

# the Behavior Therapist

#### Contents

#### President's Message

Michelle G. Craske • 101

#### Institutional Settings

Michael T. Finn, Gyrid Lyon, Michael R. Nash
Predicting and Understanding Mental Health Clinic
Operations Over Time • 106

#### **Research-Practice Links**

and Positive Reinforcement • 112

Amanda K. Stary, Stephen D. A. Hupp, Jeremy D. Jewell, Gregory E. Everett Parent Acceptability of Time-Out, Spanking, Response Cost,

#### R. Trent Codd, III

How to Develop a Robust Practice-Based Research Repertoire • 118

#### **News & Notes**

Helen Z. MacDonald

Spotlight on a Mentor: Dr. Lizabeth Roemer • 121

#### Clinical Forum

Holly Bedotto

How Horse Training Made Me a Better DBT Therapist • 123

#### At ABCT

Welcome, New Members • 125

Call for Editors • 131

50th Anniversary

Gratitude Ads • 117

Call for Golden Moments • 131

tBT Survey • back page

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Michelle G. Craske, UCLA



IN THIS COLUMN, I provide an update on our advances in the implementation of our ABCT strategic plan and the 50th Anniversary Convention (October 27–30, New York, NY).

As a reminder, the strategic plan includes five primary

strategic initiatives (see dashboard of 2015-2017 strategic plan, p. 104). These are (1) member community and value, with the goal of enhancing membership and membership satisfaction; (2) dissemination, through means such as clinical guidelines, resources that translate research into practice, and engaging health care practitioners and directing them to evidencebased practices; (3) outreach, which includes building media relations and public education; (4) funding, or working to increase funding opportunities for CBT research; and (5) technology upgrades for membership and the ABCT infrastructure. The Board and Central Office are working hard to move forward on all fronts related to these strategic initiatives.

Within the member community and value initiative, there has been much discussion of ways of sustaining and augmenting membership to keep our organization vital and growing. In this regard, we have been working on expanding our horizons to clinicians and researchers from allied fields such as behavioral medicine, addictions, primary care, public health, psychiatry, and social work. Due to these and other efforts, our membership was at the highest level ever in 2015 with 5,225. We are also aiming to create personalized experiences for our members through bringing social media options as up-to-date as possible, identifying and providing up-to-date and relevant CE

[continued on p. 103]

#### the Behavior Therapist

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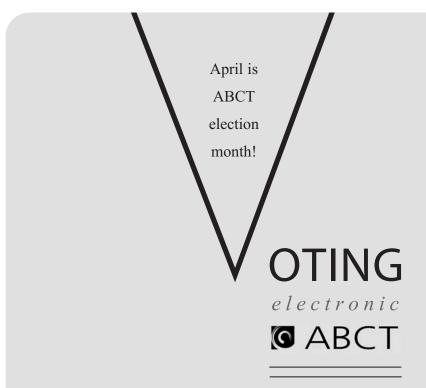
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If we do not have your email in our system, then we mailed you a paper ballot. If you did not receive voting materials, please contact us: lyarde@abct.org

#### INSTRUCTIONS for AUTHORS

The Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies publishes *the Behavior Therapist* as a service to its membership. Eight issues are published annually. The purpose is to provide a vehicle for the rapid dissemination of news, recent advances, and innovative applications in behavior therapy.

- Feature articles that are approximately 16 double-spaced manuscript pages may be submitted.
- Brief articles, approximately 6 to 12 double-spaced manuscript pages, are preferred.
- Feature articles and brief articles should be accompanied by a 75- to 100-word abstract.
- Letters to the Editor may be used to respond to articles published in *the Behavior Therapist* or to voice a professional opinion. Letters should be limited to approximately 3 double-spaced manuscript pages.

Submissions must be accompanied by a Copyright Transfer Form (a form is printed on p. 35 of the February 2011 issue of tBT, or download a form from our website): submissions will not be reviewed without a copyright transfer form. Prior to publication authors will be asked to submit a final electronic version of their manuscript. Authors submitting materials to tBT do so with the understanding that the copyright of the published materials shall be assigned exclusively to ABCT. Electronic submissions are preferred and should be directed to the editor, Brett Deacon, Ph.D., at bdeacon@uow.edu.au. Please include the phrase tBT submission and the author's last name (e.g., tBT Submission -Smith et al.) in the subject line of your email. Include the corresponding author's e-mail address on the cover page of the manuscript attachment. Please also include, as an attachment, the completed copyright transfer document.

opportunities and keeping members informed of these developments. Our social media pages are doing very well with more followers and viewer engagements than ever before.

In terms of dissemination, our highest priorities are to identify and build collaborations with other health care provider groups to improve awareness of CBT effectiveness. In this regard, we have recently joined the Consortium of Social Science Associations, the Mental Health Liaison Group, and the Coalition for the Advancement and Application of Psychological Science. Through these collaborations, we are aiming to bring our ABCT voice to the forefront of federal and state discussions regarding mental health and to contribute to change in the direction of evidence-based treatments.

In terms of outreach, we are aiming to improve our methods for conveying information regarding mental health and empirically supported treatments to the public and reducing discrimination related to mental health. Our highest priority right now is to develop and distribute materials that may benefit populations who experience mental health disparities, such as veterans, ethnic/racial minorities, LGBTO, or those who have different needs, such as children or the elderly. One current effort is materials for the National Women's Health week in May, and we have finalized plans to develop materials for a month specific to LGBTQ individuals this summer. In addition, we will work to become a resource for science and health writers, as well as other media writers and producers, and in connection, are planning a Speaker's Bureau through which our members can engage the public via the media or community speaking engagements. We have revampled our Find a CBT Therapist page

to help the public find experts in their area and provide useful links to the public to better understand the benefits of a CBT-trained therapist. Furthermore, we are in the process of preparing CBT-relevant materials to be ready for use in times of crisis situations. Outreach is one of our most difficult to implement, but absolutely essential, initiatives.

In terms of funding, we are continuing to work with a fundraising consultant. We also have begun to establish and nurture a giving culture within ABCT, with efforts ramped up at the last convention and continuing as we move forward. The additional funds will be directed towards more research and travel awards for our student members. We are also aiming to improve funding for ABCT-relevant research, and to that end will continue to conduct trainings in NIH and PCORI and seek other funding training opportunities.

Finally, in addition to repeatedly reviewing and updating Central Office technology, we are working to improve the ABCT website and clinical directory, offer more webinars via our collaboration with the Empirically Based Practice Institute, and continuously improve the convention app.

We welcome any comments or suggestions about the various strategic initiative actions and plans.

Last but not least, I am excited to highlight some of the arrangements for the 50th Anniversary Convention, to be held October 27 through 30 in New York. The convention theme of "Honoring the Past, Envisioning the Future" encompasses four broad, cross-cutting domains. These include: technology and treatment; dissemination and implementation; neuroscience and psychological treatment; and cognitive science and transdiagnostic principles. The convention will feature four invited panels

(each comprised of four panelists and a chair/moderator), one on each topic, to be scheduled on the Friday and Saturday of the convention. The panelists will not only present their research but will participate in a moderated discussion about the current state of the field and where we are heading. Students will have the opportunity to enter a raffle for a coffee hour with panelists. A number of unique celebratory activities at the convention will include 50 "fun" awards for the 50th Anniversary, a "golden moments" area for taking photos of mentors and mentees, an interactive board for tracking of members' behavioral roots, a photo booth for fundraising, and a special Saturday late-night social event. In addition, a number of celebratory initiatives (some already ongoing) will lead up to the convention, including spotlight videos of past presidents and invited panelists to be posted regularly on the ABCT website, listserv, Facebook page, and Twitter. A "Past Presidents Muse" column will be posted regularly on the ABCT website. In the Gold Challenge, research labs will challenge one another to raise funds for student research and travel funds. In Play it Forward, ABCT members who are musically inclined are contributing to a commemorative album of songs which will be sold on the ABCT website and at the convention. Special issues will also occur in Cognitive and Behavioral Practice and Behavior Therapy. Be sure to be there—it will be a blast.

