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50<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
CONVENTION  
*Philadelphia*

SATURDAY, MAY 25 to MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024

PENNSYLVANIA CONVENTION CENTER  
& MARRIOTT PHILADELPHIA DOWNTOWN

**ON THE COVER**

“Dancers,” by Jonathan Borofsky (2003). This 60 foot tall sculpture was the first installation in Denver’s Performing Arts Sculpture Park.  
Photo: JESSE JAMES on FLICKR.com



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# MOVING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK

BY CHRISTOPHER NEWLAND

**I**N MAY, ABAI COMPLETED ITS 49TH ANNUAL MEETING in Denver, the second face-to-face meeting since the pandemic. Attendees travelled from across the U.S. and around the world to experience the joys of a face-to-face conference. With papers on basic, translational and applied research, issues relevant to the practice of behavior analysis, reunions and all of the other activities that occur at an annual meeting, the conference represented the intellectual breadth of behavior analysis on many dimensions while serving as a venue for behavior analysts to gather and hear the best of our science and its application, all while catching up with old friends.

Plans are underway for next year's 50th anniversary meeting at the Philadelphia Convention Center. ABAI's first half-century will be celebrated with historical perspectives to examine how we got started and how we have arrived at the ABAI that we have today. Program areas will include not only their usual sessions on contemporary issues but also retrospectives reflecting on how they got started, how they arrived where they are, and how the future looks. Overarching reflections on behavior analysis and ABAI are also being planned. This will be an exciting program for behavior analysts at all career levels. I always return from the annual meeting rejuvenated about the field, and this year is no exception. Why? Many aspects of the annual meeting could be mentioned. The symposia contain papers describing the current thinking of our colleagues on topics that they are currently pursuing. The invited addresses and B. F. Skinner lectures provide an opportunity for investigators from behavior analysis and

investigators in allied areas to offer an overview of their research in an unhurried way.

This meeting that we all enjoy so much is the product of a huge effort from an extraordinarily dedicated group of volunteers: the ABAI Program Board. The Denver Meeting comprised 2,711 presentations representing 16 topic areas delivered by presenters from 55 countries. These were given in 27 rooms scheduled for simultaneous sessions at the convention center.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Linda Hayes, Program Board Coordinator, and Mitch Fryling, Program Committee Chair, for coordinating our annual meeting. To pull this off, they worked closely with 29 area coordinators representing ABAI's 16 areas. And these are all volunteers! The mind reels at how they were able to pull this off. Clearly, they are owed a debt of gratitude from all of us who so enjoy our annual conference.

The Presidential Scholar Address brought an exceptional scholar to the meeting. We honor that person by bringing the rest of the conference to a halt, so attendees do not have to choose between this and another session (although choosing between that and a drink with friends may be a different matter). This year's talk was the capstone of Saturday's sessions. Dr. Amie Zarling from Iowa State University spoke on her work applying concepts and approaches from Acceptance and Commitment Therapy in the prevention and treatment of domestic violence.

The SABA Awards Ceremony celebrated our members' accomplishments. Linda Hayes was given the SABA Award for Distinguished Service to Behavior Analysis.



**Carol Pilgrim presents the SABA Award to this year's recipients. Clockwise from upper left: Zuilma Gabriela, Kenneth Silverman, Charles Richter, representing APOPO (Anti-Persoonsmijnen Ontmijnende Product Ontwikkeling, or in English, Anti-Personnel Landmines Detection Product Development), and Linda Hayes**

Her acceptance talk, “The Company We Keep,” reminded us of the value of our professional and scientific friends in shaping and supporting our work and how we think about it in the lab, in our practice, and in service. The SABA Award for Scientific Translation was given this year to Kenneth Silverman. His acceptance talk, “Operant Conditioning to Address Poverty-Related Health Disparities,” described how he and his colleagues use behavior principles to address problems associated with substance abuse, unemployment, and maintaining HIV viral suppression.

The SABA Award for international dissemination went to Zuilma Gabriela Sigurdardottir of the University of Iceland for her efforts in taking behavior analysis in Iceland from one person (her) to a community of behavior analysts supported by two master’s and one doctoral program. The SABA Award for Enduring Programmatic Contribution went to Oslo Metropolitan University, for their efforts in developing a strong behavior analysis program and community in Norway.

Finally, the SABA Award for Effective Presentation of Behavior Analysis in the Mass Media went to APOPO, represented by Charles Richter. APOPO has received worldwide recognition for their training of African giant pouched rats (“HeroRATS”) to detect line mines and tuberculosis. By using principles of shaping and stimulus control, they have freed over 5.8 million people from the threat of mines. They have also trained the rats to detect tuberculosis, identifying 13,000 patients for treatment and also preventing numerous infections by limiting its spread.

Some exceptionally interesting sessions from the basic

side of behavior analysis are the Science Board/SQAB tutorials, always a personal favorite of mine. These are sponsored by the ABAI Science Board in collaboration with SQAB. SQAB, an acronym with overtones of the favorite subjects of many of our basic sciences, the pigeon, stands for the Society for the Quantitative Analysis of Behavior. While the SQAB meeting is a satellite of ABAI, the two organizations have long sponsored sessions at which ABAI attendees can hear updates on theories of choice, behavioral economics, discounting, mathematical modeling, and many other topics.

Some SQAB tutorials are accompanied by a tandem Panel Discussion, held in the same room as the tutorial to make it easy to attend both sessions. Presenters consider how the tutorial’s topic might play out in an applied, or other settings. Such discussions cement an understanding of the concepts presented while discussing their implications. These tandem panels have been of extraordinary quality and well-attended. This year, for example, 175 people heard William M. Baum of U. C. Davis present “The Three Laws of Behavior: Allocation, Induction, and Covariance.” This was followed by panel made up of Julian Leslie (Ulster University, Northern Ireland), Timothy Shahan (Utah State University, USA), and Carsta Simon (University of Agder, Norway), discussing the implications of Dr. Baum’s ideas. Previous years have included tandem sessions on the application of quantitative theories of relapse in Functional Communication Training, and the use of statistics in behavior analysis, to name just two.

Other Science Board/SQAB tutorials at this year's meeting discussed the organization of behavior into bouts, and applications of information theory to experimental design. Next year's Science Board/SQAB tutorials will be different but, I promise, they will be stimulating.



**Dr. Ruth Anne Rehfeldt thanks the outgoing Executive Council members. From top: Carol Pilgrim, Christine Hughes, and Deisy das Graças de Souza**

A new Theory and Philosophy Conference is being planned for the Fall of 2024 at the Drake Hotel in Chicago. The topic of the 2024 conference is "Approaching Complexity." The conference will be organized as 4 clusters: Evolution and Neuroscience, Modeling and AI, Verbal Behavior, and Cultural Analysis. Each cluster will comprise two or three invited speakers as well as a discussant/speaker to synthesize the presentations. There will also be a panel discussion focused on the role of Theory & Philosophy in behavior analysis training programs. The organizers are excited about the integrative potential that this conference offers, and designed the speaker line-up with that possibility at the forefront.

Planning is underway for the next ABAl Autism Conference to be held at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas to be held March 18–20, 2024. The conference will include pre-meeting workshops and a series of talks on the practice of science of behavioral interventions in autism. This is always a popular conference. A terrific lineup of speakers have already been confirmed for the conference. Stay tuned!

I have been reminded on several occasions that ABAl is an organization that cares about the next generation. It supports students through funding for student projects via the SABA Thesis and Dissertation Grants and the Bijou Grants for developmental research. A huge proportion of the attendees at the meeting are students and student travel awards are available to help some attend the annual conference. As an example of the value the organization sees in its students, there are three student representatives (one with full voting privileges) on ABAl's Executive Council.

Many past Presidents and Executive Council members have commented on being overwhelmed by the scope of what ABAl's activities. Me, too.

But also important is how the organization carries out its business. As I noted in my Presidential Address, I have been awed by the degree to which data feed decisions made by the leadership at all levels, from broad policies at Council to the micropolicies carried out by the 8 boards, 6 journals, 15 program areas, 40 special interest groups, 96 affiliated chapters, VCS program coordinators, and many other entities. This is a data-driven organization at every level! It is also an organization that works hard to be transparent about what it knows and how it makes decisions. It may not seem that way at times, but it includes its many volunteers and, for really important issues, the entire membership in its decision-making, and to do that it has to share what it knows. ABAl cares about its membership and about ensuring that its membership plays a role in determining its present and its future. I look forward to seeing what the next year will bring on all these fronts and to seeing you all at the 50th Annual Conference, next May.

See you at ABAl! ❖



*Highlights  
from the*  
**49th Annual  
Convention**



**DENVER  
DELIVERS for**



**DISTINGUISHED  
DENIZENS** <sup>5</sup>



Thank you to our amazing Program Board for arranging such an exceptional lineup of speakers for the 2023 Annual Convention.

**Linda Hayes**  
Program Board Coordinator

**Mitch Fryling**  
Program Committee Chair

**Erica Feuerbacher**  
Applied Animal Behavior Area Coordinator

**Nathan Hall**  
Applied Animal Behavior Area Coordinator

**Regina Carroll**  
Autism Area Coordinator

**Corina Jimenez-Gomez**  
Autism Area Coordinator

**Yanerys Leon**  
Autism Area Coordinator

**Jo Ann Pereira Delgado**  
Behavioral Development Area Coordinator

**Kieva Hbranchuk**  
Behavior Development Area Coordinator

**August Holtyn**  
Behavioral Pharmacology and Neuroscience Area Coordinator

**Jonathan Pinkston**  
Behavioral Pharmacology and Neuroscience Area Coordinator

**Michele Traub**  
Clinical, Family, Behavioral Medicine Area Coordinator

**Vivian Ibanez**  
Clinical, Family, Behavioral Medicine Area Coordinator

**Sarah Richling**  
Community, Social, and Sustainability Issues Area Coordinator

**Kathryn Roose**  
Community, Social, and Sustainability Issues Area Coordinator

**Yaniz Padilla Dalmau**  
Developmental Disabilities Area Coordinator

**Patrick Romani**  
Developmental Disabilities Area Coordinator

**Jovonnie Esquierdo-Leal**  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Area Coordinator

**Elizabeth Fong**  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Area Coordinator

**Renee Hawkins**  
Education Area Coordinator

**Tai Collins**  
Education Area Coordinator

**Karen Lionello-DeNolf**  
Experimental Analysis of Behavior Area Coordinator

**Marco Vasconcelos**  
Experimental Analysis of Behavior Area Coordinator

**Nicole Gravina**  
Organizational Behavior Management Area Coordinator

**Sharlet Rafacz**  
Organizational Behavior Management Area Coordinator

**Michael Hixson**  
Philosophical, Conceptual, and Historical Issues Area Coordinator

**Caio Miguel**  
Philosophical, Conceptual, and Historical Issues Area Coordinator

**Susan Wilczynski**  
Practice Area Coordinator

**Suzanne Mitchell**  
Science Area Coordinator

**Kerry Milyko**  
Teaching Behavior Analysis Area Coordinator

**Daniel Fienup**  
Teaching Behavior Analysis Area Coordinator

**Alice Shillingsburg**  
Verbal Behavior Area Coordinator

**Rocio Rosales**  
Verbal Behavior Area Coordinator





Thank you to our invited speakers for their insightful presentations that greatly enriched our conference experience.

**Applied Animal Behavior**

**Gareth Arnott**

Queen's University Belfast

**Simon Gadbois**

Dalhousie University

**Lindsay Renee Mehrkam**

Monmouth University

**Autism**

**Timothy Buie**

Harvard Medical School/  
Boston Children's Hospital

**Sarah Dababnah**

The University of Maryland,  
Baltimore

**Amy Gravino**

Rutgers Center for Adult Autism  
Services/A.S.C.O.T Consulting

**Marc J. Lanovaz**

Université de Montréal

**Behavioral Development**

**Francisco José Ruiz Jiménez**

Fundación Universitaria Konrad  
Lorenz

**Jeannemarie Speckman**

Fred S. Keller School Teachers  
College Columbia University

**Marlene Zuk**

University of Minnesota

**Behavioral Pharmacology  
and Neuroscience**

**Diann Gaalema**

University of Vermont

**Adam Halberstadt**

University of California San Diego

**Clinical, Family,  
Behavioral Medicine**

**Varsovia Hernandez Eslava**

Universidad Veracruzana

**Carolynn S. Kohn**

University of the Pacific

**Takahiro Soda**

University of Florida

**Community, Social,  
and Sustainability Issues**

**Roberta Freitas-Lemo**

Virginia Tech Carilion

**Douglas McKenzie-Mohr**

McKenzie-Mohr & Associates

**Developmental Disabilities**

**Pablo Juárez**

Vanderbilt University  
Medical Center

**Sheri Kingsdorf**

Masaryk University

**Nicole Tartaglia**

University of Colorado  
School of Medicine and  
Children's Hospital Colorado

**Diversity, Equity, and  
Inclusion**

**Brian Boyd**

University of North Carolina

**Patricio Erhard**

University of Texas at Austin

**Candace Fay**

Florida Institute of Technology

**Paige O'Neill**

University of Nebraska Medical  
Center—Munroe-Meyer Institute

**Experimental Analysis  
of Behavior**

**Carla H. Lagorio**

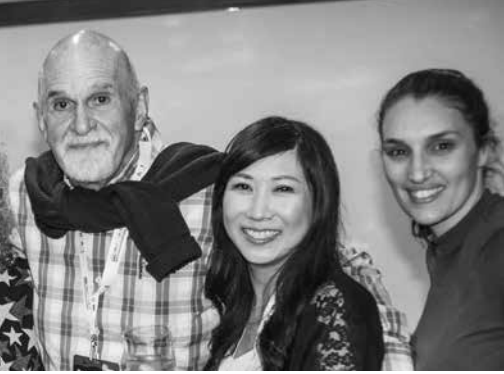
University of Wisconsin—  
Eau Claire

**Ricardo Pellon**

Universidad Nacional  
de Educacion a Distancia







**Education**

**Aaron J. Fischer**  
University of Utah  
**Tamika La Salle**  
Georgia State University

**Organizational Behavior Management**

**John Austin**  
Reaching Results  
**Laura L. Methot**  
(independent)

**Philosophical, Conceptual, and Historical Issues**

**Guy Bruce**  
Appealing Solutions, LLC  
**Alexandre Dittrich**  
Federal University of Paraná

**Practice**

**Meca Andrade**  
Grupo Metodo  
**Casey Clay**  
Children's Hospital of Orange County  
**Anthony DeFulio**  
Western Michigan University  
**Francesca degli Espinosa**  
ABA Clinic  
**Amoy Hugh-Pennie**  
Infinity Behavior LLC, KNHK, BABA Inc.  
**Worner Leland**  
Sex Ed Continuing Ed  
**Adithyan Rajaraman**  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

**Science**

**William Baum**  
University of California, Davis  
**Cas Breaux**  
Cassi Breaux Consulting, LLC  
**Sarah Feldstein Ewing**  
University of Rhode Island  
**Greg Jensen**  
Columbia University  
**Corina Jimenez-Gomez**  
University of Florida  
**Liz Kyonk**  
California State University—East Bay  
**Federico Sanabria**  
Arizona State University  
**Paul Soto**  
Louisiana State University  
**Shrinidhi Subramaniam**  
California State University, Stanislaus

**Teaching Behavior Analysis**

**Carl Hart**  
Columbia University  
**Julio de Rose**  
Universidade Federal de Sao Carlos  
**Linda LeBlanc**  
LeBlanc Behavioral Consulting LLC

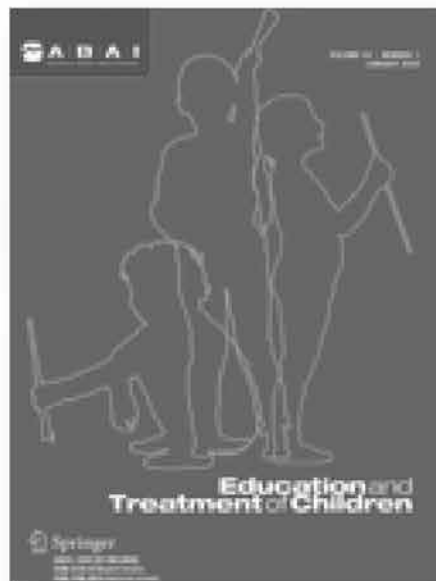
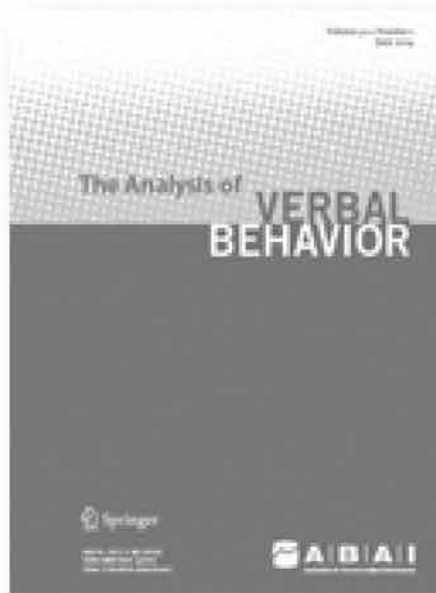
**Verbal Behavior**

**Zuilma Gabriela Sigurdardottir**  
University of Iceland  
**Jana M. Iverson**  
Boston University  
**Denise Ross**  
University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

**Presidential Scholar**

**Amie Zarling**  
Iowa State University ❖





# ABAI JOURNALS

ABAI Publishes Six Behavior Analysis Journals:  
The Analysis of Verbal Behavior, Behavior Analysis in Practice, Behavior and Social Issues, Perspectives on Behavior Science, Education and the Treatment of Children, and The Psychological Record. ABAI members can subscribe to journals by logging in to their Portal Accounts.



# BOOK SERIES



**The ABAI BOOK SERIES focuses on preserving, developing, and expanding the field of behavior science, building bridges with other disciplines, and contributing to the well-being of society.**





# *Meet ABAI's 2023* **OUTSTANDING MENTORS**

**Dr. Sarah Bloom** received her Ph.D. in Psychology at the University of Florida in 2008 under the mentorship of Dr. Brian Iwata. She was an Assistant Professor in the Applied Behavior Analysis area of the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation at Utah State University until 2013.

She is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Child and Family Studies at the University of South Florida. Dr. Bloom is a former President of the Utah Association for Behavior Analysis. She has served on

the editorial board of the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis and has been a guest reviewer for many other journals.

Dr. Bloom's research interests include the assessment and treatment of problem behavior, translational behavior analysis, and delivery of behavior analytic services to culturally and linguistically diverse populations. Dr. Bloom has been involved in the modification of functional analysis methodology into a trial-based format in order to facilitate its use in educational and other settings.



**Dr. Yanerys León** is a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology of the University of Miami and Director of Applied Research and Behavioral Training at UM-NSU CARD. Dr. León was named the 2021 recipient of the BF Skinner Foundation Applied New Researcher award presented by Division 25 of the American Psychological Association and currently serves on the Board of Editors of the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* and the Board of Directors of the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis. In her role as faculty in the Department of Psychology, Dr. León directs the Learning and Behavior, Research and Training Lab. The overarching aims of the lab are to a) advance research in behavioral interventions promoting foundational skills and preventing the development of severe behavior disorders, b) provide early scholars and professionals with behavior-analytic clinical practice and research experience, and c) disseminate contemporary methodology and findings. Dr. León's current research interests can be broadly categorized into the following: a) refinements and extensions

of functional analysis and function-based treatment, b) conditioned social and token reinforcement in application for individuals with ASD and IDD, and c) technological extensions of behavioral measurement and intervention. Throughout her career, Dr. León has mentored undergraduate and graduate students, post-baccalaureate and post-doctoral researchers, and research and teaching assistants, across research, clinical, and service roles.

**Dr. Rocío Rosales** is an Associate Professor of Psychology and Coordinator of the Applied Behavior Analysis and Autism Studies graduate program at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Nevada Reno, and master's and doctoral degrees from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Her research, clinical, and theoretical interests span a range of topics including applications of verbal behavior, derived stimulus relations, student and caregiver training, instructional design in higher education, and the philosophical foundations of behavior analysis. Dr. Rosales previously served as Associate Editor for *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior* and *The Psychological Record*. She was on the editorial board of the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* and coordinated ABAT's Behavior Dissemination Blog: *Verbal Behavior Matters*. She is currently the Membership Board Coordinator for ABAI and serves as Co-Coordinator of the Verbal Behavior area for the ABAI conference program. Dr. Rosales has actively worked to raise awareness of behavior analysis to underserved communities through various projects and professional collaborations. She was recently awarded a 5-year training grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs that will serve to fund scholars in interdisciplinary professional preparation in Applied Behavior Analysis and Special Education. One of the primary aims of this project is to diversify the workforce and train practitioners to work with bilingual learners with disabilities. As a proud daughter of Mexican immigrant parents and first generation college student, she is passionate about expanding the diversity of experience and thought within the field. She hopes that her work will help pave the way for future generations of researchers and practitioners who share her passion. ❖

2023

ABAI is proud to announce the 2023 Fellows of the Association for Behavior Analysis International.

## FELLOWS OF ABAI

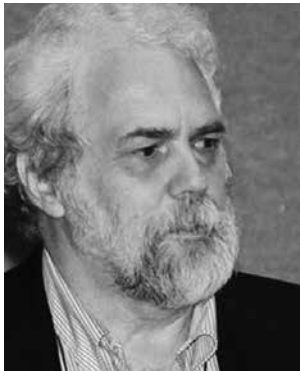


Donald Hantula

**Dr. Donald Hantula** is an associate professor in the Department of Psychology under the College of Liberal Arts at Temple University, where he has worked since 1999.

In 1989, he received his Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Notre Dame. His significant contributions to research and scholarship in behavior analysis has had an incalculable influence on the field, and the depth and breadth of that research is noteworthy. Across a wide range of topics—human decision-making, consumer choice, and behavioral economics, to name a few—he has produced an unparalleled oeuvre of work.

His leadership as the founding editor of *Perspectives on Behavior Science* (PoBS, formerly *The Behavior Analyst*) has made PoBS a journal of note, raising the impact factor to its 2020 value of 2.84. His editorial service is extensive, serving as an editor, board member, and/or reviewer for over 20 journals. His collaborative work with other colleagues and students has been crucial in the development of tools and methods to advance behavior analysis and behavior management technologies. In addition to his original research, Dr. Hantula has also written two books—*Consumer Behavior Analysis: (A) Rational Approach to Consumer Choice* (with Victoria Wells) and *Advances in Social & Organizational Psychology*—and created a Master tutorial video on behavioral economics produced by the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies.



