions and have maintained a strong operating force since. As we welcomed the new board members, we engaged in a strategic planning session to help shape our goals for the immediate and long-term future. The board is hopeful that the actions born from this process will provide the insight and structure necessary to sustain our relevance in the field of ABA across Vermont in the next decade.

2025 ended in quarter four with an unprecedented event in our state's behavior analytic history that drew the attention of all of our members and ABA providers throughout the state. In early November, VtABA was made aware that Vermont Medicaid was updating its coding policies beginning on January 1, 2026 to reflect more restrictive billing practices. Specifically, the changes prohibited certain codes from being billed concurrently, restricted BCaBAs from billing particular codes, removed team conferencing codes, and adjusted rates based on licensure level, among other modifications. These changes are projected to have significant impacts on the ability of Vermont ABA companies of all sizes to stay open. The results of these changes are estimated to negatively impact service delivery for hundreds of vulnerable individuals on Medicaid who are in need of support. In response, VtABA began bolstering its advocacy efforts starting with soliciting feedback in the form of surveys from individual providers and organizations across the state. Subsequently, we initiated outreach to the ABA Coding Coalition and drafted a letter to the Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP) and the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA). We supported CASP's Voter Voice campaign by disseminating information about the changes and encouraging stakeholders to submit questions and comments. Finally, as the year came to a close, we connected with the media to share the importance of this topic, including the VT Digger news outlet and the local WCAX station.

We began 2026 with a bang as these Medicaid stipulations commenced, and we continued our advocacy by having two of our board members testify about the Medicaid changes in front of the Vermont House Committee on Healthcare in early February. We amended our budget to allot for significant spending related to legal counsel as we continue to navigate the impacts of the Medicaid restrictions on our consumers. Lastly, we're looking forward to continuing our efforts by hosting a Town Hall for members and other stakeholders, and continuing our mission by providing other professional development opportunities such as conferences and webinars throughout the rest of 2026.

For more information on our chapter and what we're working on, check out the following:
Website: **www.vtaba.org**
Facebook: **VT ABA (Nonprofit)**
Instagram and Threads: **@vt_aba**

Vermont Association for Behavior Analysis
PO Box 8421
Essex Junction, VT 05451
(802) 349-9870
contact@vtaba.org

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 2025 membership cycle, we had 951 members. This was slightly below the end-of–2024 target (-24 members). We hope to reach 1,000 members in 2026! As of the date of this report, the Commonwealth of Virginia has over 4,860 licensed behavior analysts (LBA) and over 660 licensed assistant behavior analysts (LABA).

VABA is a 501 (c) (6) organization led by a Board of Directors that includes the President, Secretary, Treasurer, three Members at Large, and two student representatives.

VABA contracts with a lobbyist and has one paid contracted position, an Executive Director.

We have four goals 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 regularly monitor our strategic plan to identify better ways to serve our members and the behavior analytic community in Virginia.

This past year, our 21st annual conference was in Newport News, VA. We hosted 436 attendees, two keynote speakers, 13 breakout speakers, and 10 poster presentations. Our 2026 conference is scheduled for April 2026 in Leesburg, VA. We offer location-based special-interest groups in Central VA, Southwest, Tidewater, and Northern VA, which provide additional professional development opportunities for our members. We have active Marketing & Membership, Student Engagement, Early Career, DEI, and Public Policy Committees that help strengthen our organization and execute our strategic plan.

In 2025, we presented our second annual awards at our conference: The E. Scott Geller Award for Distinguished Service to Applied Behavior Analysis, 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, event updates, student newsletters, and a DEI-focused newsletter. This year, we introduced a "Policy in Action" Newsletter. VABA has four social media accounts, including Facebook with over 2550 followers, Instagram with over 700 followers, and LinkedIn with over 440 followers. Our website is designed to serve as a resource for anyone interested in behavior analysis in the Commonwealth and includes a public resources page, a provider directory, a DEI resources page, and a members-only resource page. This year, we updated our supervisor directory and dissemination page.

VABA Membership offers many benefits, including an annual conference, networking opportunities, newsletters, free CEU offerings, members-only resources, lobbying and policy efforts, location-based special interest groups, and discounts on a variety of outside products. This year, we plan to begin offering PDUs to our RBT members. The VABA Board of Directors works diligently to ensure we remain relevant to behavior analysts in Virginia. We meet monthly and maintain ongoing contact to deliver the benefits our members request and need. We are proud to represent behavior analysis in Virginia.

Washington ABA

BY RALPH PAMPINO JR.

The Washington Association for Behavior Analysis has spent the last year working to build a more cohesive, supported community of behavior analysts across the state. Our mission is straightforward. We want to promote the ethical research, education, and practice of behavior analysis in Washington. Over the past 12 months, our members and leadership have made significant strides in advocacy, clinical education, and community building. As we look toward the rest of 2026, there is a lot of momentum carrying us forward, particularly regarding our upcoming annual gathering this fall.

Driving Public Policy and Expanding Professional Development

Last year, WABA focused heavily on legislative advocacy and accessible professional development. Our public policy teams worked directly with state healthcare authorities to advocate for improved Medicaid reimbursement rates for applied behavior analysis services. By pushing for fair funding, we help ensure more families gain access to the clinical care they need regardless of their insurance type. On the education front, we hosted multiple virtual workshops aimed at clinical skill building and organizational development. These sessions covered essential topics ranging from compassionate care practices to building culturally humble ABA organizations. Our ongoing priority is to provide practitioners with practical, evidence-based tools they can implement directly into their daily client work.

Upcoming Initiatives and Continued Legislative Advocacy

Looking ahead through the rest of the year, WABA is prioritizing legislative engagement and broader community outreach. We plan to expand our workshop offerings to include specialized training on trauma-informed practice and assent-based models of care. The public policy committee will continue monitoring state legislation that impacts our credentialing and practice standards, making sure the voices of Washington's behavior analysts are heard in Olympia. We are also actively organizing regional networking events to give clinicians more opportunities to connect face to face outside of our major statewide functions.

Connect at the WABA 2026 Annual Conference This October

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 17, 2026. The WABA Annual Conference is our largest event of the year. It brings together clinicians, researchers, and students to share ideas and further the field of ABA in Washington state. This year, we are thrilled to bring back the Conference Poster Session. It is open to all attendees and provides an excellent platform to showcase new research, case studies, and clinical outcomes. The main event will feature a strong lineup of guest speakers discussing the latest advancements in behavior science, clinical ethics, and practice

management. Keep an eye out for the official call for posters and the full speaker schedule releasing in the coming weeks.

Elevate Your Practice by Becoming a WABA Member

If you are not yet a part of our organization, now is the perfect time to get involved. WABA membership offers direct benefits that support your professional growth while strengthening our collective voice in the region. Members receive significantly discounted registration rates for the annual conference in October. You also get free access to our year-round webinar series, which makes earning your required continuing education units both simple and highly affordable.

Beyond the immediate financial benefits, membership gives you a vote in all organizational elections and the chance to shape the future of behavior analysis in our state. Active members can join specialized committees focusing on everything from public policy to event planning. Whether you are a graduate student just starting your academic journey or a seasoned board-certified behavior analyst, joining WABA connects you to a network of professionals dedicated to high quality, ethical care.

Wisconsin ABA

BY EMILY BAUMLER

Wisconsin Association for Behavior Analysis (WisABA) is excited to be entering its 22nd 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 2025 annual conference was held in Wauwatosa, WI on October 2nd and 3rd, 2025. WisABA's 21st anniversary was celebrated during the conference. The keynote speaker was Dr. James Moore, who provided a thought-provoking presentation on the important topic of assent-based care. Other presentation topics included prosociality, forensic behavioral case conceptualization, sleep plans, trauma-informed care, increasing caregiver flexibility, and preparing for upcoming WI Medicaid audits. WisABA is excited for the 2026 conference that is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 1st and Friday, October 2nd in the Milwaukee area (location TBD).

WisABA honored Dr. Stephanie Hood by awarding her the WisABA Award for Contributions to Behavior Analysis in the State of Wisconsin on the second day of the conference. Each year, WisABA presents an award to an individual or organization that has made outstanding contributions to the field of applied behavior analysis—someone whose work exemplifies innovation, compassion, and lasting impact. It's one of the most meaningful parts of our conference.

DEIB continues to 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 BCBAs and BCaBAs, which the conference and quarterly general membership meetings provide. WisABA plans to create more opportunities for RBTs to earn Professional Development Units (PDUs) at both our conference and throughout the year. 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, 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!

Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy

BY STACIE BANCROFT

BABAT 2026: Massachusetts Behavior Analysts

BABAT continues to evolve and thrive as a community of passionate behavior analysts united by a commitment to scientific excellence, ethical practice, and meaningful connection. As our organization grows, so do the relationships among our members across practice areas, research settings, educational institutions, and career stages. These connections strengthen our profession and expand what we can accomplish together.

Who We Are

BABAT is led by its Board of Directors, with organizational oversight and support from its Executive Director. In 2026, President Dr. Jill Harper continued to advance her vision of a stronger, more connected Massachusetts behavior analytic community.\

Under Dr. Harper's leadership, BABAT has continued to strengthen its organizational systems, expand its initiatives, and create new opportunities for members to help shape the future of the profession. She works closely

with BABAT Executive Director Dr. Stacie Bancroft, the BABAT Board of Directors, more than 30 committee members, and the organization's advisory groups.

BABAT represents a growing community of more than 3,000 professionals and students. Our members work across a broad range of settings and specialties, including autism and developmental disability services, public schools, adult services, organizational behavior management, higher education, research, clinical practice, and graduate training.

What We Do

The BABAT Annual Conference remains a cornerstone of our professional community. In 2026, BABAT introduced an important expansion of this signature event, moving to a full three-day conference. The theme, REFUEL, reflects the need for behavior analysts to reconnect, renew their knowledge, strengthen their professional relationships, and return to their work with fresh ideas and energy.

The expanded conference includes general-interest programming throughout all three days, along with specialized tracks highlighting important areas of practice. These include focused content for public school practitioners and consultants, adult service providers, and professionals interested in organizational behavior management. The conference also provides opportunities for attendees to learn from invited speakers, participate in interactive sessions, connect with colleagues, and explore emerging issues affecting the profession.

The annual conference is only one part of BABAT's year-round work. In 2026, BABAT continued to offer a growing calendar of professional development, networking, and community-building opportunities. Highlights included:

- Monthly Member Roundtables: Virtual discussions that allow behavior analysts to examine shared professional challenges, exchange practical ideas, and develop solutions together.
- Specialized Professional Development: Events and learning opportunities addressing the varied interests and needs of behavior analysts working across different populations, settings, and career stages.
- Student Engagement and Support: Reduced event costs and expanded opportunities designed to make BABAT programming more accessible to students and early-career professionals.
- Recognition of Excellence: Awards celebrating the accomplishments of professionals and students who have demonstrated excellence in practice, research, leadership, service, and scholarship.

Strengthening Our Organization

In 2026, BABAT continued investing in the systems and infrastructure needed to support a growing professional community. Following the transition to a new membership platform and the launch of a redesigned website, the organization has focused on improving the member experience, increasing access to resources, and making it easier for members to learn about events and become involved.

BABAT has also continued developing opportunities for members to connect outside of formal conferences and trainings. Through committees, roundtables, mentorship, networking, and member-to-member support, we are working to create a professional organization in which every member can find meaningful ways to participate.

What We Are Working Toward

BABAT remains focused on increasing the value of membership and ensuring that the organization reflects the full range of professionals who practice and study behavior analysis in Massachusetts. Current priorities include:

- Expanding opportunities for mentorship, networking, and professional connection
- Increasing student and early-career engagement
- Offering programming relevant to a broader range of practice areas
- Strengthening communication and access to member resources
- Supporting collaboration across professional roles, organizations, and service settings
- Encouraging members to contribute their expertise to BABAT initiatives and the broader field

BABAT also continues to explore ways behavior analysis can contribute to important issues beyond traditional areas of practice. This includes supporting work related to environmental sustainability and highlighting behaviorally sound approaches that can contribute to healthier and more sustainable communities.

Looking Ahead

BABAT's strength comes from the knowledge, dedication, and involvement of its members. As we continue to grow, our focus remains on building a professional community where behavior analysts can learn from one another, develop meaningful connections, and contribute to the future of the field.

In 2026, we invite our members to REFUEL by reconnecting with colleagues, renewing their commitment to excellent practice, and finding new ways to learn, lead, and contribute. Together, we are strengthening behavior analysis in Massachusetts and building a more connected and responsive professional community. ❖

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

Central China ABA

BY DEHUA GUO AND XUEYI DENG

Sharing Ideas, Building a Collaborative Platform

CCABA Annual Review 2025

In 2025, CCABA has continued to develop the localization of behavior analysis certification. CCABA has certified the following professionals:

- CCBSA-D: 3
- CCBSA-M: 3
- CCBSA-B: 10
- CCBSA: 31
- CCBA: 55

Under this certification system, a comprehensive CNABA training system has been established through a joint effort by CCABA and China – ASEAN Autism Research Institute (CAARI). The system includes four levels:

- CNABA Level A
- CNABA Level B
- CNABA Level C
- CNABA Level D

CCABA organized the 4th Annual Conference with Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Disabled Persons' Federation.

In addition, ESDM were held with invited speakers Xiongbao Zhu (BACB) and the Principles and Strategies to Improve Social-Emotional Development were held with invited speakers Meng Lv (BACB). CEU were provided for participants by BACB and CCABA.

CCABA has launched a series of prerecorded courses covering core contents including ABLLS-R, AFLS, executive function and ecological teaching to meet diverse learning needs. These courses were open to teachers and parents, promoting the high-quality development of autism rehabilitation education through inclusive professional resources.

Finally, CCABA focused on promoting NDBI workshops in Dalian, Chifeng, Nanning, Beijing. CCABA has cultivated a large team of teachers with solid theoretical foundations and strong practical skills.

In the future, CCABA will continue to take professionalism as the foundation and sharing as the drive. CCABA will further deepen the field of behavior analysis, and work with all sectors to build a localized, high-level collaborative development platform.

Chinese ABA

BY KARINA CHEUNG

This annual report provides an overview of the initiatives and achievements made in 2025 toward enhancing the quality of autism rehabilitation services in China. Led by the China Association for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (CARPD) and its affiliated committees, these efforts have focused on establishing professional certification systems, developing evidence-based group standards, expanding training infrastructure, and strengthening support for local service providers.

