



Updates From ABAI's Non-U.S.A. Affiliated Chapters

ABA Australia

BY ALAYNA HABERLIN

ABA Australia turned four years old in 2018. Each year, our association has grown both in membership and community involvement. Our organization continually develops new methods to disseminate behavior analysis and lay the groundwork to make more systemic changes within funding agencies.

Our National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) committee has taken on the monumental task of ensuring that ABA services receive equal consideration in government funding allocation. They are addressing this by focusing on seven tasks to help make funding for behavior analytic services easily available for those who desire it. One of their big accomplishments last year was the submission of a paper to the Joint Standing Committee of NDIS about the provision of services under the NDIS Early Childhood Early Intervention Approach. Currently, they are close to publishing a position paper on early intervention services for children with autism spectrum disorder. We are excited to see what this amazing group will accomplish in 2018.

Less than a decade ago, finding a behavior analyst was like finding a needle in a haystack. Now we have 161 members of ABA Australia and 71 certified behavior analysts in this country. We are growing and so is our voice.

As our community of behavior analysts grows, we are seeing the demand for high-quality behavior analytic services continue to grow. However, meeting this demand is a challenge so we must continue to increase the number of behavior analysts and quality training institutions.

Our board of directors has changed this year as well. We welcomed two new directors, Dr. Tessa Taylor as president elect, and Dr. Max Jones as head of committees. We are delighted to have their expertise and passion on the board.

Last year, we were excited to become an affiliated chapter of ABAI and were fortunate enough to have two board members present at the ABAI annual convention. Dr. Alayna Haberlin and Mrs. Michelle Furminger traveled to Denver, Colorado, last May to attend an affiliated chapter training and promote ABA Australia at the Expo. At the Expo, they had a constant stream of behavior analysts interested in learning about ABA in Australia while tasting Tim Tams and Vegemite. It was great to see so many people excited about what we are doing and a growing interest about behavior analysis Down Under.

Finally, we held our Second Annual ABA Australia Conference last November in Sydney. It was a great success, and we are looking forward to seeing everyone again in Brisbane this July!



ABA España

BY JAVIER VIRUES-ORTEGA

The past year has been an eventful period for ABA España. After a three-year process, we launched the Spanish version of *Applied Behavior Analysis* by Cooper, Heron, and Heward. A group of over 20 professional behavior analysts and collaborators have brought about this exciting

development (some are pictured in Figure 1). The e-book version of the Spanish edition of "The White Book" is now available at abapublicaciones.com for all to enjoy. We expect that this new resource will make a difference in education and training of future Spanish-speaking behavior analysts.



Figure 1. Representatives from ABA España pose with a translated copy of *Applied Behavior Analysis*.

ABA España hosted the II Summer School of the European Association for Behavior Analysis in Cadiz (Spain). The conference was a big success, with all seats sold out. Professionals and students from over 10 countries attended, some of them via streaming. We enjoyed workshops and keynote addresses from many distinguished Spanish and international behavior analysts, including Dr. Greg Hanley, Dr. Neil Martin, Dr. Per Holth, Dr. Eric Larsson, Dr. Ricardo Pellon, Dr. Jose Navarro, and Dr. Chris Podlesnik, to mention just a few.

We have continued our path toward developing user-friendly tools for practitioners and researchers. This year we created an app for iOS devices, Big Eye Observer. The app is one of the most versatile tools for conducting behavioral observation in applied and research settings. The app is capable of recording time-stamped events and computing most relevant behavioral dimensions for a range of target behaviors. We expect to more widely advertise Big Eye Observer on social media over the upcoming months.

We continue our pioneering work in training and education for Spanish-speaking students interested in applied behavior analysis. More than half of the students we have served over the years by way of our approved course sequence are monolingual students coming from low-income countries, a population that would be unlikely to access quality education in applied behavior analysis by mainstream channels. Partially due to this line of work, Spanish is now the second most popular language after English among BACB exam takers. In order to expand our reach even further, we expect to present our new RBT course in 2018. As part of the preparatory work toward this aim, this year we facilitated the translation of the RBT task list into Spanish.