• • •

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ABCT's 2015-2016 President, Michelle G. Craske, Ph.D., invites submissions for the 38th Annual President's New Researcher Award. The winner will receive a certificate and a cash prize of \$500. The award will be based upon an early program of research that reflects factors such as: consistency with the mission of ABCT; independent work published in high-impact journals; and promise of developing theoretical or practical applications that represent clear advances to the field. While nominations consistent with the conference theme are particularly encouraged, submissions will be accepted on any topic relevant to cognitive behavior therapy, including but not limited to topics such as the development and testing of models, innovative practices, technical solutions, novel venues for service delivery, and new applications of well-established psychological principles. Submissions must include the nominee's current curriculum vita and one exemplary paper. Eligible papers must (a) be authored by an individual with five years or less posttraining experience (e.g., post-Ph.D. or post-residency); and (b) have been published in the last two years or currently be in press. Submissions will be judged by a review committee consisting of Michelle G. Craske, Ph.D., Jonathan D. Abramowitz, Ph.D., and Gail S. Stekettee, Ph.D. (ABCT's President, Immediate Past-President, and President-Elect). Submissions must be received by Monday, August 1, 2016, and must include one hard copy of the submission (mailed to the ABCT central office) and one email copy (to PNRAward@abct.org) of both the paper and the author's vita and supporting letters, if the latter are included. Mail the hard/paper copy of your submission to ABCT President's New Researcher Award, 305 Seventh Ave., 16th floor, New York, NY 10001. In addition, email your submission to PNRAward@abct.org.

#### ABCT 2015-2017 Strategic Plan Dashboard

#### MISSION

ABCT is a multidisciplinary organization committed to the enhancement of health and well-being by advancing the scientific understanding, assessment, prevention and treatment of human problems through behavioral, cognitive, and other evidence-based principles.

#### CORE VALUES

**ACCOUNTABILITY** SCIENCE QUALITY DIVERSITY **MENTORSHIP** 

STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION of ABCT's operations, programs, and services through strategic, targeted investments that fuel growth and increase member satisfaction

- Assist members during their professional transition
- Strengthen membership recruitment and retention
- Broaden the scope of ABCT content and program offerings to adequately reflect the breadth of CBT research and practice
- Optimize ABCT's technology infrastructure to improve the user experience and increase member engagement with the association
- Expand avenue for member participation particularly for early career professionals and underrepresented populations
- Model effective practices in association governance, volunteer management, and planning

#### STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Member Community and Value: create perks for members, expand SIG benefits, welcome practitioners to working groups, "expand the tent" for all who value scientifically informed CBT, and evaluate ACA opportunities, etc.

Dissemination: Review & impact "illness-based" clinical guidelines (and partner with like-minded organizations to achieve this), develop resources that translate research to practice, engage healthcare practitioners and direct them to current evidence.

Outreach: build media relations, engage healthcare professionals, disseminate "alternative to medication" approach, leverage key members, develop speakers bureau, develop Public Education

Funding: secure CBT research dollars, place more CBT reviewers with NIMH, expand database of alternative funding sources

Technology: ensure the effectiveness of the new AMS, enhancing the website, develop new video and rich media content, implement SEO, develop interactive presentation and engagement platforms at convention (e.g. app), create responsive design, secure office infrastructure, explore auto membership renewal, etc.

#### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

#### **FOSTER AWARENESS** of cognitive and behavioral therapies to increase their acceptance and impact

#### **EDUCATE** for research funding and healthcare policies that will facilitate widespread adoption of CBT

**EXPAND ACCESS** to qualified cognitive and behavioral therapist to drive better health outcomes.

- Expand the translation of research findings into practical applications and vice versa
- Broadly communicate the distinct advantages of CBT approaches on health and economic outcomes
- Expand opportunities for members to engage in media relations
- Forge collaborations with like-minded organizations to drive favorable policy
- Attract funds for CBT research priorities

outcomes

- Identify and align clinical CBT approaches with policy provisions provided by the Affordable Care Act
- Enhance training and mentoring to improve

development offerings that increase

- competency of more professionals Develop and disseminate professional
- practitioners' competence in CBT Develop evidence-based treatment guidelines to inform and educate professionals of CBT's benefits

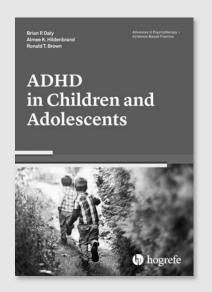
#### **OUTCOMES**

- Increased funding for CBT research
- Higher awareness of CBT among healthcare
- Increased website traffic in key areas
- Increased number of ABCT members on funding agency study sections
- Improved acquisition and retention in key membership segments
- Increased CBT research published in select medical journals for key audiences

# Advances in Psychotherapy

Evidence-Based Practice





Brian P. Daly/Aimee K. Hildenbrand/Ronald T. Brown

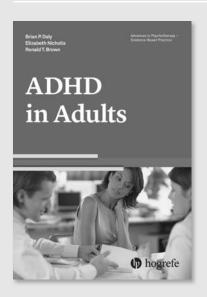
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# **Predicting and Understanding Mental Health Clinic Operations Over Time**

Michael T. Finn, Gyrid Lyon, Michael R. Nash, University of Tennessee

ACCURATE FORECASTS CAN GIVE WAY to fundamental shifts in clinical management. Planning is more effective when one possesses accurate data: one can realistically plan clinic hours, staffing, and service priorities with the security afforded by empirical forecasting. In business, it has been established that firms that use time series forecasting are incrementally more financially successful (Danese, Kalchschmidt, & Leading Edge of Inventory Research, 2011). In the context of clinics, this would likely translate into both increased financial stability and increased reach of services. Kazdin (2008) has pointed out that one of the biggest challenges facing implementation of empirically supported treatments is population reach. Time series forecasting provides a tangible tool to managers of clinics for prioritizing resources and, thus, discovering ways to realistically alter or expand clinical services.

Community mental health centers, Veterans Affairs clinics, and substance abuse clinics may particularly benefit from understanding their seasonal changes and trends in clinical phenomena because of their large numbers of patients and traditionally less predictable patient behavior. That said, smaller clinics facing the pressure of limited resources could also benefit from reliable predictions. Tracking phenomena like kept appointments, number of intakes, referral follow-through, and appointment no-shows can reveal and predict information that we authors fear is merely speculated about by many who have limited knowledge of time series analysis. Even informed, careful human judgments are highly outperformed by empirical methods across fields (Sanders & Manrodt, 2003). Such methods are foundational for business analytics in both large and small firms and likely have much promise for improving the efficiency and reach of mental health clinics.

Improving efficiency in mental health care is a crucial aspect of ameliorating current barriers to optimal care and intervening without excessive delay (Moran & Jacobs, 2013; Wynne, 1979). Initiatives like

the integration of mental health care with primary care in community settings not only drastically improve efficiency, but demonstrate the ability of administrative action to enhance efficiency (Pomerantz, Cole, Watts, & Weeks, 2008). In the institutional health-care literature, time series methods have been particularly applied to model and predict important variables such as medical emergency room visits (Jones, Joy, & Pearson, 2002). Similarly, time series analysis presents as a ready instrument for application to mental health care administration, giving clinic administrators reliable tools for planning and resource allocation to enhance efficiency and, in turn, patient care.

