

ONTABA CONFERENCE 2004

the ONTABA ANALYST



Inside:



**ATLANTIS PAVILION
OCTOBER 28 & 29, 2004**

Featured Presenters:



Dick Malott and Dean L. Fixsen

Ontaba

The Ontario Association for
Behaviour Analysis

An Affiliate Chapter of
The Association for Behavior
Analysis International

Caroll Drummond
Editor/Production Manager/
Submissions

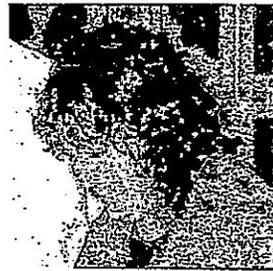
Contents

<i>From the President's Desk</i>	pg. 2	<i>Rosemary Condillac</i>
<i>Committee Updates</i>	pg. 3	<i>Various</i>
<i>Book Review: Overcoming Autism:</i>	pg.4, 5	<i>Helen Penn</i>
<i>The Importance of Partnership</i>	pg. 6	<i>Jonathan A. Weiss</i>
<i>Upcoming Conferences, Workshops, Contacts</i>	pg. 7,8	<i>ONTABA Analyst</i>

- INSERTS:**
- * **ONTABA Conference 2004 Brochure**
 - * **Election Nomination Ballot and Instructions**
 - * **Employment Opportunities: Kinark**

From the President's Desk

Rosemary Condillac
RACK Consulting
ONTABA President

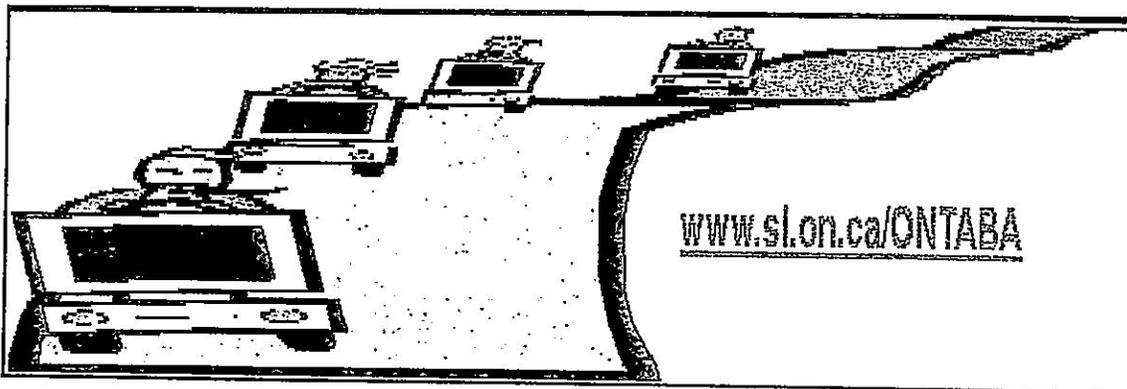


Here in Toronto, we are still waiting for summer to come. We have had a peculiar season, that occurred between Spring and Fall that doesn't fit our operational definition of summer. In fact the data supports this notion, as we have had been about 10 degrees lower than typical for August.

ONTABA has many things to look forward to in the fall. At the top of the list is our annual conference and annual general meeting which will be taking place on October 28th and 29th. The conference committee members have worked hard to produce an exciting line-up of speakers, and we are thrilled to have such a diverse set of topics. We also have our call for nominations, and elections to the board. Please nominate someone who you feel can contribute to the direction of our organization. If you want to join the board, ask someone to nominate you. There was a great interest in the TCP elections, and we hope that we can generate even more interest in the Board Elections.

Many ONTABA members do important research in behavior analysis. I would like to gather information about this for an upcoming article for the ABA newsletter, and would appreciate knowing about current studies, published articles, and manuscripts in preparation. I will be sending out a brief survey by email to gather this information, and hope that you would cut and paste from your c.v. to help me to describe your work to members of ABA International.

Rosemary A. Condillac, Ph.D., C.Psych.