Gordon Bourland

**Dr. Gordon Bourland** is the principal/proprietor for Trinity Behavioral Associates in Arlington, Texas and currently serves as an adjunct faculty member at Abilene Christian University as well as a member of the Advisory Board of the Applied Behavior Analysis program in the College of Education & Human Development at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. He has served as an invited lecturer or adjunct faculty member at Marietta College, McNeese

State University, University of North Texas, the University of Texas at Arlington, West Virginia University, and Washington Technical College. In 1977, he received his Ph.D. in Psychology at the University of Texas at Arlington, which was followed by a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Pediatric Psychology and Developmental Disabilities from the John F. Kennedy Institute at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Division of Behavioral Psychology. Dr. Bourland's contributions to the field of behavior analysis are many. With more than 30 articles and technical reports, he has also served as a guest reviewer and/or an Associate Editor for half a dozen journals. His record of volunteer service stretches over four decades, and includes service not just to ABAI, but to the Special Olympics, the TxABA Public Policy Group, and the World Behavior Analysis Day Alliance, which successfully launched World Behavior Analysis Day on March 20, B. F. Skinner's birthday. His work with state legislatures in support of various licensing acts and laws has been instrumental in bringing light to the importance of licensure within the field and how to best incorporate common-sense regulations into state laws. Through his leadership on the ABAI Affiliate Chapter Board and Licensing Committee, he has been an active contributor to the establishment of ABA licensing laws in numerous states in the United States including in his home state, Texas, where he was named the initial Presiding Officer of the Behavior Analyst Advisory Board of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.



## Designation as Fellow of ABAI

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

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

**Jane Howard, Ph.D.**, is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst–doctoral level (BCBA-D) and a licensed psychologist (California). In 1996 Dr. Howard co-founded Therapeutic Pathways and The Kendall Centers and currently serves as their Chief Executive Officer. Located in California, these agencies currently provide behavior-analytic treatment to pediatric and adolescent populations, including comprehensive, intensive intervention to more than 400 individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Dr. Howard is Professor Emeritus (Psychology) at California State University, Stanislaus in Turlock, California, where she taught graduate courses in behavior analysis and child clinical psychology. While at the University she founded The Center for Direct Instruction, an on-campus clinic for children with a range of behavioral and academic needs. Dr. Howard co-authored the textbook *Human Behavior: Analysis and Application* with Ellen Reese. Her research has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as *The Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*, *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, and *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*. She is the lead author of two widely cited outcome studies comparing different treatments for autism. Dr. Howard has made numerous presentations at international conferences in China, Italy, Sweden, Ireland, South Korea, Japan, Russia, Latvia, Romania, and Poland. Dr. Howard has also served on the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) and is the Past President of its Board of Directors. She is also one of the founding members of The Council of Autism Service Providers and sits on its Board.

**Dr. Jesús Rosales-Ruiz** is an associate professor in the Behavior Analysis Department at the University of North Texas, where he has worked since 1994. In 1995, he received his Ph.D. in Experimental Child Psychology from the

University of Kansas, where he studied under Dr. Donald M. Baer and Dr. Ogden R. Lindsley. Since 2020, he has served as the director of the Beatrice H. Barrett Behavior Analytic Neuroscience Initiative at the University of North Texas. Among his many significant contributions to behavior analysis is the behavioral development cusp, introduced in 1996 together with Dr. Baer. This groundbreaking work provides a behavior analytic account of the rapid changes that are often considered developmental and offers practitioners guidance when selecting target behaviors. Additionally, Dr. Rosales-Ruiz has been at the forefront of bringing the science of behavior to the growing field of human-animal interactions. His work on functional analysis and shaping has helped bridge the gap between academia and applied animal training. He is also the co-creator of PORTL, the Portable Operant Research and Teaching Lab, a tabletop game which allows students and practitioners to experience behavioral principles and practice their teaching skills. ❖



Jane Howard



Jesús Rosales-Ruiz

# DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION AWARD

The Distinguished Contributions to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award seeks to recognize, reward, and promote achievements with documented impact on diversity, equity, and inclusion. The award highlights creative DEI programming and the central role of diversity, equity, and inclusion in individual and institutional success. The goal is to emphasize effective models of action in DEI. The Award for Distinguished Contributions to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is presented at each year's ABAI Annual Convention in a DEI event to honor the awardee(s).

**Dr. Lauren Beaulieu** earned her BS in Psychology from Florida State, her MS in Applied Behavior Analysis from Florida Institute of Technology and her Ph.D. in Behavior Analysis from Western New England University. She received training as a Clinical Specialist at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine's Kennedy Krieger Institute. Dr. Beaulieu is currently a District Behavior Analyst for Newton Public Schools in Massachusetts. She was previously an Associate Professor at the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT). Prior to her appointment at FIT, she founded and directed the Master's in Applied Behavior Analysis program at Regis College in Weston, MA where she earned tenure in 2017. She also held a faculty appointment at the University of Massachusetts Lowell's MS in Autism Spectrum Disorders program from 2011–2013. Dr. Beaulieu has been a practitioner and researcher in behavior analysis for 20 years across a variety of settings including public schools, clients' homes, residential psychiatric hospitals, and group homes with individuals diagnosed with



**Dr. Lauren Beaulieu**

and without disabilities. She has also consulted internationally with BCBA's on conducting functional analyses, improving cooperation with young children, and improving sleep. Her research has been recognized by the Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy, and in 2021, she received the Applied Behavior Analysis Award for Scholarly Contributions to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion from the Association for Behavior Analysis International. She currently serves on the editorial board for the journal *Behavioral Interventions* and has previously served on the editorial board for the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*.

**Dr. Corina Jimenez-Gomez** (she/her/Ella) is an Assistant Professor in the Behavior Analysis program at the University of Florida. She earned a Licensure in Psychology at the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello in Caracas, Venezuela, and a doctoral degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Behavior Analysis from Utah State University. She completed post-doctoral training at the University of Michigan and



**Dr. Corina Jimenez-Gomez**

was a Research Fellow at The University of Auckland, New Zealand. She has held faculty positions at the Florida Institute of Technology and Auburn University. In addition, she served as a clinical supervisor at The Scott Center for Autism Treatment at Florida Tech and was the Director of the Center for Autism Research, Treatment, and Training (CARTT) at Auburn University. Dr. Jimenez-Gomez is a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst at the doctoral level, whose professional interests include translational and applied behavioral research in the areas of choice and reinforcement processes, the use of technology in ABA settings, caregiver and staff coaching, and cultural responsiveness in Behavior Analysis. Dr. Jimenez-Gomez has served as a reviewer for various scientific journals and is currently on the editorial board of the *Perspectives on Behavior Science* and the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, and is Associate Editor for *Behavior Analysis in Practice*. She is also the mom of two amazing humans and an elderly Labrador and is married to a fellow behavioral scientist. ❖

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

### Alabama ABA

BY PAIGE MCKERCHAR

The Alabama Association for Behavior Analysis (ALABA) serves as a scientific and professional organization that embraces the principles and practices of behavior analysis. Their goal is to promote research that will advance the understanding of behavior and to identify and promote the use of effective and humane behavioral procedures that meet individuals' educational and habilitative needs. In addition, ALABA strives to serve as a resource for political, legislative, and policy-making bodies in Alabama in ways that support the scientific and professional interests of behavior analysts.

The ALABA Executive Committee's most valued task is hosting an annual convention that offers opportunities for folks to learn from nationally recognized behavior analysts and related professionals. An important part of the annual convention is the chance for attendees to gather with former schoolmates, colleagues, and friends while networking with new professionals who often become principal colleagues and collaborators. The annual convention is also vital because it offers Board Certified Behavior Analysts a way to earn high-quality continuing education credits in their own backyard, so to speak. ALABA provided almost a thousand CEUs to 110 attendees last year. Last year's convention was held October 12-14 at the Hilton Birmingham at UAB. This was the first time they held an in-person convention since 2019, and attendance at the two-day, one-track presentation portion of their convention suggested that attendees were eager to get back—203 people participated. Attendees also filled 26 seats at their Wednesday afternoon workshop titled, ABA Billing and Coding Simplified: An Intro for BCBA's (conducted by Ms. Ashley Adams and Ms. Michelle Castanos).

The event kicked off with President-Elect, Dr. Mary-Kate Carey's Presidential Address From Hubris to Humility, which covered some potential pitfalls of excessive confidence and strategies to integrate humility into practice. All of this year's remaining presentations were Invited Speaker addresses, which included topics such as caregiver and staff training, pediatric feeding, and applications of ABA in foster care and at a residential juvenile facility: Dr. Ray Miltenberger's Teaching Safety Skills: What Works and What Doesn't and The Limits of Staff Management: What Happens When You're Not There?, Dr. Marc Lanovaz's Artificial Intelligence in Behavior Analysis: How I Stopped Fearing Skynet and Started Worshipping Magical Bunnies and Interactive Web Training to Support Caregivers of Children With Developmental Disability, Dr. Regina Carroll's Advances in Improving Treatment Integrity Through

Staff and Supervisor Training, Dr. Carrie Borrero's A Behavior Analytic Approach to Pediatric Food Refusal: Considerations for Effective Intervention and Social Validity, Dr. Nicole Gravina's Strategies to Enhance Feedback Conversations, Dr. Chris Newland's Reducing Psychotropic Medicine Use for Children in Foster Care, and the Auburn Graduate Student Symposium Applying Behavior-Analytic Procedures in a Residential Juvenile Facility. Congratulations to the new ALABA President-Elect: Sheridan O'Brien; Members-at-Large: Amanda Niedfeld, Jodi Robeson, and Laura Senn; and Student Representatives: Jaicee Williamson, Donna Perez, and Jordan Shirley. The 2023 Executive Committee, which also includes Jennifer Bruzek, Mary-Kate Carey, and Lauren Elliott, is already planning the 2023 convention scheduled for October 11-13 in Birmingham, AL. Please visit them online at [www.AlabamaABA.com](http://www.AlabamaABA.com) for more information and to become a member.

### Alaska ABA

BY RACHEL WHITE

The Alaska Association for Behavior Analysis (AKABA) was formed in January 2014 and became affiliated with ABAI in March of 2016. Alaska Association for Behavior Analysis is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a goal to promote the science and theory of behavior analysis through the support of research, education and practice. Alaska Association for Behavior Analysis membership is open to everyone interested in behavior analysis in Alaska. Membership benefits include low cost CEUs, discounted registration for AKABA Mini-Conference events, access to private members-only online forum, and updates on legislation and other events related to the practice and research of behavior analysis in Alaska. Please visit our website ([www.alaskabehavior.org](http://www.alaskabehavior.org)) for current events, news, and membership information.

#### Continued Advocacy

Our main direction for advocacy was to facilitate communication amongst members who are helping each other to work directly with the State of Alaska on correcting Medicaid billing issues that have affected providers in the state. Professional Development/CEUs This year, instead of 1 large in person conference, AKABA hosted a spring and a fall Mini-Conference. Both events were hosted exclusively online and provided CEUs to members and non-members. We hosted speakers from across the country and had over 100 attendees at our Fall Mini-Conference. Going forward, AKABA will be focusing on online or hybrid events to better reach behavior analysts on the needs of those it serves.

# Arizona ABA

BY KYLE K. LININGER

AzABA catapulted out of the COVID-19 pandemic with a tremendous year of growth and sense of purpose. The organization prioritized several strategic objectives designed to improve internal functioning and external stakeholder engagement. All efforts to these ends were grounded in our mission and values. AZABA's values form the organizing principle of this report.

**Be a community resource:** AzABA will strive to present learning opportunities and professional development across a wide variety of interests, and seeks to maintain a pulse on the needs of those it serves.

In 2022, AzABA recorded 697 members and proudly offered 36 CEU opportunities. For the first time AzABA allocated a line item in the budget to empower all Special Interest Groups and Committees to seek content for AzABA membership. The budget was developed such that special efforts were taken to create transparency in speaker fees and to provide generous honorariums to all speakers irrespective of other factors. This aligned with AzABA's commitment to treating all speakers equitably and captured the spirit of promoting diversity and inclusion. Events were led by one of five special interest groups (Feeding, ACT/RFT, Expanding the Scope, Coordination of Care, and ABA in Schools) or its five committees (Ethics, Program, Marketing & Outreach, EDI, and Public Policy and Programs).

AzABA also had a strategic priority in 2022 to engage and empower students, Behavior Analysis Trainees, and Registered Behavior Technicians. The organization initiated its first year of providing a stipend and mentoring opportunity for four interns. The interns were provided with the opportunity to participate in every facet of the Association's general business. The culmination of the internship was the integration of a new Special Interest Group supported by the Past President to generate additional programming for these important stakeholders.

**Advance our ability to practice:** AzABA will fight for the integrity of behavior analysis in political and legal doings within our state.

Since its founding in 2011, the AzABA has been a national leader in promoting the ethical expansion of the behavior analytic scope. The Public Policy Committee engages in regular stakeholder meetings with representatives from government and state health plans to address barriers to care and preserve the ability to practice transdiagnostically.

In 2022, AzABA grew its participation and support of the Behavior Analysis Subcommittee under the Board of Psychologist Examiners. AzABA was invited to provide guidance on proposed rule revisions for the practice.

AzABA has been following public discontent with the practice of Applied Behavior Analysis. One of AzABA's largest undertakings in 2022 was in response to requests from its membership to issue a public statement on Contingent Electric Skin Shock (CESS). AzABA participated in national discussions on this topic with other affiliates and ultimately released a statement after collecting and analyzing data from various local stakeholders and members. The Association endeavored to model compassionate, thoughtful, and databased leadership through the process.

**Purposeful Governance:** AzABA commits to process-driven, data-supported decision making and careful financial planning.

The organization maintained a strong financial position, due largely to stable membership, high conference attendance, and sponsorships. With the recent expansion of board seats, internships, committees, and SIGs, AzABA looked to transition from being a primarily volunteer-run organization to one with paid employees. The Association did have a part time staff in 2022, and the staff member's hours increased significantly to account for demands in SIG and committee work. One of the strategic priorities for 2022 was to consider the point at which an Executive Director was viable. This will continue to be a consideration in 2023. As is the case with any expanding volunteer-run organization, governance is critical. 2022 saw the development of a number of policies and procedures to crystalize core functions and processes of the organization. 2022 also saw the creation of an Executive Committee to support the efficiency of board meetings. Perhaps the greatest achievement of 2021–22 was the development of a comprehensive Group Leader Handbook that supports adherence to processes and guidelines essential to leaders of SIGs and committees. This was discussed in the first board retreat whereby an expert facilitator was paid. The facilitator was contracted to support the development of a strategic plan and also to deliver a comprehensive training on best practices in Board Governance. Special attention was paid to the unique features of a nonprofit professional organization.

**Connection:** AzABA works to create a place where the behavior analytic community can come together to connect with each other, other professionals and/or community stakeholders. AzABA values the inclusion of its entire membership and the recognition of every voice. AzABA continued to connect inside and outside of Arizona. Inside of the state the organization supported Arizona's Interprofessional Behavioral Health Collaborative which includes all other medical and allied health professional associations in the state to promote interprofessional collaboration. AzABA

continued its meaningful collaboration and reciprocity efforts with the Black Association for Behavior Analysis (BABA) and Latino Association for Behavior Analysis (LABA). In collaboration with other ABAI affiliates, AzABA continued the previous year's commitment to host culturally responsive events. The organization is grateful for its connection to BABA and was very proud that BABA supported 34 student and RBT scholarships to AzABA's Annual Conference! AzABA's Annual Conference on October 28th and 29th had a total attendance of 480 participants. Of our inperson attendees 171 were AzABA BCBA Members, 71 were AzABA Affiliate Members, 39 were nonmembers. For our virtual offerings, 50 were BCBA Members, 16 were AzABA Affiliate Members, and 18 were non-members.

**Integrity of Action:** We evaluate all AzABA work through the lens of equity, diversity, and inclusion and ensure our actions represent our values in every objective. Integrity in Action is a new value that the AzABA Board of Directors voted to adopt in an effort to perpetuate the organization's legacy with respect to DEI. The Board found it necessary to add this lens to all mission- focused actions. In 2022 this value was expressed through an ongoing DEI assessment conducted by the Board of Directors, the addition of this value, a guiding statement on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion as well as, the adoption of a policy on discrimination and harassment. Three subcommittees were formed in 2022 to advance activities in support of this value under the leadership of the EDI Committee. They include: Equal Access to Services, Informing & Impacting Legislation & Policy, Training & Education. 2022 was certainly a very active year for AzABA. The Board of Directors, staff, members, and volunteers expect a similarly busy and values driven 2023.

## Arkansas ABA

BY ELIZABETH LORAH

The Arkansas Association for Behavior Analysts is dedicated to the advancement of the science and application of behavior analysis and committed to promoting research, education, and practice based on the principles of behavior analysis. ArkABA strives to disseminate knowledge from the science of behavior analysis to the public and to professional behavior analysts. ArkABA currently has 200 members, comprised of practitioners, academics, students, and affiliates from across the state of Arkansas. ArkABA members benefit from discounted rates for our annual conference, as well as free CEU opportunities throughout the year. ArkABA achieved two major accomplishments in 2021. First, ArkABA hosted an in-person (first since 2019) conference on the topic of Organizational Behavior Management in Little Rock, AR. We welcomed presters Donald Hantula

(Temple University), Shannon Biagi (Chief Motivating Officers), and Alicia Alvero (Queens College), experts on OBM. The event was attended by 55 persons from across the state and neighboring states. Secondly, as a primary focus of ArkABA's endeavors this year has been the establishment licensure for behavior analysts in the state of Arkansas. We began working with a house representative, in April of 2022 and presented the benefits of licensure to the Mental and Behavior Health workgroup in the fall. We worked with Arkansas Bill Drafters to draft a bill for licensure with guidance from professional associations. Our licensure bill will be filed in January 2023. In the coming year, ArkABA will continue to focus time and energy on the establishment of licensure for behavior analysts. Given the importance of this focus, the association will work to host smaller CEU events throughout the year versus one large conference event. We are also working to collaborate with neighboring state to co-host events. ArkABA was thrilled to have the opportunity to present on our efforts, membership growth, and the benefits of membership at the 2023 Annual Association for Behavior Analysis International conference.

## Association for Maine Behavior Analysis

BY LAURA MANUEL

Over the past year, Association for Maine Behavior Analysis's (AMeBA) has concentrated our efforts on creating a strategic plan with the top-level goal of increasing member engagement. AMeBA worked with a business coach who guided us through a process improvement strategy to look at the evolution of our organization. Through this process the executive board of directors identified goals for our charter including running virtual networking events; developing a FAQ section for members, community members, or other stakeholders on our website; forming a partnership with our local university; and improving the transition process when we welcome new board members. AMeBA's public policy committee has also stood out as a growing and dedicated committee. This committee has educated AMeBA's members on various legislative initiatives occurring throughout our state impacting those who access behavior analysis. The committee communicated current events in policy and professional issues and advocates for policies and practices that are consistent with the science of behavior analysis. AMeBA returned to an in-person conference this year. We welcomed esteemed speakers Dr. David Celiberti and Dr. Shanna Bahry. It was both comforting and energizing to see our community in-person following a couple years of virtual conferences.

# Behavior Analysis Association of Mississippi

BY KAYLA BATES-BRANTLEY, HALLIE SMITH,  
GARRET YEAGER & STEPHANIE MATTSON

## Mission and History

The Behavior Analysis Association of Mississippi (BAAMS) is a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Mississippi, promoting ABAT's mission to contribute to the well-being of society by developing, enhancing, and supporting the growth and vitality of the science of behavior analysis through research, education, and practice. Our mission is to promote and support the practice, research, education, and dissemination of behavior analysis throughout the state of Mississippi. BAAMS serves as a scientific and professional reference group for all in the State of Mississippi who identify themselves as scientists or practitioners in disciplines which embrace the principles and practices of behavior analysis. BAAMS works to identify and promote the use of effective, humane, and ethical behavioral procedures in meeting the educational and habilitative needs of persons that are typically-developing and persons with developmental disabilities within the State of Mississippi. Additionally, BAAMS advises political, legislative, and policy-making bodies with respect to all matters pertaining to behavior analysis in the State of Mississippi and organizes and sponsors an Annual Convention, which serves as a forum for presentation of scientific progress, technological advancements, and clinical practice, as well as discussion of the affairs of the organization. BAAMS was founded on February 7, 2015 and became an affiliate state chapter of ABAT in 2015.

## Officers

BAAMS is governed by an Executive Committee comprised of a president, past president, president-elect, treasurer, secretary, ABAT & APBA Representatives, the ad hoc student representative, and four members of the duly designated regions of the State.

President Garret Yeager, BCBA, LBA  
Past President Hallie Smith, Ph.D., BCBA-D  
President Elect Kayla Bates-Brantley, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA  
Treasurer Robyn Brewer, BCBA, LBA  
Secretary Hailey Ripple, Ph.D., BCBA-D  
ABAT Representative Stephanie Mattson, Ph.D., BCBA-D  
APBA Representative Kayla Crook, Ph.D., BCBA-D  
Region I Representative Anna Claire Waldrop, BCBA, LBA  
Region II Representative Laura Katherine Barker, BCBA, LBA  
Region III Representative Amanda Kirk, BCBA  
Region IV Representative Greg Standford, BCBA, LBA  
Student Representative Ryleigh Sampey

Elections for all officers and representatives are conducted in December after the annual BAAMS conference each year, which occurs annually in November. Present, past president, president-elect and student representative serve terms lasting January-December for each year. Treasurer and secretary serve 2-year terms. While ABAT, APBA and region representative serve 3 year terms.

