



Maryland Association for Behavior Analysis

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For more information about MABA:

<http://www.mdaba.org/>

MABA is an affiliated chapter of ABAI and APBA.

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or

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attention: Carrie Borrero or Nicole Hausman

Sponsorship opportunities for our 2018 conference are available!

Please check out our website for details or contact Nicole Hausman at:

info@marylandaba.org

MABA Executive Council

A Conversation with Women In Behavior Analysis

Last year, the behavior analytic community was introduced to a new professional organization via the Women In Behavior Analysis (WIBA) Conference. We sat down (electronically) with Sarah Cox, Director of Marketing for WIBA and Devon Sundberg, WIBA Conference Director, to learn about the organization and the annual conference.

Can you tell us a bit about the mission of WIBA and the conference?

WIBA has the mission to empower, celebrate, and mentor women behavior analysts and highlight their contributions to the field. The conference will allow both genders to engage in meaningful discourse on gender equality for the promotion of behavior analysis and professional growth of future generations.

The Women in Behavior Analysis (WIBA) Conference is scheduled for March 22-24, 2018, at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

What inspired the founders of WIBA to start the organization and to establish an annual conference?

A few years ago, Devon Sundberg, WIBA's Conference Director, served as a co-chair alongside Dr. Kim Zoder-Martell for the annual conference of the Hoosier Association for Behavior Analysis (HABA). When seeking speakers for the conference, many of the recommendations were men and, although they were all wonderful speakers, it allowed both Devon and Kim to realize that there are also so many prolific women in the field of behavior analysis who are doing impressive work. After HABA, they talked about ways they could celebrate the women in the field and highlight their accomplishments. As early career professionals, they talked about ways to support others who are in an early stage of their career and decided that one way to do this would be through hosting a conference. And from those discussions, WIBA was created.

Is WIBA just for women?

The conference is for all genders and the hope is that attendees will engage in meaningful discourse on gender equality for the promotion of behavior analysis and professional growth of future generations.

About how many people attend and what are their general demographics (i.e., gender, area of interest, practitioner/researcher, etc.)?

Last year we had 275 attendees and we are hoping for 325 this year. The majority of our attendees were female (we're hoping to attract more males for the upcoming conference!) and they were either professionals, both early and seasoned, or students in the field of behavior analysis.

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How was the first annual conference received by attendees? How did participant feedback affect planning for the upcoming conference?

The first annual conference was very well received by attendees and we took a great deal of time analyzing the feedback and implementing modifications for our conference in 2018. Our upcoming conference will be more affordable, will feature inspiring leaders in our field and will allow for an open forum discussion. We're also offering a Day 3 of workshops because we had several requests for a way for attendees to improve their applied and business skills. Our workshops will offer attendees this opportunity, as Sarah Trautman-Eslinger will be presenting a 3-hour workshop on "ABA Business Bootcamp" and Nicole Gravina and Ansley Hodges will be co-presenting a 3-hour workshop on "Organizational Behavior Management Strategies for Behavior Analysts and Leaders in Human Service Settings."

What can attendees expect from the conferences in general? What is the general format? What are the kinds of topics covered by presenters?

Attendees can expect to an engaging conference that highlights and celebrates women in the field of behavior analysis. We also add lot of extra flair to the conference; this includes a conference cocktail, a complimentary workout class at the beginning of the event, a detailed list of things to do and see in Nashville, etc. We work hard to create a memorable experience.

The conference allows for an opening keynote, closing keynote, invited speakers, poster and paper submissions a panel discussion and workshops. We work closely with an advisory committee to select great representations in the field and make sure that a variety of topics are covered. We also make it a point to include opportunities for networking and building connections with mentors in the field.

The topics covered range from the challenges that women may face in the field of behavior analysis, the importance of mentorship, gender issues in the field, women in research, how to improve professional skills, etc.

What can attendees expect from the upcoming conference in 2018? Who are the invited speakers? What is the general format? What opportunities for CEUs are there?

Attendees can expect an exciting schedule that highlights women in research, provides opportunities to expand professional skills, and covers innovative topics, including the issues women face in science and industry - all tying to the field of behavior analysis. The invited speakers are Bridget Taylor, Psy.D., BCBA-D, Janet Twyman, Ph.D., BCBA, NYSLBA, Sigrid Glenn, Ph.D., Edward Morris, Ph.D., Sarah Trautman-Eslinger, M.A., BCBA, Ansley Hodges, M.S., BCBA, and Nicole Gravina, Ph.D.