In the following study, we apply time series data analysis to the specific needs of mental health clinics. While time series methodology is often used for single-case analysis (Borckardt et al., 2008), to our knowledge, this methodology has not been applied to the operations of mental health clinics or systems in the literature. We aim to demonstrate the effectiveness of such an analysis in the accurate prediction of clinic operations.

#### Method

#### Data

Data for this study were the number of therapy hours per month at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville's in-house psychotherapy clinic over an 8-year span. The originally known data began with July 2005 and ended with November 2012 (7 years, 5 months). The model reported here was created at the beginning of December 2012, predicting into the genuinely unknown future to October 2013 (an additional 11 months). Thus, the authors were blind to the true data and were able to directly compare the results of the model after these 11 months had passed.

Reviewing Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes from July 2005 to November 2012, we summed the totals of the following codes for each month: 90806 (outpatient psychotherapy, 45–50 min-

utes), 90846/7 (family psychotherapy with/without the patient present). Changes in CPT codes in 2013 were easily adapted to the data without any apparent impact. These data were collected in the course of clinic operations and were easily transferred from clinic records for use in statistical analysis.

#### Setting

The University of Tennessee Psychological Clinic is the training clinic of the Clinical Psychology doctoral program. As such, it provides a wide variety of psychotherapy and assessment services that include adult individual psychotherapy, child and family therapy, couples therapy, full psychological evaluations, psychoeducational evaluations, and forensic assessments. About 78% of the patients are adults, 51% are female, and 19% of the total cases are assessment. For some context as to the size of the practice, the 2010-2012 fiscal years had an average of 289 new patients per year and 3,893 intervention hours per year. Most of the patients in the clinic are not associated with the university. In fact, over 80% of the patients fall into this category. The clinic is primarily staffed by students of the clinical psychology doctoral program who are supervised by licensed clinical psychologists, though some students from related programs also train there.

#### Data Analysis Strategy

Time series decomposition. A particularly useful form of time series model for our purposes is called time series decomposition analysis (DeLurgio, 1998). An advantage to decomposition modeling is that, in the process of building a predictive model, one creates directly interpretable descriptive factors that describe general trends and aid in visualization of meaningful components. A decomposition model considers the following four calculable components: trend, seasonal, cyclical, and error. "Trend" refers to the linear change over time, "seasonal" refers to the variation directly attributable to the month of a given value, and "cyclical" stands for other predictable fluctuations (a common example would be economic recession).

After decomposing the data stream to these theoretical components using NCSS 9 software, we recalculated for our modeled values and forecasted values with the following formula:

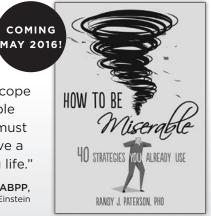
Predicted value =  $(Mean) \times (Trend)$  $\times (Seasonality) \times (Cycle) \times (Error)$ 

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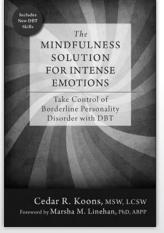
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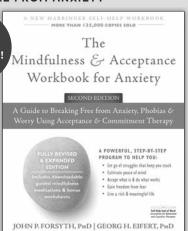
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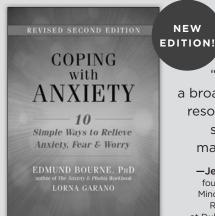
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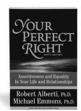
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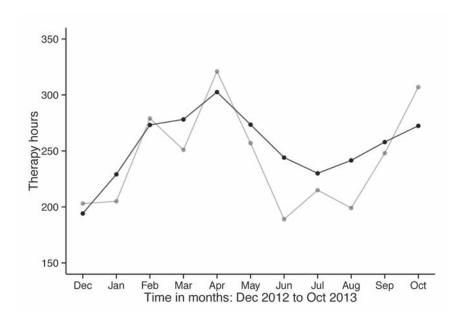
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*Figure 1.* Decomposition model predictions of genuine future compared with data collected after the prediction duration passed. *Note.* Predicted values are represented by the black line and true values are represented by the grey line.

These components do not only forecast future data, but can also use them to better understand underlying processes in the time course of the single variable. By isolating the values of the seasonal factor, for example, one can observe the average monthly fluctuations expected over any given year. These values can, in turn, be used to "deseasonalize" the known stream of real data. Removing this variability in the hours that is attributable to the regular monthly changes, one can more easily visualize trends over time in intervention hours without the stagger of months. In effect, we are able to more clearly observe the longterm trends in the data with greatly diminished noise.

Forming a model with known data. In time series forecasting, past data are modeled in order to forecast future data. In addition, B = by examining past data, one can gain insight into the underlying nature of a variable's time course and determine how to best predict future months with a statistical model. One first determines an artificial duration at the end of the data stream, called the holdout sample, for pretesting a model's accuracy. The rest of

the data are called the training sample. For the current study, we used available months of the calendar year at the time of the data analysis as the holdout sample (January 2012 to November 2012). High accuracy of the training model in predicting the holdout sample provides confidence in refitting the model with all known data for forecasting future months—the primary goal of time series forecasting.

Accuracy of forecasted values. The approach to developing a time series model is as follows: if the training model proves to accurately predict the holdout sample, then one proceeds to refit the same model over the entire available data stream, forecasting into the genuinely unknown future.1 Thus, we used all the data (July 2005 to November 2012) in order to predict months beyond all known values, into the genuine future. Having allowed the prediction window time to pass, we were able to compare the actual values with the decomposition model's predicted values one year later. We consider this statistical comparison the test of whether this type of analysis can be successfully applied to a mental health clinic.

#### Results

#### Accuracy of the Model

Training model. The training decomposition accurately predicted therapy hours in the holdout sample,  $R^2 = .77$  (59.29% of the variance), and was refitted across the entire sample in order to predict future values.

Forecasted values. After allowing the year-long forecast interval to pass, we could directly evaluate the accuracy of our predicted therapy hours against the actual hours. The decomposition model proved accurate, producing a good fit of the true data,  $R^2 = 0.51$  (explaining 25.7% of the variance). The average error across the months during this year was 23.45 (SD = 14.54) hours/month. By comparison, if we were to have used the previous month's therapy hours for prediction, updating the model each month, we would have had a much less successful model,  $R^2 = 0.05$ (.25% of the variance). Most months were highly accurate and the model's less accurate months were fairly balanced in terms of overestimating (e.g., June and August 2013) and underestimating (e.g., October 2013) the number of therapy hours. See Figure 1 for a line graph comparing the predicted and the true therapy hours. Figure 2 shows the model over the entire time period.

#### Interpreting the Model

Having verified the accuracy of the model of therapy hours, we can then turn to interpreting its indices for the purpose of the understanding the nature of our 7 years of past data.

Expected monthly variation in therapy hours. We found that therapy hours at the psychological clinic fluctuate in predictable ways over the course of an average year. There was a statistically significant difference across months per Kruskal-Wallis test, a non-parametric version of the ANOVA test, for therapy hours, X2 = 22, p < .05. Use of the Kruskal-Wallis test is advised when examining group differences time series data as it does not require the parametric assumption of independence. That is, as is common in time series data, the number of therapy hours in a month of a given year is not best considered as an individual observation, rather its value depends on the value of a previous year. Figure 3 shows boxplots of the monthly variation with the calculated seasonal indices. To note, the seasonal index produced by decomposition analysis can be

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The cyclical component needs to be modeled independently and this can be done with any number of other time series analysis methods. We used an optimal ARIMA model to give values for this factor over the forecast interval.

directly interpreted as a percentage modifier (e.g., 1.11 = 111% of annual average).