## Membership

There are three types of membership with BAAMS: Full Members, Affiliate Member, and Student Member. The criteria and benefits of membership include:

- **Full Member** (including original Founding Member of BAAMS): Any individual holding (a) at least a Bachelor's degree in behavior analysis, psychology, education, or related field, with training or professional experience in behavior analysis and whose full time professional commitment includes teaching, research, and/or practice in behavior analysis or (b) BACB certification (i.e., BCBA-D, BCBA, or BCaBA). Full members may vote and hold office.
- **Affiliate Member**: Any member evidencing interest in the discipline of behavior analysis, but lacking formal training therein, may apply for this class of membership. Affiliate members are entitled to all benefits except for (a) the right to vote on matters of interest to the organization, and (b) the right to hold office. Affiliate members may serve as members on BAAMS committees.
- **Student Member** (including original Founding Student Member of BAAMS): Any individual pursuing formal training in the discipline of behavior analysis, which may include programs in behavior analysis, psychology, education, or a related field but not yet gainfully employed therein on at least a half-time basis may apply for membership in this category. Such application must be accompanied by an endorsement on letterhead by a program coordinator or program official certifying the applicant's student status. This application will be reviewed in a manner similar to the review of those candidates for Full Member status. Student members may neither vote nor hold office, though they may serve as members on BAAMS committees. BAAMS has 70 active full members, 1 affiliate member and 85 student members as of February 28, 2023. Member meetings occurred throughout the year at region meet-ups in addition to an annual meeting held at the BAAMS conference on October 24th and 25th, 2022.

### Meeting Activity

The 2022 Annual BAAMS Conference took place in-person at The Mill in Starkville, Mississippi on October 24th and 25th. Members could acquire 10 CEs, 1 Ethics CE, and 1 Supervision CE: totaling 12 available CEs for the conference. With 202 participants; speakers included:

- 1 **Alice Shillingsburg**, PhD, BCBA-D, LP—Keynote *Strengthening Gestures: A Critical Component to Building Robust Communication Skills for Autistic Children.*
- 2 **Kevin Ayres**, PhD, BCBA-D- What We Teach Is More Important Than How We Teach It.
- 3 **Juliana Aguilar**, PhD, BCBA, LBA Harnessing Your Cultural Responsiveness Superpowers.
- 4 **Alice Shillingsburg**, PhD, BCBA-D, LP: Workshop: Assessing and Programming to Promote Generative Language.
- 5 **Amy Gravino**, M.A.: Sexuality and the Spectrum: Lessons on ABA, Dating, and Love, Autism Style.
- 6 **Supervision Panel**: BCBA's from Across Mississippi .
- 7 **John Michael Falligant**, Ph.D., BCBA-D: Assessment and Treatment of Severe Problem Behavior: Barriers, Solutions, and Considerations for Practice.
- 8 **Shane Spiker** (Positive Behavior Supports, Corp.)—Reframing Dangerous Behavior: Avoiding Assumptions and Creative Problem Solving.
- 9 **Valerie Volkert**, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Associate Professor (Pediatrics): Outpatient Strategies to Address Feeding Problems for Children with Autism.
- 10 **Samantha Hardesty**, Ph.D., BCBA-D: Applications of OBM on the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Neurobehavioral Unit.
- 11 **Caleb Stanley**, Ph.D., BCBA-D: Application of Relational Frame Theory to Teach Skills to Individuals with Autism.
- 12 **Student Research Symposium**  
The 2023 BAAMS Conference is currently scheduled for October 26th and 27th, 2023 and will be held at The Mill in Starkville, Mississippi.

### Other Activity

BAAMS Executive Committee for 2021/2022 made it a priority to clarify the goals of the EC. direction of the association by developing a formal goals and directions. "The mission of the Behavior Analysis Association of Mississippi is to promote and support the practice, education, research, and dissemination of behavior analysis throughout the state of Mississippi." Objectives and/or core values were developed within the 2021/2022 term to drive our mission.

The BAAMS Executive Committee for the 2021/2022 year made it a priority to set goals and objectives that would be prioritized for the organization within year. A progress report across our five goals can be found below:  
**Goal #1:** Increase membership of full members by 10%

across the calendar year. Comparison points will be enrollment on December 31, 2021 and December 31, 2022.

**Objective #1:** Increase social media posting to twice per week and maintain frequency across the calendar year.

**Objective #2:** Send targeted emails to LBA's across the state who are not current members of BAAMS to encourage participation.

Completed April 1, 2022

**Objective #3:** Send Qualtrics survey to current members to collect data on current level of commitment to BAAMS and solicit feedback and ideas for what they would like to see BAAMS provide/offer members.

### Goal for Completion:

December 1, 2022

**Goal #2:** Increase member involvement throughout the year instead of just conference attendance.

**Objective #1:** Each region will host two meet-ups during the course of the calendar year (outside of the meet-up to take place at the annual conference). One meet-up should take place in March and the second should take place in July. Data on attendance will be taken at both meet-ups.

Region 1: Hosted one event

Region 2: Hosted two events

**Objective #2:** Host one virtual CEU event outside of the annual conference.

Completed May 20, 2022; Coffee and Conversations event in Tupelo

**Goal #3:** Complete new website renovation and change systems/platforms for membership enrollment and conference registration.

**Objective #1:** Continue to provide Montana Banana with information and feedback per their request.

Completed: July 11, 2022

**Goal #4:** Assist or participate in one advocacy project/initiative during the calendar year.

**Objective #1:** Discuss and write unified letter of support for HB 530 and SB 2444 and submit to representatives.

Completed March 1, 2022

**Objective #2:** Seek out additional opportunities to support initiatives of others in the state to advocate for ABA services (e.g., Medicaid reimbursement, policy change, awareness). Completed October 10, 2022.

**Goal #5:** Increase conference attendance by 10%.

**Objective #1:** Send targeted emails to members starting 3 months leading up to the conference and send one monthly leading up to the conference—Completed.

**Objective #2:** Maintain current number of sponsors, speakers, and CEU's offered from the 2021 Conference—Completed and exceeded.

**Objective #3:** Develop a conference planning committee in March 2022 of EC members, or members at large who may be interested in planning and execution of conference-



related tasks—Completed. BAAMS as an organization outlined areas of focus for the 2023 term with support of practice, research, education and dissemination remaining at the forefront of the organization. Goals for 2023 term are in preparation.

## California ABA

BY LIZ KNAPP

The California Association for Behavior Analysis (CalABA) continues its commitment to actively serving our membership, stakeholders, community, and consumers of Applied Behavior Analysis. CalABA continues to remain the largest state association representing over 26,446 certified professionals (BCBA-D, BCBA, BCaBA, and RBT). In CalABA's continued efforts to recover from impact related to the Pandemic, the organization has successfully held two in-person conferences (2022-Santa Clara, 2023-Long Beach), and has restored membership and revenue to pre-pandemic levels. CalABA held its 41st Annual Conference in-person March 9th-11th, 2023 in Long Beach, Ca with over 2,300 attendees. At this conference, CalABA, in partnership with Raven, debuted its first annual Technology Summit on March 9th, 2023. The pandemic turned out to be a proving ground for technology in health care, and in turn behavior analysis, as the industry was forced to adapt quickly to a changing world. In convening stakeholders, sharing information, and making connections with one another, the summit brought together thought leaders interested in moving our industry forward through technology and innovation. In the Fall of 2022, CalABA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, in partnership with the Equity in ABA Non-Profit Organization, hosted a virtual CEU event presented by Anim Aweh, LCSW, titled "Creating an Anti-Racist Mental and Behavioral Health System." The event focused on education to provide agencies and providers key strategies and actionable steps to address the foundation of anti-Blackness in healthcare, current mental and behavioral health care issues, and frameworks, to dismantle the systems of oppression that impact the clients that we serve. This event provided 1.5 CEUs to the 500 members and non-members who attended. The CalABA Board of Directors convened in-person for their Annual Board of Directors retreat September 29th-30th, 2022. At the retreat the Board engaged in a Strategic Plan Review, toured the Convention Center for the 42nd Annual Conference, held an EDI Workshop, met with APBA (Gina Green), met with the BACB (Melissa Nosik), and engaged in team building exercises, among other activities. CalABA has a continued commitment to serving the interests and needs of our membership, and this year approved and supported the development of three new Special Interest Groups:

**Adult Service Provider SIG (ASPSIG):** The ASPSIG

provides a professional platform for Behavior Analysts working with adults, or have an interest in adult services, to share resources, cultivate continued professional development, and create an expansive support network. Further, the ASPSIG will contribute to the field of Behavior Analysis by developing, enhancing, and supporting access to resources for Behavior Analysts in a position to make socially significant improvements in environments where adult services are provided.

**Bay Area Behavior Analysis Collective SIG (BABAC):**

BABAC is an inclusive collective of Applied Behavior Analysis professionals in the San Francisco Bay Area. BABAC empowers our community through education and grassroots connection with an emphasis on ethics, compassion, and equity. The focus of the SIG includes mentorship of ABA professionals, dissemination of information, providing a network and infrastructure to connect members, and community building for the Bay Area and its surrounding areas.

**Business in Behavior Analysis SIG (BIBA):** BIBA

is focused on promoting the highest standards of professional and business practice within ABA business organizations, working collaboratively to achieve professional goals that are unattainable individually. The focus includes public policy and legislation surrounding behavioral health treatment; collaboration with California funding sources, legal and ethical employment practices, organizational behavior change, and other topics related to operating an ethical and high-quality ABA business. BIBA provides opportunities to meet and network with professionals within our science, creating connections and collaboration. Networking amongst ABA organizations allows our members to become resources for one another and build out professional communities. To create, nurture, and maintain an inclusive and diverse culture, where differences drive innovative solutions to meet the needs of our membership. BIBA is committed to intentionally create diverse environments where all



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members feel supported and valued. CalABA continues to be actively involved in Public Policy matters that are related to the practice of Applied Behavior Analysis in California. This year our Public Policy Committee called our organization to action asking them to contact Governor Gavin Newsom to stop SB 562 (Portantino). SB 562 was written in an attempt to expand the definition of behavioral health treatment and reduce provider qualifications for behavioral health practitioners for several years. While it passed the Senate and Assembly making it all the way to the Governor's office, Governor Newsom sent a clear message in his veto which included many of the points that CalABA has been making over the past 6 years. This was a big win again for families ensuring access to evidence-based interventions. The CalABA Public Policy Committee also continues to monitor the following matters related to ABA in California:

- AB 2581 (Salas): Signed into law by the Governor took effect on January 1st, 2023. This will allow providers to be credentialed in a timely manner and provide much needed services for families and is a big win for our community.
- SB 855: California's mental health parity legislation. SB 855 went into effect in January 2021 and is being touted as model legislation. CalABA urges providers to become familiar with the implications of this legislation.
- Additional Matters being monitored by CalABA's Public Policy Committee:
- Services funded by Health Plans
- Telehealth, 2024 changes to Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans
- The new California Budget Cycle.

## Connecticut ABA

BY ELIZABETH SMITH

The Connecticut Association of Behavior Analysts (CTABA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the development and advancement of the field of behavior analysis within the state of Connecticut through research, education, and dissemination of information. As we approach our 19th annual conference, CTABA is pleased to share our work from last year and plans for the next. Our current Board of Directors consists of eleven Directors with officers elected to the following roles: President (Elizabeth Smith), Secretary (Tracy Sinclair), and Treasurer (Ruel Dixon). Our Executive Director, Dr. Melissa Hunsinger-Harris, is entering her second year of a three-year term; and our Secretary-in-Training will be transitioning to the role of Secretary next month at the time of the Conference (Erica Bauer). Last March, the Board turned over and welcomed five new directors. In order to achieve our goals for CTABA,

we recognized the need to prioritize rebuilding some internal processes of our organization. The Board created multiple task forces to critically evaluate our structures and systems to support our work. This effort increased our long-term efficiency, provided clarity to the Directors and Committee Chairs, and generated and promoted the growth of CTABA to more effectively meet our members' needs. The task forces generated strong permanent products: clearer objectives written for our Committees, the addition of Special Interest Groups within CTABA with objectives identified to create opportunities for CE events, improvements to our bylaws to allow more streamlined communications, and clarity and definitions on the content of CTABA disseminations. In committing to rebuilding our processes, we hope to create a culture of collaboration across our Directors and chairs! Our 18th Annual Conference, held virtually on March 3 and 4th, 2022, was a successful event; with 375 attendees participating in the full conference and 127 attendees in workshops. We received positive feedback regarding participation on our virtual platform and on the content of speakers. Throughout 2022, CTABA offered 25.5 continuing education credits to participants, with 7.5 ethics, and 1 supervision credit. The approaching 19th annual conference, to be held March 9 and 10 at the Connecticut Convention Center, is our largest in-person conference to date, with over 600 attendees scheduled. Our members and other conference attendees will be accessing an outstanding speaker lineup consisting of presentations by Dr. Jon Bailey, Dr. Patrick Friman, and Dr. Greg Hanley. Our Conference Committee ensures that this event is successful and provides continuing education opportunities for members, associate members (including RBTs, students, consumers, and direct care staff) and non-members to access our events. Our Organizational Members & Sponsorship Committee helps ensure that our local agencies and supporters are represented and able to access networking opportunities.

We are excited to host this upcoming conference and have committed locations in CT for the next three annual conferences, and seek to offer additional CE opportunities throughout the year. Our Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice Committee has been tremendously supportive in its mission to increase the representation and diversity of our practitioners, as well as provide increased access for consumers of services with high quality, equitable and inclusivity. To first ensure that our Board is responsive to cultural sensitivity, we believe it critical to require an annual Diversity training for all Director positions; and have entered such language into our bylaws. The DISJ chair has also submitted their annual proposal for creating a workshop event as well as open meetings for the Membership. Our Public Policy and Legislative Outreach (PPLO) Committee continues to increase

awareness of behavior analysis in the state. PPLO is made up of representation from 27 Organizational Members, 3 Appointed Members, Melissa Olive as Chair and Justine Randall as Co-Chair. During the 2022 legislative session, testimony from the PPLO was submitted on behalf of the CTABA Board of Directors on a number of issues related to the provision of Behavior Analysis within the state of CT. Most notably, HB5001—An act concerning childrens' mental health, SB01- An Act Concerning Childhood Mental and Physical Health Services in Schools and SB 02- An Act expanding preschool and mental and behavioral health services for children. Throughout the year, the PPLO met with key stakeholders from various state agencies including the Department of Public Health regarding licensure tracking and ethics filing, Department of Social Services regarding equity in medicaid services, State Dept of Education regarding key issues such as restraint, seclusion, and role of BA in schools as well as the Department of Insurance. Our lobbyists help to continually support PPLO's mission to strive for more inclusivity and awareness of our field, and are currently tracking 17 relevant bills this legislative season. CTABA's Membership committee has also demonstrated commitment to our mission in representing behavior analysts in our state. Our current membership has grown to 504 members (466 Professional, 38 Associate), which is a 40% increase from membership at this time last year. We seek to ensure we are representing the interests of practicing behavior analysts in our state. According to the BACB, there are currently 1,218 BCBA-D and BCBA's living in Connecticut, which suggests that 38% of BCBA-D and BCBA's are members of CTABA (increased from 29% at this time last year. According to the Department of Public Health, the state of Connecticut has awarded licensure to 1,384 behavior analysts currently. CTABA also has 22 Organizational Members renewed for this year, which is a 83% increase from last year 2021–2022. We are pleased with our growth in membership and will continue to seek ways to support our Professional and Associate Members in 2023! CTABA has had a productive and successful year, and we look forward to continuing our growth in collaboration with our affiliate partners in 2023.

## Delaware ABA

BY KAORI NEPO

Delaware Association for Behavior Analysis was established in 2011. The purpose of the organization is to promote the science, understanding, and practice of behavior analysis through 1) encouraging cooperation among local behavior analytic organizations, 2) advising political, legislative, and policy-making bodies with respect to all matters pertaining to behavior analysis in the state of Delaware, 3) arranging an annual meeting to discuss aspects of behavior analysis,

4) maintaining a website containing information about the chapter and behavior analysis in Delaware and elsewhere, and 4) functioning as a contact for and an affiliate of ABAI.

### Governance

Current executive officers of Delaware ABA consist of President, Kaori Nepo

Vice President, Melissa Martin

Treasurer, Shannon Kazmerick

Secretary, Sarah D'Amico; Membership Director, Regan Root; and members at large, Dilliana Henry and Nicole Gouge.

### Membership

There are two categories for Delaware ABA membership:

- **Full member:** for individual holding a terminal degree in a discipline directly related to or involving behavior analysis, and whose full professional commitment includes teaching, research, and /or practice in behavior analysis (Licensed Behavior Analyst in any state, or certified as BCBA-D, BCBA, or BCaBA)
- **Affiliate member:** open to individuals with an interest or stake in the practice of behavior analysis. Affiliate members may include but are not limited to retired BCBA's, students who are enrolled in a training program, in behavior analysis, Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs) or other Direct Care Staff, parents of children receiving ABA services, members of ABAI or APBA, or professionals involved in ABA services (e.g., administrative staff). Affiliate members do not have voting rights and annual fee for them is \$20.

### Conferences

In May 2023, the representative will attend the chapter training at ABAI annual convention. In May 2022, the representative attended the chapter training at ABAI annual convention. Delaware ABAI will also present a poster in Expo at ABAI annual convention. In March 2022, the representatives attended the chapter and licensure meetings at APBA. In November 2021, Delaware ABA hosted the first CE event series. In May 2021, the representatives attended the chapter training at ABAI annual convention. Delaware ABA also presented a poster at the convention in order to promote the chapter. In March 2021, the representatives attended the chapter meeting at APBA annual convention to learn the process of securing licensure in Delaware.

### Activities for 2022–2023

- The election will be held in April 2023
- The social event will be held in April 2023
- Delaware ABA held the virtual CE event in March 2023.
- Delaware ABA held the virtual CE event in April 2022.

- Delaware ABA updated the website to make the membership application process and conference registration easier.
- The committee continues to explore effective ways to promote behavior analysis as well as improve the quality of such services in Delaware.
- The executive committee discussed the necessary steps to establish behavior analyst licensure in the State of Delaware.
- The executive committee also discussed the ways to increase the number of members through social media, conferences, and workshops.

#### Plan for 2023–2024

Delaware ABA will continue to plan a few events to offer CEUs for members and to educate the general public regarding the science of behavior analysis. We will plan for in-person annual conference per members' request. Additionally, we will continue to gain knowledge and work on tasks to develop behavior analyst licensure in the state of Delaware through attending the meetings and workshops at the ABAI and APBA conventions.

## District of Columbia ABA

BY LERA JOHNSON & GABRIELLE TORRES

While the District of Columbia is quite small geographically; its metropolitan area extends to nearby states of Maryland and Virginia (a.k.a., the DMV).

DCABA's mission is to promote the professional practice, ethics, research, and dissemination of behavior analysis in the DMV, and to provide its members with support and continuing education opportunities within the field of behavior analysis. DCABA is committed to promoting diversity and inclusiveness in our organization and within the field of behavior analysis.

After some slowing down as a result of the pandemic, the board is happy to share that we are back at full capacity and working diligently to fulfil our mission. Our current board members meet on a monthly basis and include:

President Sandra Bishop, BCBA, LBA  
 Past-President Mary Caruso-Anders, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA VA & MD  
 Secretary, Amber Travers, MEd, BCBA, LBA VA  
 Treasurer Andrea Jones, Graduate Student in Behavior Analysis  
 Communications Coordinator Colleen Williams, MEd, BCBA  
 DEI Coordinator Gabrielle Torres, BCBA, IBA  
 Three Members-at-Large:  
 Lera Johnson, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA VA & MD,  
 Lorena Trujillo, BCBA, LBA VA and  
 Chrystal Foster, BCBA, LBA VA & MD

We also have four active committees supporting the goals and initiatives of the organization:

- Membership Committee—focuses on supporting members of DCABA (i.e. resources, socializing) and growing the number of members, which includes behavior analysts, other professionals, RBTs, parents, allies, et cetera.
- The Program/Continuing Education Committee focuses on our professional's development and training opportunities
- The Public Policy Committee focuses on furthering the regulated practice of behavior analysis in Washington, D.C., including research of licensure initiatives across the country, drafting ABA licensure laws for D.C. and working for their ratification.
- The Diversity and Inclusion Committee ensures that the events, actions and activities of the DCABA Board and its Committees take into account, and promote, diversity, equity and inclusion. As our committees continue their work, we are always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining a committee, email us at [districtaba@gmail.com](mailto:districtaba@gmail.com).

Our primary focus in 2023 is to enhance our membership value and provide our members with more professional development and networking opportunities. We are also focused on the submission of a licensing model act in the District of Columbia. Other goals include establishing mentoring for young professionals and resources for parents.

## Florida ABA

BY AMY POLICK

The Florida Association for Behavior Analysis (FABA) has had a successful past few years – 2021 and 2022 – post-COVID. Like many other associations, FABA faced financial challenges throughout COVID, and we were able to persevere and come out of the pandemic stronger than when we started. In 2020 we held our first virtual conference, and in 2021 and 2022 we moved back to in-person options and maintained the virtual access for those who preferred to remain virtual for events. These hybrid events allowed us to maintain strong membership and attendance to our conference events. In 2021, we hosted our 41st Annual Meeting in Miami, Florida with in-person attendance at the JW Marriott conference venue and online attendees joining via Behavior Live. Our 2021 conference included a total of ~1700 participants, with 1200 in-person and 500 online. In 2022, we hosted our 42nd Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida as a hybrid event in partnership with the Behavior Live team. The in-person attendees joined our events at the Sawgrass Marriott and others joined online through Behavior Live. In 2022, we served ~1900 participants, with 1400 in-person and 500 online. These numbers of attendees are typical of what we usually saw in our pre-COVID conference attendances (between 1500–1800) with room

for growth. For the upcoming 2023 year, we are actively planning our 43rd Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida in September 2023. FABAs also regularly holds a smaller conference every Spring in Orlando, which is coordinated by the leaders of FABAs local chapters – called CoFABA. This Spring interested parties can join us in May 2023 for CoFABA.

Outside of conference activities, FABAs Board of Directors and its Legislative and Public Policy Committee continue to be guided by our lobbyist and attorney Eric Prutsman, and our Public Policy Director, Kevin Murdock, to serve the organization for state-related legislative and policy matters. The legislative committee, Kevin, and Eric have been extra busy monitoring issues in the legislature related to: 1) funding and insurance coverage of ABA services (we have been active in AHCA meetings and leading discussions about policies for services), 2) expansion of and access to ABA services (we worked on an RBT access bill that passed in 2022), and FABAs continues to monitor policies regarding restraint and seclusion in public schools. FABAs is also actively considering pursuing licensure and also has a very active Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, which complements our existing Multicultural Special Interest Group of FABAs. Looking forward, FABAs plans to continue their advocacy efforts for practitioners of behavior analysis services in Florida. FABAs Board of Directors and Legislative committee work throughout the year to maintain our right to provide behavior analysis services in Florida and we continually work to fulfill our mission of promoting the “ethical, humane, and effective application of behavior principles in all segments of society.” By doing so, we plan to continue to disseminate our science throughout the state and alleviate barriers that practitioners face across Florida.

