



# Behavioral Gerontology

A special interest group of ABAI

Spring 2022

Welcome to your Spring 2022 BG SIG newsletter. We've had a productive year behind the scenes on the BG SIG committee with the launch of the new website and the transfer of membership over to the capable hands of ABAI. This makes it much easier to renew your BG SIG membership through your ABAI portal account.

Unfortunately, because of this changeover, we have seen a decrease in membership- this was very much expected as it requires everyone to actively go and renew online (increased response effort!), so if you know friends or colleagues who are interested in or working in behavioral gerontology but who haven't joined the BG SIG, definitely give them a prompt to join and help us boost our membership!

Our committee has done an excellent job this year and I want to thank all of them for the hard work they've put in volunteering to move our SIG forward. We are now looking to recruit more passionate people to help out on the committee for the 2022/23 year. Please don't be put off if you don't currently work with older adults, you are a student, or you've never been part of a committee before – we are keen for anyone with the time and passion for our science to be applied to improve the lives of older adults, and dedication to reach out to us. We'd love to hear from you if you think you might be able to contribute to website content support (e.g., reviewing recent publications, blog posts, and resources) social media support, newsletter design/content creation, or awards reviewing and delivery. Or, if there's something you're good at that you don't see

here but that could be put to good use, then we'd also love to hear from you!

Finally, we are looking forward to the business meeting at ABAI on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May in Boston where we'll update you all on developments from the last year and we can also hear from you what you would like from the SIG moving forward. Due to being approximately 9 months pregnant at the time, I won't be attending the meeting in person but presuming I am still pregnant and not with child, I will be calling in remotely. We have decided to offer the option of virtual attendance to the business meeting this year for BG SIG members who are unable to make it in person but would still like to attend. We'll release more details of this as we get closer to the conference.

In the meantime, please enjoy the Spring newsletter that Jacqueline and her team have worked so hard to put together; I'm sure you'll agree she's done a wonderful job so send lots of positive reinforcement her way!



Dr. Zoe Luck, BCBA-D

BG SIG Chair

3	ABAI Convention 2022: Posters and Presentations Relevant to Behavioral Gerontology
6	Message from Membership
7	Spring Spotlight: Education and Research Opportunities in Behavioral Gerontology
10	Call for BG SIG Blog Posts
11	2022 BG SIG Committee





## Posters and Presentations relevant to Behavioral Gerontology

### **FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2022**

# 171 (98) Expo Poster: Behavioral  
Gerontology Special Interest Group  
8:00 PM–10:00 PM EDT  
Exhibit Level; Exhibit Hall A

### **SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2022**

**Symposium #28:**  
Behavioral Skills Training:  
Applications in Real-World Settings  
With Typical Caregivers  
10:00 AM–11:50 AM EDT  
Meeting Level 2; Room 254A  
Peter Sturmey (The Graduate Center and  
Queens College, City University of New  
York)

**Symposium #38**  
What's Technology Got to Do With It?  
Well Basically Everything Nowadays  
10:00 AM–10:50 AM EDT  
Meeting Level 2; Room 203  
Chair: Brandon M Franklin (Lee Specialty  
Clinic)

### **Symposium #39**

Advances in Verbal Behavior  
10:00 AM–10:50 AM EDT  
Meeting Level 2; Room 258C  
Chair: Alexis Constantin Pavlov (Marcus  
Autism Center)

### **Paper Session #77**

Defining, Measuring, and Ensuring  
the Social Validity of Skills in  
Interprofessional Collaboration,  
Compassionate Care, and Cultural  
Humility in Behavior Analysts  
Saturday, May 28, 2022  
12:00 PM–12:50 PM  
Meeting Level 2; Room 204A/B  
Mary Jane Weiss (Endicott College)

### **#90 (115) Poster**

The Effects of Functional  
Communication Training on Multiply-  
Controlled Problem Behavior  
1:00 PM–2:00 PM  
Exhibit Level; Exhibit Hall A  
JOCELYN VANESSA MCCORMACK  
(Salve Regina University/Pathways  
Strategic Teaching Center), Jesse Perrin



(Pathways), Andrea Giacobbe  
(Pathways), Cody Morris (Salve Regina  
University )