In 2021, the China Association for Rehabilitation of the Disabled Persons (CARPD) initiated preparations for certifying behavior analysis practitioners. Data collection efforts gathered information on over 500 practitioners (approx. 63%) by September 2021. By March 2026, the BACB reported 498 BCBA-D/BCBA and 591 BCaBA in China, while CARPD's ABA committee comprised over 330 BCBA-D/BCBA and 500 BCaBA (approx. 76%). Key foundational achievements include the release of two group standards in December 2021 and the subsequent development of a multi-level training system with clear qualification requirements. Following the 2024–2028 implementation plan, the committee organized its second certification examination in October 2025 for candidates who had completed ABAI VCS courses or domestic training programs.

Building on the foundational training systems established in previous years, the CARPD, in collaboration with the ABAI-China Chapter, continued to advance key initiatives in 2025 to enhance professional capacity in autism rehabilitation. The nationwide position training courses, comprising 45 hours of online content, saw participation grow to nearly 40,000 trainees. The dual-teacher practical training model expanded, with over 25 practical cooperation units completing another three sessions since its launch in early 2024. Established programs also maintained momentum: the VB-MAPP training, the Carolina Curriculum for Preschool Special Education, and the Preschool Inclusive Education Teacher Training.

In 2025, as a core member, our president Ms. Miao Miao Cheung participated in the development of the group standard "Professional Management Requirements for Autism Service Providers," a collaborative effort led by the China Association of Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (CARPD) in conjunction with rehabilitation associations from nearly 10 provinces. This standard specifies the implementation principles, basic requirements, service delivery protocols, and quality control measures for rehabilitation services provided to children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). It is also designed to serve as a guide for parents and primary caregivers of children with ASD to support their participation and collaboration in the rehabilitation process. The initial draft of the standard has now been completed and is currently open for public consultation.

Future Plans

1 Certification System: Further refine the examination outline, develop an ethics handbook tailored to China's national conditions, and establish continuing education requirements.
2 Group Standards: Continue to develop and update group standards to encompass more aspects of autism rehabilitation, ensuring comprehensive and consistent service delivery.
3 Training Systems: Expand the coverage and improve the quality of training systems to reach more practitioners and institutions, thereby enhancing their professional capabilities and skills.
4 Local Support: Strengthen support for local institutions to build their organizational capacity and improve the professional skills of their staff, with the goal of enhancing the overall quality of autism rehabilitation services nationwide.
5 Annual Conference: Prepare for the annual conference.

French ABA

BY LAURENT MADELAIN & ARTHUR PRÉVEL

In 2025, members of French ABA actively continued to contribute to the development of the field of behavior analysis in France through a variety of initiatives and collaborations. Researchers from the University of Lille participated in the 12th Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) international conference, while students participated in the Society for the Quantitative Analyses of Behavior (SQAB) conference to present scientific research conducted within the lab at the University of Lille. These events provided valuable platforms to communicate with researchers and stay informed about the latest advancements in behavior analysis. In 2025, French ABA members have continued to organize a series of monthly online conferences under the banner of PALM meetings (Online Meetings on the Psychology of Associative Learning and Memory). These sessions have invited international researchers as speakers and have facilitated international academic exchange, providing valuable insights into current research. Members of French ABA have also pursued their involvement in a five-year interdisciplinary project grant on decision-making under radical uncertainty, titled "Decision Processes under Extreme Radical Uncertainty (DePERU)." This initiative involves experimental behavior analysis, behavioral economics, comparative psychology, and computer science. Participation in this project has resulted in the development of new research projects to study human–AI system interactions from a behavioral perspective, as well as invitations to national scientific conferences and meetings. In 2025, French ABA members applied for a grant from the University of Lille to invite European researchers for a scientific meeting at the University of Lille. They were awarded the grant, and a scientific meeting will be organized in fall 2026. During this period, French ABA also invited Professor Kennon A. Lattal from West Virginia University for a two-month residency. During his stay, Professor Lattal will deliver lectures, conduct workshops, mentor students, and engage in collaborative research projects. Lastly, starting in 2025 and continuing into 2026, French ABA members have organized local online scientific meetings to present research advancements in ABA and studies conducted within the lab. The goal is to progressively expand these meetings during 2026, including the development of a website to share information and extend invitations beyond local members. 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) continues to make 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 economy has gradually improved in Hong Kong in the past year, and practitioners reported a slow resumption of demand for their services.

In the previous year, a dedicated group of about 10 professionals, consisting of Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) and BCBA-Doctoral (BCBA-D) practitioners, had 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 has contributed.

Reorganizing and Resuming Activities

One of the most significant steps is the approval of launching the "Certificate for Module (Applied Behaviour Analysis Technician ABAT) Examination Preparatory Programme" by the Knowledge Network Hong Kong (KNHK). This 41-hour program is now available to the public through the HKU SPACE (HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education). This program is only considered as a CEF Reimbursable Course, which aims to help Hong Kong residents defray part of the cost of self-financed continuing education and training, encouraging lifelong learning and upskilling.

In addition, a few 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 the 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. 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 2026

To ensure a clear and focused path forward, HKABA will work on formulating a comprehensive development plan for 2026 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 excited about the launch of the certificate program. 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. 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 2026 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.

IACABAI (AARBA/AIAMC) Italy Associate Chapter of ABAI

BY CARLA LASAGNA DEL VAL

IACABAI – Update report on 2025-26 activities

In 2024-25 IACABAI has been actively involved in various initiatives, specifically regarding the behavior analysis community and the growth and strengthening of our discipline in the educational, political, research and organizational fields. We are glad to share what we did to date, hoping to inspire other chapters and to accomplish even more satisfactory results in the future.

DISSEMINATION & BA COMMUNITY

As is tradition, this year we will be holding the 22nd edition of our Scientific European Congress on Applied Behavior Analysis. As every year, the event will consist of two parallel sessions: one focused on the application of the science in the fields of autism and clinical practice, and the other dedicated to BBS and PM projects. Although no official communication has yet been released regarding the exact dates, we can confirm that it will take place at the Università Statale in Milan during the second week of June. There will be both national and international speakers presenting and discussing the latest developments in the field. As always, one of the main focuses will be on education in behavior analysis, especially in light of the new Tiered Model of Education recognition.

During the month of June (10th–11th–12th), we renewed our commitment to Ambiente Lavoro, the largest Italian fair dedicated to workplace environment and safety. We had the opportunity to participate in person by delivering three presentations. The first was presented by one of the AARBA researchers and focused on the importance of the supervisor's role in workplace settings, explaining how the new Italian law reflects the principles of behavior analysis. More specifically, the new legislation establishes that supervisors have the responsibility and obligation to support their colleagues through the measurement of behavior and, when necessary, the application of specific behavioral techniques to improve performance. Being able to present the work that the AARBA organization—and especially its President—has carried out for over 20 years in disseminating knowledge about behavior analysis, now directly connected to Italian legislation, is immensely rewarding. Through this presentation, we were able not only to explain the effectiveness of behavior analysis, but also to provide detailed evidence of the outcomes achieved through behavior based safety protocols, which are now being formally required at the governmental level.

The second presentation was delivered by our President and focused on how behavioral observation and measurement are key elements in ensuring the success of workplace safety processes. The third and final presentation, conducted by another AARBA researcher, addressed an innovative topic: "BBS and Maintenance: Behavioral Safety to Achieve Compliance with Procedures and Reduce Operational Risks." Unlike the first two presentations, this study did not focus solely on motivation toward safe or unsafe behaviors, but also highlighted the impact that the physical and structural work environment has on individual behavior.

We also organized a stand where participants could access information—including articles, research papers, course brochures, and data illustrating real-life applications—about behavior analysis and its specific application within behavior based safety.

For several years, the President of the chapter has collaborated with dentists in the development of seminars

and protocols aimed at implementing behavior analysis strategies in the field of dentistry. Through tailored presentations and specialized courses, various topics are addressed, including patient compliance, team motivation, improvement of treatment quality, reduction of clinical risk, support for individuals with specific diagnoses, and the development of behavioral systems analysis. All initiatives are grounded in evidence-based systems that enable professionals to measure both their own and others' behavior effectively.

One of the main initiatives we continue to prioritize in promoting and expanding the behavior analysis community is the development of the official Italian Registry of Behavior Analysts (IACABAI). As mentioned in other sections, one of the major challenges in Italy is the lack of institutional and governmental recognition of the science and its applications, which directly affects not only families and clients but also the professionals working in the field. To address this need, the IACABAI Registry (https://www.iacabai.com/) was established with the goal of providing citizens, ABA service users, companies, and institutions with access to professionals whose competencies meet international standards in terms of training, supervision, and examination.

To achieve this, we created a professional registry including analysts, assistants, and technicians, with the aim of protecting both the integrity of this scientific discipline and the professionals who practice it. Although the project is continuously evolving, we are proud to report that by 2025 more than 589 professionals have enrolled. Throughout the year, we have dedicated significant effort to maintaining the quality and standards of these credentials, ensuring that professionals remain up to date with the latest scientific developments across the various fields of application.

For this reason, through the Registry we have organized free online webinars for professionals, parents, family members, and other interested individuals. We have had the honor of hosting both national and international speakers who have contributed to the ongoing dissemination and advancement of behavior analysis.

HIGHER EDUCATION

During the past years, one of the chapter's primary goals has been to continue disseminating the science of behavior analysis, specifically by providing appropriate education and training for professionals in the field. For this reason, throughout the year the AARBA team has worked intensively on its educational program in behavior analysis, leading to the formal establishment of AARBA's Educational Program in Behavior Analysis.

With the start of the new year, we are proud to officially announce that the program has been recognized as a master's and graduate-level program within the Tiered Model of Education. This recognition represents both a great honor and a unique opportunity. One of the first initiatives we are planning is the launch of a new edition of the program.

The program offers valuable training for aspiring behavior analysts across various fields of application (Autism, OBM, CBA, etc.). In addition to current and future professionals in the field of behavior analysis, AARBA has always provided the opportunity for individuals who simply wish to deepen their understanding of the science's principles to attend the program as auditors. The main goal is to offer high-quality training to future behavior analysts in accordance with international standards.

Through the program, participants will be able to:

- Recognize and practically implement the theoretical concepts learned during training, while being aware of the related ethical and professional implications.
- Conduct objective and comprehensive preliminary assessments to accurately identify users' actual needs.
- Design intervention plans aimed at meeting users' needs in a sustainable and long-lasting manner.
- Develop new tools from scratch and adapt existing ones for behavioral interventions.
- Structure reliable and replicable measurement systems to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.
- Monitor and support interventions implemented by others under their own supervision and responsibility.
- Recognize the philosophical foundations underlying the discipline.

As every year, we continued offering the specialized 80-hour B-BS postgraduate course, launching its 53rd edition. The course focuses not only on the theoretical foundations of behavior analysis and its application within the OBM field, but also on the practical components of implementing a BBS process (e.g., developing checklists, presenting data analyses, conducting safety meetings, etc.). Building on positive experiences from previous years, we maintained the same structure: the first and third modules are delivered online, while the second module is conducted in person, allowing participants to meet, network, and build professional connections.

In recent years, workplace safety has become an increasingly important and widely discussed topic in Italy. However, there is still significant misunderstanding and limited awareness regarding the role of behavior in shaping safety culture. In this context, two major Italian organizations—AIAS - Associazione Italiana Ambiente e Sicurezza, which focuses on occupational health and safety, and Assolombarda, the association representing 7,078 companies operating in the Metropolitan City of Milan and the provinces of Lodi, Monza and Brianza, and Pavia—have played a key role.

In 2023, a collaboration between AARBA and these two organizations was established with the primary objective of developing specialized training courses—both

theoretical and practical—on the application of Behavior Analysis through BBS protocols. The aim of these courses is to promote awareness of the importance of behavior and the effectiveness of BBS, particularly among small and medium-sized enterprises, where limited institutional support is often available.

COMPANIES CONSULTING

Regarding support for major Italian and multinational companies, we have continued our commitment both nationally and internationally, including interventions in Spain, Germany, France, and the Netherlands, based on training and OBM principles. Over the years, the President of the chapter has been invited to participate in Safety Day events organized by companies interested in implementing and adopting BBS protocols or in expanding knowledge of behavioral safety principles across all organizational levels.

As you can see, we are working hard on several fronts to promote applied behavior analysis knowledge and technologies in public and private institutions, with the hope of achieving further and greater results.

See you next year!

Link statuto:
Italian-Chapter-Statuto.pdf (**www.aarba.eu/it/home/**)

Icelandic ABA

BY KARL F. GUNNARSSON

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 160 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 November 2025, 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 how our recent shift toward more stringent educational requirements has been successful. That is, we now have a more stringent process around who can register as a clinical behavior analyst. The group reviewed and approved annual financial statements, and elected new board members (Jóhanna Gilsdóttir, Elín Dröfn Þorvaldsdóttir, Margrét Unnur Jóhannesdóttir, María Arndal) and committee chairs.

In the fall of 2025, ICE-ABA partnered with the OBM Network and held a conference in Iceland. The conference was quite successful, with around 180 attendees. We were proud to host a great line of invited speakers and the conference was attended by both behavior analysts and industry leaders in Iceland. Following this conference a group of Icelandic behavior analysts have started the process of forming the first SIG within ICE-ABA and will that group be focused on OBM.

In January 2025 we opened the application process for registration as a klínískur atferlisfræðingur (clinical behavior analyst). Those seeking professional membership—and particularly those working toward clinical designation—now are required to submit degree transcripts, proof of supervision, and any relevant continuing-education certifications. Currently there are 123 members who have successfully registered and been certified by ICE-ABA as clinical behavior analysts.

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.

Istituto Europeo per lo Studio del Comportamento Umano (IESCUM)

BY PAOLO MODERATO, GIOVAMBATTISTA PRESTI, AND FRANCESCO POZZI

IESCUM (the Istituto Europeo per lo Studio del Comportamento Umano; **www.iescum.org**) has been the Italian chapter of ABAI since 2007. It was established to translate into concrete actions a vision of experimental and applied behavioral science in Italy. Since its founding, IESCUM has been committed to promoting the full scientific and humanistic potential of behavior analysis. On this basis, IESCUM is dedicated to the training, development, and evaluation of behavior analysis in clinical settings in its 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, leading to the creation of the largest Italian association of behavior analysts. ABA Italia (**www.abaitalia.org**) currently brings together 680 behavior analysts, 291 assistant behavior analysts, and 499 behavioral technicians who have met minimum training standards to ensure service quality for families. At present, 3,879 students are still in training.

Throughout 2025, IESCUM continued to offer experiential training opportunities in Italy in clinical behavior analysis, acceptance and commitment therapy, and applied behavior analysis. These activities involved internationally recognized scholars and professionals,

including P. Chase, S. Alai-Rosales, P. McGreevy, J. Guercio, C. Luciano, P. Sturmey. The dissemination of a rigorous and evidence-based culture in ABA was further supported institutionally through the 2-year postgraduate course sequence ("Master" in Italian) in applied behavior analysis, which reached its XIX edition, along with several 180-hour and 60-hour courses aimed at professionals seeking qualification as Assistant Behavior Analysts or Behavioral Technicians.

In 2025, IESCUM actively participated in major international ABAI conferences. At the 51st Annual ABAI Convention in Washington, D.C. (May 24–26, 2025), IESCUM contributed to a symposium focused on the exploratory use of social robotics and other emerging technologies within ABA interventions. Later in the year, at the 12th ABAI International Conference in Lisbon (November 11–13, 2025), IESCUM led a symposium dedicated to the integration of technology in ABA, with the goal of enhancing both intervention efficiency and accessibility. Prof G. Presti led an invited workshop on Evolving Beyond Early Intervention: Integrating Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) and Relational Frame Theory (RFT) in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)-Based Autism Treatment.

At the ABAI International Conference in Lisbon, IESCUM also led a symposium chaired by Prof. Peter Sturmey, with Carmen Luciano serving as discussant. This symposium explored innovative applications of acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) and applied behavior analysis (ABA) to support individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Contributions addressed the enhancement of metaphor comprehension and social-cognitive skills in children with ASD through combined ACT and ABA interventions, as well as approaches aimed at improving psychological flexibility using metaphor-based ACT training. Additional presentations focused on perspective-taking as a foundational skill for understanding deception and irony, and on preliminary evidence from a pilot study evaluating the effectiveness of the KidStarter Program in supporting children with ASD.

IESCUM continued to promote a postgraduate course in Behavioral Economics and Choice Architecture. Now in its seventh edition, this program remains the first of its kind in Italy and is designed to apply behaviorally informed policies to organizations and society.

Over the years, IESCUM has developed and consolidated a national network of centers dedicated to early intensive behavioral intervention for autistic children. This network includes centers directly managed by IESCUM as well as centers whose clinical teams receive systematic supervision from the institute.

In October 2025, IESCUM organized the fourth Italian conference on third-generation behavior therapies, Mindfulness, Acceptance, and Compassion. Held in Milan, this conference series—active since 2017—once again attracted approximately 400 professionals and researchers from across Italy and abroad.

Finally, in 2025 IESCUM contributed to the dissemination of acceptance and commitment therapy within the field of behavior analysis through the publication of the Italian translation of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Behavior Analysts: A Practice Guide from Theory to Treatment by Dixon, Hayes, and Belisle. This volume represents a significant resource for practitioners interested in integrating ACT principles into ABA-based interventions.

Japanese ABA

BY MICHIKO SORAMA

The Japanese Association for Behavior Analysis (J-ABA) was established in 1986 to advance the experimental, theoretical, and applied analysis of behavior in addressing social issues in Japan. Membership now exceeds 1,000 members and includes academics, practitioners, teachers, social workers, physicians, nurses, animal trainers, and business professionals.

The 43rd annual J-ABA convention was held in a staggered hybrid format in 2025. The online meeting took place August 19–21, followed by an in-person meeting August 23–24 in Fukui city. A total of 350 participants attended. The program included a keynote lecture, eight symposiums, and 77 poster presentations.

The keynote lecture, "Mental Health Care for Disaster Survivors: Reflections from the Noto Peninsula Earthquake Experience," focused on support efforts following the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake (Mw 7.6), a major seismic event. Symposia discussions addressed trauma-informed care, translational research, and animal welfare.

The online meeting also featured an oral presentation competition for early-career behavior analysts. Sou Sugita received the Early-Career Researcher Presentation Award for his presentation on stimulus function transfer. Approximately 100 participants attended each online session despite its weekday starting time of 7:00 p.m.

In March 2025, J-ABA held a two-day introductory seminar in Kyoto for new and student members, the first fully face-to-face seminar in six years. The program consisted of seven unique sessions covering such topics as neuro AI, radical behaviorism and the philosophy of mind. A total of 47 participants attended, the highest number to date. Attendees ranged from first-year undergraduate students to the president of J-ABA. To advance the field of behavior analysis in Japan, J-ABA will continue in its enthusiastic support of student members.

The 44th annual J-ABA convention will be held August 28–30, 2026, in Tokyo and will include symposia on translational research and behavioral modification aimed at extending behavioral principles into real-world applications that improve individual and societal well-being.

Jordanian ABA

BY MAHMOUD AL-SHEYAB

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

Through targeted training initiatives, we have successfully equipped over 500 families and 1000+ special education teachers, Ot, SLPs, with foundational knowledge in applied behavior analysis, facilitating their pursuit of RBT/ABAT certifications. This concerted effort aims not only to cultivate a deeper understanding of the intrinsic value of applied behavior analysis but also to catalyze a surge in demand for these specialized services. By advocating for greater recognition and support, we are advocating for the establishment of comprehensive policies and regulations that will safeguard the integrity and efficacy of applied behavior analysis practices.

Moreover, our commitment to professional development extends to transforming a cohort of 30 specialists into qualified QBAs, BCBAs, and QASP-S. While this initiative represents a significant leap forward, the urgency for more qualified professionals and heightened awareness of the transformative impact of applied behavior analysis remains paramount. Looking ahead, our strategic collaboration with ABA Resources Academy will culminate in the launch of the inaugural Jordanian journal dedicated to applied behavior analysis in Arabic. Additionally, we are preparing to release a comprehensive textbook in Arabic that delves into the intricacies of applied behavior analysis and its multifaceted applications.

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

Kenya ABA

BY POOJA PANESAR

A hearty welcome to Kenya Association of Behavior Analysis. The year began with plenty of energy to make some new steps for KABA. There are three BCBAs who began guiding the organization to make headway and we had a few meetings to discuss how to do this. A fourth BCBA joined us from the U.S. towards the end of the year and added momentum to that.

The biggest accomplishment of the year is that KABA is now a locally registered entity as well. This had been a struggle for a few years as paperwork was submitted, but it took time to get approval. This was finally achieved and we can function as a legal entity in the country which reduces the barriers we were facing.

The number of behaviour technicians has increased in the country and one goal for 2026 is to have an event bringing them all together to register with KABA. The current officers envision KABA becoming a database for qualified practitioners in the field where parents and other interested parties can access information.

KABA also finally joined social media! One of the BCBAs will be leading the social media campaign and disseminating information on upcoming events and ABA information in the country.

We had some great accomplishments this year, and look forward to building more in the coming year.

Manitoba ABA

BY JENNIFER COOK

The Manitoba Association for Behaviour Analysis (MABA) is proud to be in its 21st year as an affiliated chapter of ABAI. Hereafter, we will describe several objectives that we have met during our 20th year. As an ongoing ACE provider since 2013, MABA offered free CEUs to our BACB-certified members at the 20th Annual Conference on September 25, 2026. This conference marked our 20th anniversary and was our first hybrid conference. We welcomed approximately 60 attendees both online and at a physical conference space at the University of Manitoba (U of M). The President of MABA, Dr. Jennifer Cook, BCBA-D (U of M) opened the conference by welcoming Ms. Fran Falzarano to pay tribute to her late husband, Dr. Joe Pear. Dr. Cook and Ms. Falzarano jointly announced the creation of the Joseph J. Pear Memorial Lecture, in which an annual speaker would be funded by Dr. Pear's estate.

Dr. Cook then began the conference talks with the presidential address, "Intellectual Humility and Social Media: An Analysis of the Response to Two Publications on the Expertise of Invited Speakers." Next, Dr. Cook and President-Elect, Dr. Rasha Baruni, BCBA-D (U of M) filled in as presenters for one of our invited speakers who was unable to attend at the last moment. Drs. Baruni and Cook presented "Tolerating the Tough Stuff: How to Teach Kids with ASD to Get Through Important but Aversive Situations," whereby each speaker presented a 30-minute research paper on passive cooperation (a literature review and a study on mask wearing). The final morning presentation was the inaugural Joseph J. Pear Memorial Lecture, presented by Dr. Darlene Crone-Todd, BCBA-D (Salem State University), a former student of Dr. Pear. Her presentation, "Reflections on Manitoba's Special Contributions to Behaviour Analysis" commemorated MABA's 20th anniversary.

During the last part of the lunch break, an anniversary cake was served and some long-time MABA members shared memories of MABA's history, followed by a poster session. The afternoon presentations began with the Keynote address, "From Cry to Crisis: A Behavior Analytic Perspective on Infant Distress and Caregiver Behavior," presented by Dr. Benjamin Witts, BCBA-D (St. Cloud State University). We concluded with a panel event consisting of Dr. Crone-Todd, Dr. Ben Witts, and special guest, Dr. Kirsten Wirth, C. Psych., BCBA-D (Wirth Behavioral Health Services). This panel, titled "The Journey of Behavioural Engineering: From the Hospital Bed of 1958 to the Digital Frontiers of the Future," was chaired by Mr. Rob Jeffery, MA (U of M). As a final feature event, conference attendees were invited to a colloquium the following day (Sep. 26), co-jointly offered by MABA and U of M. This event featured Dr. Witts, who presented "Standardized Excellence or Stifled Ingenuity? The (Potential) Dual Impact of Program Accreditation." We are looking forward to our 21st Annual Conference, to be held as a hybrid event in October 2026. Additional information can be found at maba.ca/conference as it becomes available.

We are sad to announce that, since the 2025 conference, Ms. Falzarano passed away after a brief illness (Jan 20, 2026). Although Ms. Falzarano and Dr. Cook were unable to complete the lengthy set up the annual Joseph J. Pear Memorial Lecture before her passing, we—at MABA—have decided to carry out her wishes and tribute to Dr. Pear, to be funded by our association.

For the upcoming year, we will continue to work on our new and ongoing objectives and goals. Our key objectives for 2026 include continued opportunities for our members to collect CEUs at events, present behaviour analytic work, and network in-person at events. 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.

Norwegian ABA

BY ERIK ARNTZEN

In 2025, the Norwegian Association (NAFO) had about 300 members—this number has decreased over the past few years. Most 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 national organization has numerous local chapters throughout Norway.

The Norwegian Association hosts a five-day annual conference every April. In 2025, 584 people participated in the conference at Storefjell— a mountain venue about a three-hour drive northwest of Oslo. Last year, we had 220 presentations. Usually, an invited international scholar attends the conference. Also, the local chapters organize different courses and events.

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) is also a peer-reviewed journal published twice a year. EJOBA primarily publishes 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.

New Zealand ABA

BY ANNE MACASKILL

The New Zealand Association for Behaviour Analysis (NZABA) is a community of people working, teaching, and researching in behaviour analysis in, or with, a connection to Aotearoa New Zealand.

Every year, NZABA comes together for a conference showcasing experimental, applied, and theoretical work in behaviour analysis. The NZABA conference centres on supporting students to share their work and connect with the research and practice community.

Given this focus, we use this report each year as an opportunity to share the names of the students who were awarded prizes for outstanding presentations. These talk titles also give a flavour of the range of behaviour analysis research shared at the NZABA conference. In 2025, the judges awarded prizes for outstanding ABA talk to Mitchell Cairns (University of Waikato) for a talk titled Restrictive practices in Aotearoa New Zealand: Current prevalence and barriers to least restrictive practice, and to the University of Auckland ABA programme interns for their practice showcase titled Supporting people to independence. Building one skill at a time. These outstanding interns are Josie Aiello, Lily Bigwood, Bhavani Chandrasekaran, Shirley Chen, Gaby Crozier, Jacob Jensen, Massie Kherzi Nasab, and Gabby Thomas. The judges also awarded two prizes for outstanding talks in the experimental analysis of behaviour. These were to Hamish Church (University of Otago) for a talk titled Delay and response effort in choice task and Tess Austin (Auckland University of Technology) for a talk titled Good signals, bad timing: The role of initial-link duration in suboptimal choice. Case Leigh (Victoria University of Wellington) won the outstanding poster prize for a poster entitled, Contrast effects in delay discounting: Mean versus longest delay as predictors of change.

The NZABA conference also hosted a symposium run by our sister organization, 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 2026, our conference will be hosted by Unitec in Auckland in late August. Our website at **nzaba.wordpress.com** provides up-to-date information about how to register and will post the conference programme 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 **www.facebook.com/newzealandaba** hosts more informal discussion and shares links to items of general interest to those working in the field of behaviour analysis.

Ontario ABA

BY JESSICA CAUCHI

2025 continued to be a great year for engagement for ONTABA. We had over 1655 hours of volunteer service from the board, with an additional over 1200 volunteer hours from non-board committee members. One of our goals this year was to increase engagement across the province, and this was met with volunteer service from the Toronto, Sault Ste Marie, Niagara regions, as well as the York region, Ottawa, Kingston, Hamilton, and London. We are excited about this engagement across Ontario and this will continue to be a goal for 2026.

We hosted many events, both online and in person. We offered a webinar event through our DEI committee: Behavioural Conceptualization of Gender with Janani Vaidya. We also hosted an online event with Portia James: OBM through a DEI Perspective. Additional continuing education highlights included an Evening for Behaviour Analysis. For the first time we hosted this outside of the Greater Toronto Area, in London, ON. The event was highlighted by a great dinner and networking time, as well as a talk by Dr. Nicole Neil, "Obsessive-compulsive behaviours in autism with functional behaviour-based CBT." We headed into the fall strong with a three-part webinar series on Supervisor-Supervisee relationships hosted by Dr. Julie Koudys. This event was particularly important as Ontarians continue to navigate new supervision requirements under the College of Psychologists and Behaviour Analysts of Ontario. Finally, we were so incredibly excited to offer our first ever student conference. The event was open to all students (and only students!) and featured presentations from students at all academic levels, presentations from two local agencies, and talks from Dr. Shane Spiker and Dr. Jessica Cauchi. This event was well received and we are excited to make it an annual event.

Finally, our main conference event! We hosted in Toronto with 782 attendees across both in-person and online. We welcomed a new clinical symposium option, as well as research symposia, panels, a great ignite session, poster sessions, and four keynote speakers. We welcomed Dr. Marc Lanovaz, Ryan O'Donnell, Dr. Holly Gover, and Dr. Ellie Kazemi. We are planning already for conference 2026 and are excited to share!

We continue to work with the College of Psychologists and Behaviour Analysts, as we head into the first membership renewal cycle (membership is a 2-year term) and to ensure we are well representing Behaviour Analysts across all aspects of practice in the province.

ONTABA has also spent time this past year working with the other Canadian ABAI chapters, offering discounts to their members to events, and collaborating on issues that pertain to us all. We look forward to continuing these relationships.

As we head into 2026, we are excited to continue to seek input from members across the province to ensure that we are representing Ontario-based Behaviour Analysts in the best way possible. We have many events planned for this year and are excited to share. Please follow our social media accounts (Instagram: **@ontaba1**; Linkedin: **Ontaba**) to keep abreast of our offerings.

Philippines ABA

BY MARIA COJUANGCO AND JOSEPHINE DE JESUS

In 2025, the Philippine Association for Behavior Analysis (PABA) continued its joint Phase 1 and Phase II projects with several health centers of local government units. The programs developed for each health center unit was presented to continue training of participating health workers/providers, as well as families and caregivers of children with autism in implementing individual home intervention programs.

Families within the program continued to obtain support from the local health centers to achieve a more functional home set-up as their children within the autism spectrum make progress in their various home and learning activities.

PABA assisted LGU Health Centers in collaborating with the public school teachers working with families having children under the autism spectrum enrolled in their specific schools providing training in incorporating the individual ABA programs created for these children for implementation in their school set-up.

PABA enhanced its training programs to more diverse groups with more challenging cases in attaining their goals and an increased number of individuals requiring assistance. With PABA's assistance, more health centers provided accessible and affordable ABA training and awareness to more underserved communities.

PABA managed to collaborate with more local government hospitals and health centers within the region, interested in providing ABA training to be included in their own programs. PABA committed to continue and maintain its presence in providing training and workshops in updating skills and assist in obtaining certifications of interested health care providers.

For 2026, PABA aims to achieve the following goals:

1 Provide more assistance to its members and other interested ABA practitioners in obtaining certifications with International Behavior Analyst Organization (IBAO) in achieving competency and as a more effective behavior analysts and behavior therapists working within the standards of an international certifying body.
2 Continue to do fund raising activities.
3 Provide more training programs for local health centers.
4 Introduce the PABA training programs to more local government health centers.
5 Improve its presence in other organizations and universities as a source for information on ABA.

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 2025, we continued working on redesigning the training and certification system. These works will finish with a uniformed programme for behavior therapy school, more akin to current therapeutic schools providing training in Poland. We are also in contact with IBAO with regards to mutually honoring the titles between both systems.

We hope to finish these tasks in 2026 and move on to bringing more behavior analytic knowledge to the broader public. We want to update our website, publish more on social media, and broaden the scope of our training services, and address them not only to the educators working with special needs populations, but also reach out to the psychotherapeutic community.

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 schools for children and youth with special needs in Krakow (Lesser Poland) and Raciborz (Silesia).

Polish Society for Behavioral Psychology

BY BARTŁOMIEJ SWEBODZIŃSKI

1. 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.

2. Statutory Activities in 2025

a) 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.

b) Legislative Collaboration

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

c) Integration of the Behavioral Therapy Community

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

d) "Behavioral Wednesdays" Webinar Series

Started in April 2025, PTPB launched a new educational initiative – every second Wednesday of the month online meetings titled "Behavioral Wednesdays," aimed at popularizing knowledge about behavioral psychology.

3. Patronage and Support for Scientific Initiatives

PTPB granted scientific patronage to the following books:

- *Metaphor in Practice: A Professional's Guide to Using the Science of Language in Psychotherapy* by Niklas Törneke, edited by Paweł Ostaszewski and Joanna Dudek
- *The Behavioral Activation Workbook for Depression:*

Powerful Strategies to Boost Your Mood and Build a Better Life by Nina Josefowitz and Stephen R. Swallow, edited by Paweł Ostaszewski and Joanna Dudek.

4. Plans for the Future

a) Symposium in 2026

PTPB started registration for its symposium on 21-22 March, commemorating the birth anniversary of B.F. Skinner, who was born on March 20, 1904.

b) 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.

5. Summary

The year 2025 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 2026 and 2027 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 KRISTY ROBERTSON

The 2025 year brought on some exciting changes! Following the annual general meeting, which took place on April 28, 2025, the board acquired a few new board members (Hayley Vininsky, regular member representative and Nathalie Benaroche, 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 14th annual conference on October 24, 2025, which was offered online. The total number of attendees was 48 people. Attendance included people from other Canadian Provinces such as Ontario.

The conference included several speakers, with our keynote speaker being Dr. Claire Egan, who presented on Achieving Meaningful Outcomes in Schools Using Compassionate Approaches. Our next speaker was Dr. Monica Gilbert, who spoke about Engage with parents and get "BUY IN" with Motivational Interviewing. Next, we had Hayley Vininsky, PhD, BCBA & Pascale Robins, BCBA who presented Connexion Spectrum, followed by Dr. Camille Kolu, who spoke about: We are buffers and we break barriers: How the science of trauma response and prevention can transform our work with students.

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

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 BCBAs and one BCaBA), and at the time of this writing (February 2026) the province is now home to 88 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 that 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 us at the email below.

Kirsty Robertson., BCBA
QcABA President
info@qcaba.org

Marisa Scaglione, BCBA
QcABA Vice-President
info@qcaba.org

Sociedad Mexicana de Análisis de la Conducta

CARLOS FLORES, L. REBECA MATEOS, CINTHIA M. HERNÁNDEZ AND KENNETH MADRIGAL

In October 2025, the Sociedad Mexicana de Análisis de la Conducta (SMAC; Mexican Society for Behavior Analysis), an ABAI International Chapter, held the XXXIV Congreso Mexicano de Análisis de la Conducta (CMAC; Mexican Congress for Behavior Analysis) in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, hosted by the Universidad de Guadalajara. The meeting was organized explicitly within the Society's 50th anniversary, marking 50 years since SMAC was formally constituted on May 9, 1975. This anniversary places SMAC among the early organizations that consolidated behavior analysis as a scientific field in the Americas. It also serves as a reminder that the internationalization of behavior analysis was not only the result of diffusion from a single center, but also of durable organizations that emerged across borders and sustained their own publication venues, training practices, and scientific meetings.

A central product of that continuity is the *Revista Mexicana de Análisis de la Conducta (RMAC; Mexican Journal of Behavior Analysis)*, historically linked to the Society since its origin and recognized as a long-standing bilingual outlet in the field. Across 50 volumes, RMAC has published 914 articles. The distribution of first authorship indicates a primarily Mexican base (63%), with substantial participation from the United States (22%), alongside contributions from other regions of the Americas and the Caribbean, Europe, and Asia/Oceania. These numbers matter because they quantify, rather than merely claim, an editorial history that is both regional and international. Critically, they also indicate a sustained commitment to democratizing access to scientific knowledge by maintaining an open-access policy for more than 15 years, thereby reducing reliance on subscription-based access for readership. Together, these achievements provide a concrete basis for evaluating SMAC's work as enduring infrastructure for disseminating experimental, conceptual, and applied contributions to the science of behavior, particularly within Spanish-speaking contexts.

XXXIV Congreso Mexicano de Análisis de la Conducta

The society's 34th meeting offered a broad range of topics across keynote presentations, symposia, oral and poster sessions. The opening ceremony included formal recognition of former SMAC presidents Florente López, Juan José Sánchez Sosa, Arturo Bouzas, Javier Nieto, Carlos Flores, Carlos Santoyo, Mario Serrano, and Rosalinda Arroyo. In the 50th-anniversary context, this recognition made visible a basic feature of scientific societies that is often absent from the published record: their core products—meetings, journals, and training opportunities—depend on sustained administrative work and on successive leadership decisions distributed across decades.

Across the three-day event, 35 symposia and oral sessions were conducted, alongside two poster sessions. The invited program included six keynote lectures and six invited addresses. The conference also convened a roundtable with RMAC editors to address the requirements for editorial continuity and the operational demands of sustaining a journal across decades. A second roundtable focused on strategies of empowering female psychology students, emphasizing institutional arrangements that increase the likelihood of scientific training and professional development over time. Book presentations were also included as part of the meeting's dissemination practices, including the presentation of a SMAC commemorative book that documents key elements of the Society's history and development. Lastly, the meeting closed with the *Carlos A. Bruner Awards*, which recognized outstanding undergraduate and graduate theses in behavior analysis, highlighting the next cohort of behavior analysts, while honoring the legacy of Carlos Bruner.

As in every annual meeting, SMAC held an assembly session with board members and full members. This year was no exception, and two photographs are included to document the meeting in the 50th-anniversary context. The first includes some of the founding members, and former SMAC presidents; the second shows the current full membership and board. Collectively, they represent a community composed largely of professors and researchers in public universities who maintain long-standing research and academic programs and who, through those programs, arrange the training conditions that foster the next generations of Spanish-speaking behavior analysts.

The SMAC commemorative book is available open access here: **librosoa.unam.mx/handle/123456789/4123**

Swedish ABA

BY DAG STRÖMBERG

The Swedish Association for Behavior Analysis (SWABA) had 238 members at the end of 2025, a 2% decrease since 2024. The chapter continued its activity on social media; at the end of 2025, 1767 people were following SWABA on Facebook, a 3% increase since 2022. The association also has accounts on LinkedIn and Instagram, all with an increasing number of followers.

SWABA's fall meeting took place on October 4, 2025, in Stockholm, as a hybrid event. We enjoyed presentations by Andreas Karlsson on behavior analysis in psychiatric settings, Marie Røhme Aunemo (Norway) on the PAX Good Behavior Game, Ulrika Andreasson on reindeer training, and a group discussion on writing about behavior analysis.

The annual meeting took place on March 14, 2026, in Stockholm, again a hybrid event. The day included presentations by Tiina Holmberg Bergman on ACT for stressed parents of children with disabilities, Sara Hammer on the use of behavior analysis within the Swedish national women's soccer team, Hedvig Zetterberg on behavior medicine and exposure, and Linnéa Engman on vulvodynia. Furthermore, the recipient of the sixth annual "SWABA-prize" was announced: as a recognition of his work for SWABA, the prize was awarded to Ned Carter.

During the year, two representatives of the SWABA board participated in a network connecting five different Swedish associations for behavior analysis, contextual behavior science, and/or various types of behavior therapy. In March 2026, the second issue of a joint online magazine "Samlad Kraft" (Collective Strength) was published, including two articles by SWABA members.

Furthermore, the SWABA board participated in the project Wider Reach: The Behavior Analysis Writing Incubator. This project, supported by ABAI, consisted of a series of virtual workshops on writing led by Adam Hockman.

SWABA was also participating in a collaboration between representatives from the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden), discussing quality assurance of behavior analysis within a Nordic context, including the creation of an ethics code for the Nordic Association of Behaviour Analysts.

SWABA was represented at the 2026 ABAI Annual Convention in San Francisco. 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), 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.

On September 26, our 30th anniversary conference will take place in Stockholm, including keynote speaker Per Holth (Norway) and several other presenters. This year also marks our 25th anniversary as an ABAI affiliated chapter. 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 remained steadfast in its commitment to advancing and disseminating behavior science. Our initiatives serve a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including parents, special education teachers, therapists, and related professionals. With the continued financial support of the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education, TABA successfully organized international symposiums, specialized workshops, ABA promotional lectures, and Continuing Education (CE) courses. To ensure accessibility and flexibility, most of these events were conducted via online platforms.

As of the end of 2025, the professional landscape in Taiwan includes 52 certified behavior analysts, comprising: six BCBA-Ds, 27 BCBAs and 19 BCaBAs.

This growing cohort provides a robust professional foundation for behavior analytic services within the country. TABA continues to prioritize the provision of high-quality ABA seminars and the facilitation of CE credits for certificants to meet the evolving needs of both professionals and families.

Summary of 2025 Activities

Phase I: January–June 2025 TABA conducted five online lectures and workshops, reaching a total of 98 participants. The curriculum focused on early intervention and home-based support:

- Transitioning from Preschool to Primary School: Common Challenges and Support Strategies.
- Positive Behavioral Support (PBS) Plans for Individuals with Disabilities Exhibiting Severe Emotional and Behavioral Challenges.
- Enhancing Social Competence through Home-Based Play and Activities.
- Life Skills Instruction for Primary School Students with Moderate to Severe Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- Evidence-Based Strategies for Promoting Rule-Following and Compliance in Children.