Day one will begin with a complimentary and optional barre class for attendees, followed by an introduction to the conference and our opening keynote speaker. The day will proceed with breakout sessions that offer general, supervision, and ethics BCBA Type 2 CEU opportunities. Each session will fall into the following four topic categories: women in research, professional skills, women's issues, or outside-the-box. We've made sure the schedule is easy to read and follow. Day 2 will be very similar in layout. Day 3 will be a day of workshops. All schedule details, including posters, can be found here: <https://thebaca.com/wibaschedule/>.

What made you decide to make Nashville the home for the annual conference? What would you recommend conference guests do in Nashville?

We chose Nashville because it was a city that was easily accessible from the Indianapolis area, which is where the WIBA team is located. Nashville has an international airport, which makes it a convenient city for our speakers and

attendees to fly into and we're fortunate to have people coming from all over the world. We've also looked into cities that have colleges that offer behavior analysis programs as well as have an established behavior analysis association. Nashville had both and this has created networking opportunities for us in terms of the students and association members to easily get involved with our conference.

Nashville is also ranked as one of the top cities in the US to visit, so it's been fun to give attendees a taste of what the city has to offer. Who doesn't love exploring the city a bit when attending a conference?! We'll put together a thorough list of "things to do" that we'll share on both our conference Facebook page as well as our website as we get closer to the conference date. Attendees can expect recommendations for restaurants, coffee shops, distilleries, tour discounts, and much more.

What are your goals for the future of WIBA?

Our hope is to host this conference annually. The sky is the limit as to what goals we may be able to accomplish. For now, we are focusing on making the event sustainable and continuing to make improvements based on the feedback we received from the first conference. We want to continue to empower early career behavior analysts through highlighting role models in the field, invite male speakers who support the effort of gender equality in the field, and remain informed of the current literature regarding the equitable representation of women in the field.

2017 Annual Conference Update

Our **20th Annual Meeting** and Pre-Conference Workshop at the Hilton Baltimore, December 14 and 15, 2017, was a success! We had an exciting line up of presenters who are leaders in the field. The year's lineup included:

Pre-Conference Workshops:

Jane Barbin, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA
Behavioral Directions, LLC

Stacey McIntyre, M.A., BCBA, LBA
The Ivymount School

Featured Conference Speakers:

SungWoo Kahng, Ph.D., BCBA-D
University of Missouri

Cynthia J. Pietras, Ph.D.
Western Michigan University

Jason C. Bourret, Ph.D., BCBA-D
New England Center for Children

Tiffany Kodak, Ph.D., BCBA-D
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Patrick C. Friman, Ph.D., ABPP
ABPP Boys Town

Research Spotlight: Matthew Johnson



Matthew W. Johnson, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he has conducted research at the Behavioral Pharmacology Research Unit since 2004.

His behavioral economics research has applied delay discounting (i.e., analyses of how delayed events are devalued) and demand analyses (i.e., analyses of how price affects consumption) to addiction. His research has indicated that delay discounting is a fundamental process underlying addiction, and that delay discounting of condom use (i.e., forgoing condom use and choosing the delayed and uncertain events associated with doing so) is a critical variable influencing sexual risk behavior and contraction of HIV. Dr. Johnson has also conducted human studies determining the acute effects of numerous drugs in human research volunteers. Recent research has shown that administration of drugs associated with sexual risk behavior (e.g., cocaine, alcohol) increases discounting of sexual outcomes within sexual risk scenarios (e.g., in a casual sex situation, choosing immediate sex without a condom over delayed sex with a condom). He has conducted extensive research on psilocybin and other psychedelic drugs regarding their acute and long-term behavioral effects and therapeutic potential, including in addictions treatment and in the treatment of cancer-related depression and anxiety.

His current research includes a clinical trial determining demand for reduced nicotine cigarettes among smokers, a trial examining the effects of memory training (i.e., a computerized program that has participants remember a list of tasks to complete while simulating a day in their life) on drug use and sensitivity to future rewards among opioid-dependent individuals in outpatient treatment, a study determining the effects of oxytocin on addiction-related processes, and a randomized clinical trial and fMRI study determining the combined efficacy of the psychedelic psilocybin and cognitive behavioral therapy on smoking cessation.

Key citations:

Johnson, M. W., Herrmann, E. S., Sweeney, M. M., LeComte, R. S., & Johnson, P. S. (2017). Cocaine administration dose-dependently increases sexual desire and decreases condom use likelihood: The role of delay and probability discounting in connecting cocaine with HIV. *Psychopharmacology*, 234, 599-612.

Johnson, M. W., Garcia-Romeu, A., Cosimano, M. P., & Griffiths, R. R. (2014). Pilot study of the 5-HT_{2A}R agonist psilocybin in the treatment of tobacco addiction. *Journal of Psychopharmacology*, 28, 983-92.

