

MABA 23rd Annual Meeting

Event Schedule

Thu, Dec 03, 2020

9:00am

A Behavioral Systems Approach to Ethics Training and Supervision

🕒 9:00am - 11:50am, Dec 3

Professional and ethical behaviors are critical for high quality care and consumer protection. By using behavioral systems, behavior analysts may increase the probability of employees engaging in professional and ethical behaviors. This workshop will survey the basic components of behavioral systems analysis (BSA). Then, it will provide examples of how behavior analysts may use BSA to develop and implement their own behavioral systems to improve ethical behavior of employees and to ultimately increase the quality of care they provide. In the end, this workshop aims to provide a pragmatic, solutions-oriented, and socially-valid approach to ethics that focuses on teaching employees “what to do” in certain situations, instead of using a punitive “how not to behave” approach.

Learning objectives: Participants will be able to:

- (1) Identify the core components of behavioral systems
- (2) Analyze existing environmental variables, pertaining to ethics, using performance diagnostic tools
- (3) Develop a basic behavioral system to teach ethical behavior using behavioral systems analysis
- (4) Identify ethical problems using behavioral systems
- (5) Translate the BACB Code into a customized process or organizational policy that meets their specific service delivery needs

🗣️ Speaker



Matthew T. Brodhead, Ph.D., BCBA-D Assistant Professor, Michigan State University

12:00pm

Break

🕒 12:00pm - 1:00pm, Dec 3

1:00pm

Changing the Behavior of Behavior Analysts to Improve Outcomes of Adults with Autism

🕒 1:00pm - 3:50pm, Dec 3

Despite a nearly three decade-long emphasis on evidence-based, behavior analytic intervention in ASD, adult outcomes remain poor “for almost any outcome you choose.” (Roux et al., 2015, p. 8).

While there may be several reasons for continued poor outcomes, the potential of behavior analytic intervention to develop more positive adult outcomes has yet to be fully realized. Such outcomes, however, are well within the reach of our behavior analytic technology. But for that to happen, the contingencies governing our behavior will need to shift. For example, we will need to shift from contingencies that reinforce the technical precision of our interventions to contingencies that reinforce socially valid outcomes outside of the classroom. This presentation will identify a number of areas, both internal and external to the field, where a “contingency shift” may be necessary if the power of behavior analytic intervention to significantly improve outcomes for adults

with autism is to be more fully realized.

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

1. Competently discuss a minimum of 5 behavior analytic concepts with direct relevance to improving outcomes for adults with ASD.
2. Competently discuss the importance of working to change our behavior, as behavior analysts, and not just the behavior of individuals on the spectrum.
3. Interpret typically non-behavior analytic concepts (e.g. self-esteem) into reasonable approximations of behavior analytic concepts.
4. Discuss the continued, central importance of social validity when identifying behaviors to either increase or decrease.

🗣️ Speaker



Peter Gerhardt, Ed.D. Executive Director, The EPIC School

Fri, Dec 04, 2020

8:30am

Welcome to Attendees

🕒 8:30am - 9:00am, Dec 4

🗣️ Speaker



Nicole L. Hausman, Ph.D., BCBA-D

9:00am

Fostering relationships with family members: Compassionate care in autism treatment

🕒 9:00am - 9:50am, Dec 4

Within certain areas of healthcare, it has been documented that treating clients with compassion and empathy can have important benefits, such as increasing patient satisfaction, enhancing adherence to treatment, and improving clinical outcomes. Behavior analysts have recently begun to articulate the importance of attending to relationships in our clinical work. For example, Taylor, LeBlanc and Nosik (2018) proposed that clinical outcomes of clients may be enhanced by improving relationships with their caregivers. This presentation will review survey data documenting parent perception of compassionate care, as well as clinician impressions of training needs in this area (Leblanc, Taylor, & Marchese, 2019). Video examples of poor relationship interactions will illustrate barriers to positive relationships with family members, and practical strategies will be presented that can lead to empathic, collaborative relationships with caregivers.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify current behavioral conceptualization of empathy and perspective taking.
2. Identify responses that are potential barriers to relationship building.
3. Identify practical strategies that can positively impact outcomes

🗣️ Speaker



Bridget Taylor, Ph.D., BCBA-D Co-founder and CEO, Alpine Learning Group

10:00am

Modeling the Effects of Outpatient Context Changes during Assessments of Operant Renewal

🕒 10:00am - 10:50am, Dec 4

Reinforcement-based interventions often are used to reduce severe destructive behavior in clinical settings, but the long-term efficacy of these interventions depends on the generalization of their effects into clients' natural environments. Renewal is a form of relapse wherein previously eliminated behavior returns when the treatment context is changed, and it may help to explain why destructive behavior recurs following successful treatment. A growing body of translational and basic research has been dedicated to determining the factors that predispose eliminated behavior to renew, with the goal in mind of developing treatments that are robust to relapse induced by context change. The procedures used in these evaluations, however, differ in several major ways from the context and contingency changes clients experience during outpatient behavioral therapy. In this talk, I will provide an introduction to renewal and describe potential limitations of the extent literature as it applies directly to clinical situations. I will also present data from human-operant and animal studies that point to rather marked differences in performance between conventional renewal assessments and those conducted in our laboratory model of outpatient behavioral therapy. Implications of this research for practice, and translational research on renewal, will be discussed.