ONTABA

President:
Rosemary Condillac
2003-2004

Past Presidents:
Gerald Bernicky
Bill Kirby
Joel Hundert
Maurice Feldman
Wanda Smith

**Founder and
Member Emeritus:**
Larry Williams

Members of the Board

President:
Rosemary Condillac

President-Elect:
James Porter

Treasurer:
Scott Bark

Secretary:
Shiri Bartman

Members at Large:
Mary McMillan
Katrina MacDonald
Adrienne Perry
Liane Tackaberry
Nancy Warren

**Student
Representatives:**
Betina Clancy
Dorothy Wemer

ONTABA Committee Updates

ONTABA COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Conference Committee:

Conference Chair: Shiri Bartman
The ONTABA Conference 2004 Brochure is an insert in this edition. Anyone wishing to help with the conference please contact Shiri at 416-925-5141 or shiri.bartman@surreyplace.on.ca

Elections Committee Update:

Board Liaison: Dorothy Werner
For this year's elections (2004) we are calling for nominations for:

- Treasurer (2 year)
- Member at large (2 year)
- Member at large (1 year)
- Student Representative (2 year)

Please follow the instructions when nominating. Both the nomination ballot and instructions are an insert in this edition.

We continue to seek members to sit on the Elections Committee to do succession planning. This committee can meet by e-mail and conference calls so representation from across the province is encouraged and enabled. Please contact Dorothy to volunteer.

Membership Committee:

Board Liaison: Mary McMillan
Chairperson: Amy Barker

Total Members for 2004 to date are 257. There are 55 new Members, 180 renewing Members and 22 returning Members.

Of these Members there are 26 Sustaining Members, 186 Full Members, 21 Student Members, 12 Affiliate Members and 1 Member Emeritus (Dr. Larry Williams).

We will be completing our last membership renewal mailing by the end of August.

Please note that if your contact information changes, please let us know so that we can forward your ONTABA materials to you.

Recruitment Committee:

Board Liaison: Lianne Tackaberry

This committee's activities will focus on attracting new ONTABA members. It would benefit all members to have representation on this committee from across the province. To enhance this effort, meetings will be held via e-mail and conference calls. Please contact Lianne to get involved.

Newsletter Committee:

Board Liaison: James Porter
Editor: Caroll Drummond

The educational opportunity series featuring schools in Ontario that offer programs in ABA will be continued in the next issue of the Analyst. Thanks to our contributors to this issue; Helen Penn for her Book Review and Jonathan Weiss for his thoughtful piece on improving people's lives through partnerships.

As always, we encourage you to send in your article submissions and hope to see authors of posters and presentations from the upcoming 2004 ONTABA Conference share their work in the ANALYST in the upcoming year.

Webpage Task Force

Board Liaison: Katrina MacDonald
Chair: Janet Valcourt

The ONTABA Website Committee would like to update the website including giving it a new look and possibly a new logo.

There are currently three volunteers willing to help out with this project and Katrina McDonald (ONTABA Board Member at Large) will act as board liaison. More volunteers are welcome.

Please e-mail mcdonak2@pccchealth.org if you would like to be involved in the design of the new website. It is hoped that much of our work can be done via e-mail so geographical area is not an issue.

Contact Information for Committees, Task Force and Board Members is on page 8.

BOOK REVIEW:

Overcoming Autism: Finding the Answers, Strategies, and Hope that Can Transform a Child's Life

By Lynn Kern Koegel, PhD and Claire LaZebnik

Layout:

Dr. Lynn Kern Koegel, an experienced clinician, and Claire LaZebnik, the mother of a twelve year-old child with autism, present behavioural strategies that can help children with autism to succeed.

Overcoming Autism is organized into eight chapters addressing topics such as communication, fixations, and school placement. In the first half of each chapter, Dr. Koegel introduces specific challenges common to children with autism and presents solutions to address these difficulties. She promotes high intensity naturalistic teaching, suggesting that teaching should take place during most of a child's waking hours and that it should be incorporated into daily home and school routines whenever possible. Her ideas are applicable to children with autism of all ages.

In the second half of each chapter, Claire LaZebnik discusses experiences with her son Andrew. At age 12, Andrew participates fully in mainstream school but still has traces of autism. LaZebnik's ongoing narrative about Andrew's childhood reveals many of the challenges and benefits that intensive behavioural interventions can entail.

Strengths:

Overcoming Autism is well written and highly readable. Both authors are clear, compassionate, and convincing. For parents, this book provides the ideal balance between a purely technical teaching guide and an autobiography. For professionals, it offers a number of useful teaching strategies and provides valuable insight into the challenges that parents of children with autism can face.