Johnson, M. W., & Bruner, N. R. (2012). The Sexual Discounting Task: HIV risk behavior and the discounting of delayed sexual rewards in cocaine dependence. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 1, 15-21.

Johnson, M. W., Richards, W. A., & Griffiths, R. R. (2008). Human hallucinogen research: Guidelines for safety. *Journal of Psychopharmacology*, 22, 603-20.

Johnson, M. W., & Bickel, W. K. (2002). Within-subject comparison of real and hypothetical money rewards in delay discounting. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 77, 129-46.

Update from Erin Schaller, on Behalf of the Maryland Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee

As of October 2017, we have 366 Licensed Behavior Analysts in Maryland. Regulations to govern the practice of behavior analysis that were written and proposed to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, by the Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee (BAAC), became effective May 2017. These regulations are published in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) as *COMAR 10.58.16 Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee*. Currently, the BAAC is working on understanding how the licensure of behavior analysts in Maryland may affect contexts such as the state school system and state agencies.

CEU: Winter, Spring, Summer 2018

Continuing education is an important part of our professional development as behavior analysts. Below are some CE opportunities during the next few months. This list is not meant to be exhaustive. We hope this will be a starting point as you explore CEU opportunities.

19th International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability, and Developmental Disabilities
January 17-19. Clearwater Beach, FL

ABAI 12th Annual Autism Conference
February 4-6. Miami, FL

44th Annual Convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis, International
May 26-28. San Diego, CA

Georgia Autism Providers Conference
June 27-30. Jekyll Island, Georgia

Program Spotlights

In this issue, we are happy to highlight Little Leaves Behavioral Services, an ABA provider in the MD-DC-VA metro area. Little Leaves is a growing organization under the leadership of doctoral- and masters-level behavior analysts. Little Leaves provides services to children with social, communication, and behavioral challenges, including children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Little Leaves will have a booth set up at the MABA conference and many employees in attendance. If you would like to learn more about Little Leaves, they would be happy to speak with you there.

Little Leaves Behavioral Services is an organization dedicated to helping people with social, communication, and behavioral challenges grow and succeed so that they can participate as fully as possible in their families and communities. Little Leaves provides individualized behavioral therapy based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Four core values provide the foundation for the Little Leaves approach:

1. Growth: for clients, employees and organization

Successful outcomes for clients and their families are paramount. Little Leaves customizes the therapeutic plan for each child to meet his or her needs and to incorporate the family's priorities. Little Leaves also focuses extensively on employee growth. A structured, high-intensity supervision and mentorship program is in place to foster ongoing professional development for all employees, from direct therapists to directors. Focus on clients and investment in staff enable steady growth while maintaining quality. Little Leaves has gradually expanded the geographic areas for home and community-based ABA services. In addition, Little Leaves has recently opened its first center based program for pre-school aged children called Little Buds, and plans to extend center-based services over time.

2. High Quality: in us, and everything we do

Little Leaves hires staff who are passionate about working with children, and ensures they are supported and prepared to deliver the highest level of service. Little Leaves invests in the recruitment, training and development, and retention of the highest-quality staff with some of the best training and experience available. In addition, all direct therapists are trained to meet the competency requirements for the Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) credential. The rigorous focus on quality has resulted in Little Leaves being the only agency in DC or Virginia, and one of only two in Maryland, that is accredited as a Behavioral Health Center of Excellence (BHCOE).

3. Evidence-based: proven methods, proven results

The fundamental principles of Applied Behavior Analysis are at the core of services provided by Little Leaves, from therapy for clients and caregiver training for families, to the methods used to train staff, and the way the organization is managed. For example, new direct therapy staff progress through a structured training system that begins with individual and group classroom learning with direct instruction and role play and ends in hands-on supervised training with guided skills rehearsal and data-based competency objectives. Incoming clinicians at every level are systematically trained to demonstrate each component skill required to successfully meet the high Little Leaves standards. As an organization, data are consistently collected and analyzed to evaluate performance and adapt practices.

4. Community: support, learning, enjoyment

Little Leaves knows that providing the highest quality services requires a team effort. Little Leaves has created a model for our professionals to collaborate on treatment approaches, share best practices, and continuously learn from each other. Little Leaves prioritizes providing support and learning opportunities for all of staff by dedicating resources to professional development such as regular in-house peer review, staff training, and team-building meetings as well as supporting attendance at local and regional conferences and training opportunities. In addition, the clinical team at Little Leaves is supported by a cutting-edge administrative team. Our administrators allow clinicians and families to minimize the burden of scheduling, billing, insurance paperwork, etc. so that the focus can continue to be on high-quality service and meaningful outcomes.

Little Leaves is currently accepting new clients across Maryland, DC, and Virginia and has employment opportunities for staff at each level. Please visit www.littleleaves.org for more information.