



The  
**ONTABA**  
**Analyst**  
Winter 2015

In this issue

Save the Date!

2015 Annual Conference Update  
Page 1

Conference 2014 Recap  
Page 2

Call Out for Satellite Conference  
Funding Proposals  
Page 3

From the President's Desk  
Page 4

The Cusp \*NEW\*  
Page 5

Media Response  
Committee \*NEW\*  
Page 8

ONTABA Members  
Page 8

## ONTABA 2015 Annual Conference November 16 - 17, 2015

Metro Toronto Convention Centre  
North Building  
Rooms 205 & 206

Have your say—suggest a speaker on the ONTABA Facebook page, or wait for the speaker suggestion survey, coming soon!



## Want to submit an ad for an upcoming issue of the ONTABA Analyst?

The subsequent issue release months for 2015 will be: **July, October**

Starting in 2016, the Analyst will be released quarterly:

**January, April, July, October**

Interested? Contact us: [newsletter@ontaba.org](mailto:newsletter@ontaba.org)

# ONTABA Conference 2014 Recap

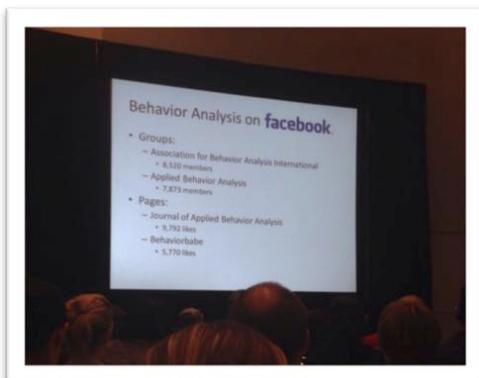


In spite of the December date and the freakish snowstorm that descended upon the city, the turn out was amazing-Thursday was sold out! The total number of registered attendees neared 500, a new ONTABA record!

## Biggest. One. Ever!

### INVITED SPEAKERS

As expected, our three esteemed invited speakers, Drs. Aubrey C. Daniels, Raymond G. Miltenberger, and William H. Ahearn knocked it out of the park and evoked a lot of discussion among the attendees.



### AGM

Admittedly, for me, the AGM *used* to be an S<sup>D</sup> for an extra long lunch off-site, but with all the exciting things going on in ABA right here in Ontario, a lot of us are taking lunch to go! The AGM this year certainly did not disappoint.

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

There was one agonizing feature to the conference this year...choosing which concurrent session to attend! The schedule was full of excellent presentations and panel discussions from our very own homegrown talent. Big shout outs to all the presenters/authors:

- Nicole Luke, Urvashi Sirur, Rebecca Logan
- Jennifer L. Cook, John T. Rapp, Kimberly A. Schulze, Tammy J. Frazer
- Marc J. Lanovaz
- Lisa Orsi, Ross Violo, Louis Busch, Albert Malkin
- Karen Chartier, Olivia Ng, Nicole McGowan, Tanya Makela, Melissa Legree, Maurice Feldman
- Dorothy Griffiths, Rosemary Condillac, Melissa Legree
- Pamela Shea, Merran Campbell, Natalie Quaile
- Bruce Linder, Joanne Salameh
- Jacob Daar, Jordan Belisle, Sarah Dunkel-Jackson, Mark Dixon, Stephanie Negrelli
- Rosemary Condillac, Julie Koudys, Kendra Thomson, Kimberley Zonneveld
- Kim Trudeau-Craig, Meaghen Shaver, Sheelagh Jamieson, Kimberly Bain, Robin Hicks

## POSTER SESSION

It was a sea of behaviour analytic magic. A total of 41 posters! Even if one was just there for the wine (or the cheese, or both), one could not help but be impressed by the breadth and quality of the work. Thank you to all the poster presenters—way to represent!

## ONTABA AWARD RECIPIENTS

Although not quite as dramatic as the Grammy Awards, two dedicated clinicians were recognized by their peers for their laudable contributions to the field:

Excellence in Academic Achievement in Behaviour Analysis:  
Drew McNamara

Excellence in the Application of Behaviour Analysis: Ross Violo  
Congratulations!



## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Behaviour Social

Fionn MacCools never had a cooler bunch of behaviour analysts at one event before. Good fun and great turn out... we'd tell you more, but what happens at the social *stays* at the social. Hope to see you there next year!



## Call for Satellite Conference Funding Proposals!

The Satellite Conference Committee is responsible for the development and coordination of co-sponsored conferences with community-based agencies and educational institutions in the field of Behaviour Analysis. The purpose of this committee is to co-sponsor conferences, of a behaviour analytic nature, across the province of Ontario. Submissions are now being accepted. Please visit the ONTABA website to download an application form.

