



MASSABA 11TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MAY 14, 2021

5 CEU's AVAILABLE FOR BCBAs, INCLUDING SUPERVISION AND ETHICS CEUs

THE ONLINE EVENT WILL INCLUDE:

8:45 AM – PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BY DR. ROBERT K. ROSS

9:00 – 9:50 AM: MORNING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

THE LATEST IN AUTISM CLAPTRAP AND WHY SCIENCE IS LOSING
DR. STUART VYSE

10:00-10:50 AM – THE RIGHT TO EFFECTIVE SUPERVISION

DR. LINA SLIM & KASEY E. GERHART

11:00-11:50 AM – BEYOND BASIC BEHAVIORAL INTERVIEWING:

USING OBM STRATEGIES TO DISCOVER STAR PERFORMERS FOR YOUR ABA ORGANIZATION
SHANNON BIAGI

11:50-1:00 PM – LUNCH

1:00-1:50 PM – DESIGNING RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE PROGRAMS:

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

VINCENT LAMARCA & JENNIFER LAMARCA

2:00-2:50 PM – ETHICAL BEHAVIOR ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING SCIENCE AND COMBATING MISCONCEPTIONS ONLINE

DR. ROBERT K. ROSS

REGISTER AT: [HTTPS://WWW.MASSABA.NET](https://www.massaba.net)



9:00 – 9:50 AM: Morning Keynote Address

THE LATEST IN AUTISM CLAPTRAP AND WHY SCIENCE IS LOSING

DR. STUART VYSE

This talk will outline some recent developments in the pseudoscientific treatment of autism. Despite suffering many blows in the 1990s, Facilitated Communication (FC) and its newer variants are still widely used and appear to be growing in popularity. Undoubtedly other unsupported methods will emerge in the future. I will report on some successes and failures in the current effort to promote evidence-based practices and will offer some thoughts on why science appears to be losing the fight against pseudoscience in autism treatment.



Stuart Vyse is a behavioral scientist and writer. His book, *BELIEVING IN MAGIC: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SUPERSTITION* (Oxford) won the William James Book Award of the American Psychological Association and has been translated into Japanese, German, and Romanian. His book, *GOING BROKE: WHY AMERICANS (STILL) CAN'T HOLD ON TO THEIR MONEY* (Oxford) was released in an updated edition in 2018, and his latest book, *SUPERSTITION: A VERY SHORT INTRODUCTION* (Oxford, 2020), was published in February. Since 2015 he has written the "Behavior & Belief" column for *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine, where he is a contributing editor. His other writings for the general public have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Time*, and *Observer*. He holds BA and MA degrees in English Literature from Southern Illinois University and MA and PhD degrees in Psychology from the

University of Rhode Island. He taught at Providence College, the University of Rhode Island, and Connecticut College. He is a fellow of the Association for Psychological Science and of the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry.



MORNING WORKSHOP 10:00-10:50 AM

THE RIGHT TO EFFECTIVE SUPERVISION

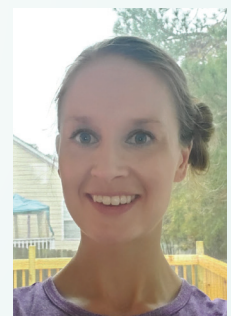
DR. LINA M. SLIM & KASEY E. GERHART

Trainees and supervisees receiving supervision are involved in their own behavior change procedures, and hence have the right for the most effective supervision procedures, delivered by a competent supervisor. Behavior analysts seeking to oversee trainees and supervisees must follow the BACB® requirements prior to providing supervision. The Supervisory Training Curriculum Outline 2.0 includes guidelines of best practice for supervising a trainee or supervisee. Although training for supervision is outlined, competencies addressing supervisor skill repertoires are incomplete and ongoing oversight of the supervision process is lacking. Behavior analysts have the right to receive effective and ongoing supervision to ensure improved quality of health and education for all those served. This presentation will (1) offer considerations to transform the provision of supervision by elevating the standards of performance of supervisors and execution of supervision in the field, and (2) introduce the Behavior Analysis SIG on Supervision (BASIGS) a newly approved ABAI SIG and its role in advocating for exemplary training of Behavior Analysts as supervisors and elevating the standards of performance and execution of supervision in the field.