Phase II: July–December 2025 TABA hosted seven online sessions with 165 participants, including several advanced CE-accredited courses:

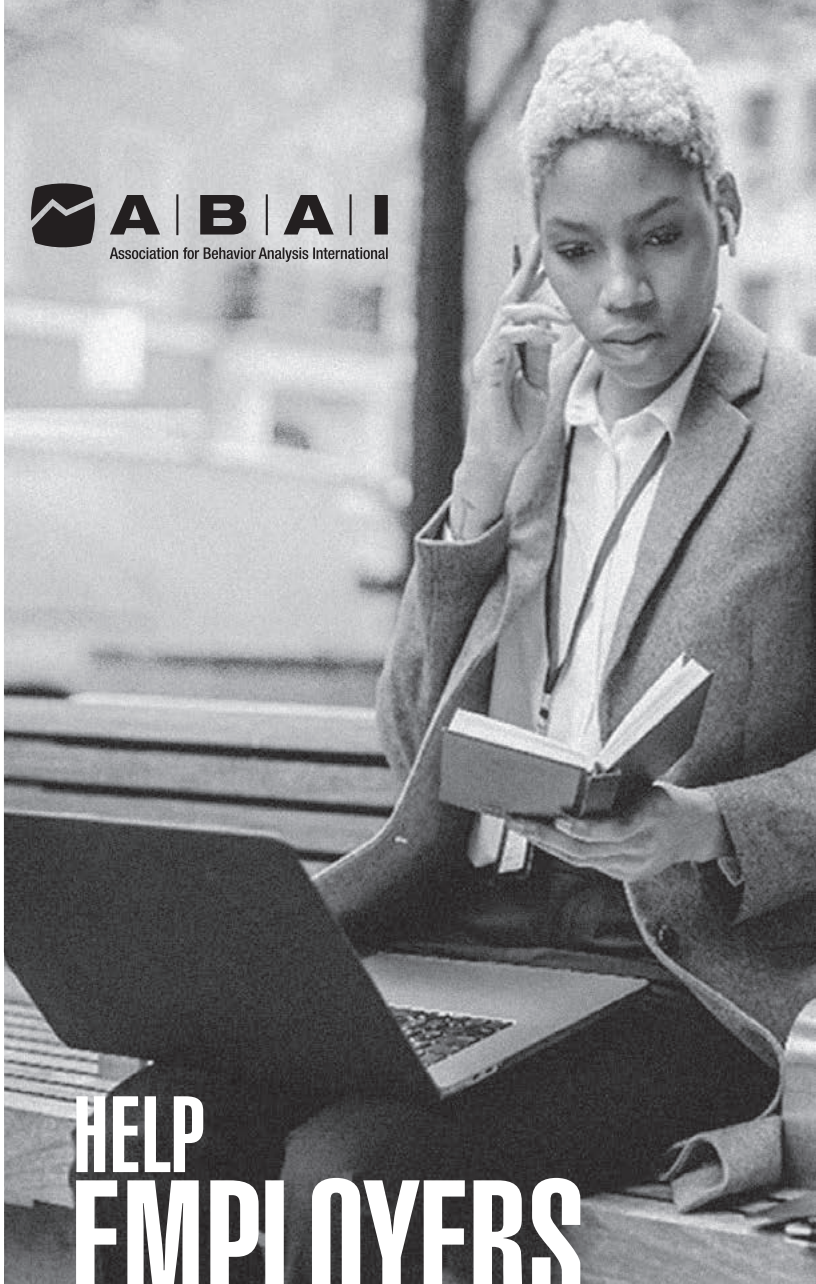
- Practical Applications of Inclusive Education: Supporting the Participation of Young Children with Special Needs.
- Social Skills Perspectives for Adolescents on the Autism Spectrum.
- Challenges and Breakthroughs in Toilet Training for Children with Special Needs.
- Promoting Self-Determination in Early Childhood Special Education.
- Sexual Education and Practical Intervention for Youths with Special Needs (Ages 12–18) (CE Course).
- Introduction to Parent Training Models and Contemporary Issues (CE Course).
- **Academic Symposium**: Latest Trends in Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) and Case Studies in Behavioral Intervention (CE Course).

2026 Outlook and Mission Statement

Looking ahead to 2026, TABA will continue to expand its digital learning initiatives and develop a comprehensive series of workshops and CE courses. Key focus areas—selected based on stakeholder survey feedback to ensure social validity—include:

- Positive Behavioral Support (PBS) in preschool inclusion settings.
- Academic and Social Skills Training.
- Advanced Parent Training modules.
- Transition Planning and placement for youths and adults.

We remain firm in our belief that the power of science can transform lives. TABA is dedicated to the long-term promotion of behavior analysis and aims to heighten public awareness of evidence-based practices. We cordially invite professionals and like-minded partners from all sectors to join us in our efforts to strengthen the professional capacity and growth of behavior science in Taiwan. ❖



HELP EMPLOYERS FIND YOU!

- **FREE** online profile.
- Let employers find **YOU** with résumé and cover letter uploads!
- Alerts so you can be the first to apply for new jobs in your area.
- Job recommendations based on profile and previous searches.
- Positions for all experience levels, including RBT, BCBA, BCBA-D, bachelors, master's, and doctoral.

job.abainternational.org

Updates From ABAI's Special Interest Groups

Culture and Diversity

BY YORS GARCIA

Accomplishments Over the Past Year

The Culture and Diversity SIG has experienced remarkable growth over the past year, strengthening our commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive behavior analysis community. Under the leadership of our board members. President: Yors Garcia, Vice-President: Kade-Ann Henry, and Secretary: Noor Syed, we have successfully expanded our membership, launched new initiatives, and increased engagement within our field.

One of our most notable achievements has been the significant growth in membership, reflecting a heightened interest in our mission. Our SIG has also focused on supporting research projects that explore the intersection of diversity, cultural factors, and behavior analysis. We have provided valuable mentorship, resources, and platforms to researchers investigating ways to enhance outcomes for diverse groups through behavior analytic practices.

Plans for the Upcoming Year

Looking ahead to 2026, our SIG is committed to advancing several key initiatives:

- Membership Expansion: We will intensify recruitment efforts to attract a broader range of professionals and students, ensuring an inclusive environment where all members can contribute and benefit from shared knowledge and experience.
- Research Support: We will continue endorsing research that aligns with our mission, offering resources and guidance to scholars dedicated to advancing behavior analysis through a cultural and diversity-informed lens.
- Community Engagement: We aim to strengthen partnerships with allied organizations and advocacy groups to amplify the impact of behavior analysis across different populations.
- Open elections for new president, vice-president and secretary.

We are excited about the potential of these initiatives to further enhance our profession and positively impact the communities we serve.

Membership Information

Becoming a Culture and Diversity member is an opportunity to join a dynamic network of professionals dedicated to the evolution of behavior analysis. Membership offers:

- Access to exclusive research updates, networking events, and mentorship opportunities.
- Participation in collaborative projects and special interest discussions.
- The chance to contribute to shaping policy, research, and best practices in behavior analysis.

We welcome all professionals and students passionate about behavior analysis and its role in promoting diversity and inclusion.

ABAI Annual Convention Participation

While our SIG did not have an active role in the 2025 ABAI Annual Convention, we recognize the importance of engaging in these discussions and are making it a priority for 2026. Next year, we plan to contribute meaningfully by organizing sessions, participating in panels, and collaborating with other SIGs and professionals to advance conversations on diversity, inclusion, and cultural responsiveness in behavior analysis.

Our goal is to highlight best practices for integrating cultural considerations into behavior analytic interventions, present new research findings, and provide networking opportunities for professionals committed to fostering inclusivity in our field. We look forward to a stronger presence at the next ABAI convention and encourage our members to participate in these initiatives.

Looking Forward

As we move into 2026, we invite the ABAI community to join us in shaping a more inclusive and impactful future for behavior analysis. Together, we can drive meaningful change through research, advocacy, and professional development.

For more information on how to become a member or get involved, please visit

www.facebook.com/CultureandDiversitySIGofABAI

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. The mission of the Ethics and Behavior Analysis (EBA) SIG is to advance the science and practice of behavior analysis through active engagement and exploration of the ethics of behavior change across the species.

Over the last year, the EBASIG has been revitalized and in the regrowth process is now embarking on three issues of importance, 1) increasing membership, 2) creating a new and improved website for members and potential members, and 3) envisioning new and innovative CE/professional development activities in the upcoming year.

Anyone interested in ethics in behavior analysis is encouraged to join the EBASIG as we grow and develop over the next year. The EBASIG is dedicated to

interdisciplinary and scientific approaches to addressing ethical issues in behavior analysis and the promotion of high-quality ethics education and training for students and professionals. We welcome members from across all areas of behavior analysis such as animal welfare, bioethics, research ethics, ethical considerations in clinical provision, etc. The EBASIG is dedicated to advancing knowledge across a wide variety of areas of behavior analysis including (but not limited to) research, clinical practice, academia, education, and service delivery.

Over the past year, EBASIG has focused on rebuilding infrastructure and re-engaging previous members while recruiting new members. The EBASIG looks forward to an exciting year of growth, collaboration, and meaningful contributions to the ethical advancement of the field. There are several opportunities for engagement in the EBASIG in the upcoming year. All who are interested in joining are encouraged to reach out to Dr. Malika Prichett and staying up to date on our EBASIG webpage on the ABAI website.

Evolutionary Sciences

BY YUKIE KURUMIYA

The Evolutionary Science Special Interest Group (EvoSci SIG) was established to advance and evolve the science of behavior analysis through the lenses of evolutionary science, behavioral selection, and relational and symbolic learning at the cultural level. Since its creation in 2023 and formal founding in 2024, the SIG has worked to build a collaborative space for members interested in examining variation, selection, and retention across phylogenic, ontogenic, and cultural levels of analysis.

Over the past year, the EvoSci SIG has focused on building its identity, refining its mission, and creating opportunities for scholarly exchange among members and colleagues from related disciplines. Our central aim is to expand behavior analysis through a multilevel selection perspective that can inform research, education, and practice. In particular, the SIG is interested in analyzing direct, indirect, and cultural contingencies in ways that may help prevent resurgence following behavior-analytic treatment and improve our understanding of harmful insensitivity to important social and environmental variables.

A major accomplishment this past year was the development of the Evolutionary Spotlight Series, a quarterly speaker series featuring scholars whose work advances evolutionary thinking in behavior science. This series has helped create opportunities for members to engage with emerging ideas, connect across specialties, and explore new directions for research and application. More broadly, the SIG has continued laying the groundwork for a strong scientific and professional community centered on dialogue, collaboration, and interdisciplinary exchange.

In the coming year, the EvoSci SIG plans to continue growing its membership, expanding interdisciplinary collaboration, and strengthening its programming. We look forward to continuing the Evolutionary Spotlight Series, launching a book club for members and prospective members, and further developing the SIG as a scientific and professional home for behavior analysts, evolutionary scientists, and collaborators from related fields. We also aim to increase dissemination of our work and create more opportunities for networking and discussion among those who share a commitment to improving the world through rigorous science, trust, and psychological safety.

Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior

BY CATHERINE WILLIAMS

The mission of the Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior Special Interest Group (EAHB SIG) is to promote basic experimental and translational research with human participants. The EAHB SIG works toward this mission by:

1 **Sponsoring an annual Student Paper Competition:** The goal of the paper competition is to encourage basic experimental and translational research by recognizing the best exemplars from the work of students. Student submissions receive journal-style reviews from established researchers in the field. Finally, the winners were recognized at the annual ABAI meeting of the EAHB SIG, where students presented their experiments to the audience. Watch out for next year's paper competition, which is usually announced in November/December with a mid-February deadline!
2 **Sponsoring an annual Distinguished Contributions Award:** The goal of this award is to recognize the contributions of behavioral scientists whose work has helped to define EAHB as an interesting and viable area of study. Prior recipients have included Julio de Rose, Bryan Roche, and Williams McIlvane. This year's winner, Dr. McIlvane, presented at talk entitled "Algorithm Instruction of Relational Learning: Is AI technology a Solution" at the annual ABAI meeting. Join the listsev (see information at the end of this article) to vote for the next award recipient.
3 **Sponsoring the Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior Bulletin:** The EAHB Bulletin (ISSN 1938-7237) is an online, open-access, peer-reviewed journal (**www.eahb-bulletin.ufscar.br/index.php/sig/index**) dedicated to the publication of original, peer-reviewed empirical articles, notes on research in progress, technical notes, and descriptions of other activities related to human operant and respondent research. This year, we published two issues; one of which was a special issue about Verbal Behavior and EAHB. Anyone can submit an article for review in this journal.
4 **Sponsoring an annual meeting for interested parties**

at the annual ABAI convention: The goal of these meetings is to discuss the business of the EAHB SIG, the EAHB Bulletin, and the general state of affairs in EAHB, EAB, Behavior Analysis, and the world generally. The meeting is also used to recognize our Student Paper Competition winners and to deliberate and decide upon the next recipient of the EAHB Distinguished Contributions Award. All members are welcome to attend!

Membership to the EAHB SIG is completely free. Simply join by sending an email to **listserv@listserv.uhd.edu** saying "Subscribe EAHB Firstname Lastname."

Forensic Behavior Analysis

BY TIMOTHY TEMPLIN

Applied behavior analysis (ABA) has been useful in addressing societal problems related to the criminal justice field. For example, the role of discrete trial training in the restoration of competency to stand trial for criminal defendants. Other areas include rehabilitation and the prevention of criminal behavior.

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 over 4,000 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 the WisABA Annual Conference:
WisABA Annual Conference in Wauwatosa, WI
Title: *The Analysis of Crime: Forensic Behavioral Case Conceptualization*
October 2, 2025
1:30–3:00 PM

Presentation by SIG Members:
ABAI 52nd Annual Convention in San Francisco, CA.
Title: *Forensic Behavior Analysis: Supervision, advancements and applications*
May 23, 2026
12:00–12:50 PM
Description: This panel centers on three converging pillars in forensic behavior analysis: supervision, advancing research, and current applications and uses. Panelists will unpack the practical complexities of supervision, competency, and maintaining scope and ethics in practice. The session highlights emerging trends and methodological advances that strengthen rigor, relevance, and translation to practice, with attention to measures that capture real-world constraints. Applications will demonstrate how contemporary behavior-analytic tools are being used across forensic settings, identify gaps that remain, and explain how innovations under development are addressing them. Ethical decision-making is woven throughout supervision, research, and application, clarifying procedures that protect clients and practitioners while advancing the field. The panel will discuss and identify current challenges and present possible solutions. Discussions will hopefully be pragmatic, discussing next steps for scalable, ethical growth, including cross-systems collaborations, research, and acquiring data. The panel will explore the development of supervision, research, and applications, and how current practices can address ethical dilemmas, but also push the field forward.

Objectives

- Understand the current Forensic Behavior Analytical applications.
- Explore the complexities of forensic behavior analysis supervision.
- Discuss the current developments of research in forensic behavior analysis.

Over the last year, we have held monthly meetings for SIG officers and others who wish to attend and work on the development of our group.

SIG Officers

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

Gambling

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; whether your interest relates to research, treatment, policy, all of the above, or more broadly about risk and choice, we bet you will find the GSIG resources and literature on the behavioral analysis of gambling rewarding. Our members are in the process of updating our software and plan to have new software hosted. We are working on migrating

Analysis of Gambling Behavior, a journal devoted to behavioral research, to a new archive and home. The GSIG has had a long relationship with Analysis of Gambling Behavior, as many GSIG members have supported the journal in various roles over the years.

History of Behavior Analysis

BY EDWARD K. MORRIS

The History of Behavior Analysis Special Interest Group of the Association for Behavior Analysis International was founded in 2011. Its aim has been 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 instruction in the history of behavior analysis (e.g., content, pedagogy), research on its history (i.e., historiography), and the dissemination of its instruction and research (e.g., presentations, publications). To date, the SIG's main activity has been hosting a ListServ (**hoba@listserv. uhd.edu**) and holding business meetings at the ABAI conferences.

The SIG has 278 members—a steady membership. It is open to anyone interested in the history and historiography of behavior analysis, including ABAI members, members of other behavior-analytic organizations, members of relevant organizations outside of behavior analysis, and independent scholars. To join, contact Pat Williams (University of Houston-Downtown) at **WilliamsP@uhd.edu**. The SIG has no membership dues.

To date, the SIG's governance has consisted of its president, Edward K. Morris (University of Kansas), and vice-president, Karen Wagner (Behavior Service of Brevard, FL). Pat Williams (University of Houston-Downtown) is the ListServe manager and moderator. This changed in 2026. As discussed at its 2025 Business Meeting, the SIG's 2025 goals were to revitalize and expand the SIG (e.g., By-Laws, committees). However, although the members in attendance were enthusiastic, they were already overcommitted to teaching, research, and other service. The consensus was that the SIG should address the changes organically as they arise among the members' interests.

Concurrently, the SIG's president began the process of selecting the SIG's next president. After considering several candidates, he invited Malika Pritchett, Ph.D. to succeed him. She accepted. Dr. Pritchett (**malikap@ku.edu**) has an MS in Behavior Analysis from the University of North Texas and a Ph.D. in Health Services Research with a concentration in Behavior Analysis from the University of North Texas and is currently an assistant professor of practice in the Department of Applied Behavioral Science at the University of Kansas (see Malika Pritchett | Department of Applied Behavioral Science). After finishing ABAI's 2026 SIG Leadership Training, she assumed the position at the 2026 HoBA SIG Business Meeting.

Independent of Dr. Pritchett's leadership, two initiatives have been proposed as the SIG's goals for 2026. The first is a daily calendar of events in the history of behavior analysis. In 1994, Warren Street published a calendar for APA titled, "A Chronology of Noteworthy Events in American Psychology." Travis Thompson began a calendar for behavior analysis, but did not complete it before his death. The SIG might complete the project. The second initiative is an Archive of Behavior Analysis Archives website, initiated by Mary Vernon, M.D., in the Department of Applied Behavioral Science at the University of Kansas. She proposes to develop a website of links to archives that host significant behavior-analytic materials and their finding aids, as well as to the archives of related organizations, university and college departments, and individual behavior analysts. The future of the history of behavior analysis looks bright.

LGBTQ+

BY DANIEL CONINE

This year our 2025–2026 LGBTQ+ SIG Board included Jonathan Fernand (Past President), Daniel Conine (President), Andrew Craig (President-Elect), Mychal Machado (Treasurer), and Victoria German (Secretary). The SIG's officers have also been supported by many talented volunteer Chairs including Max Llinás, our awards chair, and Ky Jackson, our website development chair. Now in our third year as a SIG, we have focused this year on further developing our systems, continuing on our previous successes, engaging even more with our members on issues that matter to them, and expanding our SIG awards.

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 fosters mentorship for practitioners interested in serving the LGBTQIA+ community. The SIG explores, debates, and advocates 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). All interested in joining a network and community striving to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ people are invited and 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 actively expanding the ways in which the science of behavior analysis can benefit LGBTQ+ communities by starting our first ever LGBTQ+ SIG Research Seed Grant Award. The LGBTQ+ SIG Research Seed Grant Award provides seed funding for research that applies the science of behavior (or behavior analytic methods) to the LGBTQIA2S+ population, with LGBTQIA2S+ participants, or to study issues affecting LGBTQIA2S+ people and communities. We have also begun work on a new SIG website to better disseminate our work, connect with our members, and share resources.

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. 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.

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 SOFIA D'AGOSTINO

The NDBI SIG was founded in May of 2020. 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. Please see our website (linked below) for a list of recent NDBI publications and other resources including handouts, videos, and books to learn more about NDBI.

During the past year, we have maintained a website (**sites.google.com/sdsu.edu/ndbispecialinterestgroup/home**), Twitter account (**@ndbigroup**), and Facebook group (**www.facebook.com/NDBI-Special-Interest- Group-for-ABAI-106003411312893**) designed to grow interest in NDBI and share links to relevant resources. To become a SIG member or if you are interested in learning more about NDBI, please contact us at **NDBISIG@gmail.com**. Membership is currently free and we welcome anyone to join. We hope to engage more practitioners in discussions around NDBI and provide resources to increase NDBI implementation.

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 3,263 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 Occupational Therapy Applied Behavior Analysis SIG, including both formally affiliated participants and those who engage more informally, continue to advance scholarship and professional engagement at the intersection of occupational therapy and applied behavior analysis. Over the past year, individual members have contributed to peer-reviewed publications, promoted evidence-based practice, and applied behavior analytic principles within research and intervention efforts related to occupational performance.

In addition to members' scholarly contributions, the SIG has fostered interdisciplinary exchange by connecting

professionals across both fields to support collaboration and shared professional learning grounded in scientific principles. The group has promoted member-led webinars, digital resources, and conference presentations and workshops, while also providing mentorship and guidance to students and early career professionals, including information about pathways to dual credentialing as occupational therapy practitioners and BCBAs or BCaBAs.

Organizational Behavior Management Network

BY ALISON BETZ

Core Identity & Objectives

The Organizational Behavior Management (OBM) Network SIG is dedicated to advancing the science and practice of organizational behavior management—an applied area of behavior analysis focused on improving performance, safety, leadership, and systems-level outcomes in the workplace. OBM applies behavioral principles to achieve meaningful business and societal results through measurable, sustainable behavior change.

Our major goals include:

1 Expanding global awareness and application of OBM across industries.
2 Supporting high-quality research and dissemination in organizational settings.
3 Strengthening professional development and leadership pathways for students and practitioners in OBM.

Leadership & Membership

The OBM Network continues to operate under an engaged board of directors committed to growth, transparency, and member value. This year included ongoing refinement of board processes and strategic planning to improve membership engagement and benefits, communications, and diversity initiatives.

For the 2025 membership year, the OBM Network reached 534 total members, including 354 full members and 180 student members. Membership growth reflects continued interest in OBM as behavior analysts increasingly expand into systems-level and organizational work.

Key member benefits include:

- Subscription access to the Journal of Organizational Behavior Management
- Eligibility for the Student Research Grant and Outstanding Innovative OBM Intervention Award
- Access to a members-only portal and voting privileges in annual leadership elections
- Membership is open to professionals and students with an interest in OBM. Dues are paid annually through the OBM Network membership portal.

Additionally, we welcomed Dr Abigail Blackman to our board of directors as President-Elect. Dr. Blackman will step into the President role in May 2026. We want to thank Kelly Therrien for serving on the board for the past three years and wish her well as she will be ending her term as past president in May 2026.

Key Accomplishments (Past Year)

One of the OBM Network's most significant accomplishments this year was hosting an international conference in Iceland, strengthening global collaboration and expanding OBM's international reach. The conference provided opportunities for research dissemination, practitioner case studies, and meaningful networking among scholars and applied professionals.

The SIG also increased member engagement through more consistent digital outreach. Strategic social media initiatives—such as "Winners Week" and conference-related content—contributed to expanded visibility, with more than 5,100 Facebook followers and over 1,500 LinkedIn members.

Additionally, the OBM Network continued to promote excellence in the field through research grants and innovation awards, recognizing outstanding contributions to OBM practice and scholarship.

Challenges & Adaptations

As OBM continues to expand into new industries and international contexts, one challenge has been ensuring inclusive engagement and representation across diverse professional settings. The board has begun exploring expanded diversity initiatives and enhanced member data tracking to better understand and support our growing community.

Another area of growth includes refining communication systems and leveraging scheduling platforms to maintain consistent, high-quality engagement.

The OBM Network remains committed to strengthening OBM's impact within behavior analysis and beyond. We invite ABAI members interested in workplace performance, leadership, and systems change to join us as we continue advancing OBM worldwide.

Pediatric Feeding Disorders

BY VIVIAN IBAÑEZ

Since its reactivation in 2025, the Pediatric Feeding Disorders Special Interest Group (PFD SIG) convened for the second time at the ABAI annual convention in San Francisco, CA, on Sunday, May 24th. Over the past year, Dr. Ibañez has coordinated efforts to review and organize historical SIG files to better understand earlier initiatives and identify areas of progress. As part of this work, she also met with several individuals who appeared to have been active in the SIG based on past meeting minutes.

Examining documents dating back to 2011, when ABAI was held in Denver, CO, provided valuable context for strengthening the structure and goals of the reactivated SIG. For example, one long-standing objective was to explore the development of current procedural terminology (CPT) codes for feeding services. Although challenges related to authorization persist across various types of feeding services, the establishment of CPT codes for ABA services by the AMA has created new pathways for improving access to ABA-based feeding interventions.

To better understand the SIG's current needs, a survey was administered during the meeting, and the results will inform priorities and directions for the upcoming year. In addition, Dr. Ibañez will be forming a workgroup to coordinate with ABAI's SIG leadership to update the PFD SIG bylaws and continue refining the group's operational transparency and structure. Anyone interested in supporting this effort is encouraged to email Dr. Ibañez at vibanez@ufl.edu.

As the SIG continues to move forward, the group will also revisit its mission and name to ensure alignment with contemporary needs across communities and inclusivity of diverse feeding concerns (e.g., Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder).

For now, the mission of the PFD SIG is to generate interest; foster collaborative research; share clinical information; and positively impact training, practice, and reimbursement for the evaluation and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders. We look forward to the coming year and encourage you to contact Dr. Vivian Ibañez at **vibanez@ufl.edu** if you are interested in staying updated on SIG activities!

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 2.6K members, a 100% 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 2026, the new leadership will evaluate SIG needs and continue to implement short- and long-term goals focusing on the following areas:

- Continuing to analyze 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**.

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 with licensure laws in place, including Pennsylvania (since 2011), and other states still considering such legislation. Also, all 50 states as of this report have "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 recent announcements by the BACB regarding discontinuation of offering certification outside of North America and to offer certification examinations at any time, present new challenges as well as opportunities for practitioners, and those who own and operate ABA practice organizations.

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

Guided by the vision of B. F. Skinner, the Public School Behavior Analyst Special Interest Group (PSBA SIG) remains committed to applying the science of behavior to strengthen public education. At a time when schools face declining academic performance, rising behavioral and mental health needs, and increased policy uncertainty — including national conversations about the future of the U.S. Department of Education — the need for data-driven, evidence-based systems has never been greater.

Over the past year, PSBA advanced its mission through CEU-accredited journal clubs, expert guest speakers, collaborative research initiatives, and engagement with state chapters to address the daily challenges facing school-based behavior analysts. Members also expanded their leadership and advocacy capacity through programming at the annual conference of the Association for Behavior Analysis International.

Looking ahead, PSBA will continue hosting monthly networking events and discussion forums featuring guest speakers, while also conducting regional surveys to better understand the current landscape of behavior analytic services in public schools. These efforts will inform targeted advocacy initiatives and strengthen support for school-based practitioners. As national conversations about the future of public education continue, PSBA remains committed to ensuring that applied behavior analysis plays a central role in shaping effective, equitable, and sustainable school systems. Together, we can advocate for stronger schools, empowered educators, and improved outcomes for all students.

SIG Español

BY MAPY CHAVEZ ASKINS

SIG Español: Conectando Voces, Transformando Vidas

Una Historia de Conexión y Crecimiento

Desde su fundación en 2004, el SIG Español ha sido mucho más que un grupo de interés especial: es un puente vital que une a profesionales del análisis del comportamiento a través de la lengua española.

¿Quiénes Somos?

Somos una comunidad vibrante de profesionales — tanto aquellos para quienes el español es su lengua materna como quienes trabajan con poblaciones hispanohablantes— unidos por un propósito común: crear espacios significativos de intercambio en nuestro idioma. Aquí, las ideas fluyen, las experiencias se comparten y las colaboraciones nacen.

Nuestra Misión: Más Allá de las Fronteras

Nuestro compromiso principal es claro y poderoso: fortalecer los vínculos de comunicación y colaboración entre todos los miembros de ABAI. Pero no nos detenemos ahí. Estamos dedicados a:

- Impulsar la investigación en países de habla hispana
- Dar visibilidad a los hallazgos científicos en la convención anual de ABAI
- Revitalizar oportunidades para que el intercambio académico y profesional florezca en español

Mirando al Futuro

Nuestra visión es ambiciosa y necesaria: enriquecer la diversidad lingüística y cultural dentro de la disciplina del análisis del comportamiento, asegurando que el español tenga el espacio que merece en el diálogo científico global.

Únete a Nosotros

La convención anual de ABAI es nuestro punto de encuentro —un espacio vital donde la conexión y el diálogo entre profesionales hispanohablantes cobran vida.

¿Listo para ser parte de esta comunidad?

Mapy Chávez Askins, PhD
mapy.chavez.askins@alcanzando.org
+1 239 961 3322 +51 1 708 6283

Speech Pathology

BY NIKIA DOWER

Now in our 21st year, SPABA continues to expand its reach, strengthen professional development, and increase its impact across speech-language pathology (SLP) and behavior analysis. A major milestone occurred in November 2023 when SPABA became a registered 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit, reinforcing our long-term commitment to advancing research, education, and interprofessional collaboration.

Mission

SPABA is dedicated to:

- Promoting the development and dissemination of empirically sound research and interprofessional, practice-based interventions within the overlapping domains of SLP and applied behavior analysis (ABA).
- Advocating for the use of evidence-based practices across the full range of services delivered by SLPs and behavior analysts.
- Bridging the research-practice gap through education, training, and mentorship.

Vision

We envision a future in which collaboration between SLPs and behavior analysts leads to meaningful improvements in the lives of individuals and families. Through conferences, research, workshops, publications, and ongoing dissemination, SPABA strengthens communication across disciplines and enhances outcomes in speech, language, and feeding disorders.

