

November 12, 2020

Dear MABA member:

If you are a full member of MABA, we invite you to vote for the offices of President-Elect and one Member-at-Large. The nominees for office and a brief biography of each individual are provided on subsequent pages of this mailing. According to MABA by-laws, officers must be voting members of both MABA and its parent organization, the Association for Behavior Analysis.

To elect individuals to this office, please complete and sign the attached form, then scan/screenshot and email to [info@marylandaba.org](mailto:info@marylandaba.org).

**Please make an “X” next to the candidate for whom you wish to vote. Print and sign your name at the bottom. Please scan/screenshot and email to [info@marylandaba.org](mailto:info@marylandaba.org) by November 27, 2020:**

**President-Elect**

Aaron D. Lesser, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA Kennedy Krieger Institute	
Tamara Marder, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA Johns Hopkins University	

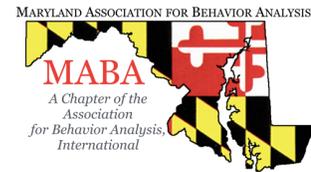
**Member-at-Large**

Mirela Cengher, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA UMBC	
Jessica Garcia, M.A., BCBA, LBA	
Elizabeth Masler, M. A., BCBA Kennedy Krieger Institute	
Hailey Ormond, Ph.D., BCBA-D	
Adithyan Rajaraman, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA UMBC	
Ben Sarcia, M. A., BCBA, LBA Verbal Beginnings	

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ballots MUST be returned by November 27, 2020 order to be considered.**

Carrie S. W. Borrero, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA  
Co-Director: Maryland Association for Behavior Analysis  
707 N. Broadway  
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**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT**

**Aaron D. Lesser, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA**

Aaron Lesser is a Senior Behavior Analyst in Kennedy Krieger Institute's Pediatric Feeding Disorders Program and Instructor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He earned his Ph.D. in Behavior Analysis at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and completed a predoctoral fellowship at the Munroe-Meyer Institute and a postdoctoral fellowship in the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine training program. His research has focused on individuals with Avoidant and Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID), response blocking procedures during treatments to decrease food refusal, and interdisciplinary approaches to chewing. Aaron has served as a guest reviewer for behavior-analytic journals including the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* and *Behavioral Interventions*.

**Tamara Marder, Ph.D., BCBA-D**

Tamara Marder is an associate professor for the applied behavior analysis and autism graduate programs at Johns Hopkins University, School of Education. She is an affiliated faculty member with the Wendy Klag Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and an Affiliated Faculty Member, Center for Safe Schools (CSS), Johns Hopkins School of Education.

Dr. Marder received a Ph.D. from Lehigh University and completed pre-doctoral training at Kennedy Krieger Institute and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. A licensed psychologist and a board certified behavior analyst (BCBA-D), she has worked in the field of applied behavior analysis since 1994 and has extensive experience working with individuals with autism and severe disabilities in a variety of settings, including schools, homes and hospitals.

In 2013, Dr. Marder launched the Post Masters Certificate in ABA at Johns Hopkins University School of Education. Since then, the program has trained over 70 educators, school psychologists and special educators who are leading the implementation of ABA in school based settings. Her research interests include training educators on implementing evidence-based practices (EBPs) with fidelity and preparing special educators in the field of applied behavior analysis (ABA).



## 2020 MEMBER-AT-LARGE NOMINEES

- Mirela Cengher, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA** Mirela Cengher, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in Psychology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). She is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral Level and a licensed behavior analyst in the state of Maryland. Dr. Cengher first became interested in behavior analysis when she began working with children with developmental disabilities as an undergraduate in Romania. She then moved to the United States to pursue graduate training in behavior analysis. Dr. Cengher received her doctorate in Psychology from The Graduate Center, City University of New York, and completed her Postdoctoral Fellowship at Kennedy Krieger Institute and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Within the past 10 years, she served as an ambassador for behavior analysis by providing service to local, national, and international behavior analysis associations. Most recently, she established and currently leads the first student group (organization) in behavior analysis at UMBC, and serves as the Membership Coordinator for the Verbal Behavior Special Interest Group affiliated with Association for Behavior Analysis International. Dr. Cengher hopes she can continue to make meaningful contributions in the role of Member-at-Large, specifically as it pertains to serving as a liaison between the Maryland Association for Behavior Analysis and its members.
- Jessica Garcia, M. A., BCBA, LBA** Jessica Garcia is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Licensed Behavior Analyst in Maryland with over 10 years of experience working with children with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities. Prior to joining the Little Leaves team, she was the Clinical Director for a center-based ABA program in North Carolina and previously worked at the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Neurobehavioral inpatient and outpatient units. Jessica earned her B.S. in Psychology from Towson University, and her M.A. in Human Services Psychology with an emphasis in Behavior Analysis from the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Jessica enjoys playing and watching sports, board games, and spending down time with her husband, son, and two goofy boxers at home.
- Elizabeth Masler, M. A., BCBA** Elizabeth Masler received her Master's Degree in Applied Behavior Analysis from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Since 2001 she has worked in the Pediatric Feeding Disorders Program at the Kennedy Krieger Institute where she is currently a Psychology Associate. She has publications in the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis as well as the Journal of Pediatric Psychology. Her primary research interests include pediatric feeding disorders, the assessment and treatment of food refusal, and caregiver training. She is a member of the Association for Behavior Analysis, as well as the Maryland Association for Behavior Analysis and is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.