For more information, please contact:  
[conference@ontaba.org](mailto:conference@ontaba.org)

## From the President's Desk

Hello from the 2014/2015 ONTABA Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors of ONTABA is off to a busy and productive start to the year with initiatives flying out of the mouths of our eager board members, onto our minutes, and into action! We've also been hard at work to follow through with our directions for the year based on our well-attended Annual General Meeting. A sampling of our tasks is offered below.

All of our committees will be working hard to update and create materials to assist with carryover of tasks from year-to-year and help ensure the functioning of future boards.

We are working to continue our efforts to increase access to behavior analytic events and information across the province. Keep an eye out for announcements for submissions for co-sponsorship of ONTABA Satellite events. Your organization will have the opportunity to co-host an event with ONTABA. We will also be working with fellow Association for Behavior Analysis International affiliate chapter, the Quebec Association for Behaviour Analysis, to bring a conference to the Eastern region of Ontario in 2016. More details will follow once they are firmed up.

As always, our Website committee is hard at work ensuring that our members' web experience is as smooth as possible. This year will be the year of automatic email updates and fillable forms! We can almost feel your excitement right now! Also, keep an eye out for presentation materials from last year's conference.

Dissemination and advocacy for behavior analysis is a goal of this board. In order to increase ONTABA's media presence, a media response committee has been struck together (read below for further information). This is an exciting new venture for ONTABA, which will allow us to voice the issues of

importance for behavior analysts in Ontario to, what we hope will be a broad audience.

Our membership committee will try to keep the momentum going from our record membership numbers of last year! They will be out presenting to your organizations throughout the year and will be working towards increasing membership benefits.

Finally, our board has made continued efforts to maintain contact with ministries and government officials in order to advocate for professional regulation and recognition of behaviour analysis. I'm happy to say that our efforts will pick up steam this year! Through a series of meetings with Ministry of Child and Youth Services representatives, the Pathway Group, and members of the Professional Regulation Committee (PRC), we will set our wheels in motion to move forward with our initiatives toward regulation. The PRC will be making announcements regarding its plans shortly.

On the whole, we're off to great start to the year at the board! We will continue to look for input and support of the membership, which is much appreciated! Questions and suggestions are welcome at [contact@ontaba.org](mailto:contact@ontaba.org).

We'll see you at our annual conference, satellite events, social events, and of course on social media!

Best,

Albert Malkin



# The Cusp

**Behavioural cusp** · *n.* 1 | be.hav.iour cusp | /bi'hei-vjər klʌsp/

“...any behaviour change that brings the organism's behaviour into contact with new contingencies that have even more far-reaching consequences...a cusp is a special instance of behavior change, a change crucial to what can come next.” (Rosales-Ruiz & Baer, 1997, p. 533)

## Behaviour Analysis in Ontario: The people behind the work.

Interviews by Lesley Barreira

### Dr. Franciso “Pancho” J. Barrera

Pancho is a well-respected Psychologist with over 30 years experience in Behaviour Analysis. He has mentored dozens of clinicians along the way and made many valuable contributions to the field, particularly in the area of functional analysis for severe behaviour problems.



**How did you become interested in ABA?** My mother was a social anthropologist so naturally I became interested in people, cultures, and customs. All through my childhood and teen years I was also very interested in science. I attended the University of Vera Cruz in Mexico and I was initially in Physics but it was not a great fit for me. At that time, the Psychology department was being overhauled and it was shifting from a psychodynamic to a behaviour analytic approach. The department invited American speakers to come and lecture, so I had the chance to learn from top people from the field like Todd Risley, Sidney Bijou, and Donald Baer. I was the first graduate from the Behavioural Psychology program. I was invited by one of the speakers from North Carolina to attend the doctorate program there and at some point I had to choose between experimental and developmental psychology. I was interested in both, but I chose experimental.

**How did you end up in Ontario?** After completing my doctorate, I decided to pursue a post-doc at McMaster University. I worked with Herb Jenkins,

he was a “pigeon man”. I had the chance to teach and run a lab there.

**How did you get the name the nickname “Pancho”?** In Mexican culture, Pancho is a common nickname for the given name Francisco. **So no crazy story behind it?** (Laughs). No.

**Our last names are very similar; I’ve heard that people think that we are related. How do you respond to that?** (Laughs). Actually, I proudly tell people that we refer to each other “hija” (daughter in Spanish) and “dad”; I think it’s funny.