Growth and Membership

Globally, the number of dually credentialed SLP-BCBAs and related certifications has increased to 497, spanning 44 U.S. states and 21 countries. SPABA maintains an international database of dually certified professionals to increase access to interdisciplinary expertise.

In 2025, SPABA welcomed 92 members, including 37 new and 13 student members. As of March 1, 2026, we have 73 active members, including 22 new and 10 student members. Our Facebook group now exceeds 10,500 participants, facilitating robust interdisciplinary discussion and rapid information exchange. Social media engagement across platforms continues to grow.

Financial Sustainability

Membership fees and donations historically funded our annual grant competition. As a nonprofit, SPABA now receives philanthropic contributions through platforms such as Zeffy, PayPal Giving Fund, and Facebook Fundraising. Eleven sponsors supported our inaugural conference, covering platform costs and speaker honoraria. Revenue increased again in 2025 with our second annual virtual conference, which drew nearly 200 attendees and featured presentations on speech shaping, assent-based practice, adult services, interprofessional collaboration, and more.

Annual Awards

SPABA awards at least three $500 grants annually:

- Giri Hegde Empirical Research Award
- Barb Esch Application Award
- Nikia Dower Dissemination Award

These awards support empirical research, application projects, and cross-disciplinary dissemination efforts. Several past recipients have published their work, demonstrating measurable impact on the evidence base. 2025 awardees presented at the SPABA conference, and 2026 recipients will present virtually in fall 2026.

Dual Credentialed Contributions

In 2025, dually credentialed professionals delivered at least 189 presentations worldwide, including at ABAI and ASHA conventions, state conferences, webinars, and podcasts. Their work spans research, publication, mentoring, and dissemination across speech, language, feeding, and communication services.

Initiatives and Future Direction

SPABA continues to:

- Offer free SCOPE community-of-practice events and continuing education.
- Maintain BACB CE provider status.
- Disseminate interprofessional resources across SLP and ABA communities.
- Develop web-based tutorials and coursework for practitioners and trainees.
- Pursue grant funding and collaborative initiatives with related SIGs.

SPABA's continued growth depends on volunteer engagement and financial support. We invite professionals, researchers, and students to join us in strengthening interprofessional practice and advancing evidence-based services worldwide.

Learn more at **www.behavioralspeech.com**.

Standard Celeration Society

BY SCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Standard Celeration Society (SCS), established as an ABAI special interest group in 1995, is dedicated to upholding and advancing the defining features of the Standard Celeration Chart. Since its formation, the Society has served as a welcoming and enduring forum for practitioners, researchers, educators, and advocates who rely on standard celeration charting to guide decision making and improve human performance. As our community continues to grow, we remain committed to supporting the use, development, and dissemination of this measurement technology across an expanding range of disciplines and stakeholders.

Our mission is grounded in a set of core values that shape how we operate and how we engage with one another. Community is central to our identity. We work intentionally to build a dedicated and collaborative membership that encourages contribution, connection, and mutual respect. Authenticity guides our decision making, ensuring that our choices align with our values and that we maintain transparency while welcoming input from members. We champion inclusivity by cultivating an open and equitable environment that embraces diverse voices, experiences, and perspectives. We honor our legacy by

recognizing the history and contributions of those who built the foundations of our science and practice, and we strive to carry that work forward with integrity. Finally, we commit to kindness, ensuring that all interactions, both verbal and nonverbal, reflect care, professionalism, and generosity. Together, these values form the foundation of the SCS and guide our collective efforts to advance our mission and strengthen the field.

Since 2015, the SCS has operated through a structured leadership model composed of a board of directors and volunteer leadership teams who work collaboratively to implement new initiatives and sustain ongoing programs. Our board includes five members who serve 3-year terms, supported by an executive director, vice presidents, associate vice presidents, and committee volunteers. The board provides strategic guidance, while the executive director and leadership teams carry out initiatives across finance and operations, programs, membership, scientific and academic relations, communications, and international relations. A six-member advisory council further supports the Society by offering expertise and professional insight. Together, these groups have built and refined the systems that maintain continuity, preserve institutional memory, and ensure the productivity of a volunteer driven organization.

The SCS is advancing a robust slate of initiatives designed to strengthen our community and elevate the field of Precision Teaching. Our membership recruitment campaign continues to expand our network of committed professionals. Members receive exclusive benefits, including discounted conference registration, access to the full archive of the Journal of Precision Teaching and Celeration, CEU discounts, and participation in web based continuing education events. Our monthly Coaching and Mentorship Program (CAMP) connects experienced professionals with emerging practitioners and supports skill development and career growth. Celerate, our quarterly newsletter, highlights member achievements, research updates, and community milestones. At www.celeration.org, our digital MAP project showcases organizations around the world that use the Standard Celeration Chart and provides a global view of our collective impact. Members can also explore SCS themed merchandise, connect through the Chart Parent Tree, and engage with tools that celebrate our history while propelling us forward. These initiatives reflect our updated mission, vision, and diversity commitment, all rooted in expanding access to precision measurement, fostering inclusivity, and advancing the science and practice of standard celeration technology.

Our 39th Annual Conference will be held November 5–7, 2026, in Reno, Nevada, at the Whitney Peak Hotel. The three-day event includes interactive workshops, invited and submitted presentations, poster sessions, the annual Chart Share, and an expo. Invited speakers include Dr. Donny Newsome, Dr. Timothy Ludwig, and Dr. Trina Spencer.

More information about our events, initiatives, and membership opportunities is available at **www.celeration.org**. 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!

Theoretical, Philosophical, and Conceptual Issues

BY LEE MASON

Behaviorism's Happy Truth

Seventy-five years ago, Frank Beach, then president of the American Psychological Association, delivered the presidential address to the Division of Experimental Psychology in which he described emerging trends across fields of psychology. Namely, over the preceding four decades, comparative psychologists had constricted the scope of their comparisons to the point where it was almost exclusively focused on rats. Simultaneously, over the preceding four decades, experimental psychologists had constricted the scope of their experiments to the point where it was almost exclusively focused on bar presses.

Beach (1950) used literary allusions to describe the circumscribed interests observed across each field. He described comparative psychology's disproportionate use of Rattus norvegicus as a snark hunt and warned against the danger of catching a boojum (Carroll, 1876). He described experimental psychology's disproportionate emphasis on lever pressing as a reversal of Browning's (1842) pied piper in which the rat lures the researchers into oblivion. In short, the lack of methodological diversity placed both fields at risk of extinction.

Biologists tout the sustainability of an ecological community as a function of its richness. On the one hand, diverse organisms may mutually benefit one another through symbiotic relationships. On the other hand, variation creates competition that affords selectionism, a concept familiar to biologists and behaviorists alike. Modern evolutionary theory contends that these two hands belong to the same organism, thereby increasing its adaptability to environmentally induced components of variation. The concomitant evolution of symbiotic groups provides mutually beneficial protection against selective pressures (Boyd et al., 2024). In other words, both the divergence of diversity and convergence of co-evolution provide the ecological richness to stave off extinction. Unsurprisingly, the same principles apply to behavior analysis.

Echoing Beach's (1950) warning against comparative psychology's limited variation in subjects, Heward and colleagues (2022) argued that behavior-analytic research

is too narrowly focused on participants with autism. Reiterating Beach's warning against experimental psychology's limited variation in methodology, Mason and colleagues (2021) argued that, in terms of research methodology, behavior analysts suffer from stimulus overselectivity. Publication being a sizable reinforcer for researchers, it should come as no surprise that previously published methods are likely to recur.

According to Killeen (2018), this has led to "a data glut and a theory insufficiency … We must learn that data have little value until embedded in a coherent narrative; and the best of those are called theories. (p. 124)" Yet Bowers (2022) seemed to disagree when he noted, "Students become enthusiastic converts of theories they study, and typically hesitate to revise their views in light of discrepant data. Hence, psychology students from different universities often sound like they come from different planets, despite having the same access to data" (p. 438). In times of an impoverished methodology, its symbolic relationship with theory will insulate our science against selective pressures. "The happy truth," said Bowers, "is that the field of animal learning is sophisticated and theoretically rich."

References

Beach, F. A. (1950). *The snark was a boojum. American Psychologist*, 5(4), 115–124. https://doi.org/10.1037/h0056510

Bowers, R. I. (2022). *Taming the boojum: Being theoretical about peculiarities of learning.* Learning & Behavior, 50(3), 433-440. https://doi.org/10.3758/s13420-022-00535-3

Boyd, B. M., James, I., Johnson, K. P., Weiss, R. B., Bush, S. E., Clayton, D. H., & Dale, C. (2024). *Stochasticity, determinism, and contingency shape genome evolution of endosymbiotic bacteria.* Nature Communications, 15(1), 4571. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-024-48784-2

Browning, R. (1842). *The pied piper of Hamelin: A child's story. In Dramatic Lyrics (Bells and Pomegranates III).* https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/45818/the-pied-piper-of-hamelin

Carroll, L. (1876). *The hunting of the snark: An agony, in eight fits.* Macmillan. https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43909/the-hunting-of-the-snark

Heward, W. L., Critchfield, T. S., Reed, D. D., Detrich, R., & Kimball, J. W. (2022). *ABA from A to Z: Behavior science applied to 350 domains of socially significant behavior. Perspectives on Behavior Science*, 45(2), 327–359. https://doi.org/10.1007/s40614-022-00336-z

Killeen, P. R. (2018). *The futures of experimental analysis of behavior. Behavior Analysis: Research and Practice*, 18(2), 124. http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/bar0000100

Mason, L., Otero, M., & Andrews, A. (2021). *Cochran's Q test of stimulus overselectivity within the verbal repertoire of children with autism. Perspectives on Behavior Science*, 45(1), 101–121. https://doi.org/10.1007/s40614-021-00315-w

Trauma-Informed Practice in ABA

BY GABI MORGAN

The Trauma-informed Practice in ABA (TIP ABA) SIG is a new group established in 2025-2026 with the mission to bring together individuals who specialize in or have an interest in applying a trauma-informed lens to the study and practice of applied behavior analysis.

The TIP ABA SIG is committed to the development and dissemination of evidence-based resources and information to ABAI members and the general public on issues related to trauma-informed practice from a behavior analytic perspective as well as promoting behavior analytic research on trauma-informed practice.

This SIG will be focused on providing resources for behavior analysts to incorporate trauma-informed practices into their work with all clients in a manner that is conceptually systematic, ethical, and within the scope of practice of behavior analysis.

Our goals include:

- Goal 1: Host at least 2 CEU remote presentation opportunities in the upcoming year.
- Goal 2: Disseminate resources related to trauma-informed practice in ABA in a newsletter and on our SIG website.
- Goal 3: Increase the research presence at both ABAI and regional conferences through presentations and posters related to research in trauma-informed practice.
- Goal 4: Grow our membership.
- Goal 5: Define our social media and web presence.

We welcome anyone who is interested in applying a trauma-informed lens to ABA practice to join the TIP ABA SIG.

Verbal Behavior

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 three newsletters, disseminating information online, and more.

We applaud the students who received plaques and cash awards at our business meeting during the 2025 ABAI Annual Convention. There were three winners of the 2025 VB SIG Student Grant Competition: First Place – Laura Willoughby (University of North Texas); Second Place – Sarah Kong (Western New England University); and Third Place – Ky Jackson (University of Nebraska Omaha). We extend our gratitude to the reviewers of this competition: Dr. Rachel Thomas, Armando Angulo, Dr. Brittany Juban, and Jordan Litt. Additionally, three winners were recognized in the 2025 VB SIG Student Paper Competition: First Place – Carolyn Crysdale (Endicott College); Second Place – Armando Angulo (California State University, Sacramento); and Third Place – Thea Skau Engell (California State University, Sacramento). We sincerely thank the judges: Dr. Aarti Thakore, John Wooderson, Karina Zhelezoglo, and Claudia Diaz-Salvat.

In 2025, the VB SIG presented three professional awards. The Clinical Supervisor in Verbal Behavior Award was awarded to Dr. Lin Du (Teachers College, Columbia University). The Early Career Researcher in Verbal Behavior Award was awarded to Dr. Mirela Cengher (University of Maryland, Baltimore County). We thank the judges:

Drs. Tracy Lepper, Victoria Verdun, Nicole Rodriguez, and Lesley Shawler. Finally, the prestigious Jack Michel Award was awarded to Dr. Alice Shillingsburg for her extensive contributions to verbal behavior research and application. We thank the judges: Drs. Judah Axe, Dan Fienup, Thomas Ratkos, David Roth, Aarti Thakore, and David Cox.

In 2025, the VB SIG launched the John Mabry Funding. The John Mabry Funding is dedicated to advancing research and initiatives within the VB SIG. The goal of this funding is to support a variety of initiatives fostering interdisciplinary research and promoting the practical application of VB principles for the betterment of individuals and society. The John Mabry Student Travel Award was awarded to Xuehua "Shirley" Zhao (University of Maryland, Baltimore County). The John Mabry Early Career Research Grant was awarded to Dr. Ciobha McKeown (California State University, Sacramento). We thank the judges: Drs. Dan Fienu, James Kretzer, Victoria Verdun, and Sarah Frampton.

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 5.2K 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. Our Instagram account, which we launched in 2024, has already built a healthy following with 473 followers (+148% from 2024) and 125 posts. Our LinkedIn page has grown to 247 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 showed a stable membership in 2025, with 145 members compared to 158 in 2024, 122 in 2023, and 122 in 2022. There was a considerable increase in student membership for the past few years, with 59 student members in 2025 compared to 46 in 2024, 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 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 (former Membership Coordinator) and Tiffany Kodak (former TAVB Editor) collaborated to develop this resource, which pairs students and junior researchers with doctoral-level senior researchers to enhance their peer review skills. Two mentor-mentee pairs successfully piloted the program in 2023, and since then, two new pairs met the criteria per year to graduate from the program. The SIG, in collaboration with the TAVB Editor Dr. Alice Shillingsburg, is currently selecting the next cohort of mentor-mentee pairs. The SIG maintained a close working relationship with Dr. Shillingsburg to continue our joint initiatives.

