An Introduction to the Volume 4, Number 2 of

Behavior Analysis in Practice (BAP)

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Behavior analysts are busy people. Meeting with families, teachers, children, and clients, identifying environmental variables influencing problem behavior through rigorous assessment, designing and implementing teaching programs for developing new skills, developing and training others to implement behavior plans, assessing the integrity with which plans are being implemented, working with government officials and parent groups to ensure high standards of care for those with autism and developmental disability, being careful and systematic in practice in order for scientifically-valid results to be obtained, writing, editing and ultimately sharing the results of best practice efforts with the larger behavior analytic community via presentations and publications—these are a few of the principal activities of many practicing behavior analysts.

The initial step to ensuring consistent personal progress as a practicing behavior analyst is to take time to reflect on your own professional activities. Thinking about your own practices and determining the extent to which they are informed by the latest research is certainly a challenge for people as busy as practicing behavior analysts. The fact that you are reading this journal suggests that you are serious about your own professional development. Please share this journal with your colleagues and suggest that they too pause from their principal activities routinely to determine the extent to which theirs is consistent with effective and acceptable behavior-analytic practice.

This issue of *Behavior Analysis in Practice (BAP)* contains a diverse collection of articles that may be useful in your practice, or will simply expand your awareness of the breadth of scholarship and application in behavior analysis. In our lead article, Katie Snyder, Joseph Lambert, and Michael Twohig describe the tactic of defusion and its empirical support for addressing clinical situations in which a person's language (about possible but improbable contingencies that have not been experienced) appears to interfere with desirable action and its favorable consequences. These authors suggest that behavior analysts consider defusion in their practice in order to, for instance, improve the integrity with which

reluctant caregivers implement behavioral interventions. These authors have provided a summary of the translational research on defusion for the interested reader.

Derek Reed and Brent Kaplan also provide a useful summary of translational research for the interested reader in the second of the two review papers in this issue. Their review is focused on the matching law, which is a quantitative tool for predicting how much responding will be allocated to different options based on the relative rates, qualities, and delays to reinforcement. Within their thorough and lucid review of the important basic research studies that have demonstrated the predictive validity of the matching law, implications for practice are described. The breadth of our field's conceptual system is evident in this issue's review papers.

Similarly impressive breadth is evident in the two research articles that appear in this issue. Kathleen Aspiranti and her colleagues described the successful application of a class-wide and partially automated procedure for teaching addition-fact fluency to young general education students. The efficacy of the procedure as an instructional procedure for all students, as opposed to a remedial strategy reserved for students with a history of difficulty with math fact fluency, is emphasized in their compelling discussion, and guidelines for successful implementation of the same procedures in general education classrooms are provided.

Partly in response to the staggering number of work-related injuries in nursing and residential care facilities, Angela Lebbon and her colleagues described how a behavioral approach can be used to promote safe lifting and transferring of residents in long-term care facilities. Tools for assessing the factors that may be responsible for unsafe lifting and transfer behavior are included in their articles as well as tips for supervisors interested in increasing the safe behavior of their staff in residential facilities.

This issue contains two technical articles with different aims as well. In the first, Derek Reed and Richard Azulay described their automated tool for calculating common forms of interobserver agreement. The tool can be downloaded

and James Carr describe Jerry's professional history and his vision for the professionalization of our field.

The articles in this issue only hint at the conceptual, historical, experimental, and applied breadth of behavior analysis. The articles that have been published since the inception of the journal in 2008 are diverse but also reflect the primary populations served and problems addressed by practicing behavior analysts. The Figure below illustrates the relative frequencies of keywords from all articles published in *BAP* to date and thus conveys the type and proportion of content published so far (the Figure was created at www.wordle.net). The editorial board and I will continue to bring you lucidly written articles on topics relevant to your practice while ensuring that the content reflect the indisputable breadth of the field of behavior analysis from which our practices are derived.

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