Learning Objectives:

The audience will:

- (1) Be able to define renewal and identify the circumstances that produce it.
- (2) Understand the potential implications of renewal for maintenance of behavior-analytic treatment effects
- (3) Describe the potential differences in renewal produced by outpatient and other modalities of service provision.

🗣️ Speaker



Andrew R. Craig Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, SUNY Upstate Medical Center

11:00am

Organizational Behavior Management in Healthcare

🕒 11:00am - 11:50am, Dec 4

Despite having the highest healthcare costs of any country in the world, the United States is lagging in quality. Recent reports list hospital errors as the third leading cause of death in this country. Healthcare delivery depends on human behavior, and organizational behavior management (OBM) can help. This talk will describe current challenges in healthcare and ways that OBM researchers and practitioners can improve the quality of healthcare delivery. Research on improving the quality of hospitalist rounds will be described, along with other examples.

Objectives:

- Attendees will be able to identify opportunities for behavior analysts to contribute to improving healthcare

practices

- Attendees will be able to describe examples of behavior analysis applications in healthcare
- Attendees will be able to list potential opportunities for OBM in healthcare in the future

🔊 Speaker



Nicole Gravina, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, University of Florida

12:00pm

Break

🕒 12:00pm - 1:00pm, Dec 4

1:00pm

Psychedelics as Behavior Change Agents

🕒 1:00pm - 1:50pm, Dec 4

An empirical body of empirical research has emerged over the last couple of decades suggesting that the 5-HT_{2A} receptor agonist classic psychedelic compound psilocybin results in positive long term outcomes in both healthy participants and in individuals with psychiatric disorders. This research has been conducted under conditions of substantial preparation, and interpersonal support. Findings have suggested that under such conditions psilocybin leads to increased personality openness in healthy participants, decreased depression and anxiety in cancer patients, and increased biologically-confirmed quit rates in treatment-resistant tobacco cigarette smokers. These findings are consistent with the notion that psychedelic therapy is best thought of as medication-assisted behavioral or psychological therapy, wherein the drug increases behavioral plasticity, providing an experience that can influence future behavior. A vision will be presented suggesting that psychedelics may be leveraged in the treatment of a variety of nominally distinct psychiatric disorders.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify disorders that have shown promising initial evidence treatment by psilocybin.
2. Describe factors that led to the discontinuation of human psychedelic research in the 1970s.
3. Identify behavioral models in nonhumans that have been useful in understanding the effects or mechanisms of psychedelics.

Disclosures for CE purposes:

Matthew W. Johnson is in paid advisory relationships with the following organizations regarding the medical development of psychedelics and related compounds: AWAKN Life Sciences Inc., Beckley Psychedelic Ltd., Entheogen Biomedical Corp., Field Trip Psychedelics Inc., Mind Medicine Inc., Otsuka Pharmaceutical Development & Commercialization Inc., Silo Pharma, Inc.

🔊 Speaker



Matthew Johnson, Ph.D. Professor, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

2:00pm

Equivalence-Based Instruction in Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention

🕒 2:00pm - 2:50pm, Dec 4

Despite several applied demonstrations of emergent (novel) performances produced through conditional discrimination training, the technology from the stimulus equivalence literature has only recently been integrated into early intensive intervention curricula. The purpose of this talk is to describe the implications of using equivalence-based instruction for teaching basic and advanced skills to preschool children with autism. We will review the stimulus equivalence paradigm and present examples from different translational and applied studies that used this technology to teach reading, geography, coin identification, activity schedules, and music to children with autism. Implications for practice and directions for future applied research will be discussed.

1. Students will learn to define different procedures to teach conditional discrimination
2. Students will learn about the different training structures to produce equivalence classes
3. Students will learn to program equivalence-based instruction to teach a variety of academic and cognitive skills

🗣️ Speaker



Caio Miguel, Ph.D., BCBA-D Professor of Psychology and Director of the Verbal Behavior Research Laboratory, California State University, Sacramento

3:00pm

Would You Like Help Running Your ABA Business?

🕒 3:00pm - 3:50pm, Dec 4

It is likely that few practicing behavior analysts extensively studied business while in grad school. Yet many behavior analysts today run their own businesses. In this session, join Lorri Unumb, Esq., CEO of The Council of Autism Service Providers, for a conversation on how various professional resources, including a trade association, can assist you in the efficient operation of your ABA business. Undoubtedly, you cannot "succeed in business without really trying," but a voluntary alignment with similar businesses can help you succeed without taking all of your time. Having voluntary business partners from within the ABA industry can give you needed political leverage, increase your access to innovative business solutions, help you identify and conform to industry best practices, and keep you abreast of relevant regulatory reforms.

Learning Objectives -

- 1 - Attendees will learn the difference between various types of nonprofit associations in the ABA field.
- 2 - Attendees will understand the primary functions of a trade association and how they assist in running a business.
- 3 - Attendees will learn the importance of industry standards and guidelines, including how they can be used beyond your ABA practice.

🗣️ Speaker



Lorri Shealy Unumb, Esq. Chief Executive Officer, The Council of Autism Service Providers

4:00pm

Poster Session

🕒 4:00pm - 5:30pm, Dec 4

Please join us for our poster session (in the exhibitor portal) for an opportunity to learn more about the work of Maryland's behavior analysts! Be sure to visit posters and exhibitors to complete your passport and enter into a raffle for a prize!

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