

# Rhode Island Association for Behavior Analysis Conference

## Event Description

The Rhode Island Association for Behavior Analysis (RIABA) presents a half-day behavior analysis conference with three speakers and a poster session. The event will take place from 2-7 pm on March 23, 2024 in Salve Regina University's O'Hare Academic Building.

## Program

### 2:00 pm Applications of Contingency Management to Combat Problematic Drug Use, Unemployment, Poverty, and HIV.

Contingency management is an operant intervention with demonstrated effectiveness in promoting healthy behavior such as exercise, medication adherence, and drug abstinence. In the most basic arrangement, contingency management procedures arrange reinforcing events contingent upon objective evidence of the occurrence of target behavior. For example, a contingency management procedure targeting drug abstinence may arrange the delivery of monetary incentives each time that a participant provides regularly scheduled urine samples that are negative for illicit drugs. The present talk will describe the operation of contingency management procedures, the general effectiveness of contingency management procedures, and recent work that has used contingency management to combat problematic drug use, unemployment, poverty, and HIV.

Presented by Forrest Toegel, Ph.D., BCBA-D



Dr. Forrest Toegel is an Assistant Professor and the Director of the Northern Center for Learning and Health at Northern Michigan University. He earned his doctorate in Psychology at West Virginia University in 2018 and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine from 2019 to 2021. In the last 5 years, Forrest has published 3 book chapters and 23 peer-reviewed articles on his research aimed at understanding basic principles of behavior and how those principles can be applied to promote positive and long-lasting behavior change. His work has been published in 15 journals focused on behavior analysis, psychology, medicine, and public health. He is on the board of editors for the Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior and has served as a guest associate editor and reviewer for several other behavior-analytic journals. Forrest is an investigator on two ongoing randomized controlled clinical trials funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute totaling over 5 million dollars in research funds and is part of a team that was recently awarded over 400 thousand dollars from the National Science Foundation to bring specialized equipment to Northern Michigan University's Department of Psychological Science.

### 3:00 pm The DIY FA

Have you tried the new FA? You know the one where you're the designer? This presentation will describe the logic of designing a functional analysis (FA), how to navigate the process amongst the slew of literature available and why terms like "standard FA" are problematic. Within the scope of the FA process, examples of how descriptive assessment methods (open-ended interviews and direct observation) can be used to develop an efficient and individualized FA will be provided and an emphasis will be placed on clinical decision making during the FA design and modification process. The importance of staying true to our science via individualization, data-based decisions, and a true analysis methodology will be discussed.

Presented by Candice Colón, PhD, BCBA, LABA



Dr. Colón serves as the Director of Research and oversees peer review and continuing education at LEARN. She received her doctoral degree from Western New England University and a Master of science degree in Applied Behavior Analysis from Northeastern University. She specializes in the assessment and treatment of severe behavior for children and adolescents and has experience providing and overseeing clinical and training practices in insurance-based home and community settings as well as private school and residential settings. In addition, Dr. Colón has served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Bay Path University and is a Co-Founder of Resilience Skill building, an executive function skills coaching company. Her research interests include the treatment of automatically maintained behavior, treatment/procedural integrity, training and professional development practices, the assessment and treatment of interfering behavior and designing such procedures to be efficient, socially valid and practical across settings. Her research is published in peer-reviewed journals such as the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis (JABA) and Behavioral Interventions. She has presented at national and regional conferences and also serves as a guest reviewer for journals such as The Analysis of Verbal behavior (TAVB), Behavioral Interventions, and JABA. Since 2017, Dr. Colón has also served on the BABAT Board of Directors to support Massachusetts Professionals in Behavior Analysis. In her spare time, she enjoys running, coaching track & field, reading, and spending time with her husband, daughter, and their two dogs.

### 4:00 pm Toilet Training for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Our 50-Year History and Beyond

Toilet training is a widely conducted but often understudied area in behavior analysis. Azrin & Foxx (1971) is the seminal article on toilet training in our field. While they set the groundwork for a behavioral approach to toilet training for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, we have decades of research since that has refined our approach to toilet training. Current behavior analytic toilet training focuses on reinforcement-based procedures, minimizing the use of intensive or punishment-based procedures (e.g., Greer et al., 2016; Perez et al., 2020) which aligns more closely with our ethical standards as behavior analysts (code 2.15, BACB, 2020). This presentation will focus on past toilet-training procedures, current trends and practices, and future directions that researchers and practitioners should consider.

Presented by Brandon C. Perez, Ph.D., BCBA-D



Brandon C. Perez, Ph.D., BCBA-D is an assistant professor in the Department of Special and Early Education at Northern Illinois University (NIU). Brandon graduated from the University of Florida where he earned his Ph.D. in psychology with an emphasis in behavior analysis under the mentorship of Tim Vollmer, Ph.D., BCBA-D. At NIU, he teaches courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including several of the courses required for the M.S.Ed in special education with a specialization in behavior analysis, along with serving as the BCBA program coordinator. His research interests are primarily centered around working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder and include toilet training and the assessment and treatment of severe problem behavior. He has published articles in and serves as a reviewer for multiple behavior-analytic journals.

### 5:00 - 7:00 pm Poster Session

Join us for a poster session and social with light refreshments. Research posters on a variety of behavior-analytic topics will be presented in the lobby of the O'Hare academic building. Scan the QR code to the right to submit poster for consideration by February 23rd!



Scan the QR code to the right to register for the conference!