If you are interested in learning more about ABA España and its activities, visit our website or check us out on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.

- Web: aba-elearning.com
- Facebook: [@abaspanainfo](https://www.facebook.com/abaspanainfo)
- Instagram: [@abaespana](https://www.instagram.com/abaespana)
- Twitter: [@ABA_Spain](https://twitter.com/ABA_Spain)

ABA India

BY SRIDHAR ARAVAMUDHAN AND SMITA AWASTHI

The Association for Behavior Analysis India enjoyed a year of reflection in 2018. Dissemination efforts by the chapter in previous years have helped immensely in spreading the awareness of ABA across the length and breadth of the country. Many more students are motivated to study behavior analysis and appear for certification exams, with most continuing to choose the field of autism for their careers.

We are delighted to share that for the first time a question presented by our chapter was raised in the question-hour session in Parliament. The question was on the need for recognizing behavior analysis in the country, and was sent to the relevant government ministry for a response. ABA India is now drafting a response to the ministry's reply. This was a big achievement, as it has generated discussion on behavior analysis at the government level.

The Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP), in its guidelines for autism, has recommended that interventions for autism should be specific and evidence based, with ABA mentioned. We are also delighted to share that *Developmental Pediatrics Today*, a monthly e-newsletter of the IAP Chapter of Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics, has invited Dr. Smita Awasthi, founder of ABA India, to write an article each month to bring awareness of applied behavior analysis to the pediatric community. This is also a significant development for the field in India.

The challenges for ABA India as a chapter and ABA as a field of practice remain high. First, ABA continues to be under resourced in terms of both funds and volunteers. A handful of committed professionals have very high

demands on their time from their clinical practice, leaving little for networking with peer groups, arranging chapter meetings, and taking up public dissemination tasks. Second, the rising knowledge about ABA and a shortage of professionals (India has only around 37 behavior analysts for a population of 1 billion!) has led to special educators and para-professional starting clinics claiming to do ABA. There are challenges associated with going after such unethical practices legally, and so community education options need to be explored. Third, the contingencies for a community of behavioral experts to thrive is just emerging in India and need to be given impetus and all possible support from well-meaning behavior analysts.

To address these challenges, ABA India is planning some important initiatives. The first was a "meeting of minds" retreat in June 2018. Behavior analysts from across the country were encouraged to come together, share their experiences with the application of science through research paper presentations, and also contribute ideas to build a thriving, positive, strong, and growing behavior analytic community in India. Additionally, it has been proposed that a core, working group be formed to address the problem of non-credentialed para professionals claiming to provide ABA services. Every such instance brought to the attention of the core group will be addressed through direct parent education in the specific locations. Behavior analysts across India will also be encouraged to increase the pool of credentialed frontline behavior therapists, as this could help check the spread of a non-behavioral frontline forces. The problem of funding and shortage of people elude easy fixes. These, we believe, could be managed better by leveraging the extended circle of contacts of behavior analysts to contribute funds and volunteer time. In summary, there are exciting times ahead for ABA India as the ground is getting prepared for the field to grow, flourish, and serve the society in India.

ABA Saudi Arabia

BY MONA ALHADDAD

ABA Saudi Arabia was accepted as an affiliated chapter of ABAI on May 31, 2013. Four years since the establishment of the chapter, ABA Saudi Arabia is taking responsibility to commit to its mission statement.

ABA Saudi Arabia was created with the mission to disseminate information about the science of applied behavior analysis and support the development of and access to behavior analytic services for people in need. To accomplish this mission, the chapter seeks to support the development of graduate opportunities for appropriate candidates within Saudi Arabia, plan and support continuing education for practicing behavior analysts, and advocate for the right to community-based access to behavior-analytic services through governmental and regulatory channels.

The founding and current officers are Mona Al-Haddad, MEd, BCBA, president; Faisal Alnemary, Ph.D., BCBA,