The results of analysis can be directly interpreted as demonstrating the monthly variation in hours. For example, "lore" in our clinic may suggest that treatment hours drop off significantly when the school year ends in May. However, an examination of the seasonal variation data reveal in our clinic that treatment hours tend to remain relatively high in May before dropping off significantly in June.

Removing seasonality in order to observe past trends. An effective way for us to examine trends in the data over years is by deseasonalizing the data, that is, controlling for the known effects of seasonality. Since we confirmed the presence of seasonality, we can proceed to remove its effects to gain a more accurate picture of growth trends over the course of the clinic. We used the calculated seasonal indices from our decomposition modeling to remove this variation in the actual data. Figure 4 shows the graphical result of deseasonalizing past data when compared with the true data. With the effects of seasonality removed, this graph becomes a documentation of the long-term changes in the clinic over the previous 7 years. It can promote shared understanding of changes throughout the history of the clinic and inform further decision-making. With this figure, one can see how monthly therapy hours have been steadily growing after a dip from mid-2007 to mid-2009. Forecasts for therapy hours seem to show that this upward trend will continue.

#### Discussion

Time series decomposition modeling was used to evaluate usage of the UT Psychological Clinic in therapy hours. The model adequately fit data from July 2005 to November 2012 and, in turn, could forecast values with considerable accuracy into the next calendar year. In addition, this model could show properties of the nature of past therapy hours, predict monthly variation of therapy hours, and model trends in therapy hours with the known influence of months removed. In sum, we have shown time series decomposition analysis can be applied to the treatment hours of mental health clinics. Without much effort, any clinic can transform

aspects of its recorded monthly operations into data for the analysis of past trends and the creation of predictions for the future. In most clinics, these data are already within arm's reach.

As psychotherapy hours are a key component to the training of clinical psychology Ph.D. students, we determined that these metrics could inform planning for space allocation, expectable psychotherapist case loads, and supervisory needs. Time series analysis is an incredibly flexible tool, but it is incumbent upon the administrative team to determine which variables are pragmatically relevant to their needs.

### Context of Time Series Decomposition Analysis

It is important to emphasize that time series decomposition analysis is inherently descriptive and predictive. Being an analysis of a single variable over time, it is unable to directly ask the kind of explanatory or mechanistic questions typical of analyses more traditional to empirical psychology. However, the advantage of this method lies in its flexibility toward reliably describing trends and making pragmatic predictions

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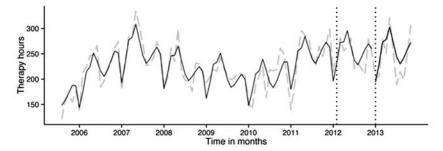
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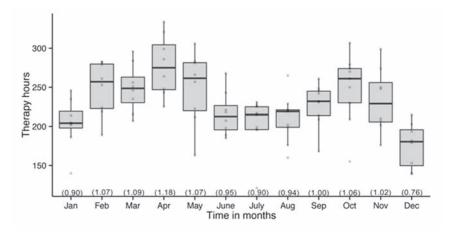
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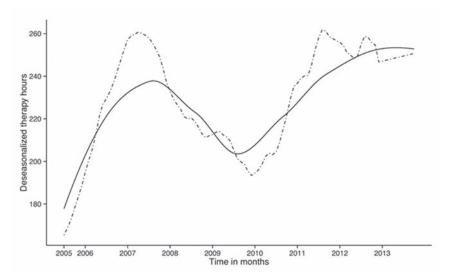
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*Figure 2.* Therapy hours compared with the decomposition model predicted values across the entire window of data. *Note.* Predicted values are represented by the black line and true values are represented by the dashed grey line.



*Figure 3*. A boxplot of the therapy hours by month showing the effects of seasonality. Note. Grey dots indicate the individual data points for all of the months used in the full time series decomposition model.



*Figure 4.* Therapy hours across the entire window of data with the effects of seasonality removed. *Note.* The dotted line shows the raw deseasonalized time series values; the solid line shows a LOESS smoothing of the values, giving further clarity of general trends.

about any regularly collected, quantified count data—in our case, monthly intervention hours.

Assuming the basic understanding of time series analysis outlined in this paper, implementation is rather straightforward. Many statistical packages provide user interfaces for the easy application of many time series methods, though it is recommended that those who are new to this area begin with decomposition analysis. SPSS, SAS, and NCSS all have dialogues for assisting in time series analysis. R is a favorite among statisticians and is free to use. While we used 7 years of data for this analysis, decomposition analysis can perform with much less data (e.g., around 2 years), granted the time series model is successful on a holdout sample.

#### **Implications**

Given an empirical forecast of how treatment hours might fluctuate over the course of time, more informed decisions can be made about securing resources, purchasing supplies, and making personnel decisions. For example, if a model is calling for a substantial increase in treatment hours during an upcoming season, the director of the clinic may prepare by converting storage space into a spillover therapy room, purchasing extra appointment cards, and hiring a part-time employee to assist at the front desk.

Use of time series statistical methods for forecasting gives an advantage in situations such as these. Introduction of time series methodology into various fields of business have proven significantly helpful for improving efficiency (Danese et al., 2011). In our data, time series decomposition drastically improved upon using the previous month's value for prediction, giving a whole year's worth of accurate values for planning. Further, statistical methods of time series prediction are more reliable than nonstatistical intuitive methods, such as visual analysis, as has been demonstrated in the context of empirical single-case studies (Robey, Schultz, Crawford, & Sinner, 1999). The practical utility of time series analysis likely increases with the size of the clinic, as allocation of resources and planning of future years pose more difficult problems for administration

One can create different forecasts of the rates at which the types of services offered at a clinic might be rendered and the staff can prepare accordingly. For example, if a psychological clinic offers both psychotherapy and psychological assessment

to their clients, and a forecasting model predicts that disability assessments will decrease over the long term as psychotherapy hours increase, the clinic might decide to attract more assessment patients in order to meet student training goals and financial benchmarks. Time series models provide the opportunity for more accurate reflection on past trends, and they may also illuminate possible explanations for those trends. Empirical models of long-term trends and monthly fluctuations of treatment hours can aid in obtaining a more accurate picture of the past than subjective speculation may afford.

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### Parent Acceptability of Time-Out, Spanking, Response Cost, and Positive Reinforcement

Amanda K. Stary, Stephen D. A. Hupp, Jeremy D. Jewell, Gregory E. Everett, *Southern Illinois University Edwardsville* 

DISCIPLINE TECHNIQUES ARE COMMONLY discussed in the media. Recently, for example, Time magazine included an article entitled, "'Time-Outs' Are Hurting Your Child" (Siegel & Bryson, 2014). Soon thereafter, the Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology (Division 53 of the American Psychological Association) responded to the *Time* article with a press release entitled, "Outrageous Claims Regarding the Appropriateness of Time Out Have No Basis in Science" (Atkins et al., 2014). This public debate, alone, illustrates that child discipline is a hot topic; and other debates also frequently occur regarding topics such as spanking and positive reinforcement.

Child discipline is an important topic for all parents, as well as for the professionals who work with them. Externalizing behaviors (i.e., noncompliance, aggression, inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity) are some of the most common reasons children are referred to mental health professionals (McMahon, Wells, & Kotler, 2006). There are multiple techniques for managing externalizing behaviors, many of which are included in behavioral parent training programs. Behavioral parent training and many of its individual components have research support for treating externalizing child behaviors that are core to such disorders as oppositional-defiant disorder (ODD), conduct disorder, and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) (Eyberg, Nelson, & Boggs, 2008; Pelham & Fabiano, 2008). While spanking is not currently part of evidence-based behavioral parent training programs, it is still a very common tool that many parents use (Benjet & Kazdin, 2003; Kazdin & Benjet, 2003; Strauss & Stewart, 1999).