Dr. Lina Slim, is a dually certified SLP & BCBA-D with over 30 years-experience, specializing in the diagnosis and management of children with autism, neurodevelopmental and behavioral disorders, and apraxia. She is Founding Executive Director of ASAP – A Step Ahead Program, LLC, since 2004. Dr. Slim is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (TCSP), ABA Online Program, and Seton Hall University, Masters in ABA Program. Dr. Slim's clinical and research interests focus on disseminating best practices in the application of the science of behavior analysis, training staff to gain competencies in the application of behavior learning principles, empowering families with the knowledge and skills necessary to advocate for implementation of best practices for their children, and promoting a culture that embraces interprofessional education and collaborative practices, practices that embrace cultural and linguistic sensitivity and responsiveness, and have a family centered approach. Dr. Slim presents and consults nationally and internationally, in the areas of autism, apraxia, speech-language assessment and interventions, evidence-based practices, parent and staff training, and interprofessional education and collaborative practice, and has published peer-reviewed research. Dr. Slim is the recipient of the 2005 Children Empowerment Award, the 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 ASHA ACE award, and the 2014 New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSHA) Distinguished Clinical Achievement Award. She is Chair of NJSHA Interprofessional Autism Conference (IPAC), Board of Directors Member of the Association for Science in Autism Treatment (ASAT), Co-Chair of the NJSHA-NJABA Collaborative Practice Group, Chief Communication Officer Liaison of Behavior Analysis and Supervision SIG (BASIGS) to the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI), Board Member of ABAC, Inc., Internal Continuing Education Committee (ICEC), Executive Member of the Speech Pathology and Applied Behavior Analysis (SPABA) ABAI SIG, Chief Communication Officer Liaison to ABAI for the Behavior Analysis SIG on Supervision, and the BACB Subject Matter Expert on the Item Review Committee. Dr. Slim is an ABAI approved coordinator for the Versified Course Sequence (VCS) for the BCBA certificate, at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC), Child and Youth Psychiatry – Mental Health Training Institute. Dr. Slim is a full member of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB), NJSHA, NJABA, ABAI, and the Association of Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA).

Kasey E. Gerhart, MA, BCBA has been certified since 2017 and working in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis since 2014. Hailing from the east coast, she received her undergraduate degree in Secondary Education with an emphasis in social studies from the University of North Florida in 2009. After learning about the ability to work with children with developmental disabilities, she became an RBT in 2014 after her husband who is active duty in the Army returned home from his second deployment near Fort Stewart, Georgia. By the fall of 2016, she graduated with her Master's in Applied Behavior Analysis from Ball State University. She was able to receive mentoring from several BCBAs and was trained to work with a wide range of clients, families, and staff. Beginning as a direct service provider to clients from the ages of 2 to 20 years of age, she was able to move onto becoming a training and development specialist, a supervising analyst, and a clinical director. Since then she has continued her education through personal studies focused on the act and process of supervision, training, and organizational behavior management. Her passions include focusing on staff training, including both RBTs and trainees accruing hours to focus on improving the lives of those they serve.





AFTERNOON WORKSHOP 11:00-11:50 AM

BEYOND BASIC BEHAVIORAL INTERVIEWING: USING OBM STRATEGIES TO DISCOVER STAR PERFORMERS FOR YOUR ABA ORGANIZATION

SHANNON BIAGI, MS, BS

Employee selection has often been the focus of human resource professionals and industrial/organizational psychologists in mainstream businesses and is not often considered one of the practice areas of organizational behavior management (OBM) professionals. Historically, the struggle has been that OBM practitioners (and behavior analysts in general) require direct observation and data to make educated decisions, and during the hiring process, decisions often need to be made based on self-report from both employees and their references. However, this need not be the case. This presentation will focus on concrete strategies that organizations can implement to improve their employee selection process to ensure candidates have the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities for the position, are a good cultural fit, and increase overall employee retention and satisfaction in ABA organizations.