The VB SIG Student Group had an exciting and inspiring year. In 2025, the group was composed of 25 graduate students located both nationally and internationally, representing an increase of 10 students compared to 2024. They held monthly video conference meetings to discuss their research and to interview expert researchers in verbal behavior (i.e., Dr. Catia Cividini-Motta, Dr. John Esch, Dr. Einar Ingvarsson, Drs. Blakely and Schlinger, and Dr. Judah Axe). For 2026, the Student Group has already conducted an interview with Dr. Anna Petursdottir in January, and confirmed the presence of Dr. Mirela Cengher in March and Dr. Mark Sundberg in April. They also collaborated with the SIG's Newsletter Coordinator to feature an interview with Dr. Caio Miguel in the January 2025 issue, Dr. Barbara Esch in the May 2025 issue, and Dr. Einar Ingvarson in the September 2025 issue. Tianjiao Li, University of Maryland, Baltimore

County, served as the leader of the Student Group. 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 2025 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; Kat Flores, Marquette University; Giulia Ferrazzi, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy; Masaya Yamaguchi, University of Nevada, Reno; Ava Minolli, California State University, Sacramento; Sydney Stern, California State University, Sacramento; Rudimar Risso de Oliveira Junior, Universidade de Passo Fundo, Brazil; Eilís O'Connell-Sussman, Endicott College; Carolyn Crysdale, Endicott College; Leidy Tatiana León Acevedo, Cadiz University/ Capella University; Courtney Keleher, Endicott College; Mayra Aley, Rutgers University; Fabio Nunes Estenssoro, Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Campinas; Kimberly Ford, University of South Florida; Alex Miklos, Simmons University; Sarah Kong, Western New England University; Alex Davidson, University of Kansas; Xiaoyuan(Katherine) Liu, Teachers College, Columbia University; Gianna Davino, Western New England University; Ellie Eastlund, Munroe Meyer Institute; Nicole Roberts, Capella University; and Gwyneth, Rollins College.

The VB SIG has continued to host online events in 2025. Last year, the VB SIG launched the VB Operants Event Series, featuring distinguished scholars presenting on core verbal operants within a contemporary behavior-analytic framework. Speakers for this series included Sarah Lechago, who presented The Mand: Going a Little Deeper to Expand Research and Clinical Applications (May); Lee Mason, who presented on Understanding Echoics: Description, Explanation, Prediction, and Control of Vocal Imitation (June); Nicole Rodriguez, who presented on Intraverbals and Intraverbal Control: From Conceptual Foundations to Instructional Application (September); and Sarah Frampton, who presented on The Role of Tacts in Developing "Expertise" (December). Each event focused on conceptual clarity, empirical foundations, and applied implications of the respective operant. 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 2026.

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. A new VB SIG board member was elected this past year: Dr. Georgette Morgan, Ph.D., BCBA-D, who took over as the new Research Competition Coordinator. We warmly welcome our new VB SIG board member and thank Dr. Adrienne Jennings for her service to the VB SIG as a board member. We look forward to hosting elections for one board position in 2025, as several board positions reach 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); Georgette Morgan, 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). ❖


A|B|A|I
Association for Behavior Analysis International
The 2nd ANNUAL
ABAI BEHAVIOR
TECHNICIAN
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
2027
FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 19th
MORE INFO



IN MEMORIAM
Rubén Ardila
1942–2025

BY ALDO HERNÁNDEZ

La psicología latinoamericana despidió a una de sus mentes más brillantes y transformadoras. El doctor Rubén Ardila no solo fue un espectador de la evolución científica del continente, sino el arquitecto principal que cimentó el análisis experimental del comportamiento en nuestra región. Su partida dejó un vacío profundo, pero su legado permanece inscrito en cada laboratorio, aula y publicación científica de América Latina. Nacido en San Gil, Colombia, Ardila comprendió tempranamente que la psicología necesitaba desprenderse de las corrientes meramente especulativas para consolidarse como una ciencia rigurosa, objetiva y socialmente relevante. Su vida fue un testimonio de disciplina intelectual y un esfuerzo incansable por conectar a la región con la vanguardia científica global.

La sólida trayectoria académica del doctor Ardila fue el cimiento de su rigor metodológico, caracterizándose por una búsqueda constante de la excelencia. Se graduó como Psicólogo en la Universidad Nacional de Colombia en 1964, formando parte de las primeras generaciones de profesionales egresados de su país en una época donde la disciplina apenas se consolidaba. Posteriormente, viajó a Estados Unidos para realizar su doctorado en Psicología Experimental en la Universidad de Nebraska-Lincoln, el cual obtuvo en 1970. Fue allí donde profundizó en los rigores del análisis del comportamiento y el método experimental, absorbiendo de primera mano las corrientes científicas que luego adaptaría y expandiría a su regreso a Latinoamérica.

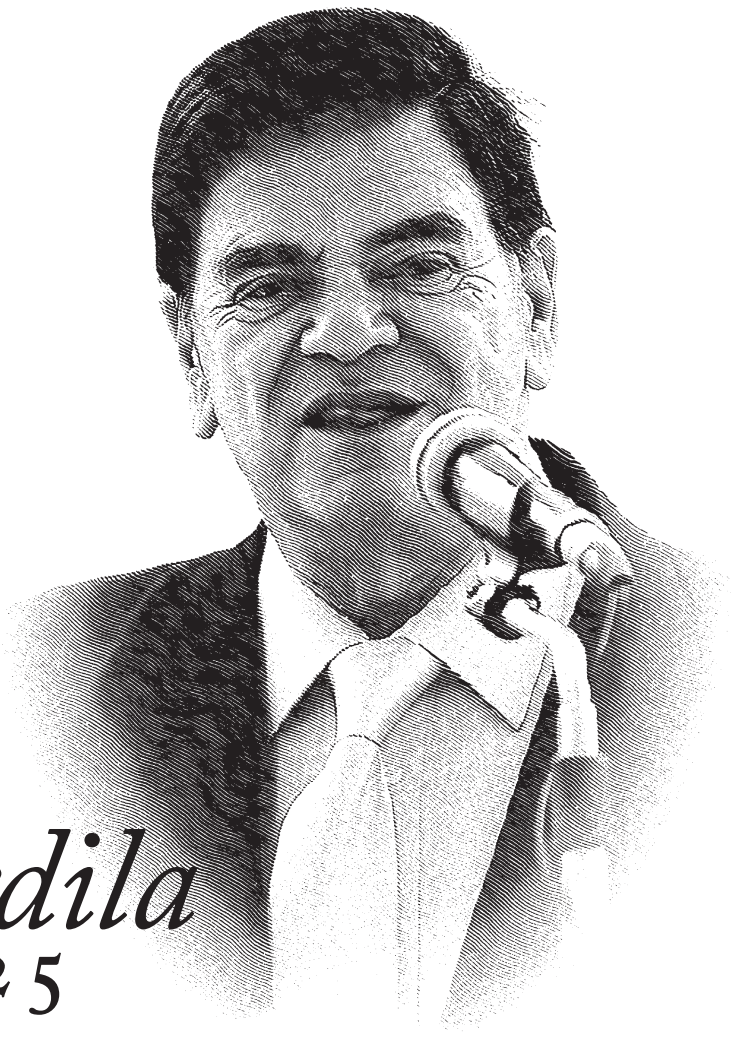
El impacto de Rubén Ardila en el análisis del comportamiento en la región se consolidó a través de grandes transformaciones teóricas y editoriales. Introdujo de manera formal y sistemática el análisis experimental del comportamiento y las ideas skinnerianas en América Latina, defendiendo frente a las escuelas tradicionales que la conducta humana debía ser estudiada de forma científica y medible. Su propuesta teórica más ambiciosa y original fue la Síntesis Experimental del Comportamiento, un paradigma que no concebía al conductismo como una corriente aislada, sino como el eje vertebrador capaz de unificar una disciplina fragmentada, integrando hallazgos de diversas

El Legado Indeleble del Análisis del Comportamiento en América Latina

áreas bajo el rigor metodológico experimental. Asimismo, en 1969 fundó la Revista Latinoamericana de Psicología y, posteriormente, Avances en Psicología Latinoamericana, plataformas que visibilizaron el trabajo de investigadores de todo el continente ante la comunidad internacional.

Ardila entendió que la ciencia no se hace en aislamiento, sino a través de comunidades sólidas, por lo que su liderazgo institucional fue clave para la profesionalización de la disciplina. Tuvo un papel protagónico en la Sociedad Interamericana de Psicología, la organización más importante del continente, de la cual llegó a ser presidente entre 1974 y 1976, logrando tender puentes históricos entre la psicología anglosajona y la latinoamericana. En su propio país, fue fundador y presidente de la Federación Colombiana de Psicología, impulsando la regulación, el estatus legal y la dignificación del ejercicio profesional. Su voz fue igualmente fundamental en organismos internacionales como la International Union of Psychological Science y la American Psychological Association. Fue justamente esta última institución la que reconoció su alcance global al otorgarle el prestigioso "Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology" en 2007, un galardón que consagró su esfuerzo de toda la vida por descentralizar la mirada psicológica y dar valor a los aportes del sur global. Con este mismo propósito de fomentar la investigación científica y la psicología empírica, creó la Fundación para el Avance de la Psicología.

Más allá de sus más de 30 libros y centenares de artículos, el verdadero laboratorio de Ardila estuvo en las aulas. Como docente en la Universidad Nacional de Colombia, la Universidad de los Andes y la Universidad Santo Tomás, formó a las primeras generaciones de analistas del comportamiento de la región, inspirando una rigurosidad científica que hoy se mantiene viva en miles de sus estudiantes. Rubén Ardila nos deja una psicología más sólida, más interconectada y profundamente orgullosa de sus capacidades científicas. Su enfoque en el análisis del comportamiento transformó la disciplina de una profesión emergente a una ciencia respetada con voz propia en el escenario mundial. Su nombre seguirá siendo sinónimo de ciencia, rigor y compromiso con el conocimiento. ❖



IN MEMORIAM
Rubén Ardila
1942–2025

BY ALDO HERNÁNDEZ

The Latin American psychological community mourns the loss of one of its most brilliant and transformative minds. Dr. Rubén Ardila (1942-2025) was not merely an observer of the continent's scientific evolution; he was the primary architect who established the foundations of the experimental analysis of behavior across the region. While his departure leaves a profound void, his legacy remains permanently inscribed within every laboratory, classroom, and scientific publication in Latin America. Born in San Gil, Colombia, Dr. Ardila recognized early in his career that psychology needed to transcend purely speculative traditions to establish itself as a rigorous, objective, and socially relevant science. His life stood as a testament to intellectual discipline and an unyielding commitment to integrating the region into the global scientific avant-garde.

Dr. Ardila's robust academic background served as the bedrock of his methodological rigor and his continuous pursuit of excellence. He earned his undergraduate degree in Psychology from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in 1964, forming part of the country's pioneering generation of formally trained professionals at a time when the discipline was just beginning to institutionalize. He subsequently relocated to the United States to pursue a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, which he obtained in 1970. It was within this academic environment that he deeply immersed himself in the rigors of behavior analysis and experimental methodology, absorbing foundational scientific frameworks that he would later adapt, refine, and expand upon returning to Latin America.

The impact of Rubén Ardila on behavioral analysis throughout the region materialized through monumental theoretical advances and pioneering editorial endeavors. He formally and systematically introduced the experimental analysis of behavior and Skinnerian paradigm to Latin America, contending against traditional, non-empirical schools of thought that human behavior could—and must—be studied through a scientific, quantifiable lens. His most ambitious and original theoretical formulation was the Experimental Synthesis of Psychology, a paradigm that conceptualized behaviorism not as an isolated island, but as the unifying backbone capable of consolidating a fragmented discipline by integrating findings from diverse subfields under rigorous experimental design. Furthermore, in 1969, he founded the Revista Latinoamericana de Psicología (Latin American Journal of Psychology)

His Enduring Legacy on Behavioral Analysis in Latin America

and, subsequently, Avances en Psicología Clínica Latinoamericana (Advances on Latin American Clinical Psychology), peer-reviewed platforms that provided much-needed international visibility to the empirical work of researchers across the continent.

Recognizing that scientific progress does not occur in isolation but thrives within robust scholarly networks, Dr. Ardila exercised institutional leadership that proved pivotal to the professionalization of the discipline. He played a prominent role in the Interamerican Society of Psychology (SIP)—the premier psychological organization of the Americas—serving as its President from 1974 to 1976 and successfully building historic bridges between Anglo-Saxon and Latin American psychological traditions. In his home country, he founded and presided over the Federación Colombiana de Psicología (Colombian Federation of Psychology), driving forward the legal regulation, ethical standards, and professional advancement of psychologists. His voice was equally influential in international bodies such as the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS) and the American Psychological Association (APA). It was precisely the APA that recognized his global reach by honoring him with the prestigious Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology in 2007. This accolade consecrated his lifelong endeavor to decentralize global psychological perspectives and elevate the scientific merits of the Global South. To further sustain this mission of advancing empirical research, he also established the Fundación para el Avance de la Psicología (Foundation for the Advancement of Psychology).

Beyond his authorship of more than 30 books and hundreds of scientific articles, Dr. Ardila's ultimate laboratory was the classroom. As a distinguished professor at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, the Universidad de los Andes, and the Universidad Santo Tomás, he mentored the first generations of behavior analysts in the region, instilling a commitment to empirical skepticism and scientific precision that endures through thousands of his former students. Rubén Ardila leaves behind a discipline that is more rigorous, interconnected, and profoundly confident in its scientific capabilities. His unwavering focus on behavior analysis transformed Latin American psychology from an emerging field into a respected science with a distinct voice on the global stage. His name will remain synonymous with scientific rigor, dedication to knowledge, and academic excellence. ❖


ABAI
Association for Behavior Analysis International
53RD annual convention
NEW ORLEANS
2027
may 28-31

ABAI
Association for Behavior Analysis International

REGISTRATION:
www.abainternational.org/events/autism/autism2027

Bridging Research, Practice, and Lived Experience in Autism



21st ANNUAL

AUTISM AUSTIN CONFERENCE 2027

MARCH 23–25

HYATT REGENCY AUSTIN HOTEL

A|B|A|I
Association for Behavior Analysis International

550 West Centre Avenue, Suite 1
Portage, MI 49024

www.abainternational.org

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT № 82
KALAMAZOO, MI



The Stevie Ray Vaughan Memorial *(by Ralph Helmick) is a bronze statue along the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail of Lady Bird Lake in Austin, Texas. The blues guitarist, himself, performed often at the nearby outdoor concernt venue. A native of Texas, Vaughan died in a helicopter crash in 1990.*