Overcoming Autism is excellent at outlining both the importance of intensive behavioural intervention and the amount of work that these interventions entail. In a straightforward way, the authors encourage parents and professionals to take steps that could be crucial to children's success.

Dr. Koegel's is effective at encouraging the adoption of sustainable teaching strategies that are immediately relevant to children's functioning. She stresses the importance of targeting language and social skills deficits and provides a number of useful teaching strategies to accomplish this goal.

Limitations:

Although LaZebnik explains that parents do not need to be "extraordinary" to support effective programs for their children, the authors tend to assume that parents will have the resources to be heavily involved in their children's programs as both advocates and treatment providers. Furthermore, many of the case studies in *Overcoming Autism* involve higher functioning children. Lastly, specific teaching procedures such as prompting and discrete trial teaching are not discussed in detail. Despite these limitations, *Overcoming Autism* is relevant to parents and teachers from a wide range of backgrounds.

Specific Information of Interest:

Chapter One- Diagnosis: Surviving the Worst News You'll Ever Get

- Outlines typical responses to initial diagnosis
- Describes common stressors related to having a young child with autism and suggests tools to reduce their impact

Chapter Two- Ending the Long Silence: Teaching Your Child to Communicate

- Explains that 90% of children can learn to use words if interventions begin before age five
- Outlines naturalistic strategies for teaching language-- Encouraging requests for desired items, moving to 2-word sentences when approximately 50 words are learned, etc
- Emphasizes the importance of teaching children to ask questions and initiate

Continued on pg.5

Continued from pg.4- Book Review

- Outlines tools to teach specific skills such as the past tense, "I don't understand," and empathetic responding

Chapter Three- Tears Meltdowns, Aggression, and Self-Injury: Breaking the Cycle

- Outlines strategies to: 1) assess the function of problem behaviours; 2) prevent problem behaviours from being functional; and 3) teach compensatory strategies
- Discusses the usefulness of self-management strategies to reduce problem behaviour in older children

Chapter Four- Self-Stimulation: Flapping, Banging, Twirling, and other Repetitive Behaviours

- Explains that self-stimulatory behaviours tend to decrease naturally as children learn other skills
- Notes that physical exercise can be useful in reducing self-stimulatory behaviour
- Presents tools to gradually decrease self-stimulation, such as: reinforcing the absence of self stimulation, teaching children to self stimulate only at specific times, and uncovering appropriate replacement behaviours

Chapter Five- Social Skills: Turning Language and Play into Meaningful Interactions

- Emphasizes the importance of teaching play and social skills to children with autism of all ages (i.e., recess and play time are important teaching times)
- Presents teaching strategies related to social skills such as: monitoring the play of peers and teaching relevant skills; teaching skills such as turn taking and imitation; organizing play dates; and setting up specific opportunities for interaction

Chapter Six- Battling Fears and Fixations: Bringing Your Child Back to the Real World

- Explains that some fixations serve a function and can be reduced using the strategies in chapter 3
- Outlines the following strategies for behaviours that do not appear to serve a specific function: rewarding children for not engaging in problem behaviour, teaching self-management techniques, offering choices, desensitization, making consistent rules, and facilitating transitions

Chapter Seven- Education: Finding the Right School Placement and Making it Even More Right

- Emphasizes the benefits of placing children in fully inclusive classrooms whenever possible
- Presents qualities to look for in ideal school placements
- Outlines strategies for promoting children's success in typical classes, such as shorter varied tasks and self-management techniques

Chapter Eight- Family Life: Fighting Your Way Back to Normalcy

- Presents tools for addressing challenges such as picky eating, poor sleeping habits, and toileting delays
- Emphasizes the benefits of social support networks for parents of children with autism

Conclusion:

Overcoming Autism is engaging and informative. It is an ideal introduction to IBI for families and teachers, and offers specific teaching suggestions and coping strategies relevant to parents and professionals from a wide range of backgrounds. The authors succeed at encouraging readers to tackle the most challenging symptoms of autism to produce long-lasting benefits for children.

Helen Penn

Masters Student, York University
Research Assistant, TRE-ADD

The importance of partnership

By: Jonathan A. Weiss, MA.

"Data, data, data. I cannot make bricks without clay" –Sherlock Holmes

As a student researching in developmental disabilities, I have been taught repeatedly about the importance of research methodology and statistics. It is through careful study that we can uncover important information regarding the people with whom we work. As Sherlock Holmes alludes, the foundation of any structure of knowledge should be created out of reliable data. The quest for data is easily seen in behaviour analysis when we record and plot frequencies of behaviours in order to determine if our therapy is working.

In my experience as a graduate student at university and as a residential caregiver for adolescents and adults with developmental disabilities, I can say that researchers and frontline workers are often interested in each others' work. That is, many researchers are keenly interested in learning about what is happening clinically in the life of the individual. Similarly, I have found no shortage of interest in caregivers and therapists regarding the research that is being carried out at the university.

At the same time I have seen an apparent rift between what one might consider "academic" and "frontline" domains. The rift I am suggesting is one of partnership and communication. At conferences that have both a frontline and research component, it is common to find the two camps separate from each other, with little exchange of ideas and experience. It can be a challenge to take very theoretical "academic" ideas and apply them to the everyday experience for workers. And it can sometimes be equally difficult to understand how the work that goes on in universities can benefit the clinical work that we do with individuals with developmental disabilities in the everyday.

Given that we are all working to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities, I think we can make stronger gains collectively -when we combine our expertise. I think that people who work directly with individuals have a tremendous amount of clinical experience to add to what is being researched, and that the knowledge that is gained from research can increase understanding for everyone involved. While there is an incredible range of *how* and *what* researchers study, and *if* and *when* it can be applied to clinical intervention, we all share a common goal in understanding and improving the lives and experiences of individuals with developmental disabilities and those whom they touch.

I can think of no better place to exchange ideas than at local annual conferences, such as those held by the Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis or the Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities (with its Research Special Interest Group). Poster presentations provide an ideal opportunity for one-on-one conversation, and I would encourage frontline workers and researchers to develop new partnerships in learning with each other at these times. If possible, it may also be useful to attend a variety of theoretical and applied talks, if for no other reason than to develop a greater sense of what is going on in each others' areas and a deeper sense of respect for each others' work. Let's make sure that the foundation upon which we build our understanding of developmental disabilities is the strongest it can be.

Editors note: Jonathan is a student at York University and current chair of the OADD RSIG.

*****Educational Opportunities in ABA in Ontario will continue in the next issue of the ONTABA Analyst.***

Getting connected

ABA International Information

ABA website:
<http://www.abainternational.org>
 ABA Email:
mail@abainternational.org
 Phone: (269) 492-9310
 Fax: (269) 492-9316
 Address: 1219 South Park Street,
 Kalamazoo, MI 49001

ONTABA HOME PAGE

Internet address:
<http://www/sl.on.ca/ontaba/>

CONTACTING ONTABA

ONTABA
 564 Yonge Street, Box 43
 Toronto, Ontario
 M4Y 1Y8

Phone #: (416) 410-6141
 (voice mail)
 E-mail: ontaba@sl.on.ca

ONTABA Analyst Submissions

Your newsletter is only as good as your contributions.

The *ONTABA Analyst* is a forum for us to stay connected in many ways. All members are encouraged to submit articles on topics related to behaviour analysis; theoretical, practical or topical issues, perspectives from different regions of the province, jobs or schools, research accounts, news, announcements, your biography, reviews, student practicums, etc.

Article submissions:

We reserve the right to edit without changing the intent of an article, request further editing by the author, publish articles relative to the content of the current Analyst, publish them at a later date with due respect to the timeliness of a given article, or refuse an article. You will be informed of acceptance, rewrite or refusal of an article. Announcements will be published at the discretion of the editor. *ONTABA* will not be held responsible for the views and opinions of *ONTABA Analyst* contributors.

Advertising in the *ONTABA Analyst* is available for a fee payable to *ONTABA* (\$100.00 1/4 pg., \$200.00 1/2 pg., \$300.00 full pg.). Job ads may be posted on the *ONTABA* website for up to 30 days.

Submissions for the next *ONTABA ANALYST, Fall Issue* must arrive to Carol Drummond at carolld@sympatico.ca by November 15th for the December 1st issue.

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

International Conferences

- 3rd International ABA Conference: November 25-27, 2005. Beijing, China

Upcoming ABA Chapter Conferences

New York State ABA. October 14-15, 2004 Saratoga Springs, New York. See Chapter web site for information.