Shannon Biagi is the CEO and founder of Chief Motivating Officers, LLC, an organization dedicated to improving the world at work one behavior change agent at a time. Through her work as an organizational behavior management (OBM) practitioner and educator, she has enacted positive behavior change in numerous organizations worldwide, and has influenced the professional development of thousands of leaders through speaking opportunities, training engagements, performance management solutions, and executive coaching/mentorship.



AFTERNOON WORKSHOP 1:00-1:50 PM

DESIGNING RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE PROGRAMS: PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

VINCENT LAMARCA & JENNIFER LAMARCA

Initial difficulty with receptive language is common for some children with autism. General guidelines for teaching receptive language have been published (Grow & LeBlanc, 2013). But what to do when all else fails? This presentation will highlight the potential of 21 unique strategies that have been effective in teaching receptive language skills to some children (LaMarca & LaMarca, 2018). The purpose of this presentation is to provide behavior analysts with a robust, systematic means of problem-solving receptive language difficulties.



Vincent LaMarca, M.A., BCBA. Vince has been practicing as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst since 2005. Over the course of his career, he has helped guide programs in early intensive behavior intervention, life skills programs, and transitions to adulthood. Research interests include: encouraging individualized ABA programming to promote rapid progress and advancing a conceptually systematic understanding of ABA teaching procedures.



Jennifer LaMarca, M.A., BCBA. Jenn has practiced as a Behavior Analyst since 1997. She received her Master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis from Ball State

University and gained experience at one of Dr. Lovaas' Young Autism Project replication sites. Her expertise is in early intensive behavior intervention. In 2016 the Arc of Indiana recognized her contributions to children with autism with the Kathleen Clark Professional Service Award.

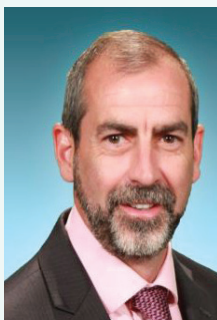


AFTERNOON WORKSHOP 2:00-2:50 PM

ETHICAL BEHAVIOR ON SOCIAL MEDIA: THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING SCIENCE AND COMBATING MISCONCEPTIONS ONLINE

DR. ROBERT K. ROSS, Ed.D, BCBA-D, LABA

The rise of BCBA's using social media to networks and collaborating to access shared resources is a positive development. However, with this increased access to networking and a wider range of behavior analysis voices we are seeing a new phenomenon. The rise of BCBA social media influencers and the provision of a platform for those outside of behavior analysis who are seeking to engage with us. Some of these voices seek to access support from the profession while others seek to critique and in some cases, to end the application of behavior analysis in general and in autism treatment specifically. This talk will focus on how this change has now risen to the level of serious threat to our field. Specific examples of how some within our field have and are, continuing to contribute to anti-science and anti ABA messaging on social media. Ethical responsibilities of BCBA's on social media will be reviewed. Specific actions that can and should be taken to both improve the quality of the services we deliver and ensure that we are listening to important stakeholders voices will be reviewed.



Dr. Robert K. Ross is the Chief Clinical Officer at Beacon ABA Services of Massachusetts and Connecticut. He received his Master's in Applied Behavior Analysis from Northeastern University and his Doctorate from Nova Southeastern University. Dr. Ross oversees all research activity at Beacon. He also provides direct and consultation services to families, schools and educational programs throughout the U.S. and Canada. He is a founding member and current Past President of the Massachusetts Association for Applied Behavior Analysis. Dr. Ross is also the President of the Autism Special Interest Group (SIG) of ABAI, and has served three terms on the ABAI Practice Board.