

# 15th Annual MABA Conference Topics

Thursday, September 24, 2020

## **Keynote Speaker, Dr. Robert Ross, Ed.D, BCBA-D, LABA**

### **Behavioural Indicators of Effective ABA Programming**

The tremendous growth in the need for ABA based intervention services for individuals on the autism spectrum and the availability of insurance funding for services has led to a rapid increase in the number of individuals receiving "ABA" treatment. This increase in funding for services has led to an explosion in the number of new training programs and then "ABA trained" staff entering the workforce. This rapid expansion has resulted in an overall decrease in the amount of experience that such personnel have both implementing and overseeing ABA programs. It has also led some training programs and agencies to focus more on implementation of procedures rather than a solid understanding the science behind the effective use of these procedures. This presentation will describe how the provision of high quality behavior analytic services treatment services requires more than "ABA trained" staff implementing of a set of "ABA" procedures. It requires that supervisors and implementers possess a deep knowledge of curriculum content, understanding of the impact of ASD on instructional practices and a strong understanding of the science of human behavior that undergirds ABA based interventions. This talk will describe the directly observable and measurable behavior of both the learner and the instructor that are indicative of the presence or absence of an effective and appropriate ABA based intervention program for individuals with ASD.

*Keywords: Quality ABA, Direct Measures, Social Validity*

Worth 1 CEU

## **Invited Speaker, Dr. Frank Cicero, PhD, BCBA, LBA(ny)**

### **Sexual Behavior, Autism, and Behavior Analysis: Key Points to Consider**

Research indicates that over 75% of individuals on the autism spectrum have a desire to engage in some form of sexual behavior. This percentage is consistent with data from the population at large, meaning that individuals with autism do not differ from neurotypical individuals when it comes to sexual drive. Why then, is problematic sexual behavior so often reported in adolescents and adults on the autism spectrum? The answer lies more in social skills, communication, and knowledge deficits than in issues with sexual development or interest. Here is where the knowledge and skills of a behavior analyst can be most beneficial when it comes to treating behaviors of a sexual topography. Through this talk, the audience will be introduced to some key points in the assessment and treatment of socially problematic sexual behavior in individuals with autism as well as how to assess and build socially appropriate, yet personally satisfying and pleasurable sexual behavior. Given time constraints, this presentation will focus on a few major

treatment areas in order to introduce the audience to how behavior analytic principles and procedures can be helpful in the treatment of sexual behavior.

*Keywords: Autism, Sexuality, Masturbation, Assessment, Socio-Sexual Behavior*

Worth 1 CEU

### **Invited Speaker, Dr. Madeleine Keevy, Ph.D., BCBA-D**

#### **Integrating Research into Practice in the Treatment of Severe Challenging Behaviour: Using Multiple and Chained Schedules in the Clinic**

Many individuals diagnosed with autism, intellectual disabilities, and developmental disabilities display severe challenging behaviour (e.g., aggression, self-injury, property destruction). Functional Communication Training (FCT) combines differential reinforcement of alternative behaviour with extinction to teach an alternative form of communication that replaces destructive behaviour. While FCT is effective, when the schedule of reinforcement for functional communication responses is dense (e.g., FR1), practitioners and caregivers may have difficulty implementing the procedures with high integrity and may have time to do little else. For this reason, FCT usually involves some form of schedule thinning, sometimes by incorporating the discriminative stimuli of a multiple schedule. Research and practice incorporating multiple and chained schedules into FCT will be discussed.

*Keywords: Autism, FCT, Challenging Behavior, Schedule Thinning*

Worth 1 CEU

### **Invited Speaker, Dr. Cary Trump, Ph.D., BCBA-D**

#### **Behavior Analytic Equations in the Wild: Or, How I Explain My Matching Law Tattoo to My Friends**

For many behavior analytic practitioners, due to their unfamiliarity, equations and concepts often found in the experimental analysis of behavior might seem aversive (at least, for me, they were definitely aversive). Although behavior analytic practitioners are familiar with choice behavior and response persistence, it is unlikely the matching law (Herrnstein, 1961) and quantitative models of persistence (Nevin & Shahan, 2011) find their way into the everyday repertoire of applied behavior analysts. Therefore, the purpose of this talk is to explain two basic equations (i.e., generalized matching equation, a model of response persistence), provide examples in the “real world”, and also offer examples of applications within one’s behavior analytic practice.

*Keywords: Matching law, generalized matching equation, response persistence, behavioral momentum theory*

Worth 1 CEU

### **Panel Discussion - The Impact of Cultural Diversity on ABA**

**Moderator: Robert Jeffrey**

**Panelists: Drs. Frank Cicero, Bob Ross, Madeleine Keevy, Cary Trump**

The general objectives of the panel discussion are to: explore the impact practitioner and client cultural diversity has on ABA, propose ideas on how to compassionately accommodate cultural diversity while still maintaining ethical conduct of a BCBA to provide evidence-based practice, share practical experiences and lessons learned with each other and the audience.

Worth 1 Ethics CEU