### **#99 (70) Poster**

The Continued Use of Incentives  
to Increase Staff Participation in  
Training

2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Exhibit Level; Exhibit Hall A

JAMES SHERMAN (Evergreen  
Center), Joseph M. Vedora  
(Evergreen Center)

## **SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022**

### **Symposium #260**

Promoting Staff Behavior in  
Unprecedented Times: Utilizing  
Behavior Skills Training and  
Reinforcement Schedules to  
Promote Effective Staff Behaviors

12:00 PM–12:50 PM EDT

Meeting Level 1; Room 153B

Chair: Maria Eugenia Hornbeck  
(Anderson Center for Autism )

### **Symposium #312**

Training and Supporting Staff  
Working in Settings Serving Adults  
With Disabilities

3:00 PM–4:50 PM

Meeting Level 1; Room 153B

Chair: Sandra Alex Ruby (University of  
Kansas)

## **MONDAY, MAY 30, 2022**

### **Paper Session #408**

The Dimensions of the Dimensions  
of Applied Behavior Analysis

8:00 AM - 8:25 AM

Meeting Level 1; Room 156B

EDWARD K. MORRIS (University of  
Kansas), Deborah E. Altus (Washburn  
University), Matthew Novak (Johns  
Hopkins University School of  
Medicine)

### **Symposium #465**

Brain Injury Rehabilitation and  
Applied Behavior Analysis: Recent  
Research on Delay Discounting,  
Language Assessment, Staff  
Training, and Program Evaluation

10:00 AM - 11:50 AM

Meeting Level 1; Room 153B

Chair: Seth W. Whiting (Louisiana  
State University Shreveport)

### **#509 (1) Poster**

Amnesic Aphasia and ABA:

Naming Intervention in a Patient

With Mild Neurocognitive Disorder

and Amnesic Aphasia after Cardiac

Arrest and Cerebral Anoxia

1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Exhibit Level; Exhibit Hall A

Valentina Catania (OASI Research  
Institute - IRCCS Troina, Italy ), GUIDO  
D'ANGELO (DALLA LUNA - BARI),  
Simonetta Panerai (OASI Research  
Institute - IRCCS Troina, Italy)

# The 2022 BG SIG Business Meeting

In-person (Meeting Level 2; Room 206A/B)  
and via Zoom

***ATTENTION STUDENTS:*** are you presenting research in behavioral gerontology at the ABAI Convention?





# BECOME A BG SIG MEMBER

The BGSIG is steadily growing with novel and experienced leaders in the field of behavioral gerontology. The BGSIG has adopted a new membership structure. Membership is now available through the ABAI member portal. To increase the affordability of membership, we have adopted several membership models that align with various career/academic milestones:

**\$15**

**Student  
membership**

**\$25**

**Affiliate  
membership**

**\$50**

**Full  
membership**

BGSIG members gain access to the **members-only perks** available on our website. These perks include access to:

- Case consultation groups
- Networking opportunities
- A repository of training opportunities in behavioral gerontology
- Continuing education opportunities
- Online blog and forum
- Training video
- Resources and support

**Register online today!**

# SPRING SPOTLIGHT:

---

## Education and Research Opportunities in Behavioral Gerontology

We've asked some of the leading researchers in the field to share more information about their research and training programs.

### **Dr. Jonathon Baker: Western Michigan University**

Dr. Baker's research in behavioral gerontology focuses on clinical applications of behavior analysis with older adults with neurocognitive disorder. His areas of focus include functional analysis, function-based interventions, preference assessments, reinforcer assessments, and assessing and re-teaching verbal behavior. This research naturally extends to staff and caregiver training. At Western Michigan University, Dr. Baker trains masters and doctoral level students across these areas. Due to the fact that many aging settings offer limited opportunities for consistent BACB experience, Dr. Baker supplements the aging clinical applications with training working with adults and older adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. As such, students are trained across a variety of clinical applications and populations. However, most research is focused in aging settings. Current lines of research include the continued development of assessments for, and subsequent development of interventions to remediate, language deficits associated with neurocognitive disorder and/or stroke. Additionally, Dr. Baker and his students continue to develop and refine training packages that can be provided in aging settings to help caregivers become more effective at identifying preferences and making them readily available, with the goal of enhancing the quality of life for all aging individuals.