## Four Corners ABA

BY MEGAN KIRBY, NICOLE BANK & TRINA SPENCER

The Four Corners ABA (4CABA) mission is to promote the science of behavior and evidence-based technologies derived from the basic science in the Four Corners region of the U.S. (Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico), providing behavior analysts with an intellectual home. Chapter membership is open to anyone who is interested in the science and practice of behavior analysis. Most of our members have physical and/or academic roots in the Four Corners region. There are numerous benefits to being a 4CABA member, including being a part of a group of individuals who value the science and practice of behavior analysis and enjoy being part of a strong, productive and vibrant community of scholars and practitioners. If you are interested in being a part of 4CABA, please take a look at our website for more information ([www.4caba.org](http://www.4caba.org)). In our ongoing efforts to increase membership and let oth-

er behavior analysts know what we've been up to, 4CABA also hosts an expo booth at the ABAs Annual Conventions. Make sure to stop by and say hello if you're attending the next Annual ABAs Convention- we'll be there!

In 2022, our 15th Annual 4CABA Conference was held in Tucson, Arizona (April 8-9, 2022), organized by then-President, Anne Denning. There was a well-rounded lineup of invited speakers: Brennan Armshaw (University of North Texas), Katherine Brown (Utah State University), Sydney Rice (University of Arizona), John Umbreit (University of Arizona), Jeff Kupfer (University of Colorado-Denver), Rebecca Hartzell (University of Arizona), Megan Kirby (University of South Florida), and Federico Sanabria (Arizona State University). In addition, three students presented their research during the poster session on April 8th: Monica Ruffalo (University of Arizona), Crystal Aragón (University of New Mexico), and Ana Gabriela Enriquez Hernandez (Arizona State University). The 2022 post-conference workshop, Empirically Supported Parent Management Training: Behavior Analysts Collaborating with Healthcare Professionals, was led by the University of Arizona's Andrew Gardner and Chelsea Carr. We would like to thank our speakers, the Conference Coordinator, Nicole Bank, and Anne Denning once again for such a wonderful and intellectually-stimulating event!

This year's 16th Annual Conference was held on April 7-8, 2023, online and in-person at the DoubleTree Park City Yarrow Resort in beautiful Park City, Utah (home to great outdoor recreation and the Sundance Film Festival). Outgoing President, Trina Spencer, organized this year's conference around the theme, “Carl Cheney: The Man, the Myth, the Legend.” Nine individuals representing applied and experimental behavior analysis fields were invited to speak at the conference, all immediate or extended members of Carl's academic family tree: Susan Friedman (Utah State University), Tom Higbee (Utah State University), Erin Rasmussen (Idaho State University), Ryan Olson (Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences), Nathan Call (Marcus Institute), Fred Provenza (Utah State University), Luis Rodriguez (Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center), Sarah Weddle (May Institute), and Stephen Robertson (Susquehanna State University).

The 17th Annual Four Corners ABA Conference will be held the first week of April 2024 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Stay tuned for more information.

## Hoosier ABA

BY ANN DORLET

Overall, 2022 was a successful year for HABA. Throughout the year, we continued to focus on building funds, providing our members with continuing education opportunities, and licensure efforts.

Our monthly Hoosier Happy Hours continuing education events continue to be a success. These events allow our members access to various topics in the areas of behavior analysis. Topics this year included supervision, parent training, working with the adult population, self-care, ethical considerations in the field of ABA, and staff training.

In October 2022, we hosted an in-person conference after being virtual for two years. Speakers included Rachel Taylor, Paul Gavoni, Ellie Kazemi, Kelly Tait, AJ Rodrigue, Shawna Sundberg, and Susan Wilczynski.

The conference was a two-day event with almost 130 people in attendance. Our poster session was a success with 16 posters being presented and one winner receiving a \$500 scholarship for the best overall poster presentation.

Our 5th Annual Bridget Harrison Award was presented to Michelle Trivedi for her continued commitment to HABA's mission and the autism population. In regard to licensure, the rules were written and finalized in 2022. Our goal is for the rules to be presented and approved by the board sometime in early 2023.

### 2022 Strategic Plan Goals

- Finalize Licensure
- Provide Monthly Hoosier Happy Hour CE events.
- Hold an in-person conference.
- Stabilize finances.
- Continue to organize and simplify.

### Executive Committee 2022

Amber Badgett, BCBA Past-President  
Ann Dorlet, BCBA President  
Amanda Jones, BCBA Vice-President  
Amanda Ahrens, BCBA Treasurer  
Brittany Hughes, BCBA Secretary  
Maria Loudermilk, BCBA Member-at-Large

### Executive Committee 2022

Amber Badgett, BCBA Past-President  
Ann Dorlet, BCBA President  
Amanda Jones, BCBA Vice-President  
Amanda Ahrens, BCBA Treasurer  
Brittany Hughes, BCBA Secretary  
Maria Loudermilk, BCBA Member-at-Large  
Emily Wyss, BCBA Licensure Chair

## Illinois ABA

BY NASIAH CIRINCIONE-ULEZI

The Illinois Association for Behavior Analysis (ILABA) was established to provide a forum for behavior analysts in the state of Illinois to stay up to date on legislative issues as they apply to our field as well as to offer continuing education and advocacy for ABA practitioners throughout

our state. The chapter promotes collaboration among behavior analysts in Illinois and fosters relations between practitioners, universities, and stakeholders in Illinois.

In 2022, ILABA moved forward with a variety of initiatives via committees. The Academic Affairs Committee of ILABA serves to connect the behavior analytic academic community in Illinois, connecting students across universities, and collaborating with VCS across the state for the dissemination and advancement of the science. Apart from fulfilling its routine duties in service of ILABA and its members, the academic affairs committee has undertaken a series of initiatives in collaboration with VCS partners in Illinois, to facilitate the transition to the BACB's new fieldwork experience and certification requirements. The committee is also in the process of developing a research registry to connect researchers, practitioners, and students in both academic and applied settings. The Legislative Affairs Committee of ILABA achieved several milestones. First, the committee expanded the scope to be more comprehensive in nature, specifically licensure of Behavior Analysts, Medicaid coverage of ABA, and related supportive legislation (e.g., adult and children services, etc.). In this expansion, the committee sought to become more knowledgeable about these efforts and share that information with the membership. Second, the committee engaged in committed action around meeting and talking with stakeholders. These stakeholders included Early Intervention, other professional state associations (e.g., counseling, psychology, etc.), provider groups, and more. The goal of these meetings was to share information about ABA, ILABA, and find mutually beneficial priorities.

Finally, the Legislative Affairs Committee spearheaded House Bill 4769 Licensure for Behavior Analysts. The Bill is supported by various state and national stakeholders. The Bill was recently passed out of the House unanimously. The Practitioner Education Committee continues to host a wide range of webinars.

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee continues to facilitate a book study toward ILABA's values of inclusivity, service, learning and openness.

## Kansas ABA

BY KELLEY HARRISON

KansABA's mission is to (a) advance the science and practice of behavior analysis, as well as its education and training; (b) address issues relevant to the science, practice, education, and training in behavior analysis; (c) maintain disciplinary, professional, and ethical standards in the science, practice, education, and training in behavior analysis; and (d) recruit and enhance interest in behavior analysis throughout the State of Kansas and the Kansas City metropolitan area — Clay, Jackson, and Platte counties.

## Governance

KansABA is governed by an Executive Committee that consists of a president: Kelley Harrison; a full member representative: Marren Leon-Barajas; an adjunct representative: Allyson Bell, and a student representative: Ky Kanaman. The Council is assisted by a secretary: Stacha Leslie; and a treasurer: Brittany Mitchelson Vaughn. In addition, KansABA has a Legislative Affairs Committee: Nicole Kanaman, chair; Legislative Liaison: Lisa Popelka & Sara Diaz de Villegas; an IT Committee: Matt Laske, chair; a Professional Development committee: Christie Stiehl & Megan Schmidt, chair; and a historian: Ed Morris. KansABA is excited to announce the following individuals were elected for incoming positions in 2022: Student member representative-elect: Lisa Ambrosek. Finally, KansABA would like to thank the following individuals who finished their terms of service in 2022: Professional Development committee: Kelley Harrison, chair.

## Membership

KansABA has membership categories for:

**Full Members:** for individuals who reside in Kansas or the Kansas City metropolitan area and meet the requirements for Full membership at ABAI; **Adjunct Members:** for individuals who express an interest in the science or practice of behavior analysis or its education and training but do not meet criteria for other members categories; **Student Members:** for full-time students undergraduate or graduate academic degree program, certification program, internship, or resident program in the state of Kansas relevant to a career in behavior analysis and meet the student member requirements for ABAI; and **Lifetime Member:** for individuals who provide considerable support for KansABA for above the required amount (lifetime members receive free membership and conference registration indefinitely).

Membership includes registration at the annual April KansABA conference, which in turn includes admission to the conference's Career and Education Fair, snacks and drinks throughout the conference, lunch, and an evening reception.

The membership year is conference to conference.

## Conferences & Workshops

In 2022, we hosted our annual conference in person. Our conference's theme was "Individual, Social, and Cultural Humility in Behavior Analysis." Featured presenters included Shahla Ala'i-Rosales (University of North Texas), "The Liability of Self-Fullness"; Traci M. Cihon (University of North Texas), "Reflections on Teaching Behavior Analysis: Adjusting Our Scientific Lens in the Search for Humility"; Megan Miller (Do Better Collective), "Commitment to Effective and Humane

Behavior-Analytic Service Delivery"; Malika N. Pritchett (University of Kansas), "Magnificence: Envisioning Full Dignity and Humanity"; and Tyra P. Sellers (TP Sellers, LLC), "Culturally Responsive Supervision: What it is and Why it Should be one of Your Top Priorities." We also held a business meeting, a Behaviorists for Social Responsibility SIG meeting, and a student poster session during the annual conference. Finally, we presented the postponed 2021 awards in person during this annual conference. This included four KansABA Distinguished Service Awards to Brett Gelino, Molly Pomeroy, Tyler C. Ré, and Allison S. Tetreault as well as one award for Outstanding Contributions to Behavior Analysis in Kansas: Juniper Garden's Children's Project.

In 2022, workshops continued throughout the course of the year. Workshops were held virtually for the first half of the year and in person for the second half of the year. The first workshop's theme was "Delivering and Billing ABA Services: Essential Information for the Interested Practitioner" and was presented by Michele Silcox and Rebecca Womack. The second workshop's theme was "The LGBTQ+ Community and Me: Queering Cultural Competence in Behavior Analysis" and was presented by Sarah Campau and Daniel Conine.

In 2023, we offered all workshops virtually and offered a hybrid experience at our annual conference. This change was in response to feedback provided by KansABA members that virtual workshops reduce barriers to attendance. Our first workshop's theme was "Enhancing the Maintenance and Generalization of Staff's Implementation of Healthy Behavioral Practices" and was presented by Nicole Kanaman.

Our annual conference theme was "Clinical Services Across the Lifespan: From Research to Practice." Featured presenters included Dorothea Lerman (University of Houston, Clear Lake), "Current Research and Practice on Improving Job-Related Social and Problem-Solving Skills"; Jon Baker (Western Michigan University), "Promoting Successful Aging Through the Lifespan for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities"; Katrina Ostmeier (Beyond the Individual, LLC), "A Guide Through the Maze: Meeting Clinical Needs of Diverse Populations in Behaviorally-Oriented Private Practice"; Byron Wine (The Faison Center & University of Virginia), "Decreasing Employee Injuries in Human Services"; and Ilene Schwartz (University of Washington), "Project DATA 25 Years Later: What we Have Learned from a Quality of Life Influenced EIBI Program." We also held a business meeting, a Behaviorists for Social Responsibility SIG meeting, and a student poster session during the annual conference. Both workshops and the annual conference provide our members with professional development opportunities, networking opportunities, and general,

supervision, and ethic continuing education credits. Upcoming workshop and annual conference information can be found on KansABA's website.

### Special Interest Groups

KansABA's members have a range of interests in teaching, research, service, and practice. To support them, KansABA encourages the development of special interest groups (SIGs). In this, KansABA will (a) assist them with recruitment, promotion, and dissemination; (b) publish SIG news and announcements on the KansABA website and in its conference program; (c) host SIG business meetings at the KansABA conferences; (d) co-sponsor continuing education events; and (e) maintain links between the SIGs and KansABA's websites. KansABA currently has one SIG called "Behaviorists for Social Responsibility" (BFSR). Their mission is to promote and advance the application of the science of behavior to address social issues, particularly those with social justice, human rights, and environmental implications. All are welcome to join the SIG. Benefits of membership include professional development, network opportunities, research and service opportunities, access to resources, and topics of interest. This year, the BFSR continued regular meetings and advocacy efforts. Most notably, this group disseminated an official position on the use of contingent electric skin shock (CESS). The BFSR worked closely with the KansABA Executive Council in creating this position. However, both entities published separate position statements. You can find BFSR's official statement on KansABA's Facebook page.

### Legislation and Licensure

Our Legislation Committee continues to monitor and inform KansABA members of matters related to licensure requirements and related information through the quarterly KansABA newsletter and through our website Legislation page. This year, there were no changes with respect to Kansas or Missouri licensure. However, the committee completed two notable initiatives.

First, the legislation committee formed a working relationship with the Kansas Grassroots ABA group. Together, these teams are identifying ways to better reach and support individuals across the state of Kansas. Their current initiatives include identifying and disseminating resources to help practitioners secure funding for services in the state of Kansas, bringing practitioners from across the state (and especially in rural areas) together for networking and support opportunities through virtual quarterly meetings, and working with state legislators to increase funding opportunities for individuals with diagnoses other than autism and for adults with disabilities. Second, the legislative committee in conjunction with the KansABA Executive Council disseminated an official

position on the use of contingent electric skin shock (CESS). The KansABA Executive Council worked closely with the BFSR in creating this position.

However, both entities published separate position statements. You can find the KansABA Executive Council's official statement on KansABA's Facebook page.

### KansABA Web Site

Our Website Committee chair, Matt Laske, updated our website again this year. Please visit us at [www.Kansaba.org](http://www.Kansaba.org). In fact, if you type "KansABA" into Google's search engine, you will see that KansABA has the first five listings. We will continue to update and expand the site as we continue to grow.

### Initiatives in 2022–2023

KansABA hopes to continue to grow as a professional organization and as a valuable resource for practicing and aspiring behavior analysts in the state of Kansas. As such, we have several initiatives this year. This includes (1) providing hybrid and virtual events to better reach and support individuals across the state of Kansas, (2) updating membership categories to better represent practitioners at all levels of the profession, and (3) creating a new membership category to represent stakeholders in the field of behavior analysis who do not currently practice behavior analysis as a professional.

## Lone Star ABA

BY GERALD HARRIS

LSABA has been in existence for 14 years now. We have accomplished a lot in that time, but the Covid-19 pandemic temporarily interrupted our activities. The Lone Star Applied Behavior Analysts (LSABA) chapter was established in 2009 to provide community support for professionals and students in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis. Houston area members include practitioners as well as educators, and those who work in either the public or private sectors or both. While a majority of the members are involved in the application of ABA to children with autism, LSABA recognizes and supports those professionals who demonstrate the utility of ABA in application to a variety of populations and needs.

The past year was a difficult year, but also saw the recovery of our group. The regular LSABA monthly meetings which inform practitioners of ABA related news, events, and issues and provide research discussion continuing education credits were temporarily discontinued due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but resumed in the latter part of the year. We are now able to resume offering conferences to area ABA practitioners. One of the most exciting activities of LSABA previously was the conducting conferences focusing on important aspects



of ABA. However, one conference that was planned and ready to go (people had already registered) had to be cancelled due to the pandemic and another was aborted. We now have a conference scheduled for June which should be well received. LSABA is resuming our previous activities this year and continues to be very appreciative of support and recognition from the state chapter, TxABA. There remains a good system of information exchange in place with TxABA, and LSABA and its members individually participate in and assist with TxABA activities and events, such as the annual TxABA convention.

At the national and international level, LSABA has certainly been well supported and encouraged by ABAI and continues to express gratitude for all the assistance by that organization. As an Affiliate of APBA, LSABA has also received welcome support and encouragement from that organization.

Overall, for a now maturing organization of 14 years LSABA appears to have a strong foundation and a good track record of accomplishments. LSABA is certainly blessed with having dedicated and caring members, and excellent support from the ABA professional establishment. We will continue to act to survive current difficulties and carry forward.

## Louisiana Behavior Analysis Association

BY TRICIA CLEMENT

### Mission and History

The mission of the Louisiana Behavior Analysis Association (LaBAA) is to promote ABAI's mission to contribute to the well-being of society by developing, enhancing, and supporting the growth and vitality of the science of behavior analysis (BA) through research, education, and practice, and to promote access to responsible BA services by professionals sufficiently trained in the discipline of BA and compliance with relevant ethics standards. LaBAA was established in April of 2012 as a 501c(4) and became an ABAI affiliate state chapter in the fall of 2012. LaBAA is also an Affiliate of APBA and a BACB ace provider. LaBAA serves as a scientific, professional, and networking group for its members. LaBAA also promotes access to behavior analysis services in the state of Louisiana.

### Officers

LaBAA is governed by an Executive Committee comprised of a president, past president, president-elect, treasurer, and secretary. 2022–2023 officers are: Tricia Clement, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA, president; Megan Matherne Perkins, MA, BCBA, LBA, treasurer; Tara Williamson, MA, BCBA, LBA, secretary; and Scott Williamson, MA, BCBA, LBA, past president. The LaBAA Board of Directors is comprised

of regional representatives from across the state, a parent representative and a student representative. 2022–2023 regional representatives are Chad Favre, BCBA, LBA; Jenny Cronier, BCBA, LBA; Kate Jenkins, BCBA, LBA; Danica Savoie, BCBA, LBA; and Danielle Bratton, BCBA, LBA. Loretta Bateman is the student representative and Sara McCumsey is the parent representative. The legislative chair is Grant Gautreaux, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA. Elections for all officers and representatives are conducted in May/June every other year.

### Membership

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

### Benefits of Full Affiliate Membership

- Professional representation:
    - LaBAA is committed to protecting the interests of LaBAA BCBA's in the Louisiana state legislature.
  - Consumer/affiliate representation:
    - LaBAA is committed to protecting the interests of consumers of ABA.
  - The right of Full Members to vote in all matters brought before LaBAA
  - The option for Full and Affiliate Members to post employment opportunities on the LaBAA website.
  - Professional, advocacy, and networking opportunities for all levels of membership.
- Benefits of Student Membership
- Opportunities to network with other students and professionals in the field.
  - Opportunities to assist with planning and hosting of annual LaBAA conference.
  - Opportunities to serve on LaBAA committees.
  - LaBAA currently has 92 members.

### 2022 Conference:

LaBAA hosted the 2022 Gulf Coast ABA Conference online in the fall of 2022. The conference was chaired by Dr. Rebecca Mandal-Blasio and presented online. Presenters included Dr. Peter Gerhardt, Dr. Shanna Bahry, Dr. Janet Twyman, Dr. Noor Syed, Dr. Sarah Lechago, Dr. Jamie Hughes-Like, and Dan Unumb, Esq.

### Other Activities and Initiatives:

DEI Activities. LaBAA members have been participating in regularly scheduled meetings with Dr. Nasiah Cirincione-Ulezi and other chapter leaders to facilitate discussions about relevant DEI issues and topics in the field of behavior analysis. During these meetings each organization is able to discuss ways that support the desire to incorporate DEI (human dignity) values into the organization's structure and mission.

### 2023 Conference

LaBAA is planning their first return to an in-person conference since the fall of 2019. Conference co-chairs are Katie Jenkins and Janice Huber. The Gulf Coast ABA Conference will be held October 6-7, 2023, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Conference highlights include a keynote and invited presenters, a workshop, poster session, student poster competition, and will provide a venue for local and regional behavior analysts researchers to share their research. To learn more about LaBAA and the conference, visit: [www.labaa.net](http://www.labaa.net).

### Louisiana Coalition for Access to Autism Services (LCASS):

LaBAA has partnered with LCAAS to secure professional legislative services. As the state of behavior analysis continues to take shape within Louisiana, LaBAA has been very active in ensuring that the development and growth of behavior analysis remains beneficial to further developing the science of behavior analysis, the practice of behavior analysts, the mentoring of students of behavior analysis, and most importantly advocating for consumers of behavior analytic services. In addition, the coalition has worked with LaBAA to educate the public and raise awareness about the science of behavior, ABA services, and legislative advocacy. Recent initiatives included protect funding for critical services for some of Louisiana's most vulnerable individuals as well as expanded services to underserved patients.

## Maryland ABA

BY CARRIE BORRERO

The Maryland Association for Behavior Analysis (MABA) held its 25th Annual Meeting on December 1-2, 2022. Our conference is devoted to the dissemination of behavior analysis, both basic and applied, to our members from the Mid-Atlantic area. This year we were able to hold an exclusively in-person event! We were fortunate to have fantastic attendance. We welcomed workshops presented by Ellie Kazemi (California State University Northridge) and Stephanie Kuhn (Western Connecticut State University).

Our conference included presentations from John Austin (Reaching Results), Melanie Bachmeyer Lee (Center for Pediatric Behavioral Health), Lauren Beaulieu (Newton Public Schools), James Carr (BACB), Joel Ringdahl (University of Georgia), and Jason Vladescu (Caldwell University). We had an expo and poster session for sponsors and poster presentations. Poster presenters included staff and students from organizations such as UMBC, Kennedy Krieger Institute, and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. We would like to thank our sponsors for continuing to support the efforts of MABA. At the conclusion of the conference, Tamara Marder (Johns Hopkins University) stepped down as president, Aila Dommestrup (Kennedy Krieger Institute) assumed the office of President, and Michelle Frank Crawford (Kennedy Krieger Institute) was elected President-Elect. John Borrero also stepped down as Co-Director of MABA. We would like to thank our executive committee for their time and dedication. Plans are currently underway for the 26th Annual Meeting, to be held November 30-December 1, 2023, in Baltimore. For more information about our upcoming conference, please go to [www.mdaba.org](http://www.mdaba.org).

## Nebraska Association for Behavior Analysis

The Nebraska Association for Behavior Analysis has continued concentrating efforts to obtain licensure for Behavior Analysts in the state of Nebraska. Earlier this month, the Health and Human Services Committee voted 7-0 to advance our bill to the full legislature for debate and voting. It is likely this will be scheduled in the next few weeks.

Our annual conference was held in Omaha in March 2022. Workshops were led by Dr. Tyra Sellers, Dr. Matt O'Brien, and Dr. Kelly Schieltz. Topics presented include improving juvenile justice systems, treatment integrity, assessment, and treatment via telehealth, and cultural adaptations in the field. Throughout the year, we also offered our members other CEU opportunities in the form of a virtual speaker series. Following our annual conference, Shelby Wagner served as President, Sara Kupzyk was elected as Vice President, Victoria Bock served as Past President, Steve Taylor served as Treasurer, Jessica Beck served as Secretary, and Gabrielle Roberts was elected as Student Representative.

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

### Alberta ABA

The Alberta Association for Behaviour Analysis (AltaABA) is in its seventh year as an affiliated chapter of ABAI. In March 2023 nominations for open Board member positions were put forth. These positions included the Student member, two Members-at-Large, President-Elect and Treasurer.

The 2023 AGM was held virtually on April 29th and was paired with an invited speaker event discussing trauma informed ABA from Dr. Anthony Cammilleri, cultural responsiveness from Jacob Sadavoy, and ethical decision making from Ann Beirne. AltaABA's membership remained consistent over the past year. At the time of this report (March 2023), the total membership included 51 members. The current total number of active BACB certificants in Alberta increased by 14 certificants this past year, to a current total of 2 BCBA-Ds, 63 BCBAAs, 2 BCaBAAs, and 10 RBTs province-wide. AltaABA has kept in line with our first 3-year Strategic Plan which was released in December 2020. This plan has 3 long-term goal sections that originally consisted of 14 short term actions. No revisions were completed during this term. In 2022 the Board achieved 6/10 goals. In line with our mission and vision, the Board also began offering a paid job board and membership directory in order to continue dissemination of professionals in the province who are available to provide services to local families, and provide additional revenue for the AltaABA board.

In addition, the regulation committee has begun drafting letters to be sent to local government officials and regulatory bodies that introduce AltaABA and the field of behaviour analysis. Unfortunately ABA is not considered a regulated health professional in the province of Alberta, and this has considerable repercussions in many client's abilities to access quality ABA services. This past year the board once again began holding in person social events to facilitate ongoing networking for the membership and other professionals. At the time of this report the board hosted four in person events split across the province's two largest cities, and were planning two more events to occur in the summer of 2023. AltaABA's activity on social media platforms has continued to increase over the past year with the addition of links to behaviour analysis events and ongoing advertising of the role of AltaABA and benefits to the membership. For further information, to view AltaABA's Strategic Plan, or to join the chapter, please visit: [www.altaaba.ca](http://www.altaaba.ca) or follow us on Facebook or Instagram.

### Association for the Advancement of Radical Behavior Analysis (AARBA)

BY CARLA LASAGNA DEL VAL

In 2022–23 AARBA has been actively involved in various initiatives, specifically regarding the BA 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 & ABA Community

Firstly, we will participate at the ABAI 49th Annual Convention in presence at Denver. During such event we will have the opportunity to attend to several interesting symposiums, workshops, panel discussion and one events that will involve us directly. On Saturday the 27th of May, our president, Fabio Tosolin will be presenting a paper focusing on the "BBS implementation in a construction site reality". The study that will be presented, was carried out in a civil construction site of a double-track railway tunnel, in Italy, by two students of the engineer course of the University Politecnico of Milano. The paper will specifically focus on how the implementation of a BBS process, through observations, measurements of behaviors through checklist and release of immediate feedback and monthly safety meeting, influences the levels of safe behaviors related to maintenance of machineries used during work. Even this year we had the occasion to hold the 16th edition of our Scientific European Conference on Behavior-Based Safety (B-BS) and Performance Management (PM) that is the 18th edition of our Scientific European Congress on Applied Behavior Analysis. As the previous years the event was formed by two sessions, one focusing on the application of behavior analysis in BBS and PM projects and the second one on the application in relation to the clinical field. Finally, after two years of pandemic and online presentations, we had the opportunity to organize it in presence, at the University of Milan. People had the opportunity to participate at specific workshops, symposiums, and to an introductory plenary session. Most of the audience was OBM-related, with HSE managers, HR managers, consultants, work psychologists but also many clinical psychologists and therapists in the field of ABA. At the event we had the honor to host international guest speakers, such as Timothy Ludwig (Professor at Appalachian State University and Author at Safety-Doc.com), Lory Ludwig (Chief Human Performance Engineer at Performance Ally) Sigurdur Sigurdsson (Full

commissioner for the Behavior-Based Safety Accreditation Commission of the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies), that gave a high focus on the importance of developing a safety culture and communication to increase the adoption of a BBS process and maintenance over time. During the event, we even had the possibility to present some research and work done by the current organization we currently collaborate with, to show the audience some real-life examples of BBS implementations.

Regarding Behavior Analysis applied to the clinical field, we had the honor to listen to both international and national professionals in the field of ABA, such as, Douglas Greer (Coordinator of the ABA Program at the Columbia University), Leasha Barry (Director of the ABA Program at the University of West Florida) Dayna Beddick (Associate Director at the University of West Florida) and other pioneers in the field of ABA. Through such event we had the opportunity to gather all together more than 200 people with one unique aim to continue with the divulgation of the science of Behavior Analysis. During the month of December (22nd –24th), we renewed our commitment to Ambiente-Lavoro, the biggest Italian fair about environment and safety at work. Even for such event we had the opportunity to participate in person, by holding two presentations. The first presentation was held by one of the AARBA researchers, that gave an introduction and theoretical explanation on behavior analysis and specifically BBS protocol for increase safety in working sites. The second presentation was conducted by our President, aiming to explain how observations and measurements based on behaviors are what makes a process in terms of security succeed. Having the opportunity to participate in person this year, helped us with the continues promotion and divulgation of the science of behavior analysis, specifically in Italy. We prepared a stand, were people had the possibility to find information (articles, research, fliers of the courses we provide and data to provide real life examples) regarding the science of behavior analysis and specifically its application in the field of BBS.

The President of the association, for various years, has been collaborating with dentists in the application and creation of seminars and protocols focusing on the implementation of Behavior Analysis strategies in the dentistry field. Through the creation of presentations and specific courses, that focus on various arguments, such as the patience compliance, motivation of the team, motivation to improve the quality of the treatment given to the patient, clinical risk reduction, support for people with specific diagnosis, developing a behavioral system analysis and other more. All of them through the use and adoption of and evidence proven systems that allows individuals to measure theirs and others' behaviors.

## Higher Education

During the past years one of the most important aims of the association is to continue with the dissemination of the science of behavior analysis, specifically providing the adequate education and training for professionals in the field. For such reason with the new year's, the AARBA team has been working on the development of the new educational course specifically on Behavior Analysis, following the requirements and standards that ABAAI has determined with the Tiered Model of Education. With this continues education we really hope to continue to bring a change in our country, Italy, not only in terms of the knowledge of ABA, but most important on the correct and specific implementation that needs to be adopted, in all the field, from the one related to BBS process to the ABA in schools and home environments. The project of developing specific courses in Behavior Analysis is something AARBA is willing to continue working on, not only to support the people that need a behavior analysis base treatment, but even for the behavior analysts itself. As every year, we continued with the specific 80-hours B-BS post-graduate course. During 2022 and 2023 we had the opportunity to three different courses, focusing not only trained on the theoretical background of Behavior Analysis and its implementation on the OBM field, but even on the practical aspects (creating a checklist, presentation of data analysis, conducting safety meetings, etc.) of a process.

## Research Projects

As far as research is concerned, in collaboration with the Polytechnic of Milan we dealt again with some master's degree thesis. With the new year, in 2022 we supported 2 interns, with the development of their thesis. The project started during the month of May 2022 and concluded during November 2022, in a construction side. The main aim was to focus and measure the results of a BBS implementation process in relation safety and productivity, specifically focusing on behaviors related to the maintenance of the machineries used by the workers during their daily activities.

## Companies Consulting

As far as major Italian and multinational companies support, we followed-up our commitment in the territory with some interventions based on training and OBM consulting. Throughout the year our President has been invited as guest speaker at two different events, focusing on the application of Organizational Behavioral Managements techniques in the dentistry field. The first event was held at the San Raffaele Hospital, in Milan, with a presentation focusing on the application of the science of behavior analysis to increase both the patience and team compliance in the working environment of a dental practice. Furthermore, during the month of March and April, we

had the opportunity to organize a four-day intensive course. The course had the main aim to inform and train a dental office (from assistance to secretary and doctors) in relation to patience compliance, motivation of the team, motivation to improve the quality of the treatment given to the patient, clinical risk reduction, support for people with specific diagnosis, developing a behavioral system analysis and other more. The course was held by our President and with the collaboration of other members of the chapter. 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!

## ABA Australia

BY ALEXANDRA BROWN

ABA Australia continues to grow and develop. Our work on the self-regulation of our profession has been the priority over the past few years. We are proud to announce that we began taking memberships for Certified Behaviour Analysts in August 2022. Since these huge changes have taken effect, the overwhelming majority of eligible members have applied for certification. This has allowed us to create a second paid position, which has assisted greatly in the processing of applications. The process of developing our own self-regulatory body involved the creation of our own Code of Ethical Practice, Supervision Standards, and Continuing Professional Development Standards, along with new organisational policies and procedures. We chose to begin our Code of Ethics with an extensive section on Cultural Humility. ABA Australia is committed to supporting behaviour analysts in a way that acknowledges and incorporates the importance of culture, the assessment of cross-cultural relations, vigilance towards the dynamics that result in cultural differences, the expansion of cultural knowledge, and the adaptation of services to meet culturally unique needs.

A core feature of our Code is to ensure that behaviour analysts engage in conduct which promotes equity and the protection of people's moral rights. Behind the scenes, we continue to have a number of working groups who are tackling our long-term goals of dissemination of behaviour analysis and recognition of behaviour analysts within our government, insurance, and allied health systems. We thank all of our board members and active volunteers for their efforts. In 2022, we were pleased to return to a face-to-face conference in Sydney. This was our first conference that offered pre-conference workshops and had multiple streams of presentations.

We also enjoyed the social networking that we had missed over the previous two years. We are looking to be even bigger in Brisbane in July 2023. ABA Australia

representatives attended the conference in Denver in May 2023. As always, ABAs support for international chapters at the Affiliate Chapter Training was also very much appreciated by our attending board members. As we look forward to the next year, we will continue to work toward our ever-growing goals, with pride for our profession.

## ABA España

BY AIDA TARIFA-RODRIGUES &  
JAVIER VIRUES-ORTEGA

ABA España is a non-profit organization that has been providing support to individuals and families affected by autism spectrum disorders since 2004. The organization's mission is to promote the social inclusion and improve the quality of life of people with autism and their families through research, education, and advocacy. In the past year ABA España continued to pursue its mission by focusing on several key initiatives, including the signing of an MoU with the University of Cadiz to deliver a university-based master's program in collaboration with this institution. The program is in its first year of operation and has attained VCS status (5th ed.). It is currently undergoing the tier-level evaluation as per ABAs new process. The program has also been approved by international certification programs including QABA, IBAO and BICC. These efforts have allowed ABA España to expand its reach and provide more comprehensive support to prospective professionals seeking training in ABA in Spanish.

We have also established new partnerships with local programs. For example, ABA España personnel delivered a three-day training to Consorci Aprop, one of the largest residential services for individuals with complex disabilities in the Balear islands. We are also in the process of establishing a new partnership with NECC Abu Dhabi in the wake of our 15-year-old collaboration with NECC Boston. We expect that this opportunity could translate in practica and employment opportunities for students undergoing the Universidad de Cádiz course sequence developed in collaboration with ABA España.

We have continued our ambitious editorial activity with seven new titles published in 2022 alone (see below). With the support of ABAs, we had the opportunity to feature some of these titles in the conference bookstore in Boston last May. We believe that producing this reference material is making a difference in training programs across the globe with thousands of books sold internationally (Spain is only a small percentage of the demand for behavior-analytic literature in Spanish).

**Newman, B., & Heinecke, D. (2022).** *Detectives de la conducta*. ABA España.

**Hayes, S. C., & Strosahl, K. D. (2022).** *Una guía práctica a la terapia de aceptación y compromiso*. ABA España.

- Bailey, J. S., & Burch, M. R.** (2022). *Ética para analistas de la conducta, 4ª ed.* ABA España.
- Shibutani, M.** (2022). *El lenguaje visual de ABA: Análisis aplicado de conducta.* ABA España.
- Skinner, B. F.** (2022). *Ciencia y conducta humana.* ABA España.
- Barbera, M. L.** (2022). *El enfoque de la conducta verbal.* ABA España.
- Wallace, M. & Mayer, R. G.** (2022). *Principios ABA para técnicos conductuales y otros profesionales.* ABA España.

In sum, during the last year, ABA España continued to pursue its mission of promoting the social inclusion and improving the quality of life of people with autism and their families by providing training opportunities to prospective professionals and service providers. The organization's partnership with the University of Cadiz and its ambitious editorial activity have allowed ABA España to expand its reach and provide more comprehensive support to its stakeholders and to the community at large. ABA España personnel during a workshop with professionals from Consorci Aprop (Balear Islands, Spain), one of the largest provider of residential services for people with complex disabilities in the region. ABA España personnel during a recent visit to NECC Abu Dhabi.

## ABA Germany

BY NIKKI CONDIT

(ABA-D) is devoted to representing and communicating ABA to the German public as a socially, ethically viable and scientifically based therapeutic intervention in various settings. Our mission is to bring improved awareness of the internationally developed science of behavior analysis in both its experimental and applied forms to the German language and populace.

We aim to protect the integrity of Behavior Analysis in all its forms and applications, while contributing to its development, enhancement, and growth. We strive to earn acceptance of ABA in Germany, as in much of the rest of the world, as its own scientific endeavor useful in addressing important social issues including the education and therapy of individuals in need. In doing so, we plan to ensure that ABA in Germany stays connected and responsible to the larger international behavior analysis community; help develop a standardized set of appropriate German-language translations for behavioral terminology in all its forms and applications; insist that criteria standards created in Germany for those allowed to use ABA meet standards of the international community; and promote educational opportunities in Germany.

2023 marks the 12th anniversary of The Association for Behavior Analysis Deutschland (ABA-D) and we have been an Affiliate National Chapter of ABAI for 10 years (since 2013).

Our focus this past year has been increasing ABA-D membership opportunities and involvement. We scheduled quarterly online meeting opportunities for members that encourage both connection and collaboration. In addition to our quarterly "Stammtisch" Meetings, we also sought to create our first ABA-D Conference.

We are very pleased to announce that our first inaugural ABA-D Online Conference in Germany will take place on Saturday, April 22, 2023. This Conference has been made possible by hard work and commitment of the ABA-D Conference Planning Committee. Without the help of these members, this would not have been possible, and for that, we are incredibly thankful. This conference will be a meeting point for ABA professionals and give them a space to connect and learn, as well as provide Continuing Education Units to those interested. We have opened our conference to neighboring German-speaking countries as well. We have a variety of speakers that will be presenting in both English and German, to appeal to our multi-lingual international population.

Moving forward, our goal is to provide multiple opportunities each year for members to attend various presentations and earn continuing education units throughout the year. We also hope to continue to grow in number of members and see member involvement increase even more.

We remain committed to our mission to spread knowledge of behavior analysis to professionals and parents, promote the science in Germany, and invite more members and professionals join us. For further information or to join the chapter please visit: <https://www.aba-d.de>.

## ABA Lebanon

BY ROLA EL-ANNAN

ABAL continues to show allegiance towards Lebanon and towards the science of Applied Behavior Analysis. We refer to the objectives dictated in the bylaws to report on our activities.

### In its bylaws, ABAL aims to:

- (A) Serve as a scientific and professional reference and networking group for its members.
  - a. ABAL continues to expand its social network and membership body to promote this objective in 2021.
    - i. Facebook followers increased from 300 to 1397
    - ii. Instagram followers increased from 200 to 464
    - iii. ABAL members increased to 77 members.
- (B) Disseminate information to promote its mission to a wider audience.
  - a. Organized online webinars last April, 2021 (Autism month) covering the following topics.
- (C) Organize an annual business meeting to provide a forum for discussion of the affairs of the chapter.

- a. Members met monthly or more to check on members state in crisis, organize April webinar and discuss fund raising opportunities for the chapter.
- (D) Protect ABA consumers and practitioners by promoting and maintaining high ethical and professional standards among behavior analysts in the fields of education, business, therapeutic and environmental services in Lebanon. BCBA's in Lebanon have maintained a strong stand demonstrated by continuing to show commitment to ABAL, striving to keep ABAL alive with all the challenges, continuing to be with the people in the field or online. Following up with the ministries for registration is ongoing.
- (E) Raise awareness about the importance of implementing evidence-based practices, and scientific interventions while avoiding pseudoscientific practices
  - a. Organized online webinars last April (Autism month).
  - b. The total number of attendees on the webinars ranged between 60 and 90 per webinar, totaling 600 from Lebanon, GCC, Middle east and the United States.
- (F) Set standardized criteria for the practice of ABA.
  - a. As the crisis has affected our legal registration due to ministries changing boards and consequent freezing of related operations in the ministries, we await having a firm legal existence to set and announce criteria for standardization. Last follow up in February 2021 indicated that we got the approval from the Ministry of Health and now a waiting the last one: Ministry of Internal Affairs.
- (G) Bring together a community of ABA therapists, educators, professionals, and all those interested in the field of behavioral analysis.
  - a. ABAL now has 77 members from different nationalities.

## ABA Saudi Arabia

BY OHUD ALHAQBANI

ABA Saudi Arabia was accepted as an affiliated chapter of ABAI on May 31, 2013. After nine years since the establishment of the chapter, ABA Saudi Arabia is taking responsibility to commit to its mission statement. ABA Saudi Arabia was established with the mission to disseminate information about the science of behavior analysis and support the development of and access to behavior analytic services for people in need. To accomplish this mission, the chapter seeks to support the development of graduate opportunities for appropriate candidates in Saudi Arabia, plan and support continuing education (CE) for practicing behavior analysts, and advocate for the right to community-based access to behavior analytic services through governmental and

regulatory channels. The founding and current officers are Faisal Alnemary, Ph.D, BCBA, President; Mona AlHaddad, Ph.D., BCBA, Vice President. In addition, the chapter established an executive committee to support and promote the chapter's mission. This committee consists of 10 senior behavior analysts, including the current president and vice president. All members of the executive committee are Ph.D holders and BCBA's or BCBA-D. ABA Saudi Arabia started to seek various venues to recruit and increase the number of its members through sharing the membership registration form electronically and by providing barcodes to scan during ABA awareness events. Currently, the ABA Saudi Arabia has a membership of around 148 members, consisting of certified behavior analysts and practicing behavior therapists, students (graduate and undergraduate), speech pathologists, and community-based individuals interested in behavior analysis in Saudi Arabia. As one aim of our mission is to disseminate the science of ABA to different communities in Saudi Arabia, the chapter continues to provide workshops to people in the community including parents, practitioners at intervention centers (e.g., Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, HRH Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Autism Centers, Jeddah Autism Center, Saudi Association for Autism, Jeddah Institute for Speech and Hearing, Autism Center of Excellence, Center for Autism Research, and Rushed), and schools' teachers. Many who attend these workshops are looking for certification in ABA through accredited short courses or intense seminars (e.g., RBTs). Due to this fact, the chapter's mission is to keep spreading awareness of ABA and credentialed people who are qualified to provide ABA services. As a result, the number of BACB certificates has increased over the years to more than 200 (RBTs, BCaBA's, BCBA's and BCBA-D) as of March 2023. In the following section, we list several activities that have been carried out by the members of the chapter to continue our efforts to disseminate behavior analysis across Saudi Arabia. ABAI Saudi Chapter members have participated in a variety of activities and programs in 2022 and in first quarter (Q1) of 2023, including the following:

### 2022 ABAI Saudi Chapter's Activities

Several ABA services providers obtained BCHOE accreditation in Saudi Arabia (2\*3 accreditation). We should consider this accomplishment as a sign of the advancement to our field and a step to promote regulation for our field.

The Autism Center of Excellence launched the 3rd patch "the 100 Specialists Initiative," a free-of-charge professional development program to prepare the next generation of behavior technicians (the basics of ABA in 40 hours following the 2nd BACB task list) working in daycare across Saudi Arabia.

The Center for Autism Research (CFAR) started a free-of-charge virtual Toilet Training program.

While a couple of centers and training platforms have been approved as BACB providers of CEUs (e.g., CFAR, ACE, Rushed, and the Seven Dimension Platforms), other centers obtained approval from other entities, QABA as a provider of CEUs.

### 2023 ABAI Saudi Chapter's Activities

#### The 2nd Saudi Autism

#### & ABA Research Conference (SARC• 2)

The efforts of disseminating ABA and its evidence-based practices were acknowledged for the first time by the Ministry of Health by adding ABA in the title of its annual conference for the first time. This event is considered historical for ABA in Saudi Arabia. Also, members of the ABA Saudi Chapter were main speakers in this conference and presented their research projects, conducted workshops and participated in discussion with other health care providers. One of the conference recommendations that was publicly announced is to approve ABA evidence-based practices as one of the main interventions for individuals with autism in public and private sectors. This announcement brings hope to one of the main ABA Saudi Chapter's objectives to legitimate the since of ABA and its practice in Saudi Arabia.

#### World Behavior Analysis Day

The chapter affiliated University, Dar AlHekma, celebrated the world behavior analysis day at AlSerfi Mall, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Several students from the Master program in ABA participated in this event by having interactive activities with the public to educate them about ABA. The chapter was also present at this event and oriented visitors about the chapter's mission and activities, in addition to offering membership for the interested ones.

Moreover, the chapter's members assist in obtaining new ABA professional credentials from various boards, including QABA and IBAO. Therefore, only some centers and training platforms have been approved as course providers for QABA and IBAO. Furthermore, some of the members have translated several documents and provided independent talks to spread the words about behavior analysis in Arabic.