Although there is evidence for these behavioral management techniques in decreasing externalizing behaviors, parents of children with certain characteristics, such as developmental disabilities, may be less willing to use them. Woolfson (2014) proposed a psychosocial model of disabil-

ity-related behavior problems, suggesting that societal beliefs about disability (i.e., that it is a medical problem, a tragedy, and/or disabled people are dependent/need protection) may contribute to parent beliefs that then lead to parents' tolerance of problematic behaviors or overprotection of their children. Such attitudes and behaviors of parents are likely to influence their acceptance of certain behavior management techniques, possibly finding them less acceptable for children with developmental disabilities than for typically developing children. These attitudes may be particularly important to examine in relation to children with autism spectrum disorder, given the recent rise in prevalence rates of this disorder (Baio, 2014).

Acceptability of behavior management techniques is important to evaluate because the more acceptable clients find different aspects of the treatment protocol, the more likely they are to comply with the requirements of treatment (Boothe & Borrego, 2004). Additionally, treatment acceptability has been found to relate to positive outcomes in treatment independent of that contributed by treatment compliance (Addis & Jacobson, 2000). Many studies have evaluated parents' ratings of acceptability of the different interventions from behavioral parent training, including timeout, response cost, and positive reinforcement (e.g., Boothe & Borrego; Frentz & Kelley, 1986; Jones et al., 1998; Kazdin, 1984). The majority of this research has shown that parents rate response cost as the most acceptable technique for externalizing behaviors (e.g., Boothe & Borrego; Frentz & Kelley, 1986). Positive reinforcement is often rated by parents as similarly acceptable to response cost and as significantly more acceptable than other behavior management techniques (e.g., Jones et al., 1998; Reimers, Wacker, & Cooper, 1991). Although rated below positive reinforcement and response cost, time-out has been rated as more acceptable than other strategies, including differential attention,

spanking, time-out with spanking (Frentz & Kelley, 1986), medication (e.g., Heffer & Kelley, 1987; Miltenberger et al., 1989), and spanking alone (Miltenberger et al.).

Researchers have also examined parent ratings of the acceptability of spanking, and despite its frequent use, it is often rated by parents as the least acceptable method of dealing with problem behaviors (e.g., Jones et al., 1998). This significantly lower rating of spanking has occurred when it is compared to techniques such as differential attention, overcorrection, positive reinforcement, response cost, time-out, and time-out with spanking (e.g., Jones et al.).

Labeling bias, or expectations that people might have for someone given a particular diagnostic label (Stinnett, Crawford, Gillespie, Cruce, & Langford, 2001), may be expected to influence ratings of acceptability of certain behavior management techniques. Stinnett and colleagues (2001) found that teachers did not rate the acceptability of medication and special education placement as interventions differently for a child with ADHD versus a child with no label. However, differences have been found in ratings of acceptability of certain interventions by parents of medically healthy children compared to parents of children with cancer (Miller, Manne, & Palevsky, 1998). Specifically, response cost and time-out were rated as significantly less acceptable, and positive reinforcement as significantly more acceptable, by parents of children with cancer as compared to ratings of parents with medically healthy children. Additionally, Boothe and Borrego (2004) found that parents of children with communication disorders found response cost as more acceptable than positive reinforcement, whereas other studies have found positive reinforcement as comparable to response cost. Given that some previous research has found a difference in ratings of behavior management techniques dependent on diagnostic label, ratings of treatment acceptability cannot be assumed to be the same across other diagnostic labels, as well.

Although some previous studies have examined differences in rating of acceptability of school personnel's ratings of behavior management techniques dependent on the child's diagnosis of ADHD versus no diagnosis, no known studies have examined parents' perceptions of behavior management techniques across diagnoses. Examination of whether parents' perception of the acceptability of behavior management techniques for children with ASD may also be important given societal beliefs

about disability and the recent rise in prevalence rates of ASD. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to evaluate whether current parents' acceptability ratings of time-out, response cost, positive reinforcement, and spanking differ depending on whether a child displaying externalizing behaviors is said to have ADHD, autism, or no diagnosis at all. Based on previous research it was predicted that (a) response cost would be rated by parents as significantly more acceptable than time-out, positive reinforcement, and spanking; (b) positive reinforcement would be rated as significantly more acceptable than timeout and spanking; and (c) time-out would be rated as significantly more acceptable than spanking. We also explored how ratings of behavior management techniques might vary based on diagnostic status but did not propose any hypotheses for this variable.

#### Method

#### **Participants**

Three hundred thirty-three participants were recruited. Participants were excluded from the study if they did not meet the

inclusion criteria, if they took the survey more than once, or if they completed a survey other than the one to which they were assigned. The final sample consisted of 200 parents. Participants that were excluded did not significantly differ from those participants in the included sample in education level,  $\chi^2(8, 310) = 7.12, p = .52$ , or income level,  $\chi^2(10, 313) = 11.19$ , p = .34. The majority of the parents were female (71%) and had a mean age of 40.90 years (SD = 11.01). Eighty-five percent of the sample identified themselves as Caucasian/White, 5.0% identified Black/African American, 3.5% as Asian, 2.5% as American Indian/Alaskan Native, 2.0% as other ethnicity, and 2.0% as two or more ethnicities. Additionally, individuals that identified themselves as Hispanic composed 3.6% of the sample.

Participants reported incomes as follows: under \$10,000 (5.5%), \$10,000-\$29,999 (18.5%), \$30,000-\$49,999 (25.0%), \$50,000-\$69,999 (20.0%),\$70,000-\$109,999 (25%), and over \$110,000 (6%). The majority of participants had a bachelor's degree (34.3%), followed by some college (24.2%), a high school diploma or GED equivalent (15.2%), a master's degree (11.6%), a doctoral or professional degree (4%), and 8th grade or less (.5%). The mean age of the participants' youngest child was 11.49 years (SD = 9.33), and the mean age of their oldest child was 15.45 years (SD =

Participants were randomly assigned to surveys containing one of three scenarios: the version of the vignette where the child was said to have either an ADHD diagnosis (n = 68), an autistic disorder diagnosis (n =57), or no diagnosis (n = 75). There were no significant differences among the three groups in gender,  $\chi^2(2, N = 200) = 2.18, p =$ .34, ethnicity,  $\chi^2(10, N = 199) = 4.84, p =$ .90, education level,  $\chi^2(14, N = 198) =$ 13.10, p = .52, income,  $\chi^2(20, N = 200) =$ 29.44, p = .08, age of oldest child,  $\chi^2(74, N =$ (200) = 67.05, p = .70, or age of youngestchild,  $\chi^2(74, N = 200) = 83.69, p = .21$ .

#### Materials

Online survey. Amazon's Mechanical Turk was used to link participants to a survey site. The survey in this study contained the consent form, followed by one of three vignettes, four discipline technique descriptions (i.e., time-out, response cost, positive reinforcement, and spanking), the



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treatment acceptability questionnaire (completed once for each technique), and a demographic questionnaire.

Demographic questionnaire. Questions regarding the participants' age, gender, ethnicity, number of children, ages of children, education level, and range of income were contained at the end of the survey. There was also a question regarding what country the participants live in to verify that respondents met the qualifications listed.