**Hailey Ormond, Ph.D., BCBA-D**

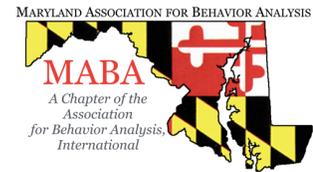
Hailey Ormond is a doctoral level board certified behavior analyst and licensed psychologist in Kennedy Krieger Institute's Pediatric Feeding Disorders program. Dr. Ormond is a member of the Maryland Association for Behavior Analysis, Association for Behavior Analysis International, and American Psychological Association. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Southwestern University in 2009, she worked full time for a year providing one-to-one ABA services in skill acquisition, behavior management, feeding, and toileting for children with developmental disorders. She began a PhD program in School Psychology at the University of Texas in 2010, and continued working part time as an ABA therapist until completing her graduate coursework and moving to Atlanta, GA in 2015. Dr. Ormond completed her doctoral internship at the Marcus Autism Center/Emory University, where she received further training in the Pediatric Feeding Disorders, Language and Learning, and Severe Behavior clinics, before ultimately earning her PhD in 2016. She then completed her postdoctoral fellowship in the Pediatric Feeding Disorders Program at Kennedy Krieger Institute/Johns Hopkins University and has remained with the program since that time. In her current role, Dr. Ormond provides outpatient feeding services; supervises the assessment and treatment of children admitted for intensive feeding services; conducts interdisciplinary diagnostic evaluations for children with feeding problems; supervises doctoral interns, postdoctoral fellows, and those training to be behavior analysts; and conducts research related to the outpatient treatment of children with feeding disorders.

**Adithyan Rajaraman, Ph.D.,  
BCBA-D**

Adithyan (Dithu) Rajaraman has been applying behavior analysis to improve socially important behaviors of children with and without disabilities for 12 years. Dithu recently completed his Doctorate in Behavior Analysis at Western New England University, under the advisement of Dr. Greg Hanley. In 2019, he joined the faculty at UMBC, where he mentors undergraduate and graduate students of Psychology with an emphasis in behavior analysis. He has been working to increase the scope of behavior-analytic course offerings for undergraduate Psychology majors. Dithu's research and practice interests include the assessment, treatment, and prevention of dangerous problem behavior, with an emphasis on investigating trauma-informed approaches to behavioral assessment and intervention.

**Ben Sarcia M. A., BCBA, LBA**

Ben Sarcia is a board-certified behavior analyst and director of the Healthy Beginnings behavioral feeding therapy program at Verbal Beginnings Center in Columbia, MD, a program he founded in 2016. Ben's mission for this program is to provide outpatient ABA-based therapy to children who present with behavioral challenges, as well as skill deficits related to mealtime. Prior to joining Verbal Beginnings, Ben worked within the Feeding Disorders Continuum at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, MD. In this position, Ben participated in the day treatment, inpatient, and outpatient programs. Ben's research interests include functional analysis of inappropriate mealtime behavior, as well as exploring the long-term outcomes of those treated for food refusal utilizing an ABA approach.



*A Chapter of the Association for Behavior Analysis, International*

Ben has presented his research at MABA, as well as the National Autism Conference. In 2020, Ben was the first BCBA to publish an article in the Journal of Child and Adolescent Clinics. This article reviewed the application of ABA to address maladaptive mealtime behaviors for an audience that had not previously been exposed to ABA based treatment of any kind. Additionally, Ben has hosted CEU events for an international community and also for the annual meeting of the Virginia Association for Applied Behavior Analysis. Ben received training in the treatment of feeding disorders at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Autism Resource Center while completing his master's degree in Clinical Psychology at West Chester University. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the Pennsylvania State University.



## CHAIR-LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

### **Samantha Hardesty, Ph.D., BCBA-D**

Samantha Hardesty earned her master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis and her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from UMBC. She has worked in the department of Behavioral Psychology at the Kennedy Krieger Institute since 2005 where her responsibilities ranged from overseeing the assessment and treatment of severe problem behavior to developing and implementing program evaluation and performance improvement projects related to staff recruitment, training, and safety. Samantha publishes peer reviewed articles on her clinical work and work in the area of organizational behavior management. She frequently serves as a reviewer for the Journal of Organizational Behavior Management and is currently serving as a consultant on a grant with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health for her work on predicting and reducing injuries among staff who work with individuals with severe problem behaviors.

Samantha also teaches courses in applied behavior analysis and owns a small agency that provides behavioral services to individuals on the Maryland Autism Waiver. Samantha has always been passionate about promoting advocacy for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Over the years she has participated in a number of large-scale projects for the state of Maryland including helping to create police cadet training and improving anti-bullying policies in public schools. She also currently serves as co-chair for the Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee which regulates licensure in the state of Maryland.

### **Erin Camp, Ph.D., BCBA-D**

Erin Camp is the Regional Director of the greater-Baltimore area for Little Leaves Behavioral Services, a national organization providing ABA therapy for young children with autism spectrum disorder. She earned a doctorate degree in psychology, with special emphasis in the experimental analysis of behavior, from the University of Florida. Dr. Camp has been practicing as a behavior analyst for over 15 years, working in a variety of clinical settings and with individuals with unique learning needs ages 1-60+. Dr. Camp has interests in the assessment and treatment of challenging behavior, designing skill acquisition programs, and the supervision and training of behavior analytic practitioners, as well as advocating for the practice of behavior analysis through legislative action. Dr. Camp is a founding member and current chair of the Behavior Analysts Advisory Committee for the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists, which licenses behavior analysts in the state of Maryland. She has been a proud member of MABA since 2012 and would be honored to serve as the legislative committee chair.