ABAI Saudi Chapter members, continue to run our biweekly virtual meetings with the executive committee to inform members about the chapter's activities. Finally, we are planning to recruit new officers due the increased numbers of chapter's members and the relocation of the previous chapter officers, followed by marketing the chapter through recruiting new members and increasing the number of trainings to promote awareness about ABA.

ABA Saudi Arabia welcomes members at the full, affiliate, and student levels. Membership is free of charge,

and it is open to all individuals interested or actively engaged in behavior analysis. For the time being until we become an associate chapter, any person wishing to become a member must submit a completed application form. Contact [abasaudiarabia@gmail.com](mailto:abasaudiarabia@gmail.com) or [malhaddad@dah.edu.sa](mailto:malhaddad@dah.edu.sa) for membership information.

## ABA United Arab Emirates

BY MICHELLE P. KELLY

The Association for Behavior Analysis – United Arab Emirates (ABA-UAE) was officially affiliated with the ABAI on November 18th, 2020. ABA-UAE registered with the Dubai Association Center (DAC) in September 2020 and was licensed on February 28th, 2022. ABA-UAE's Executive Committee includes: Dr. Michelle P. Kelly, BCBA-D (President), Ms. Sharifa Yateem, BCBA (President-Elect), Ms. Linda Bailey, BCBA (Secretary), Ms. Nipa Bhuptani, BCaBA (Treasurer), and Adel Wahdain (Student Representative). The Board consists of the Executive Committee and the following members: Dr. Ebrahim Alhajri (Chair), Ms. Khawla Barley (Vice-Chair), and our members-at-large, Mr. Nicholas Orland, BCBA, and Ms. Irene Trifyllis.

### Chapter Activities

The chapter's activities include, but are not limited to:

- Support a national licensing authority to test, license and renew licenses for behavior analysts in the UAE.
- Organize educational activities including seminars, workshops, presentations and conferences, either alone or jointly with other professional organizations.
- Organize networking opportunities for its members.
- Serve the professional needs of behavior analysts in the UAE by working with relevant bodies.
- Disseminate information to promote its mission to a wider audience by publishing bi-annual, bilingual, online newsletters.
- Disseminate information to promote its mission to a wider audience by creating a bilingual chapter website.
- Attend and present at conferences/events outside the field of behavior analysis with a mission to disseminate the science.
- Organize an annual business meeting to provide a forum for discussion of the affairs of the chapter.

ABA-UAE has been very active, aiming to achieve the goals outlined above. We would like to outline two of our biggest achievements to date this year. The first success is the creation and development of our chapter website: <https://www.abauae.org/> The second success is the organization of online continuing education events for behavior analysts, in collaboration with Emirates College for Advanced



Education (ECAE; [www.ecae.ac.ae](http://www.ecae.ac.ae)), a higher education institute which has previously offered the only Verified Course Sequences in the UAE. Since May 2022, ABA-UAE has hosted 5 events, in collaboration with ECAE.

## Association Francaise – Les Professionnels de l'Analyse du Comportement

BY HELENE ABDELNOUR

AF-LPA is one of the French chapters in France. This year's focused have changed a little as we have been able to have an agreement with the Education Nationale, the local governmental entity in charge of managing the schools. Thanks to this agreement, we can train the shadow teachers of students living with a handicap and going to public schools through an initial training, then we supervise the shadow teacher by going inside of the schools and giving her tools to help the student. We can also propose a person to be hired as a shadow teacher and we work closely with the governmental entity to help advance each situation.

Our focus for this year has been to integrate ABA within the local school system and help students with handicaps remain in main stream schools with a proper help. The professionals that are part of the association can now ask to be part of this contract in order to help their own clients. Also, we are planning an annual event in collaboration with ABA Online to bring internationally recognized ABA Professionals here in France to present the most up to-date scientific knowledge and to create a yearly meeting where French ABA professionals can meet.

## Atlantic Provinces ABA

BY NICOLE ROBINSON

The Atlantic Provinces Association for Behaviour Analysis has recently marked our eighth anniversary as an affiliated chapter of ABAI. We are amazed by the growth in membership that we have experienced since our inception in 2014, from 44 members in our first year to a large increase in membership of 117 at the end of APABA's fiscal year (October, 2022). We have 97 full members, 18 student members, 1 affiliate member, and 1 honorary member. Although the wide geographical region served by APABA poses some unique challenges, we also recognize the benefits and opportunities we are afforded by drawing together behaviour analysts, educators, interventionists, partner professionals, and others interested in behavioural science and its application in the four Atlantic Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. We have also seen a continued increase in the number of members and partner professionals completing the requirements

to become certified by the BACB since the inception of APABA. While there were 16 Board Certified Behaviour Analysts (Masters or Doctorate-level) or Board-Certified Assistant Behaviour Analysts in Atlantic Canada in 2014, and 26 in 2017, we now have 110 (NB=60; NL=8; NS=34; PEI=8; [www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com)).

Our biggest update for the 2022 year is the adoption and publication of our Position Statement on the Use of Procedures that Increase the Risk of Harm. The development of this publication was driven by our mission to be a source of leadership and support in the sharing and practice of the science of applied behaviour analysis (ABA) across the Atlantic Provinces. This statement was also motivated by recent public discussion of the use of aversive procedures in ABA, specifically contingent electric skin shock (CESS), but also other procedures that have been used by the field. In late spring of 2022, the Research and Advocacy Team convened to determine how to respond to this public discussion. Recognizing that there was little to no guidance or regulations surrounding procedures that increase risk and harm for recipients of ABA in the Atlantic Provinces, the Research and Advocacy Team determined a statement addressing more than one specific procedure was warranted. To gather member input about these procedures, a survey was sent to all APABA members. The responses were used to frame the development of our position statement, along with the guiding tenets of the BACB Ethics 1 Code, and other position statements published by organizations in the field of behaviour analysis (e.g. ABAI's position statements). The recommendations from our Position Statement on the Use of Procedures that Increase the Risk of Harm are meant to be minimum standards for those providing behaviour support services as behaviour analysts, while also recommending that anyone using behaviour change tactics use those that are least intrusive, least harmful, and least likely to infringe on recipient rights.

### Goals

Goals outlined in the APABA 2020–2022 Strategic Plan include: To increase the number of active members by 30%, to increase the yearly number of professional learning opportunities offered from five to nine, and to fulfill the needs of each committee with needed number of members. APABA committees include: Research & Advocacy, Education, Engagement, and in March 2022, a newly formed committee was introduced, Special Interest Groups, and a chair for this committee was secured. The goal of this new committee is to focus on special topic areas pertinent to behaviour analysis in an Atlantic Canadian context. This addition was based on frequent polling of our members via Facebook and email to gather feedback of what members valued most regarding our strategic plan initiatives. Poll results indicated that members were

seeking information about leadership and supervision and intervention procedures (January 2022). In turn, educational events reflected these requests, such as our first educational event of 2022, on the topic of Self-Marketing: A creative guide to growing your impact, presented by Brent Platt, MBA, Vice-President Atlantic and Senior Consultant Global Philanthropic Inc. This event provided strategies and tools that behaviour analysts can use to gain confidence and effectively disseminate their message. Our next educational event in April featured Dr. Greg Hanley to discuss The Behavioural Health Index: Measuring the effects of Trauma-Assumed Applied Behaviour Analysis. The objectives of this talk were for attendees to describe values that have implications for how to respond to mild and severe forms of behaviour, and describe the behavioural health measurement system for evaluating individual and program wide interventions for severe problem behaviour. In May, one of our members hosted an education event on the topic of the RUBI Parent Training Program: Making Evidence Based Practice Work in the Real World. In this session, participants learned about the RUBI program and how to use this information to design individualized treatment. In June, APABA hosted Dr. Tyra Sellers for an informative education session about Ethical Supervision and Leadership that highlighted compassion in supervision and incorporating ethics content into supervisory practices. In November, Dr. Maggie Pavone shared her knowledge on organizational behaviour management and how to develop related competencies in this scope of practice.

In December at our Annual General Meeting, two learning opportunities were provided. Dr. Malika Pritchett presented on the topic of Magnificence: Envisioning Full Dignity and Humanity, focusing on examining coercive environments and power, how to ensure balance, and prioritize human rights above all when serving others. APABA member, Ashley Kingston, also spoke about her training and application of the Skills Based Treatment Approach.

Starting in December 2021, the APABA executive made the decision to turn the Strategic Plan into a living document to be reviewed and updated at each executive meeting. Upon reflection and evaluation, the education opportunities hosted by APABA aligned well with the preferred topic areas expressed by membership, however, two additional opportunities were required to meet the goal of nine opportunities annually. In 2022, the Engagement Committee and other members shared 25 CEU education opportunities from other organizations on our social media platforms, which helped to ensure that members received pertinent information in this domain.

Each committee mentioned above has goals, expectations and priorities outlined based on the goals in the Strategic Plan. A primary goal of APABA is to promote and

encourage the development and awareness of the science of behaviour analysis through research, education, and practice within our region. We also seek to facilitate networking and expand opportunities for professional connection and collaboration among and between our members and others in the field. To that end, the Research and Advocacy committee conducted 4 interviews of our members to showcase different applications of ABA practice. These recorded interviews were then shared with members on our Facebook page. Further, APABA has participated in multiple ABAI Annual Conventions, presenting posters at the conferences in San Antonio (2015), Chicago (2016), Denver (2017), San Diego (2018), Chicago (2019), and Washington (2020), and Denver (2023). Our members have also presented at ABAT's international conferences, such as Puerto Rico, Paris, and Denver. Our members are delivering training throughout and beyond the Atlantic Provinces and, at times, internationally, such as Switzerland and Paris. In July 2022, some of our members were invited to speak and deliver poster presentations at the Contemporary and Compassionate Approaches to Support People with Developmental Disabilities Conference in New York, US, on the topic of implementing Practical Functional Assessment and Skills-Based Treatment with the preschool population and staff training.

In order to continue to support the professional learning needs of our members, three member benefits need mentioning: We dedicate a portion of our Annual General Meeting to continuing education, focusing on areas of emerging need and interest among members. Past keynote presenters have included: Drs. Robyn Catagnus and Elizabeth Fong who shared their work on increasing cultural competence in behaviour analysts, supporting APABA members to engage in more culturally proficient professional practice, Drs. Kelly Schieltz, Matthew O'Brien, and Todd Kopelman, who trained attendees on the use of telehealth to train and coach interventionists supporting learners with ASD, Dr. Patrick McGreevy who trained attendees on in how to select a curriculum for children with autism and children with developmental disabilities, Dr. Gregory Hanley who presented on the latest iteration of the practical functional assessment process (PFA) that allows for the development of skill based treatments (SBTs) capable of producing socially valid outcomes, and Dr. John Bailey who presented on changes to the BACB Ethics Code. As mentioned above, our 2022 AGM professional development was led by Dr. Malika Pritchett on the topic of prioritizing dignity and humanity in our practice. Another professional learning initiative is that APABA members are offered a 10% discount to the Atlantic Provinces Autism Conference held in November in New Brunswick. Finally, APABA continues to be an ACE provider to be able to provide CEUs to our members. A primary goal of APABA is to promote

diversity, equity, and inclusion. In 2021, a new scholarship was established to support individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC) students in the field of Applied Behaviour Analysis in the Atlantic Provinces. This scholarship of up to \$350 is awarded on a bi-annual basis to the successful applicants and has thus far been awarded to three applicants. It is also the aim of the current executive to promote the establishment of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Special Interest Group within our newly formed SIG Committee. Since APABA serves such a broad geographical region spanning Canada's four Atlantic Provinces, it is essential that we make effective and efficient use of electronic media and web based platforms as we seek to support current members and reach prospective new members. The Engagement Committee releases a monthly newsletter to share information about recent and upcoming events.

The ABAPA website ([www.atlanticprovincesaba.com](http://www.atlanticprovincesaba.com)), which continues to evolve, is also an integral tool for communicating with members. Not only does it provide a central location for sharing information and resources, but it has also been expanded to allow for online registration and payment for APABA events (as well as online donations to our local awards) and to provide a gateway to APABA's social media presence through our Facebook page and Twitter account. In 2022, we expanded our social media platforms to include Instagram and LinkedIn, and even hosted our Annual General Meeting on the virtual platform, Gather Town.

APABA members are also now able to purchase winter hats embossed with the APABA logo through our website, which brings fun and engagement to our members as they represent APABA by wearing their hats, as well as having hats offered as free give-a-ways and prizes during events. APABA also continues to provide awards to its members, including the Verna O'Coin Memorial Bursary, the Marlene Breitenbach Award, and the William L Heward Behaviour Change Award for a Sustainable Future.

### Looking Ahead

APABA has been the beneficiary of a host of gracious gestures and an abundance of support from behaviour analysts and partner professionals since we first set out on this journey eight years ago. We continue to extend our sincere appreciation to all who have helped us along the way. As our membership continues to grow and as we extend our reach across Atlantic Canada, our goal is to continue to build upon the initiatives that we have begun and to create new opportunities and pathways to share the value of behavioural science throughout our region. As part of this movement, we have been encouraging social get-togethers in our varied geographic regions, especially now that the pandemic restrictions have subsided. We also look forward to, and welcome, opportunities to connect

with other ABAI-affiliated chapters across Canada and beyond to expand opportunities for professional learning, networking, and collaboration. As a step to achieve this goal, APABA members have formed a Canadian ABAI Chapter Executive Members Facebook Group. This group currently has 18 members, representing the seven affiliated Canadian ABAI chapters across the country (APABA, QCABA, ONTABA, MABA, SABA, AltaABA, BCABA). From east to west, we will continue to stay connected and move forward the philosophy, science, application, and teaching of behaviour analysis.

## Australian Association for Cognitive Behaviour Therapy

BY PETER POHLMAN

The President of AACBT is Professor Melissa Norberg, Director of the Centre for Emotional Health, and Director of the Behavioural Science Laboratory at Macquarie University.

The slow return to face-to-face events while our communities still suffer through COVID-19 has continued the recent difficult years both financially and emotionally for our organisation. We feel fortunate that we were able to continue our on-line events while also having a return of some normalcy with our annual conference able to take place as an in-person event.

We have continued to pursue our vision of improving the quality of practice of behavioural and cognitive therapies in Australasia, by providing high quality professional development in behavioural and cognitive therapies based on scientific evaluation.

We hosted a mixture of local and international presenters, with webinar recordings being made available for free to members, representing over 20 hours of high-quality content, plus associated readings, and materials. Examples of some of the topics added to our on-line catalogue include ADHD, OCD, alexithymia, iCBT and social anxiety disorder. The on-line format for presenting CPD has allowed us to continue to embrace a wider diversity of speakers, with all our domestic speakers presenting nationally for AACBT for the first time. Our catalogue also has long-form workshops from international speakers such as Roz Shafran, Martin Antony, David M Clark, Emily Holmes, and Mark Reinecke.

Our 42nd National Conference featured a diverse range of keynote and invited speakers for AACBT, all of whom were being featured for the first time. We had strong bookings and attendance, and our feedback was very positive—an average star rating of 4.42 out of 5 stars. We had 88.72% respond with agree or strongly agree that the PD provided was valuable to their needs, and 91.94% that they acquired new knowledge/skills.

The National Board thanks our Branch Chairs for their

on-going efforts and the National Conference Committee for a fine return to face–2–face eventing. We continued to offer three awards in our National Award program, with each recipient recording their presentation, highlighting their scientific output and contemporary research. The recordings are available in our catalogue. The 2022 award winners were Dr David Preece (early career), Dr Rebecca Anderson (midcareer), and Professor Ross G Menzies (distinguished career). Our 43rd conference is scheduled for 19–21 October 2023 in Double Bay, Sydney.

The Board thanks our National Conference Coordinator for their service in supervising our largest annual event. In the interests of promoting equity of access, the AACBT Board has announced a free 12-month trial for all AACBT student memberships – this has already led to a tripling of student members, only 3 months into the trial period. Improvements to our web portal are continuing, and members enjoy access to exclusive areas of the website, which includes access to our annual reports, our journal (“Behaviour Change”), webinar recordings, and the growing e-library (with over 40 titles).

The Board recognises the outstanding efforts of our Editor (Professor Genevieve Dingle), her editorial team, and the overall editorial board for our journal “Behaviour Change”. Our journal began in 1984 and the AACBT Board announced in late 2022 that our publisher is discontinuing support and that the final edition will be published in December 2023.

AACBT would like to acknowledge our Fellows Professor Peter Lovibond, Professor Michael Kyrios, Professor Matthew Sanders, Professor Colin MacLeod, Professor Tracey Wade, Professor Ross Young, Professor Mark Dadds, Professor Mark Creamer, Professor Kim Halford, Professor Nicole Lee, Associate Professor Sarah Egan, Professor Louise Sharpe, Associate Professor Neville King, Professor Leanne Hides and Professor Ross Menzies. We thank them for their continuing contributions to the CBT community in Australia and assisting AACBT throughout the year, especially Mark Dadds for participating in our inaugural World CBT Day in April 2022.

## IESCUM Italy

IESCUM (the Istituto Europeo per lo Studio del Comportamento Umano; <http://www.iescum.org>) is, since 2007, the Italian chapter of ABAI, established to translate into specific actions a vision of experimental and applied behavior science in Italy.

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

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

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

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

In January 2020, just before the pandemic, IESCUM played a pivotal role in founding ABA Italia. In Spring 2022, the IESCUM Board resolved to merge with ABA Italia to establish the largest Italian Association of BA'sts. ABA Italia ([www.abaitalia.org](http://www.abaitalia.org)) brings together 435 behavior analysts, 181 assistant behavior analysts, and 488 behavioral technicians who have passed the minimum training standards to ensure families. At the moment, 3879 are the students still in training. In September 2022, the first ABA Italia congress was held, with the participation, among others, of Martha Pelaez, Thomas Szabo and Darin Cairns.

Over the years, IESCUM has developed a network of national centers for early intensive behavioral interventions with autistic children. The network includes centers that are either managed by IESCUM or whose equipment is systematically supervised by IESCUM. Since 2021, IESCUM is collaborating with Behavior Labs, a software house focused on social robotics, VR application, and new technologies dedicated to serving people in the Autism spectrum, to open a new center in Catania.

In March 2023, IESCUM is organizing a conference on

**See IESCUM on page 55**

## Updates From ABAI's Special Interest Groups

### Addiction

BY JESSE DALLERY

The Addiction SIG was founded to expand behavior analysts' training, research, and employment opportunities. The SIG provides a forum for all people who have an interest in studying and applying behavior analysis to understand, prevent, and treat addiction. This may include addiction to drugs and other commodities (e.g., alcohol, nicotine, stimulants, opioids, internet, smartphones, food, gambling) and associated psychosocial problems (e.g., psychiatric comorbidities, unemployment, poverty). In the past year, the Addiction SIG focused on maintaining the necessary infrastructure to support SIG activities. Our current membership consists of 214 members. This represents an increase of 66 members since last year. In the coming year, the Addiction SIG will continue to focus on several goals. The SIG will: **1** serve as a professional and scientific networking group for its members; **2** focus on growing its presence and interaction on social media; **3** continue to recruit new members; **4** promote submission of addiction-related symposia, panel sessions, posters, and papers for ABAI and highlight upcoming relevant presentations; and **5** expand the resources available to its members. In sum, the SIG aims to pursue several activities that will make membership in the Addiction SIG as beneficial as possible. Membership in the Addiction SIG is open to all individuals who are interested in the SIG's aim, mission, or objectives. The SIG's members need not be members of ABAI. Membership is currently free. If you would like to become a member, please join via our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AddictionSIG>.

### Applied Animal Behavior SIG Annual Report (2022–2023)

BY LINDSAY MEHRKAM, LAURA PERKINS, ERICA FEUERBACHER, KIMBERLY TRUONG, & JOANNA PLATZER

The mission of the Applied Animal Behavior (AAB) SIG is to promote applied animal behavior analytic research, set high standards in methods and techniques of animal training, support those in the applied animal behavior field, and promote the well-being of animals in applied settings wherever they are found. This year, the AAB SIG celebrates its 30th year!

Throughout 2022, the AAB SIG, as an approved ACE provider for BACB CEUs, worked to continue providing virtual continuing education opportunities in the form of a virtual journal club for members. The journal club features researchers who have published work that extends behavior analytic approaches to applied animal behavior issues.

Throughout the year we also hosted several virtual chats, open to members and non-members, to connect

with each other and exchange ideas. The AAB SIG is developing a new Experts Directory for members. This directory will serve to connect members who are new to applied animal behavior or new to a specialty within AAB with experts in that specialty. In addition, the SIG provided its members with a comprehensive listing of undergraduate and graduate programs offering applied animal behavior analysis opportunities, as well as a resource listing of publications and CE opportunities in applied animal behavior analysis.

Each year the SIG offers an annual student research award in honor of Marian Breland Bailey. This year, we also offered our new Diversity Award (established in 2022) for the second year in a row. Both awards were presented at the SIG business meeting at the ABAI Convention Denver.

The 2022 winners for the Marian Breland Bailey Award were JoAnna Platzer (paper presentation) and Hannah McGee (poster presentation). The recipient of the Diversity Award was Ran Courant-Morgan. Our B. F. Skinner Lecture Series invited speaker was Gareth Arnett with the paper session "Why Animals Fight? Using Principles from Behavioral Ecology to Understand Aggression".

The Invited Paper Session speakers were Lindsay Mehrkam and Simon Gadbois. Lindsay Mehrkam's paper session was "Beyond the Operant Chamber: Behavior Analytic Approaches to Training and Enrichment for Companion Animals." Simon Gadbois' paper session was "Motivation in Working Dogs: Problems, Myths, and Forgotten Solutions". Finally, the SIG features a website as well as a Facebook page titled, "Applied Animal Behavior Special Interest Group" with over 2,000 members. We look forward to continuing to serve our members and pursue our mission through the 2023–2024 year.

### Behavior Analysis and Technology SIG

The Behavior Analysis and Technology SIG was created with the mission to advance the science of behavior through the development, dissemination, and application of technology in basic and applied settings. Technology can refer to developments in behavioral science, as well as developments in computer science, information technology, and related fields. Technology may be defined as "...the use and knowledge of tools, techniques, systems or methods in order to solve a problem or serve some purpose" (Twyman, 2011).

This SIG aims to **(1)** serve as a scientific and professional reference and networking group for its members, **(2)** disseminate information to inform its membership and promote its mission to a wider audience, and **(3)** organize an annual meeting to provide a forum for

discussion of the affairs of the SIG. In service of aim two, we maintain a blog on our website and encourage Facebook members to post BA- and technology-related content and comment on posts.