Vignettes and technique descriptions. Each of the three vignettes had the same description of a fictional child with various challenging behaviors, such as temper tantrums and defiance. A boy was used in the vignette since the majority of the diagnoses were more common in boys than in girls at the time data were collected (i.e., ADHD, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2008; and autistic disorder, Boyle et al., 2011). The following vignette was presented to all parents:

James is a 5-year-old who recently started kindergarten. His parents report that his most challenging behaviors are frequent temper tantrums and refusal to follow directions. James is frequently very irritable, as well. James' temper tantrums include yelling, throwing his toys, and sometimes even hurting himself and/or others. He prefers a certain way of doing things, and if anybody disrupts his routine he often has a temper tantrum. James also has temper tantrums when told to do something he does not want to do. James is easily distracted, and often makes silly mistakes on tasks as a result. James has . . . [been diagnosed with ADHD; been diagnosed with autistic disorder; not been diagnosed with any psychological disorder].

The only difference among the three vignettes was the last sentence describing James as having ADHD, autistic disorder, or no diagnosis, diagnoses that are consistent with the diagnostic manual in use at the time that data were collected (*Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Fourth Edition, Text Revision; DSM-IV-TR). Four different discipline technique descriptions were then provided for timeout, response cost, positive reinforcement, and spanking, in that order. The discipline technique descriptions were slightly modified from the Jones et al. (1998) study and are included in the Appendix.

Treatment Evaluation Inventory-Short Form-Selected Items (TEI-SF-SI). Selected items from the Treatment Evaluation Inventory-Short Form (TEI-SF; Kelley, Heffer, Gresham, & Elliott, 1989) were used to measure ratings of acceptability for the four discipline technique options. The TEI-SF consists of 9 items that include statements that individuals rate on a 5point Likert scale. Ratings range from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree." Total scores on the measure can range from 9 to 45. The TEI-SF has been used in previous studies as a measure of treatment acceptability (Boothe & Borrego, 2004; Njardvik & Kelley, 2008). Previous studies have found satisfactory reliability data for the measure, with a coefficient alpha of .85 (Kelley et al., 1989). Only some selected items from the TEI-SF were used in this study to decrease the amount of work for participants since each participant had to complete the questionnaire four times. The selected items from the TEI-SF were: "I find this technique to be an acceptable way of dealing with the child's problem behavior"; "I believe this technique is likely to be effective in scenarios such as this"; "I believe this technique is likely to result in permanent improvement"; and "Overall, I have a positive reaction to this technique in this scenario." Total scores were used in the analyses for this study, and possible range of scores is 4 to 20. In this study, the selected items of the TEI-SF had a coefficient alpha of .92 for time-out, .93 for response cost, .94 for positive reinforcement, and .96 for spanking. Thus, this modified version of the TEI-SF had strong internal consistency with this sample.

#### Procedure

Participants were recruited through Amazon's Mechanical Turk, a tool available on the Internet that allows organizations or individual researchers (i.e., "requesters") to recruit participants (i.e., "workers") to complete "Human Intelligence Tasks" (HITs), many of which are in the form of questionnaires. Individuals can become workers by creating an account on the Mechanical Turk website. Workers are able to view all of the HITs available, including descriptions of the tasks, criteria participating, the compensation amount, and the date the HIT expires. From there workers are able to select which HIT they want to complete.

To participate in the study, workers had to be a U.S. resident and a parent of a child that was at least 5 years old. Furthermore, qualifications were set that the participants must have had 90% of their previous HITs approved by previous requesters, meaning that 90% of the tasks that the worker had completed were approved by the requester for that particular task. This specification helps to exclude those individuals who are participating in tasks for which they do not qualify. Preliminary research has shown that Mechanical Turk obtains samples that are slightly more representative of the United States than other Internet samples and are more diverse than college student samples (Buhrmester, Kwang, & Gosling, 2011).

Participants were randomly assigned to a survey containing either the version of the vignette with an ADHD diagnosis, an autistic disorder diagnosis, or no diagnosis. After being routed to the survey, the participants were presented with the informed consent page and indicated whether they consented to being in the study. Participants who consented were presented with their assigned vignette. The vignette was followed by a description of each of the discipline techniques in the following order: time-out, response cost, positive reinforcement, and spanking. After each discipline technique they were asked to rate how acceptable they found the techniques for the child in the scenario using the selected items from the TEI-SF. The survey ended with the demographic questionnaire. After participants finished the survey, they were provided with a redemption code which they then could enter into the Mechanical Turk website to obtain 25 cents worth of compensation.

#### Results

To investigate how ratings of acceptability of the treatment techniques varied across the different vignettes, a mixed model analysis of variance (ANOVA) was conducted. Table 1 includes the means and standard deviations. A statistically significant main effect was found for the withingroup factor of treatment technique, F(3,591) = 104.20, p < .001, partial  $\eta^2 = .35$ , indicating that ratings on the selected items of the TEI-SF differed based on the treatment technique being evaluated. The results showed that the between groups factor of diagnostic status was not significant, F(2, 197) = .27, p = .76, nor was there a significant diagnosis-by-treatment interaction, F(6, 591) = .64, p = .70. Repeated measures t tests were conducted on all pair wise comparisons to test for the nature of the effect of treatment technique.

The first hypothesis, that response cost will be rated as significantly more accept-

able than time-out, positive reinforcement, and spanking, was partially supported. Response cost was rated as significantly more acceptable than spanking, t(199) =14.03, *p* < .001, *d* = 1.39, 95% CI [1.16, 1.60] and time-out, t(199) = 4.37, p < .001, d =0.33, 95% CI [0.13, 0.53]. However, response cost was not rated as significantly more acceptable than positive reinforcement. As hypothesized, positive reinforcement was rated by parents as significantly more acceptable than both time-out, t(199)= 5.44, p < .001, d = 0.48, 95% CI [0.28, 0.68], and spanking, t(199) = 12.98, p <.001, d = 1.04, 95% CI [1.28, 1.72], and time-out was rated as significantly more acceptable than spanking, t(199) = 9.90, p < .001, d = 1.04, 95% CI [0.83, 1.25]. See Table 1 for means and standard deviations for the treatment techniques.

For illustrative purposes, Table 1 also shows the percentage of parents that had a "positive reaction" to each discipline technique. Participants were considered to have a positive reaction if they "agreed" or "strongly agreed" with this statement: "Overall, I have a positive reaction to this technique in this scenario." The other items on the TEI-SF are not phrased in terms of overall "positive reaction" and so were not used in this analysis. Percentages for the behavioral parent training strategies of positive reinforcement (73.0%), response cost (71.0%), and time-out (60.0%) were fairly high. On the other hand, the percentage for spanking (18.5%) was fairly low.

#### Discussion

Positive reinforcement and response cost were rated by parents as the most acceptable techniques to use, regardless of diagnostic status. Positive reinforcement and response cost were both rated as significantly more acceptable than time-out and spanking, but they were not rated significantly different from each other. Also, time-out was rated as significantly more acceptable than spanking. These results suggest that parents find response cost and positive reinforcement as the most acceptable behavior management techniques, regardless of a child's diagnosis.

The results of the analysis are consistent with previous research that has shown positive reinforcement and response cost to be rated as highly acceptable and similar in ratings to each other (e.g., Jones et al., 1998; Miller & Kelley, 1992). However, some previous research has also shown response cost as rated significantly higher than posi-

tive reinforcement by parents, which is not consistent with these results (Boothe & Borrego, 2004; Borrego, Ibanez, Spendlove, & Pemberton, 2007). Similar to the results of the current study, previous research has found positive reinforcement as more acceptable than time-out (e.g., Jones et al., 1998; Reimers et al., 1991), and spanking (e.g., Jones et al., 1998; Miller & Kelley, 1992).