**You’ve made a lot of contributions to the field. Do you have a particular career highlight?** Probably my tenure at Southwestern Regional Centre. We had a great team and we had tons of referrals; it was a high adrenaline job in which I learned many things including creative first aid! I learned a lot about people with self-injury and also about injuries themselves from one of our physicians who was a Forensic Pathologist. Our work earned the team awards and nominations and this recognition meant a lot because institutional staff were often looked down upon.

**Any advice for clinicians new to the field?** In Ontario, a lot of young people have come from Autism and they see ABA as a technique; they don’t always see its broader relevance as a science. I would encourage reading about other applications of ABA, attending conferences, or even joining an ABA journal club to open one’s self up to the field. There is a lot of learning to be done and it is a great science—don’t limit yourself. ABA is more than just an instrument for a specific field; one needs to be less insular and be open to learn about how the laws of behaviour rule our lives.

***If you could do it all over again, what would you change in your career path?*** I've really enjoyed my career. I often wonder what it would have been like if I had chosen developmental instead of experimental, but I do work a lot with kids so I kind of ended up there anyways.

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## Sarah Davis

Sarah is relatively new to the field; just over a year out of school, but she is already making an impact. She is an IT at Aisling Discoveries and she is involved in a research project at St. Michael's Hospital looking at the development and utility of a smart phone app for safety skills.



***How did you become interested in ABA?*** Funny story actually, I feel like I fell into it. After graduating from Ottawa University with a degree in Psychology, I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do. I moved to Toronto and I started volunteering at the Geneva Centre for Autism. I got involved in the facilitation of a really great social skills group. Both the facilitators were graduates from the BST program so I looked into it and applied to the program. I knew ABA was definitely for me during my first semester in the BST program. I loved learning about the foundations of our field in the behaviour assessment and ABA principles courses. My first placement was in a school in Jamaica, and that is where I really saw the principles come to life.

***What are your clinical interests?*** Teaching functional living skills using naturalistic teaching approaches.

***Who is your ABA hero?*** Well, I have two: Robert and Lynn Koegel. I recently had the chance to attend their PRT training course and it was amazing.

***Not a lot of people can say that they have a publication under their belt, especially so soon***

***after finishing school! How did you do that?***

A colleague introduced me to a Developmental Paediatrician (Dr. Huber) here in Toronto. We definitely had similar clinical interests and we wanted a chance to collaborate with each other. She offered me the opportunity to work on a grant for innovative technology. The idea to explore safety skills for children came up and it turned into a funded multi-site project. We wrote up the rationale and the design of the app in Mobile Medicine and we are currently working on evaluation. It's a lot of work but it is really exciting to be involved in research.

***What is the strangest response you've received when you've told someone that you're in behaviour analysis?*** (Laughs). Well, my parents think that I'm an EA. On two different occasions someone has said to me something to the effect of "Oh yeah, I've heard of that—you use Tabasco and bribe kids with candies". I guess the misconceptions of behaviour modification are still out there.

***What is your career highlight so far?*** Definitely getting published. I also love being a primary therapist in IBI. It is a huge responsibility but it is also very rewarding.

***Any advice for new people to the field?*** Explore all opportunities and keep your options open. Learn about what came before you. I feel like I can be a better clinician by always learning from my colleagues and supervisors; each person has a different spin and this provides me with opportunities for professional development.

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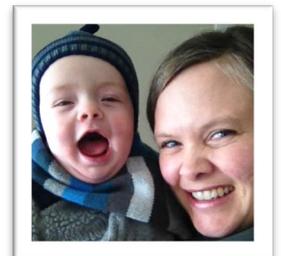
## Meaghen Shaver

Meaghen is the coordinator and full-time professor in the Autism & Behavioural Science Graduate

Certificate Program at St.

Lawrence College. She has

been in the field for almost 15 years, prior to joining the college faculty, Meaghen was an IT and an ST in the Regional Autism Intervention Programs at Pathways for Children & Youth and at CHEO.



**How did you become interested in ABA?** During my undergrad at Queen's University, a Psychology professor told me about a great post-graduate program at St. Lawrence College and my interest was piqued; it was the BST program. I enrolled and it has been my passion ever since.

**Was there a particular moment when you knew ABA was for you?** My first placement in the BST program was in a brain injury rehabilitation facility and that is where I really saw ABA in action—I was sold.

**Who is your ABA hero?** B.F. Skinner of course! Like many others I'm sure, verbal behaviour has had a huge impact on my clinical work. A very close second would be Brian Iwata for his contribution of functional analysis.