## Behavior Analysis for Sustainable Societies

BY THE BASS BOARD

Since the last Behavior Analysis for Sustainable Societies Special Interest Group (BASS SIG) meeting during the 2022 ABAI convention in Boston, MA, several new developments have occurred for the SIG. The SIG has a new leadership team composed of Elizabeth Meshes, Jessica Ghai, Nikol Antoniono, and Julia Fiebig. The board meets monthly and has continued to facilitate monthly community meetings. Monthly community meetings are open to all BASS SIG members via Zoom. These community meetings continue to be a space where behavior analysts come together to meet other like-minded behavior analysts to discuss issues related to sustainability and climate change, share personal experiences and professional opportunities (e.g., conferences, webinars, employment posting, etc.), and generate collaborative research and project ideas. This process is grounded in the community values outlined in the Prosocial Matrix previously completed by the group. At the end of every community meeting, BASS members commit and share an action (or actions) they intend to complete before the next community meeting. In addition, a running record of all committed actions is kept and shared during each monthly community meeting. To date, members of our community have completed 21 committed actions, with 22 committed actions still in progress. Some of these completed committed actions include identifying and connecting with local organizations to engage in sustainability practices, sharing literature about sustainability, collecting resources and information about issues of sustainability outside of behavior analysis, contacting local government officials, and expanding their opportunities with additional training (e.g., OBM coursework).

This past year several members of BASS published in behavior analytic journals or presented at relevant conferences. Elizabeth Meshes, Lincoln Kamau, and Kimberly Hoppin published *Climate Change and Six Americas: What Can Behavior Analysts Do?* in *Behavior and Social Issues*. Kimberly Hoppin and Elizabeth Meshes also published the paper, *Saving the Water in California: A Call for Behavior Analytic Action in Behavior and Social Issues*. Jessica Ghai presented the talk, *The Environmental Behavior Scientist: Identifying & Creating Opportunities for Action*, at the 2022 Behavior, Energy, and Climate Change conference. Julia Fiebig was an invited speaker at the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science's

2022 World Conference and presented on *The Heart of the Matter: Language and Connection for Sustainability*. The BASS SIG also is looking to partner with the BFSR SIG to plan an event at the Denver conference for people to connect with other behavior analysts interested in sustainability work and as an effort to mitigate some of the carbon footprint generated through traveling to the conference. The SIG hopes to organize events connecting us to the local community during future ABAI conventions. We maintain social media accounts, Facebook and LinkedIn, for BASS and an online presence through our website ([baforsustainablesocieties.org](http://baforsustainablesocieties.org)) and open community meeting registration using Eventbrite (<http://basscommunitymeetingoct.eventbrite.com/>). Future goals for the SIG continue to include establishing a fund that allows the SIG to award financial support to practitioners and researchers working on sustainability-related community interventions. In addition, the SIG is exploring the establishment of membership dues and pursuing fundraising efforts for this purpose over the 2023–2024 period, as well as creating CE opportunities for members. Agenda items for the 2023 SIG meeting at ABAI include recruiting help from one or two members to facilitate a more active social media presence with the SIG's Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram accounts and to discuss a due-based membership. Plans for the upcoming year are to increase member activity and engagement, continue monthly community meetings as a forum for collaboration, connection, and sharing of research and application, and initiate a due-based membership to support opportunities for CEs for members. Membership is open to all, and participation in the SIG offers professional connections to others interested in and working on behavior change related to sustainability and climate change issues. Adding a new SIG board member dedicated to social media has increased the BASS SIG presence, and we hope to expand this for the upcoming year.

## Behavior Analysis in Health, Sport, and Fitness Special Interest Group

BY JULIE M. SLOWIAK, PH.D., BCBA-D

The mission of the Behavior Analysis in Health, Sport, and Fitness Special Interest Group (HSF SIG) is to educate, coordinate, and provide resources to behavior analysts and other members of society seeking to address human challenges in health, sport, and fitness through the application of the science of behavior analysis. We strive to fulfill our mission through: (a) Educating behavior analysts and other members of society and increasing awareness, visibility, and understanding of the application of the science of behavior analysis to health, sport, and fitness; (b) Disseminating information about

the practice of behavior analysis and educational and training opportunities relevant to practice of behavior analysis in the areas of health, sport, and fitness; (c) Providing a professional network and access to educational and training resources (e.g., continuing education events, mentorship opportunities) for its members; (d) Obtaining financial resources to support research grants for behavior analysts who seek to conduct research with the objective to develop or evaluate behavior analytic interventions to resolve human challenges in health, sport, and fitness, and (e) Collaborating with other non-profit organizations, healthcare agencies, and health, sport, and fitness professionals to maximize our impact on current efforts.

The HSF SIG organized as a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization in April 2019, and its annual strategic plan supports the continued growth of the application of behavior analysis in the areas of health, sport, and fitness (HSF) by setting goals that aim to improve visibility and awareness, support training and professional development needs, and promote and support research. In 2022, the HSF SIG Board of Directors evaluated the organization's structure and made the decision to restructure the HSF SIG to better support its mission. In doing so, a variety of Volunteer Support roles were created to enhance engagement through member outreach, increase visibility and awareness of the HSF SIG and of the application of behavior analysis to HSF through internal and external communications, support practitioners seeking guidance on branching out into this area of specialization, promote awareness of HSF research, and provide financial support to graduate student researchers. Adding these roles offers new opportunities for students and professional members to be actively involved in the work of the organization.


The HSF SIG's small research grant program is now in its fourth year. The purpose of this grant is to support graduate students who engage in experimental research to demonstrate the application of behavior analysis to address human behavior in the areas of health, sport, or fitness. Additional goals of this program are to disseminate behavior analytic research and practice and to expand research opportunities for graduate students of behavior analysis. With available donations received through fundraising and co-hosting continuing education events, HSF SIG was able to award three \$500 grants in 2022. Recipients included: Amy Bukszpan, Endicott College (Faculty Supervisor: David J. Cox, Ph.D., M.S.B., BCBA-D), Jair Yepez Torres, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (Faculty Supervisor: Tyler Ré, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA), and Amber Lampert, Florida Institute of Technology (Faculty Supervisor: Rachael Ferguson, Ph.D.). Grant recipients presented their research at the 2023 ABAI Annual Convention as part of a symposium titled, Health, Sport and Fitness SIG Grant Recipients: Exciting New Areas of Research. Recipients

of the 2023 HSF SIG Small Research Grant program were announced at the ABAI annual convention. The call for applications for the 2024 HSF SIG Small Research Grant program will be announced in late 2023, and applications will be due in February 2024. Our Annual Business Meeting was held virtually in June 2023. At this year's meeting, we introduced new members of the Board of Directors. We presented the HSF SIG's mission, strategy areas, major goals, and opportunities for members to get involved. We also provided an overview of our accomplishments over the past year. Major accomplishments during 2022 included growing our membership to the largest it's been since the HSF SIG's inception (and a 21.09% increase from the previous year), co-hosting professional development opportunities that highlight HSF practitioners, disseminating research via social media, and growing the small research grant program. One of our ongoing goals is to continue to increase visibility of the HSF SIG at the ABAI annual convention, as well as at state and regional conferences, through organizing fun activities for attendees that focus on maintaining healthy habits during travel and combating sedentary behavior while attending conferences. If conference organizers are interested in collaborating with us to organize a health and fitness-related event (whether in person or virtually), please email our Member Outreach Manager at [membership@hsfsig.org](mailto:membership@hsfsig.org).

Over the last year, the HSF SIG hosted a fun outreach activity for members, the HSF Practitioner Support Squad. Occurring several times throughout the year, the HSF Practitioner Support Squad meetings provide a space where BCBA's, or individuals training to become BCBA's can connect with one another in a laid-back environment to collaborate, troubleshoot, and brainstorm ways to continue to disseminate the science of ABA into the areas of health, sport, and fitness.

Conversations among members continue to support the contention that several barriers and ethical considerations exist for those who desire to practice in the areas of health, sport, and fitness. In addition, opportunities to secure

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research and supervised fieldwork experiences in academic programs are limited by the small number of ABA faculty with expertise or interest in health, sport, and fitness, as well as limited course offerings. Our focus will be to continue to support those who are interested in practicing and conducting behavior-analytic research within the areas of health, sport, and fitness.

#### **HSF SIG Board Members include**

Julie Slowiak, Ph.D., BCBA-D, University of Minnesota Duluth & InJewel LLC (Executive Director)

Sarah Burby, M.A., BCBA, Small Changes Health and Wellness Coaching LLC (President)

Jesse DePaolo, Ph.D., BCBA-D, University of South Florida (Treasurer/Secretary)

We would like to give special thanks to those members who have volunteered their time over the past year:

Amber Lampert, M.S., BCBA, Florida Institute of Technology & Acorn Health

Andrea Murray, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Capella University

Rocky Perez, M.A., Western Michigan University

Sharlet Rafacz, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Western Michigan University

Gabrielle Torres, M.S., BCBA, LBA, Find Your Balance & Capella University

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



## Behavior Analysis SIG on Supervision (BASIGS) ABAI Report 2022 – 2023

BY LINA SLIM, PHD, BCBA-D, CCC-SLP

(CHIEF COMMUNICATION OFFICER LIAISON TO ABAI)

SUSAN AINSLEIGH, EDD, BCBA-D (CO-CHAIR 1)

ABAI approved the Behavior Analysis SIG on Supervision (BASIGS) on November 23, 2020. The mission of the Behavior Analysis SIG on Supervision (BASIGS) is to support our members by developing, promoting, and advocating for exemplary training of behavior analysts as supervisors. We promote best practices in the supervision of behavior analysts to ensure effective and ethical service provision by developing systems and disseminating standards of supervision practices. We seek to uphold supervisory competence in cultural humility and responsiveness.

BASIG vision is to transform the provision of supervision through education, mentorship, and coaching to promote the professional and personal development of Behavior Analysts achieving elevated standards of performance and execution in the field. BASIGS current executive committee includes:

Lina Slim, PhD, BCBA-D, CCC-SLP, Chief Communication Officer Liaison to ABAI SIG

Susan Ainsleigh, PhD, BCBA-D, Co-Chair1

(Open seat for Co-Chair2)

Jane Carlson, Secretary

Cheryl Davis, Treasurer

Karrie Lindemand, Membership Coordinator

Laura Rojeski, Student Membership Coordinator

Jen Klapatch, Communications Coordinator

Lillith Reuter-Yuill, Research and Grant Competition Coordinator

Nathania Wong, Social Media Coordinator

BASIGS has been meeting virtually monthly throughout the year. We have increased our membership from 16 to 40 members. Our membership and executive and Task Force leaders have been actively involved on several initiatives developing a pathway to seek and achieve the highest standards and competency in supervision and supervisory behaviors, and systems for supervisory/supervision quality oversight and maintenance.

#### **Activities achieved and ongoing:**

- 1 Developed by-laws — Achieved.
- 2 Developed membership guidelines, fees, and processes — Achieved.
- 3 Developing a supervision task list & curriculum: Goals are to develop and design a standardized curriculum for supervision and collaborate with other SIGs and behavior-analytic organizations for integrity measures and dissemination efforts — Ongoing.



- 4 Developing a survey regarding supervisory practices, analyzing outcome data, and engaging in dissemination for best practices—Ongoing.
- 5 Established Social Media presence:  
Achieved—Created a BASIGS Logo (design by A.Topdjian)—Achieved.

BASIGS Executive Committee has assigned SIG Officer positions roles and responsibilities as follows:

- 1 **Co-Chairs**—Co-chairs shall preside at all SIG and member meetings. Co-chairs are also responsible for counting ballots in any referenda submitted to the voting membership and shall exercise general supervision over the affairs of the SIG.
- 2 **Chief Communication Officer Liaison to ABAI:** Responsible for communicating, collaborating with, and disseminating to ABAI SIGs, Chapters, and Boards on issues pertaining to advancing the standards for supervisory practices. Building partnerships with behavior analytic networks within and outside ABAI, and ABA organizations that share values and ethical principles for achieving the highest standards and competency in supervision and supervisory behavior.
- 3 **Secretary**—Responsible for maintaining minutes of meetings and distributing to the
- 4 **Treasurer**—Responsible for maintaining minutes of meetings and distributing them to the Communications Coordinator. This person is also responsible for maintaining the SIG calendar of events and coordinating with others in the Executive Committee and all Task Force leaders for dates and other needed information.
- 5 **Communications Coordinator**—This person will work directly with the Membership Coordinators and the Secretary. This person is responsible for collecting information from the Secretary, creating newsletters and other promotional items, and dispersing to members as needed. This person is additionally responsible for receiving incoming emails and distributing them to the appropriate Task Force lead or Executive Committee member.
- 6 **Membership Coordinator**—Responsible for maintaining and organizing the membership directory. This person will work directly with the Treasurer (membership fees) and Communications Coordinator (distribution of notices) on a regular basis. The Membership Coordinator is also responsible for aiding in the recruitment process of members of the SIG through partnerships with other organizations or outreach via a virtual platform.
- 7 **Student Membership Coordinator**—Responsible for organizing, maintaining, and recruiting current trainees in the field who are accruing their hours towards certification. This person should connect

with university VCS coordinators as outreach or other organizations. This person is additionally responsible for providing the student members with connections to the Mentor and Supervisor Directory Task Force or Resource Repository Task Force as needed.

- 8 **Research and Grant Competition Coordinator**—Responsible for sending out announcements for grant applications, accepting applications, and providing the detailed lists of people to the Executive Committee for review. This person will also be responsible for coordinating appropriate dates for dissemination and review, notifying winners, and notifying others.
- 9 **Student Member Representative**—This person should be an active trainee in the field of ABA accruing their hours towards certification. They are responsible for representing the climate of trainees in the field. This should be done through outreach and working in conjunction with the Research and Surveys Task Force, social media, and other dissemination projects.
- 10 **Social Media Coordinator**—Responsible for maintaining social media networks via Facebook and other social media platforms. Additionally, this person will be responsible for developing ethical and professional conduct for social media, and monitoring conversations to meet communication guidelines. The Social Media Coordinator will have an interest and skill set to design communication posts and “blurbs”.

BASIGS Executive Committee is currently working on several projects:

- 1 Creation of By-Laws
- 2 Membership guidelines, fees (no fees currently) and processes—Completed.
- 3 Established Social Media presence: created a BASIGS Logo (design by Albert Topdjian, Chief Design Officer of TalkMeUp <https://talkmeup.co/#/about-us>)—Completed
- 4 Task Force Initiatives:
  - a. Resource Repository
  - b. Task List and Curriculum
  - c. Mentor and Supervisor Directory
  - d. Surveys and Research
  - e. ABAI Supervision Theme Track for ABAI Conference
  - f. Collaborative and Dissemination Efforts
  - g. Social Media Dissemination

In our 2021–2022 membership cycle, we will be increasing our membership to 70 members. Discussion regarding dissemination, practice and research grants will take place in the next year cycle, when we will discuss ways to seek grant funding to support dissemination efforts and fund BASIG grants. The SIG, and our members, are committed

to actively engaging in the coming year in conducting research, disseminating information regarding evidence-based practice in supervision, publishing scholarly articles, speaking, and conducting workshops at professional conventions, presenting posters at professional conferences, and teaching and/or mentoring students, and creating a social media presence. BASIGS will plan to offer at least one grant annually contingent on grant funding and membership fees received (voluntary at this time), in empirical research and/or in application or dissemination. The grant is available to ABAI members who, as students or practicing clinicians, conduct empirical research or raise awareness about behavior analysis on supervision. Research projects should advance the evidence base for behavior analytic conceptualization or application of supervisory skills. Application or dissemination projects should involve effective application of the science-based principles of behavior on supervision across trainees and environments.

The BASIGS executive committee is looking forward to expanding our membership through various initiatives and increasing member participation on the executive and within our committees and task forces. We continue our efforts to complete several projects over the year to support our members through the following task Forces, and welcome new members to participate.

BASIGS Executive Committee developed active Task Forces addressing several initiatives relevant to supervision:

- 1 Resource Repository (articles and materials)
- 2 Task List and Curriculum Development
- 3 Mentor and Supervisor Directory
- 4 ABAI Supervision Theme Track—Approved by ABAI for 2022 ABAI Convention (February 3, 2021)
- 5 Publications—Survey for Research/ research papers / white papers and resources documents
- 6 Collaboration—OBM SIG and TBA SIG on joint programs and initiatives
- 7 Dissemination efforts through social media platforms, networking activities and email. The identified initiatives are successfully achieved and disseminated with increased commitment, volunteerism, and financial support from our members.

Please consider donating your expertise/services in-kind, making financial contributions, or providing committee support so that we may meet the needs of our membership and complete our mission and goals. For additional information about BASIGS, please contact:

Lina Slim, PhD, BCBA-D, CCC-SLP (Chief Communication Officer Liaison to ABAI SIG):  
[linalsimtop@gmail.com](mailto:linalsimtop@gmail.com)

Susan Ainsleigh, EdD, BCBA-D (Co-Chair):  
[sainsleigh@baypath.edu](mailto:sainsleigh@baypath.edu)

## Behavioral Development SIG Annual Report 2023

BY GLADYS WILLIAMS, CHAIR

The main mission of the Behavioral Development (DEV) SIG is to promote a behavioral developmental thrust within behavior analysis. We strive to bring behavior analysis to the wider world of child psychology and learning, comparative psychology, adult development and gerontology, sociobiology, education, behavioral economics, developmental disabilities and autism, and language development, among other fields.

We do so by a) incorporating theories and findings from other areas into our own research and b) by bringing professionals from outside traditional behavior analysis, including developmental psychology, to ABAI events and forming collaborations.

The DEV SIG's membership includes faculty, students, and practitioners, many of whom are also members of other SIGs (e.g., Autism, Verbal Behavior) and are interested in the DEV SIG's mission, conference program, and discussions. Our SIG has 83 current members. We have a large international presence, with countries including Norway, Germany, Mexico, Italy, Spain, China, Korea, UK, Bosnia, Canada, and France represented. Students from programs affiliated with the SIG and others whose interests align with our mission are encouraged to join. The DEV SIG has a Facebook page and now has up to 78 members! We hope it will succeed in reaching a wider audience and increasing the SIG membership: [www.facebook.com/groups/behavioraldevelopmentSIG/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/behavioraldevelopmentSIG/) and our web page: [devsig.abainternational.org](http://devsig.abainternational.org). We are always looking to grow our membership and are planning on establishing a newsletter with updates on SIG-related research in the coming year.

At the 2021 annual meeting, we honored Dr. Jack Gewirtz and agreed to rename the Student Research Award the Jack Gewirtz Award. In 2022 three students were rewarded with \$400 each to pay ABAI membership and related expenses. Currently, we are waiting for university ABA department chairs to nominate students for the 2023 Jack Gewirtz Award.

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

The 2022 annual convention hosted 12 posters, 3 papers, 1 panel, and 8 symposia. We had an interesting B.F. Skinner Lecture titled, "Reimagining Solutions to the Persistence of Gun Violence in K-12 Schools," by Sonali Rajan, an International Address by Dermot Barnes-Holmes entitled, "Get Me Out of this Research

Silo! Recent Developments in Relational Frame Theory and Their Implications for Connecting, Collaborating and Cooperating with Fellow Travelers in Behavior Analysis and an Invited Tutorial by R. Douglas Greer entitled, “The Camouflaged Reinforcer for Learning to Talk, Read, Write/Think.” The 2023 annual convention hosted 15 posters, 8 symposia, 1 paper, and 4 workshops. In addition, we hosted a series of prominent speakers. The Skinner Lectures Series invited Marlene Suk and the title of her presentation was: “How Behavior Evolves, and Why it Matters.” The International Invited address was for Francisco Ruiz Jimenez, and he spoke about “Process-Based Analysis of Diffusion and Self-Based Exercises in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy”; and the Tutorial in the Area of Behavioral Development was addressed by Dr. Jeanne Marie Speackman and her title was: “Teaching to Condition.” These sessions well represent the breadth of research interests by members of the DEV SIG, particularly in terms of the population of participants studied (those with and without developmental disabilities; children and adults) and the focus on verbal, academic, and behavioral development across the lifespan. The contributions of all the session chairs, presenters, and discussants are very much appreciated. The DEV SIG has a poster at the ABAI Expo and holds a business meeting every year. All are welcome to attend. When we can meet in person, the DEV SIG members like to gather for a no-host SIG dinner. This enjoyable occasion is also open to all. In addition to being friendly, interdisciplinary by our very nature, and interested in many different topics and approaches, we have been a relatively informal SIG. Come find us at one of our presentations or invited talks, attend our business meeting, or Expo. We look forward to welcoming new members!

## 2023 Behavioral Gerontology Annual Report

Behavioural gerontology, the application and philosophy of behaviour analysis to the problems of adults age 65 and older, has a long tradition, from Ogden Lindsley’s (1964) chapter on the design of geriatric behavioural prosthetics, and Skinner and Vaughan’s (1983) practical advice on how to compensate for physical decline and enjoy old age, to recent Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis publications on teaching internet skills to older adults and reinforcer selection for individuals with neurocognitive disorders (e.g., Pachis & Zonneveld, 2019; Lucock, Sharp & Jones, 2020). Indeed, behaviour analysts across specialties work with older adults. The Behavioural Gerontology SIG (BGSIG) provides a forum for students, practitioners, and researchers with interests in applying the science, practice, and philosophy of behaviour analysis to the problems encountered by adults in later life. Our goal

is to promote the development, implementation, and evaluation of behaviour analytic solutions to a wide variety of topics of high public health significance in the older adult population. Among these are self-management for health promotion and disease prevention, functional assessments of and interventions for behavioural changes commonly associated with neurocognitive disorders (e.g., Alzheimer’s disease), aging with a disability, and effective healthcare navigation, including participation in inter- or multidisciplinary teams.

The BGSIG committee has held quarterly meetings to facilitate ongoing development of the BGSIG’s goals. This will increase going forward to six meetings per year to enable more rapid progression and development on projects. The 2023 annual business meeting was held in a hybrid format allowing both members and non-members to attend in person, and BGSIG members to attend remotely if they are unable to attend the conference in person. This year the BGSIG has focused on developing and expanding the committee. Several new positions have been created including Events Coordinator, Training and Development Coordinator and Honorary Secretary. Eight new members were recruited onto the committee, taking the committee from four members to 12. New members are receiving inductions and training from the four committee members already in post with the intention that once they are trained, the BGSIG will be able to expand the resources it can offer to members with more people on the committee to share the workload.