## Education & Research Opportunities

---

### **Dr. Jeffrey Buchanan: Minnesota State University**

Dr. Jeffrey Buchanan is a Professor of Psychology at Minnesota State University, Mankato. He received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Nevada, Reno. The overarching theme of his research concerns improving the quality of life of older adults, particularly those with neurocognitive disorders, and their caregivers. More specifically, he conducts research related to the impact of elderspeak on older adults, the use of stimulus preference assessment with cognitively impaired individuals, age-related microaggressions, how normal development in older adulthood is pathologized by younger adults, instruction types and their effect on compliance with instructions in individuals with severe cognitive impairment, and the use of behavioral interventions for people with neurocognitive disorders. He has published work in outlets such as the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, *Behavior Modification*, *The Gerontologist*, *Clinical Gerontologist*, and the *Journal of Aging Studies*. He had also edited special issues related to behavioral gerontology in *Behavior Therapy* (2011) as well as *Behavior Analysis: Research and Practice* (2018).

Dr. Buchanan is the Director of the Clinical Psychology (Master of Arts) Program at MSU, Mankato. The distinguishing feature of our program is the emphasis on preparing students for advanced study at the doctoral level. We are proud of our long history of successfully placing students in doctoral programs in clinical and school psychology as well as applied behavior analysis. In addition, our program emphasizes developing research skills and our faculty regularly publish and present their work. Finally, our program focuses on teaching evidence-based assessment and intervention techniques rooted in behavior analytic and cognitive behavioral theories. Please see our website for more information: [Clinical Psychology \(MA\) | Minnesota State University, Mankato \(mnsu.edu\)](https://www.mnsu.edu/clinical-psychology).

## Education & Research Opportunities

---

### **Dr. Leilani Feliciano: University of Colorado Colorado Springs**

Dr. Leilani Feliciano joined the faculty at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs in 2007. She is a Clinical Psychologist by training and specializes in both geropsychology and behavioral medicine. She is a full professor and has served as the Director of Clinical Training for the Psychology Department since 2017. Dr. Feliciano teaches a number of courses at both the undergraduate and graduate level and supervises a clinical practicum rotation through the UCCS Aging Center.

In addition to her roles as an educator and clinical supervisor, Dr. Feliciano maintains an active research program, mentoring graduate and undergraduate students within her lab. Her research program broadly targets the intersection between mental and physical health, cognition, and aging. Specifically, Dr. Feliciano's primary research interest is in studying and applying behavioral interventions for clinical problems and mental disorders in midlife and older adulthood, an area known as behavioral gerontology. Specific areas of interest include late-life depression, sleep disturbances, managing co-morbid psychological and medical problems, and behavioral problems associated with dementia. She has published a number of studies related to behavioral gerontology including assessing preferences in older adults with dementia, interventions to reduce 'agitated' behaviors in older adults with dementia, and behavioral interventions to manage health behaviors in middle-aged and older adults.

#### About the University of Colorado Colorado Springs program:

Established in 2004, the UCCS Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program has two major areas of study including Geropsychology and Trauma. The Geropsychology area of study follows the Pikes Peak Model of Competencies in Geropsychology. As such, the program trains students to be both scientists, as well as clinicians. Students graduate with competencies in mental health diagnosis, assessment, and intervention for adults and older adults, and in basic and applied research on the psychological functioning of adults and aging individuals. Upon completion of the program, students are prepared to work in a range of settings, including clinical practices, hospitals, nursing homes, academia, research institutes, and as consultants to a wide variety of housing and social service providers to adults and older adults. Students within Dr. Feliciano's research lab graduate with experience in applied research and exposure to a range of clinical and research tools (e.g., single case design, group design, meta-analysis, research using online crowdsourcing platforms).





# CALL FOR BG SIG BLOG POSTS

We want to hear from our members about their experiences working, studying, and researching in the field!

Contact us if you want to write a blog post for our BG SIG Blog!

## 2022 BG SIG Committee

---



**DR. ZOE LUCOCK**  
CHAIR



**DR. CLAUDIA DROSSEL**  
PAST CHAIR



**JACQUELINE PACHIS**  
PUBLICITY OFFICER



**SAMANTHA ZOHR**  
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY



**HANNAH STEINUNN  
STEINGRÍMSDÓTTIR**  
INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE