



[www.njcosac.org](http://www.njcosac.org) NJ Center for Outreach and Services to the Autism Community  
This is a New Jersey parent and professional organization. Through the links and referral page, a publication list can be downloaded. A FREE national directory of autism programs is available by request.

[www.wrightslaw.com](http://www.wrightslaw.com)  
This website is a reference for legal issues pertaining to special education and advocacy.

[www.cureautismnow.org/sciwatch/sciwatch.cfm](http://www.cureautismnow.org/sciwatch/sciwatch.cfm)  
This section of the CAN organization's website offers information about scientific research in autism.

[www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)  
The NEWS section of this website offers information about press releases relevant to autism.

[www.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.nlm.nih.gov) National Library of Medicine  
[www.nap.edu](http://www.nap.edu) National Academies Press  
These websites are resources to search academic books or scientific journals for publications about autism.



## ABA AUTISM SIG ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH CONTEST

**And the winner is . . . Lisa Tully!**

**Do Group Level Patterns of Speech Development Apply to the Individual with Autism?**

**Lisa Tully<sup>1</sup>, Joseph McCleery<sup>1</sup>, Robert Slevc<sup>2</sup>, & Laura Schreibman<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Autism Research Laboratory, <sup>2</sup>Language Production Laboratory  
University of California, San Diego

There were a number of wonderful entries this year, but the judges considered Lisa's poster the strongest entry. Look for a copy of her poster in a future issue of the newsletter and join us in Boston to see Lisa honored at the 2004 Autism SIG meeting.

And a big thanks this year's judges . . . Andy Bondy, Frank Cicero, William Edwards, Beth Glasberg, and Bobby Newman!!



**AUTISM SIG MEETING  
SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2003, 7:00-8:20 pm  
ABA 29th ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

**Panel Discussion - ABA State Affiliate  
Representatives**

**Participating Chapters and Representatives**

Texas (TXABA)– Christie Enzinna  
New York (NYSABA) – Helen Bloomer  
Florida (FABA) – Jose Martinez-Diaz  
Pennsylvania (PennABA) – Richard Foxx  
New Jersey (COSAC) – Suzanne Buchanan

Moderated by David Celiberti

*The following questions were posed to the panelists and responses are summarized below (not verbatim).*

***Approximately how many members are in your organization and what percentage of these work in the Autism and Developmental Disability fields?***

TX 400+ members, 60-70 in DD, 90 in autism  
NJ 2000 parents and professionals  
NY 300 members, approximately 50% in autism  
FL 932 members, approximately 30% DD  
PA 110 members, approximately 50% autism

***What has been the impact of national certification in your state?***

PA There has been a significant impact.  
FL There was a great impact in late 1970's, as FL launched the first statewide certification system, a number of ABA services were established at that time.  
NY There has been a modest impact in schools and other agencies; however, the certification is not yet widely recognized (e.g. by the state board of education).  
NJ The certification system has raised awareness regarding skill levels in service providers. The system has prompted the development of

standards for parents to evaluate service providers.

TX The certification process has benefited consumers by giving tools to measure competence. The credential is not recognized in schools, and there is often a greater interest in licensed psychologists.

***How is Public Awareness of ABA in your state?***

TX Physicians & other referral sources at times have a limited view of ABA. In schools, there is a strong belief that no one can dictate methodology to teachers, so it is difficult to include ABA in educational settings. There are long waiting lists for services. It continues to be difficult to counter misconceptions and there is currently no unified effort between parents and professions to address this. Recently, TXABA's autism SIG has paired with FEAT to mail information to professionals and follow up with an educational videotape. Members also volunteer for monthly presentations to related professionals.

NJ There is mixed response to ABA in NJ. While many embrace the methods there are others with negative reactions and impressions. COSAC has widely distributed an ABA Fact Sheet and is generating an informational booklet for distribution to provide accurate and comprehensive information about ABA.

NY There are "pockets" of strong ABA support in New York, e.g., Long Island, Manhattan, Albany, whereas support for ABA is less consistent across the western part of the state. Although there is awareness of ABA, in some places it is

failing to gain support because of perceptions about cost and uncertainty about how to achieve success.

FL There is awareness among parents and physicians that is facilitated by university funded CARD centers. Physicians often refer individuals to CARD centers. The Office of Developmental Disabilities funds ABA services and ABA can be paid through Medicaid. There is a high demand in the state, and still not enough trained people to provide services.

PA Pennsylvania is “Schizophrenogenic.” Birth-3 years funding through OMR – is opposed to ABA. There is also significant university involvement. The Bureau of Special Education supports ABA, although the new governor may bring changes. There are some parent committees that are strongly “antibehavioral,” while other parents are aware of ABA and seeking certified consultants.

***What is the role of parents in your state ABA chapter, and do any parents serve leadership roles in your organization?***

PA A new president, Steve Luce, has just been appointed. Although parents are not yet actively involved, there is an effort planned at involving parents in the future.

FL The membership includes parents and offers a lower membership rate and reduced conference rate. The state ABA conferences offer specialized tracks for parents.

NY A parent holds an Executive Board Position, Consumer Representative. The NYSABA annual conference also offers a parent/family track.

TX The southern TXABA chapter was formed by parents. This group organizes monthly meetings for professionals, which are followed by public presentations. These activities are also supported by FEAT of Houston (a parent/family organization). The northern TXABA group is increasing parent involvement and beginning to collaborate with FEAT of Dallas.

***What is the status of ABA in public schools & in adult services?***

TX ABA in public schools is variable, and depends on the perspective of the principal. Some schools in the Dallas area are starting to contract for ABA services, although they are encouraged to not call it ABA. In adult services, ABA professionals are not employed as commonly in institutional settings as they used to be. Many are being replaced over time with psychologists.

NJ NJ is home to many highly regarded ABA schools which provide professional training opportunities for NJ educators. These often serve as model programs for other parents/professionals.

NY Service for birth to 3 are coordinated by the NYS Department of Health, according to their published best practice guidelines. The guidelines are not recognized by the Department of Education and ABA services vary by district. There is less of an impact in adult services, although FBA methodology has been critical in addressing severe behaviors.

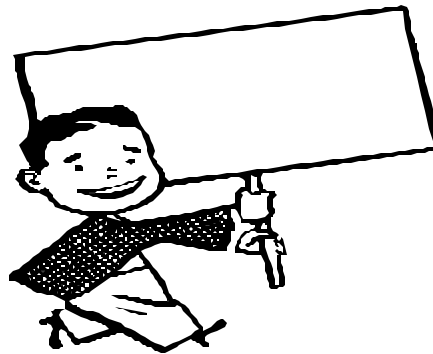
FL IDEA 1997 had a significant impact on the role of ABA in public education. Counties and school districts hire behavior analysts, many whom are certified. This is not as common in more rural counties. ABA in home & community based programs has positively impacted adult services. There is also a Medicaid waiver program that allows access to ABA services, although there is often some challenge with budget constraints.

PA The office of Mental Retardation coordinates Adult services in PA, and does not typically involve ABA. There is some hope that an upcoming change in governors will change this. In the educational system, there are numerous due process cases with parents going after school district for losses, which might change the future status of ABA in these settings. There are many teachers in the state enrolled in masters education programs, looking for training in ABA.

***What are the achievements of your state chapter that you are most proud of?***

- PA The most significant achievement is the establishment of a chapter that is only going to get bigger and better with time. Also, the chapter has been instrumental in beginning the new master's program and creating distance education opportunities.
- FL Florida is the longest running and largest state chapter and is proud of their longevity (25 years!). The chapter has demonstrated success with university programs in BA such as the masters programs in Behavior Analysis at Florida Institute of Technology, Florida State, and the University of South Florida.
- NY The NY chapter has been successful in determining specific goals, setting explicit criteria and timelines, and collecting data on these to track achievements. Recently, the chapter has hired an attorney to pursue obtaining licensure for Behavior Analysts in the state.
- NJ COSAC in NJ is most proud of the extensive parent and professional collaboration it has accomplished.
- TX TXABA has succeeded in hosting a successful annual conference with a specific track for autism and parent workshops. The chapter is also impressed by the devotion demonstrated by its members; the southern chapter offers free Saturday workshops for parents.

*Inclusion of advertisements or announcements in the SIG newsletter does not necessarily indicate endorsement of these items or events by the SIG or SIG newsletter editing staff. The content of this publication has not been reviewed or endorsed by the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy or the Association for Behavior Analysis.*



**Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center**

The DDDC at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey is a center for the study and treatment of autism. **There are currently positions open.** Please send resume or inquire about possible openings to:

Norine Haines  
 Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center  
 Rutgers, The State University of NJ  
 25 Gibbons Circle  
 New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
 Phone: (732) 932-9137  
 Fax: (732) 932-8011

**Fall 2003**

**Improving Communication in learners with autism: Utilizing a verbal behavior approach**

**When:** October 27, 2003

**Where:** Busch Campus Center,

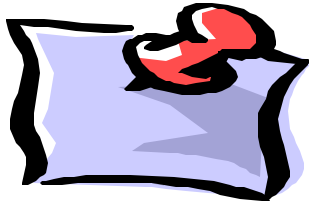
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Autism SIG Meeting  
Saturday, May 24, 2003, 7:00-8:20 pm  
ABA 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

### **President's Report**

David Celiberti called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, beginning with a SIG business meeting. David began the meeting by distributing the revised consumer guidelines. The original version of the guidelines was put forth before the initiation of the national ABA certification process. The revised version has been updated to reflect the current certification system. Members who have comments regarding the distributed draft were asked to submit their comments to David ([dacnys@aol.com](mailto:dacnys@aol.com)).

Following this discussion, David presented the Student Research Award to Kevin Cauley from the University of Toronto. Kevin was awarded a certificate and \$50.00 credit to the ABA bookstore for his winning poster. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Judges for next year were then recruited, including: Andy Bondy, Bobby Newman, Frank Cicero, Beth Glasberg and William Edwards. Thanks to all for volunteering!

### **Vice-President's (Treasury) Report**

Lara Delmolino gave a treasury report. At the 2002 SIG meeting in Toronto, \$561 was collected and deposited to the Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center at Rutgers University for reimbursement of newsletter printing and postage costs, thanks to generous voluntary donations. Sandra Harris and Jan Handleman of the DDDC were thanked for their continued support of the SIG. Lara reported that due to the recent online version of the newsletter, the printing and postage costs would be much reduced. It was proposed that future student research awards include a cash prize from the annual donations. Members who have other suggestions for financial activities for the SIG were encouraged to contact David or Lara ([delmolin@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:delmolin@rci.rutgers.edu))

An update was then provided for the website links project launched the previous year. It had been proposed that the SIG be involved (in collaboration with the Parent-Professional Partnership SIG) in compiling a list of web links for consumers or others who contact the Autism SIG for information. Lara reported that over the course of the year, the task of identifying and reviewing all ABA and autism websites was daunting and potentially redundant with other Internet resources. Based on contributions from the committee, a core list of web references has been compiled and can be found starting on page 1 of this issue of the newsletter.

Lara then announced that David's two-year term as SIG president was up, and nominations were sought from the membership. David indicated that he was interested in serving one additional term, in order to complete the Consumer Guideline's project, if possible. No other nominations were received, and David was voted into an additional office term. Lara's term as SIG vice-president will expire in May 2004.

### **Newsletter Report**

Heather Jennet, newsletter editor gave a description of the newsletter and a request for participation and submissions. Lara announced that this was Heather's last meeting as editor, and introduced Megan Martins, who will be serving as newsletter editor for the next two years.

### **Related SIG Representatives**

Bill Potter, president of the Verbal Behavior SIG was introduced. He announced that the journal *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior* is changing editorship, and indicated that the new editor would be Jack Michael. Bill reported that the journal is seeking to increase autism submissions and articles. The VB SIG currently maintains a listserv and a website, and plans to link the VB SIG and Autism SIG websites in the future.

Suzanne Buchanan, vice-president of the Parent and Professional Partnership (PPP) SIG was also introduced. The PPP SIG is a newly formed SIG aimed at addressing the needs of parents and consumers attending the conference and facilitating collaboration among the parents and professionals in attendance. Suzanne encouraged participation from other SIG members.

### **Announcements from other SIG members**

John Jacobson spoke to the membership regarding the Reauthorization of IDEA, Bill 1350, passed in the House of Representatives. Members were urged to write to senators regarding the bill. John also reported that he is collaborating with Sigrid Glenn on the ABA working committee for recognition of Behavior Analysts to encourage government acknowledgement of the BACB and to review federal regulations for support of Behavior Analysts.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy  
37<sup>TH</sup> Annual Convention  
November 20 – 23, 2003  
Boston, MA**

**Autism and Related Developmental Disabilities  
Special Interest Group Meeting  
Jan Handleman, SIG Leader**

Join us for a short business meeting and for a presentation given by Dr. Beth Glasberg on stress and coping in siblings of children with autism. Further, we will be presenting our annual student research award to LeaAnn Cardaciotto for "Treating Social Anxiety Disorder in the Context of Asperger's Syndrome: A Single-Subject Report."

*Stress and Coping in Siblings of Individuals with Autism.*

This presentation will provide an overview of various models of stress and coping as applied to siblings of individuals with autism. Special attention will be paid to unique aspects of autism that might heighten stress in siblings. Effective strategies for supporting sibling coping efforts will also be discussed. Beth Glasberg, Ph.D., BCBA, is an Assistant Research Professor at the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology at Rutgers University. She currently serves as the Assistant Director of the Division of Research and Training at the Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center.

For other information about AABT's annual meeting, check out the convention website at [www.aabt.org](http://www.aabt.org). Hope to see you there!

**Call For Papers  
Association for Behavior Analysis  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

**Sheraton Boston Hotel  
Friday, May 28 – Tuesday, June 1, 2004**

**Submission Deadline: October 15, 2003**

**Don't forget to make your submissions to the ABA conference!! Submissions can be made online. Please go to [www.abainternational.org](http://www.abainternational.org) for more information.**

**Attention Students: If you are the first author on a poster accepted at ABA, you may be eligible to enter the ABA Autism SIG Student Research Contest!!**