In prior studies, parents have rated response cost as significantly more acceptable than both time-out (e.g., Boothe & Borrego, 2004; Jones et al., 1998) and spanking (e.g., Boothe & Borrego, 2004; Borrego et al., 2007; Jones et al., 1998), which is consistent with our results. The finding that time-out is rated by parents as more acceptable than spanking is also consistent with previous research (e.g., Borrego et al., 2007; Jones et al., 1998).

Although the results of the present study expand on the previous treatment acceptability literature, there are limitations that must be noted. One limitation is that the method of sampling limits generalizability of the results. In order to partici-

pate in the study, individuals had to have access to the Internet. Examples of some differences are that Internet users tend to be younger and wealthier than nonusers and also tend to be more trusting and have more expansive social networks (Skitka & Sargis, 2006). Some of these characteristics appear to be consistent with those of our sample, which was underrepresentative of individuals with extremes of income and of those with lower education levels. Another limitation of the present study is that ratings of acceptability were not examined separately for mothers and fathers, who might be expected to evaluate the behavior management techniques differently. Thus, future studies might evaluate whether there are indeed differences in acceptability ratings between mothers and fathers.

Another limitation of this study is that counterbalancing was not able to be used because of cost limitations, as the version of Survey Monkey with counterbalancing costs additional money. As a result, the treatments were presented in the same order to every participant. It is also important to note that the target child in the

**Table 1.** Descriptive Statistics for Acceptability Ratings of Techniques and Diagnostic Status

| Technique/Diagnosis    | Mean  | SD   | % with positive reaction |
|------------------------|-------|------|--------------------------|
| Time-Out               |       |      |                          |
| ADHD                   | 13.26 | 4.43 | 60.2%                    |
| Autistic Disorder      | 13.54 | 3.33 | 61.4%                    |
| No diagnosis           | 13.75 | 3.97 | 58.7%                    |
| All groups             | 13.53 | 3.96 | 60.0%                    |
| Response cost          |       |      |                          |
| ADHD                   | 14.87 | 4.03 | 73.6%                    |
| Autistic Disorder      | 14.42 | 3.18 | 68.4%                    |
| No diagnosis           | 15.01 | 3.60 | 70.6%                    |
| All groups             | 14.80 | 3.63 | 71.0%                    |
| Positive reinforcement |       |      |                          |
| ADHD                   | 15.82 | 3.45 | 70.6%                    |
| Autistic Disorder      | 15.37 | 4.02 | 73.7%                    |
| No diagnosis           | 14.99 | 3.91 | 74.6%                    |
| All groups             | 15.38 | 3.79 | 73.0%                    |
| Spanking               |       |      |                          |
| ADHD                   | 8.78  | 4.60 | 19.1%                    |
| Autistic Disorder      | 8.86  | 4.66 | 19.3%                    |
| No diagnosis           | 9.53  | 4.46 | 17.4%                    |
| All groups             | 9.09  | 4.55 | 18.5%                    |

*Note.* Range of scores on the selected items of the TEI-SF is from 4 to 20 with higher scores in representing higher acceptability. The "% with positive reaction" was calculated by combing the percent of parents that 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' with the this statement "Overall, I have a positive reaction to this technique in this scenario."

vignette was a boy and, thus, the ratings of acceptability of the different behavioral management techniques may not generalize to ratings of acceptability for use with girls.

The theoretical rationale behind exploring whether there were differences in ratings of treatments for a child depending on diagnosis is that parents may be susceptible to societal beliefs about disability that may contribute to tolerance of problematic behaviors (Woolfson, 2014), which may in turn influence the acceptability of various behavior management techniques. Therefore, one direction for future research could be to investigate whether parents' beliefs regarding a child's disability mediates the relation between their child's diagnosis and their ratings of acceptability of different behavior management techniques

Despite being an effective strategy for decreasing externalizing behaviors, time-out continues to be related significantly lower than other effective strategies. Thus, a future direction for research could be to assess the effect of a brief intervention on parents' ratings of acceptability of a technique such as time-out. It is possible if a session focuses on explaining the rationale for time-out and has parents practice using time-out, that this may have an effect on

parents' opinions of the technique. It would also be helpful to explore the possible reasons why parents find some of the discipline techniques more acceptable than others. These reasons would help practitioners determine whether they should teach parents other techniques, or simply address misconceptions that may exist about certain techniques, such as time-out.

This is one of the first studies to evaluate acceptability of behavior management techniques for externalizing behaviors in children with different diagnoses, including ASD. It is also one of the first studies in the area of treatment acceptability to use online methods for data collection and found similar results to previous studies regarding acceptability of behavioral management techniques. This study also provides updated information regarding what percent of parents have a positive reaction to different discipline techniques. Therapists using behavioral parent training may be encouraged by the positive reactions to their techniques, regardless of diagnosis, including that of a developmental disability. They also may be encouraged about the low support for spanking.

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#### Appendix

#### **Discipline Technique Descriptions**

- Time-out: To address James's refusal to follow directions, his parents have him sit in a chair in the corner. His parents have him sit on the chair for 3 minutes. After 3 minutes, James's parents will give him permission to get off the chair if he is quiet. If James gets off the chair before his parents give permission, James must stay on the chair another 3 minutes.
- Response cost: To address James's refusal to follow directions, his parents take away
  a privilege that James normally has. James's parents tell James why he is losing the
  privilege for that day. The privileges that James might lose are things that he really
  likes, like a favorite TV show, dessert after dinner, a bedtime story, or playing with a
  favorite toy.
- Positive reinforcement: To address James's refusal to follow directions, every time
  that James does follow directions, his parents put a sticker on James's sticker chart.
  When James earns four stickers, his parents give him extra special things that he likes.
  The special things may be extra TV time, a special snack, a trip to the park to swing,
  or a small toy.
- Spanking: To address James's refusal to follow directions, his parents spank him.
   When James refuses to follow a direction, one of his parents walks James over to a chair and tells him that because of his refusal he is going to get a spanking. One of his parents then puts James over his/her lap and gives him two spanks on the bottom with an open palm.

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### How to Develop a Robust Practice-Based Research Repertoire

R. Trent Codd, III, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Center of WNC, P.A.

IN 1992, MY UNDERGRADUATE astronomy professor declared to the class that most discoveries in the field of astronomy were made by amateurs. Before the turn of the 21st century, amateurs discovered most comets, many supernovae, novae, nebulae, and more.

Astronomy has changed some since then. There's been a proliferation of orbiting spacecraft and earth-based robotic telescopes with linked survey programs that have decreased the relative percentage of amateur scientific discoveries. Nevertheless, amateurs still play a significant role in scientific discovery; they help to examine the thousands of astronomical images taken daily for the purpose of distant galaxy classification. Most discoveries of comets, supernovae, and novae are now found on these images. Amateurs continue to play a large role because there's a lot of sky to look at out there!

What if the cognitive-behavioral clinician could play an analogous role in the clinical scientific discovery process? They are "amateurs" in the sense that they are not full-time researchers in a university setting, but they are in settings where they can ask and answer important research questions and can contribute to the growth rate of the scientific database. There's a lot of clinical behavior to look at out there!