**What are your current clinical interests?** At the college right now we have an initiative called CEBRIC, it's a platform for getting students hands-on experience, providing clinical services, giving staff the opportunity to engage in clinical research, and engaging community partners in using ABA. One of several projects we are working on involves a partnership with the Limestone District School Board and we're in the second year of implementation. Our students have the chance to complete curriculum assessments, like the VB-MAPP and the AFLS, in typical school environments and our goal is to improve programming for children with Autism. The amazing thing is that the program is compliant with the Ministry of Education Policy, PPM-140 and we are

getting the chance to show our community partners the utility of ABA and get them excited about it.

**What has been a career highlight so far?** I loved every minute in the Autism intervention programs and I miss that clinical work, it was so rewarding. But in my current role as an educator, I love to ignite interest in students new to the field. Getting the students excited about ABA and about improving the lives of the people they work with is my passion.

**You're a new mommy, has ABA influenced your parenting?** You know I thought that I was going to be teaching my child skills all the time but he has learned so much without any direct teaching at all! It is so amazing to see how much a baby acquires in the first year of life just through contact with natural contingencies.

**Quality supervision is a hot topic as of late. Any advice to clinicians providing supervision?** Whether you're supervising an individual or a team, you have to make sure you provide them with enough reinforcement and not let corrective feedback tip the scales. In my experience, corrective feedback tends to be heavy for front line staff like ITs, but the truth is, they do a lot of good work that may go unacknowledged. A strategy I used when I was an ST was to make sharing success stories a regular part of our team meetings; every Friday, we took the time for each person to share a success from the week and this helped us keep the focus on great work.

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## Newsletter Announcement

We know there is substantial amount of great behaviour analytic work happening across the province. Of course we love to hear about the work but we also want to get to know the people behind the work. **The Cusp** was developed to achieve this goal. It is a new recurring column and we want to feature a cross-section of professionals from our field every issue. Well, how about you? How about one of your colleagues? If you're interested let us know!

newsletter@ontaba.org



*What the? How did we let our ONTABA memberships expire...again!*



## Website Update

Don't see your name in the ONTABA directory? Did your ONTABA membership expire? Would you like to avoid these punishing consequences in the future?

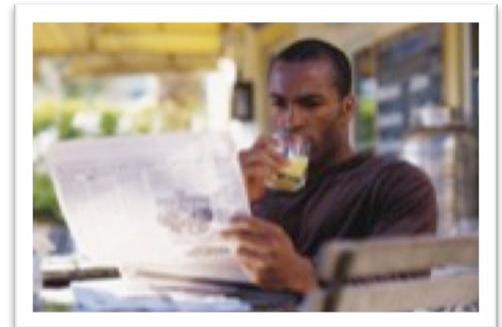
Are you in need of prompts?

Looking for "juicy" job postings?  
How about receiving them by email?

**Log into MY ONTABA on [www.ontaba.org](http://www.ontaba.org) and opt in under the 'settings' tab.**

## New: Media Response Committee

In response to calls from the membership to increase capacity to respond to issues relevant to behaviour analysis in Ontario, the ONTABA Board of Directors has struck the Media Response Committee (MRC). The MRC is made up of 16 volunteer members and chaired by Louis Busch. Currently, the committee is working on a process to identify relevant issues, draft responses that reflect the mission and values of ONTABA, solicit feedback and approval from the Board and advisory panel, and finally to submit to the appropriate media outlet within a reasonable time frame. The committee has identified its first potential issue and will be drafting its first media response for board review this month. Stay tuned!



## ONTABA Members

### Emeritus

Francisco J. Barrera

### Sustaining

Gary Bernfeld  
 Jason Bosett  
 Nancy Freeman  
 Rachel Koffman  
 Tracie Lindblad  
 Don Salmon  
 Wanda Smith  
 Toby Stahlschmidt-Kah  
 Kate Wing  
 Carobeth Zorzos

## ONTABA Board of Directors

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Louis Busch

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Nicole Alphonse

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David Phillips

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Kim Trudeau-Craig  
Kimberley Zonneveld

**Undergraduate Student Rep:**  
Marley Bell-Blake

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Kimberley Zonneveld

**Conference 2015 Chair:**  
Kerry-Anne Robinson & Nicole Alphonse

**Elections & Awards:**  
Marley Bell-Blake

**Media Response (\*NEW\*) Chair:**  
Louis Busch

**Newsletter Chair:**  
Lesley Barreira

**Professional Regulation Committee Chair:**  
Kim Trudeau-Craig

**Public & Community Relations Chair:**  
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**Satellite:**  
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