During the past year, The BGSIG has made continued efforts to disseminate behaviour-analytic research and clinical practice related to the problems of older adults through our social media channels. As of March 2023, the BGSIG Twitter account had 584 followers, the BGSIG Facebook page had 2337 likes, and the closed Facebook group moderated by the BGSIG committee members had 685 members (+83 members). The BGSIG website is hosted through ABAI and features a variety of content including blog articles from behavioural gerontologists, lists of relevant resources and journals, and details about the SIG. In addition, the website has a “members only” section where BG SIG members can access training resources and videos of previous ABAI conference talks on behavioural gerontology. The BGSIG continues to offer case consultation groups to practitioners in the field on an as-needed basis to BGSIG members. The BGSIG has published two newsletters over the past year featuring articles from behavioural gerontologists, details of CEU opportunities related to behavioural gerontology and a spotlight on a symposium about decision-making capacity for older adults with neurocognitive disorders at ABAI’s annual conference.

The BGSIG currently has 39 members consisting of four affiliate members, 2 early career/transitional members,

4 retired/emeritus members, 18 full members and 11 student members.

Over the next year, the BGSIG intends to continue its focus on increasing membership numbers; membership rates have decreased in comparison to previous years in the changeover to the new system, a decrease that we had anticipated. One of the biggest challenges to maintaining and increasing membership numbers is that SIG membership does not auto-renew like ABAI membership does; so more response effort is required for members to continue their BGSIG membership.

With more members on the committee, The BGSIG expects to be able to offer more events and resources related to behavioural gerontology research and practice, which we expect should increase membership rates. We will continue to send out email blasts via ABAI to remind BGSIG members to renew every September. Over the following year, the BGSIG intends to focus on developing more events and resources for members such as hosting live educational events that can then be accessed through the member's only section of the website after the fact. The BGSIG also is in the discussion about developing a provider list on our website that lists behavioural gerontology practitioners that are available to contact regarding services for older adults. We are also developing a journal club that we hope to make available to members going forward too.

We welcome all new members to join us at the BGSIG, whether you are working with older adults or just interested in learning more and supporting our work. You can join via the ABAI website through your portal or click the link on our website: [bgsig.abainternational.org](http://bgsig.abainternational.org)

## Behavioral Medicine Annual Report

BY GRETCHEN DITTRICH

Within the science of behavior analysis, we recognize that all behavior is susceptible to conditioning, regardless of the complexity. Therefore, the field of behavior

analysis is perfectly suited to identify and change behaviors related to health and disease states. The field of behavioral medicine focuses on utilizing behavior analytic principles and procedures to identify and manipulate variables influencing behaviors associated with health and disease states. By changing specific behaviors (i.e., increasing behaviors associated with improved health and decreasing behaviors associated with disease states or decreased health), we can improve overall health status for individuals. Behavioral medicine is an interdisciplinary field, which integrates behavioral science with biomedical science to improve overall health, increase adherence to medical regimes, and modify behaviors associated with the prevention of chronic illness.

The role of behavior analysis is important in the field of behavioral medicine. It is the mission of the Behavioral Medicine Special Interest Group (SIG) to encourage interdisciplinary research in the areas of behavioral health promotion and the prevention of chronic illness, emphasizing the need for function-based and empirically validated treatments for chronic health disorders. Behavioral Medicine SIG offers students, researchers, practitioners, and consumers opportunities to discuss issues related to public health promotion and disease prevention. All are welcome to join the Behavioral Medicine SIG. We hope that the SIG will help consumers and practitioners better understand the role of behavior analysis in the medical and healthcare industry, including public health, health sciences, mental health and wellness, and lifestyle change. The Behavioral Medicine SIG provides an outlet for the dissemination of behavioral medicine research and practice, offers opportunities for discussions on current and developing research within the field, and sponsors continuing education events for SIG members. Behavioral Medicine SIG is committed to growing the field and supporting student research in the area of behavioral medicine. The SIG issues an annual student research award for outstanding master's-level or doctoral-level research in behavioral medicine. In 2023, the SIG introduced an annual student research proposal grant. To learn more about the Behavioral Medicine SIG, including membership and the annual Student Research Award and Student Research Proposal Grant, visit our new website ([www.behavioralmedicinesig.org/](http://www.behavioralmedicinesig.org/)) or contact us via email at [bxmedsig@gmail.com](mailto:bxmedsig@gmail.com). You can also follow us on social media (Facebook page: Behavioral Medicine SIG of ABA-I). In 2023, SIG members, Dr. Jessica Mias (webmaster) and Dr. Gretchen Dittrich (chair), launched the new Behavioral Medicine SIG website with information on different topics in behavioral medicine and health promotion. The SIG will begin offering synchronous and asynchronous webinars on the website in late 2023, covering various topics in behavioral medicine, with CEUs available for purchase for SIG members. The



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Behavioral Medicine SIG is currently welcoming SIG members to submit suggestions for webinar topics (contact [bxmedsig@gmail.com](mailto:bxmedsig@gmail.com) for suggestions). The SIG is also planning a virtual conference for SIG members in 2024.

The Call for papers is now open for the 2023 Behavioral Medicine SIG annual Student Research Award and the Student Research Proposal grant. The award recipients will be announced on the Behavioral Medicine Website, on the SIG social media, and at the annual business meeting, held during the ABA-I annual convention. Applications and nominations for the Student Research Award and the Student Research Proposal grant may be submitted via email to [bxmedsig@gmail.com](mailto:bxmedsig@gmail.com). We encourage all students to apply for these awards.

### Student Research Award Submission Guidelines

Applicants must submit an original research paper in the area of behavioral medicine. Papers should be formatted according to APA Publication Manual 7th edition guidelines. Research should be complete at the time of submission. The student's research advisor should submit a brief statement via email to [bxmedsig@gmail.com](mailto:bxmedsig@gmail.com) indicating that the student was responsible for the majority of the research submitted.

### Student Research Proposal Grant Submission Guidelines:

Applicants must submit an original research proposal in the area of behavioral medicine. Papers should be formatted according to APA Publication Manual 7th edition guidelines. Submissions should include a brief literature review supporting the research question, clear and technological method section outlining the proposed participants and recruitment methods, the experimental design and plan for data analysis, the protocol, and a summary of expected outcomes, based on the literature. Students must also submit a letter of approval from the university Institutional Review Board. The award recipient will be expected to provide progress updates on the research.

The student's research advisor should submit a brief statement via email to [bxmedsig@gmail.com](mailto:bxmedsig@gmail.com) indicating that the student was responsible for developing the proposal and is expected to complete the research.

### Questions

Questions regarding eligibility criteria, submissions, or general questions about the student research award should be directed to:

Gretchen A. Dittrich, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LABA  
Chair, Behavioral Medicine SIG of ABA-I  
[bxmedsig@gmail.com](mailto:bxmedsig@gmail.com).

## Behaviorists for Social Responsibility Annual Report

The Behaviorists for Social Responsibility (BFSR) SIG is composed of dedicated volunteers and a board of Planners (drawing on Skinner's Walden Two). The Planners, who meet monthly, currently consist of Jose Ardila, Kendra Combs, Traci Cihon, Sarah Richling, Richard Rakos, Kathryn Roose, Jovonnie Esquierdo-Leal, Brett Gelino, and Holly Seniuk. The Planner structure, active volunteers, easy availability of digital communications, and the resulting mutual accountability continues to produce a high level of activity by the SIG. The following report summarizes only some of the SIG's activities for 2022.

### The Matrix Project

BFSR has continued to focus on the Matrix Project (see BFSR's website at [bfsr.abainternational.org/](http://bfsr.abainternational.org/) for more information) which was first introduced in the 2014 Behavior and Social Issues editorial (Mattaini & Luke, 2014). The Matrix Project is focused on increasing the number of behavior analysts working on social issues (e.g., social justice, poverty, sustainability, public health) using behavioral systems analysis to identify interrelations and practical steps that may be taken across more than two dozen sectors/players (e.g., behavior-analytic education programs, faculty, journals, students) who might have an impact on this goal. A significant amount of activity has continued to occur in the last year, so we will highlight a few of the recent activities.

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Education Group (DEIE)

The goal for this group is to develop materials to increase the inclusion of cultural/behavioral systems level content, particularly with emphasis on social issues, in university coursework. In 2020 the group created a survey that generated approximately 470 responses from behavior analysts. The purpose of the survey was to better understand how individuals are currently contacting behavior analytic content on social issues and



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what resources would be most beneficial. The group is currently working on analyzing the results of the survey for dissemination. The DEIE working group is currently recruiting new members to support strategic planning and pragmatic action based on the results of the survey. Persons who are interested should contact us at [bfsr@abainternational.org](mailto:bfsr@abainternational.org).

### **Regional BFSR Groups**

The goal for the regional groups is to create a network of BFSR SIGs in affiliated chapters of ABAI. To date, two affiliated state chapters of the BFSR SIG (TxABA in 2016 and KansABA in 2017) and one regional chapter (O-BFSR in 2022) have been formed. The ABAI BFSR Planners are continually working with state/regional/international affiliated chapters interested in developing BFSR SIGs that extend the reach of the Matrix Project to local action.

In 2022, the TxABA BFSR SIG Planners (Traci Cihon & Lee Mason) have focused on efforts to build interest in the TxABA BFSR SIG and provide a fantastic set of presentations on the Social Issues and Education tracks at the annual TxABA convention. Individuals who are interested in getting more involved with fulfilling the BFSR mission locally, in Texas, should contact Lee Mason ([Lee.Mason@cookchildrens.org](mailto:Lee.Mason@cookchildrens.org)).

In 2022, the KansABA BFSR SIG continued developing and refining a system for monitoring progress on BFSR-related initiatives, including the Matrix Project, and furthering efforts towards those initiatives.

The KansABA BFSR SIG Board of Planners also drafted and published a position statement unequivocally opposing the use of contingent electric skin shock that was adopted by the KansABA Board of Planners and efforts are underway to continue work towards (a) encouraging widespread BFSR adoption of a position statement opposing the use of contingent electric skin shock with humans, and (b) ensuring all ABAI members have a voice when voting on membership matters. Other initiatives undertaken in 2022 include the introduction of monthly challenges, aimed at encouraging others to take targeted collective action toward increasing their social responsibility, and continued development of the Zotero repository, created to help disseminate behavior analysis applications to issues of social importance. Established in 2022, the O-BFSR has been active in connecting the Ontario-based group with the ABAI BFSR SIG regarding collaboration efforts and social media. The O-BFSR has also set up important infrastructure including an email address ([bfsr.sig@gmail.com](mailto:bfsr.sig@gmail.com)), a Twitter account (@OntarioBFSR), and website ([www.obfsr.org/](http://www.obfsr.org/)). In addition, the O-BFSR developed and disseminated a presentation on the topic of climate change and behavior analysis hosted by Brock University and developed and disseminated a presentation on the topic of improving the world with

behavior analysis which was part of the Brock University Speaker Series on June 17th, 2022. In the coming year, the O-BFSR plans to identify strategies for regular contact with O-BFSR members, opportunities for members to participate in O-BFSR activities and events, and recruitment opportunities and methods as well as to develop member roles and responsibilities within the O-BFSR task forces. The O-BFSR also has plans to host a reading group on culturo-behavioral science, participate and be present at the annual ONTABA conference (hosting poster contest, exhibit table, sustainability support), develop Task Forces covering diverse topics within social responsibility, publish newsletter updates via ONTABA quarterly newsletter, and host an O-BFSR speaking event.

### **Sustainability Group**

The group continues to apply the matrix analysis to identify feasible practices that ABAI affiliate chapters could engage in to increase behavior analytic activity in the area of sustainability. In 2021, the group disseminated a survey in order to gain information on what activities affiliate chapters have previously engaged in or are actively engaging in related to environmental sustainability. Based on the results of that survey the group identified several feasible practices that affiliate chapters can engage in. In order to support those chapters, the group is working on developing a structure to facilitate community meetings of affiliate chapter sustainability liaisons. In addition, the group has developed a questionnaire that conference planners can use to evaluate areas in which they may be able to reduce the environmental impact of their conferences. This questionnaire has been piloted with several affiliate chapters and the group is working on wider dissemination and adoption efforts.

**Community Resilience Group** This working group was recently created in late 2020 and focuses on understanding how individuals as cultural collectivities respond and recover from systemic issues related to climate change such as hurricanes, fires, earthquakes, among others. The goal of this group is to develop measurement tools with a behavior systems orientation for assessing the practices involved in community resilience seen as adaptive outcomes. The group is currently recruiting volunteers to help collect relevant literature from within and outside behavior analysis that discusses resilience as a concept. Following the completion of literature review, a measurement tool that identifies the multiple contingencies constituting a community's recovery efforts will be offered. Persons who are interested should contact us at [bfsr@abainternational.org](mailto:bfsr@abainternational.org).

### **Public Health Group**

This working group was established in 2020 and has been actively working toward increasing connections between behavior science and public health. In 2022, members of

this working group have developed a fact sheet that briefly summarizes ways in which behavior analysis and public health can benefit from interdisciplinary interactions. Potential opportunities for interdisciplinary work in these areas was presented at the 2022 ABAI convention and further examples will be highlighted in a poster presentation and panel discussion at the 2023 ABAI convention. Currently, members of this group are working with the senior editorial team of Behavior and Social Issues and Springer to develop a call for papers for a cross-journal collection focused on human behavior and public health. Members of this working group are also working on manuscripts for submission to both behavior analytic and public health journals to further foster interdisciplinary collaboration between the disciplines.

BFSR will continue to work on the Matrix Project over the coming year with a particular focus on developing measures to track progress, changes in behaviors/practices, and outcomes. In addition, the BFSR will continue to update the activities and outcomes of active sectors and coordinate the activities of the less developed sectors. Those who want to get involved can contact BFSR at [bfsr@abainternational.org](mailto:bfsr@abainternational.org).

### Membership Options and Benefits

The BFSR membership structure includes student members (\$5), full members (\$20), supporting members (\$50), and sustaining members (\$100). The SIG has also developed a process for getting volunteers involved with SIG activities (email [bfsr@abainternational.org](mailto:bfsr@abainternational.org) if you are interested in volunteering). The SIG has been actively working on developing our website to house resources, disseminate information, and provide members with a way to connect with the SIG.

### Volunteer Opportunities

BFSR has steadily received the help of hundreds of volunteers throughout the years. In fact, much of what has been and can be achieved through the Matrix Project is through the support of BFSR members and volunteers. Currently, aspiring volunteers can reach the group via our webpage, and based on their interests and skills, we can suggest one or more working groups within the Matrix with which they may participate. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out at [bfsr@abainternational.org](mailto:bfsr@abainternational.org).

### Social Media

BFSR remains active on various social media platforms but like many other people and groups, the changing landscape of the social media platforms themselves has presented new challenges. BFSR is committed to finding the most effective way to communicate with its members and others on social media in a way that fits with our values. Creating and disseminating our own content is another aspect of

our social media goal that we hope to focus more on in the coming months. Any interested people can volunteer at [bfsr@abainternational.org](mailto:bfsr@abainternational.org) and mention that they are hoping to get involved with social media.

### Behavior and Social Issues Journal

The BFSR Planners are heavily involved in supporting Behavior and Social Issues (BSI). The most recent volume of BSI (2022, volume 31) featured 26 articles. These articles included articles contributing to a second special section on Revitalizing Behavioral Community Psychology, Part I of a two-part special section on Behavior and Cultural Systems Analysis for Climate Change, and our ongoing special sections on Activism, Advocacy, and Accompaniment; and the Forum on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; in addition to our regular submissions. In 2022, BSI was also fortunate enough to recruit two new Associate Editors, Denise Ross-Page and Laercia Vasconcelos to support the increase in publication volume. In 2023, BSI will begin to publish two issues per year!

The spring 2023 issue of BSI will come out around the ABAI annual convention and will feature a special section on Culturally Responsive Pedagogy (Guest Editors: Lenwood Gibson, Lefki Kourea, and Temple Lovelace). BSI is currently recruiting papers for its ongoing special sections in the Forum on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Activism, Advocacy, and Accompaniment. BSI also welcomes submissions for two special sections to be featured in the fall 2023 issue: Part II of the special section on Behavior and Cultural Systems Analysis for Climate Change (Guest Editors: Mark Alavosius, Brett Gelino, and Cynthia Pietras) and a special section on Literacy and Social Justice (Guest Editors: Denise Ross-Page, Shannon Hammond, Gwendolyn Cartledge, Jane Howard).

More details about the journal, including the calls for papers regarding these special sections can be found here: [www.springer.com/journal/42822/](http://www.springer.com/journal/42822/). Stay tuned for additional calls for papers on two forthcoming special sections: the cross-journal collection on Human Behavior and Public Health (Guest Editors: Elizabeth Schieber,

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Jonathan Schulz, Crystal Slanzi, and Sarah Weinsztok), and a special section on Interprofessional Collaboration (Guest Editors TBA).

### Mark Mattaini Student Engagement Award

In 2021 the BFSR Planners created an annual award to recognize the significant contributions that Dr. Mark Mattaini has made to BFSR, and culturo-behavior science. Dr. Mattaini was passionate about motivating students of behavior science to be actively engaged in work pertaining to social issues. More information on the award and how to apply can be found on the BFSR website: [bfsr.abainternational.org/student-award/](https://bfsr.abainternational.org/student-award/). The award was launched following the ABAI Annual Convention in 2022; however, no submissions were received. The Planners have been discussing more effective ways to promote the opportunity and reach out to students who may be interested in participating and will re-launch the award at the ABAI Annual Convention in 2023.

### ABAI Annual Convention

BFSR held our annual business meeting at the ABAI Annual Convention. BFSR was also represented at the convention through presentations, panel discussions, and posters. Please join us at our next annual business meeting, held in conjunction with the BSI annual business meeting, at the 2023 Annual Convention where we will also be showcasing our activities through posters, panel discussions, and more.

## Challenging Behavior Annual Report

Challenging behaviors exist along a continuum and may be conceptualized as externalizing behaviors producing significant impact on the individual, others or the environed that can impact participation in home, school, and/or community activities. The Challenging Behavior Special Interest Group (CB-SIG) is housed within ABAI and aims to advance clinical, research, training,

and advocacy endeavors pertaining specifically to the assessment and treatment of challenging behavior across the lifespan.

We are excited to offer membership in the CB-SIG and meet the needs of ABAI membership in clinical, research, training, and advocacy endeavors pertaining to the assessment and treatment of challenging behavior. These endeavors are at the heart of the CB-SIG mission.

The mission of the CB-SIG is to support the advancement of clinical, research, training, and advocacy endeavors pertaining to the assessment and treatment of challenging behavior across the lifespan. This mission compliments and echoes the aims of ABAI. In the first-year objectives include:

- Support and encouragement of research efforts to improve our understanding of assessment and treatment of challenging behavior, as well as the needs of professionals engaged in provision of these services.
- Development of best practice supports for clinicians and educators across areas of assessment, treatment, documentation, reimbursement, outcome measures, and advocacy.
- Support of undergraduate and graduate training as it pertains to the specialized assessment and treatment of challenging behavior.
- Development of relationships and communication with other organizations treating challenging behavior both within and outside of the discipline of applied behavior analysis.
- Dissemination of information and resources regarding best-practice, culturally informed, and family-centered behavioral approaches to assessing and treating challenging behavior.
- Engagement in community outreach and advocacy work to facilitate meaningful advancement for individuals with challenging behavior (e.g., access to funding, adults w/IDD, parent advocacy).

We conducted an inaugural business meeting at ABAI in 2023, introduced our board, and recruited membership. We are excited for this unique opportunity to serve ABAI membership and please look for updates for information about how to become a member.

## Clinical Behavior Analysis Annual Report

Clinical Behavior Analysis (CBA) involves the application of behavior analytic principles to the full range of human problems, many of which have traditionally been considered “mental health” issues. CBA clinicians work with the relationship between thoughts, feelings, and other behavior to help people move beyond their problems and toward living more fulfilling lives. The Clinical Special Interest

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Group of ABAI is for those who have an interest in clinical applications of behavior analysis. Clinical behavior analysts work in both research and applied settings.

A sample of clinical domains in which CBA clinicians work includes:

- Anxiety disorders
- Behavioral gerontology
- Behavioral health
- Childhood disorders
- Cognitive rehabilitation
- Couples therapy
- Family therapy
- Forensic psychology (assessment and treatment)
- Habit disorders
- Intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Health psychology
- Mood disorders (e.g., depression),
- Serious mental illness (e.g., Borderline Personality Disorder, Schizophrenia)
- Substance abuse
- Trauma

The Clinical SIG is dedicated to facilitating collaboration between researchers and clinicians to further the field's ability to apply clinical populations. This group seeks to promote Clinical Behavior Analysis (CBA) at ABAI and is interested in maintaining the longstanding relationship between basic research and clinical application. At the 2023 convention, the Clinical SIG met to continue work on several ongoing projects.

Our Clinical SIG leadership works to highlight ABAI conference events of interest for Clinical SIG members. The SIG is soliciting additional submissions for listserv and social media projects including brief updates from CBA academic training programs and research labs, promoting workshops and conference events, and coordinating events for the annual ABAI convention.

To be kept up to date on Clinical SIG activities and to interact with current members, sign up for the listserv at <https://groups.io/g/ClinicalSIG> or join our Facebook Group. To join the Clinical SIG, please contact us using the link at [www.abainternational.org/constituents/special-interests/special-interest-groups.aspx](http://www.abainternational.org/constituents/special-interests/special-interest-groups.aspx) or Facebook message one of the group's administrators. ❖

**IESCUM continued from page 42**

ABA, Social Robotics, and New Technologies in Catania in collaboration with the Italian Society of Child Psychiatry.

In 2023, IESCUM will also organize the third Italian conference on third-generation behavior therapies called Mindfulness, Acceptance, and Compassion. This conference has been held in Milan since 2017 and sees the attendance of about 500 professionals and researchers. ❖



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"Big Sweep," by Claes Oldenburg & Coosje van Bruggen (2006). This 40-foot-tall sculpture outside the Denver Art Museum was inspired by the vast prairies and mountains of Colorado, the bright light and scouring winds.

Photo: DANIEL X. O'NEIL on FLICKR.com