Ontario Conferences/Workshops

- Surrey Place Centre/TPAS and Shining Through Centre presents Dr. Vincent J. Carbone, Ed.D. Board Certified Behavioural Analyst on September 7, 8 & 9th, 2004. Workshop registration and Information: Gerry Bernicky, Surrey Place Centre, Ph. 416-925-5141 ext 442
- ONTABA CONFERENCE 2004 October 28th and 29th, 2004. Toronto. For more information contact shiri.bartman@surreyplace.on.ca

Events

Shining Through is having its Grand Opening on Thursday, September 30th at 3PM! All are welcome to help us celebrate.

We are also hosting a volunteer information night on Tuesday, September 21st at 7:30 PM. This will be held at the Vaughan Police Station, 2700 Rutherford Road, just east of Jane street. Please RSVP your attendance by Friday, September 17th to Velvet at info@shiningthrough.ca or 905-851-7955.

**ONTABA
 T-Shirts
 \$20.00**



Membership
 sells **ONTABAWEAR**



**Contact:
ONTABA Board Members and Committee Chairs**

President: Rosemary Condillac
p. (416) 769-2910
f. (416) 769-6127
e. rackconsulting@sympatico.ca

President-Elect: James Porter
p. (905) 841-6611 ext. 301
e. jporter@kerrysplace.org

Treasurer: Scott Bark
p. (416) 925-5141
f. (416) 923-8476
e. scottb@interlog.com

Secretary: Shiri Bartman
p. (416) 925-5141 ext.304
f. (416) 923-8476
e. shiri.bartman@surreyplace.on.ca

**Student Representatives:
Betina Clancy**
e. betclancy@hotmail.com

Dorothy Wemer
e. heydor@hotmail.com

**Members at Large:
Katrina MacDonald**
p. (613) 546-1101 ext. 5859
f. (613) 548-5585
e. mcdonak2@pccchealth.org

Mary McMillan
e. mandjathome@sympatico.ca

Adrienne Perry
p. (416) 736-5115 ext. 33765
f. (416) 736-5814
e. perry@yorku.ca

Liane Tackaberry
p. (613) 540-6135
f. (613) 540-6169
e. ltackaberry@cogeco.ca

Nancy Warren
p. (416) 925-5141
f. (416) 923-8476
e. nancy.warren@surreyplace.on.ca

**Membership:
Chair: Amy Barker**
p. (416) 243-3600, ext. 2605
f. (416) 243-0832
e. abarker@westpark.org

**Recruitment:
Lianne Tackaberry***

**The ONTABA ANALYST:
Editor/Production:
Carol Drummond**
p. (416) 925-5141
f. (416) 923-8476
e. carolld@sympatico.ca

**Conference 2004:
Shiri Bartman***

**Elections 2004:
Dorothy Wemer***

**Webpage Task Force
Katrina MacDonald*
Chair: Janet Valcourt**
e. janet.valcourt@surreyplace.on.ca

**Member Emeritus
Larry Williams**

2004 Sustaining Members

Francisco Barrera
Rita DiGangi
Nancy Freeman
Bill Kirby
Wanda Smith

Gary Bernfeld
Carol Drummond
Shayna Guenther
Lyle MacDonald
Diane Thornton

Debra Charlesworth
Karin Earle-Williams
Hranchuk Ken
Mary McMillan
Ali Uzunoz

Barbara Claiman
David Factor
Christy Johnston-Garrity
Sandi-Lee Parker
Nicole Walton-Allen

Natalie Croteau
Maurice Feldman
Erla Juravsky
Adrienne Perry

ONTABA, the Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis, is an affiliate Chapter of the Association for Behavior Analysis International. ONTABA currently has members from professions such as education, nursing, health care, and psychology. The objectives of ONTABA are to promote behaviour analysis in the province of Ontario, to facilitate interactions between professionals engaged in behavioural activities, to monitor and participate in legal and professional issues related to behaviour analysis, and to initiate standardized practices and certification of Behaviour Analysts.

ONTABA
564 Yonge Street, Box 43
Toronto, Ontario
M4Y 1Y8

Phone: (416) 410-6141 (voice mail)
<http://www.sl.on.ca/ontaba/>