The call for increased research activity in clinical practice settings is not new and has been made by many others (e.g., DeFife et al., 2015). Despite the number of such calls, research output in clinical practice settings remains negligible among mental health professionals, including counselors (Lundervold & Belwodd, 2000), social workers (Davis et al., 2013) and clinical psychologists (Eke, Holttum & Hayward, 2012). Publication rate data for counselors and social workers are unavailable. However, researchers have determined the modal publication rate among clinical psychologists to be zero (Eke et al., 2012). Clinical psychologists' low productivity level with respect to research activity is particularly concerning because they emphasize

the value of research to a greater degree than other mental health professionals and, generally speaking, espouse a scientist-practitioner model (Shapiro, 2002). The dearth of research produced from the various mental health disciplines is disappointing.

Representatives of various mental health professions have requested that barriers to increased clinical research activity be identified and remediated (e.g., Davis et al., 2013; Lundervold & Belwodd, 2000). For example, most clinicians chose clinical practice over full-time research because that is where their interests and competencies lie. Indeed, research suggests that one barrier to research activity is that many clinicians are not adequately trained in research methods (Baker, McFall & Shoham, 2009; Davis et al.; Lundervold & Belwodd). Also, for those clinicians who maintain an interest in research, it may have been a great deal of time since their research training. Finally, because the clinical practice context generally does not support such activity, any research repertoire previously developed is likely extinguished.

Many other barriers to conducting practice-based research exist (e.g., difficulty accessing an Institutional Review Board [IRB], time, financial constraints, etc.) and their proposed solutions have been the subject of other papers (see LeJeune & Luoma, 2015) as well as forthcoming works (see Codd, in preparation).

One solution to the problem of an inept research repertoire is to invoke a behavioral approach to its development. Such an approach has not been adequately discussed in the literature. In the pages following, a brief yet dense roadmap is provided for the practicing clinician who wishes to construct a behavioral repertoire that is up to the task of clinical scientific discovery. This repertoire consists of at least two distinct component repertoires: one pertaining to the development of competence with research methods and the other pertaining to fluency with the scholarly literature.

Strategies for the development of both component repertoires are addressed below.

### Constructing a Practice-Based Research Repertoire

#### Research Design Repertoire

Shaping your repertoire. Research activity in a practice setting involves the behavior of the clinical scientist. Therefore, this behavioral repertoire should be acquired, like any other behavior, by successive approximation through replication and extension (Iwata, 2006). This requires the clinician to engage in repeated successful behavioral practice (i.e., behavior that contacts reinforcement) and gradually increase the requirements for reinforcement. Most clinicians fail to build a successful repertoire because they do not arrange conditions that afford repeated reinforced practice. Some examples of common mistakes include: initiating projects where the response effort is too great, where the behavioral chain is too long and complex, or where reinforcement is too delayed. These ineffective approaches are not surprising, as they are likely the result of having been trained under the thesis/dissertation model which, in essence, only provides two learning trials, both of which require a large response effort and involve significantly delayed access to reinforcement (Iwata, 2006). The clinician trained under this model was taught an ineffective method of achieving behavioral acquisition, and it is likely that any existing research repertoire was extinguished or never fully reached acquisition in the first place.

A more effective approach exists. The clinician can use principles from the science of behavior to arrange their environment in such a way that it develops and supports a complex research repertoire (Iwata, 2006). For example, they should begin with a series of low-risk projects that afford a high probability of accessing reinforcement. Such projects may involve the investigation of easy-to-solve problems and questions where the answer is already known. They may also involve simple design and measurement procedures and/or the use of robust independent variables that produce large effects (Iwata, 2006). As their repertoire grows, they can begin balancing low- and high-risk projects. It is important that they not embark on high-risk efforts while still in the acquisition phase.

Maintain the saliency of reinforcing consequences. Clinicians engaging in research behavior can contact many reinforcing consequences that are generally not obvious to an observer and, unfortunately, clinical scientists often fail to transmit the availability of these reinforcers to aspiring researchers. Recognizing this difficulty, Sidman (2007) wrote a paper addressing these issues in which he conveyed many of the available reinforcers: "When we publish behavioral research, we are not allowed to communicate the thrill, the poetry, or the exhilaration that are outcomes of the discovery process. Yet, these are among our most potent reinforcers" (p. 309). The aspiring practice-based researcher is encouraged to read Sidman's paper and to incorporate his communication methods.

To facilitate contact with reinforcement, it is also important to do research that matters. Before embarking on a research project, clinicians would be wise to ask themselves the following questions: How will the findings from this project make a contribution to my field? When I'm on my deathbed will I be satisfied that I

explored these questions? Pursuing research that matters increases its reinforcing value. There is one note of caution, however. If a clinician is in the acquisition phase, the answers to these questions can easily pull for going through with research regardless of how improbable or delayed reinforcement contact is. As discussed previously, this will interfere with development of the desired repertoire. The solution is to view the smaller projects as steppingstones to these larger efforts and to see that meaningful projects can still be selected on smaller scales.

#### Develop Fluency With the Research Literature

Acquisition stage. Fluency with the research literature is an important component of a composite practice-based research repertoire. One method for acquiring fluency is to define a target pattern to work toward based on a model (i.e., a senior clinician-researcher) that already possesses the fluent pattern.

*Target exemplar.* A prototype is developed by interviewing an adept clinician-

researcher about the behavior that makes up their repertoire. Specifically, they are interviewed about their process of reaching fluency as well as their current maintenance pattern. One such model is described below (another is described in Carr & Briggs, 2010).

Dedicate one day a week (or at least a portion of one day per week) to reading the literature. Schedule and protect this time from any distractions. Identify the important journals in your area of interest and systematically read the last 10 years of articles published in each of these journals. During this process, record on a notepad anything that you do not understand or are unfamiliar with. Investigate these concepts. Behavioral practice with this material is an important final step (see Sudak et al., 2015, for a method of achieving behavioral fluency). Once you've read the last 10 years of material and have developed fluency with it, you are on your way to achieving command of the literature. It can also be useful, time permitting, to get involved with a reading group with colleagues who have similar areas of interest.



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The maintenance stage. Once one has reached criterion, it is important to stay abreast of the literature. In order to maintain this behavior, one must arrange the contingencies appropriately. This may be accomplished through individual self-management procedures or through a reading group (Carr & Briggs, 2010).

At least one reading group model has been evaluated empirically (Parsons & Reid, 2011), and is associated with high acceptability among its participants as well as increases in knowledge. It also offers a minimal financial and time burden. The Parsons and Reid procedure involved reading one chapter or article per month, and a monthly hour-long meeting. The items chosen for reading were selected based on their relevance to their participants' practice as well as their expressed preferences. Only manuscripts that would take less than 1 hour to read were chosen. Several study questions were developed by the group facilitator to guide participant reading.

Reading group meetings followed a specific structure and were led by a facilitator. Each meeting contained the following elements: (a) describing the relevance of the selected reading to group members, (b) prompting each participant to convey their impressions of the article, (c) prompting participants to answer one of the study questions and then asking the other participants their perception of the given answer (going through each study question ensured that all major points of the reading were covered), (d) asking each participant to relate a key concept from the reading to their clinical duties, (e) a group leader summation of the main points discussed, and (f) thanking members for their participa-

The Parsons and Reid (2011) procedure can be replicated in a group practice setting. A solo practitioner could also implement such a program by connecting with other solo practitioners for this purpose. For example, they could arrange to meet in a physical location with other local practitioners, or they could implement this virtually.¹ In either case it would be important to optimize the verbal community by striving to include at least one participant who is already fluent with the literature of interest

Other barriers to staying current with the scholarly literature, and their solutions, have been identified in the literature. For example, Carr and Briggs (2010) addressed barriers involving large financial costs and high degrees of response effort. They noted the expense involved with subscribing to searchable databases such as PsycINFO and many individual journals. They suggested a number of solutions including the use of Google Scholar, RSS feeds, e-mail alerting services, low-cost journal subscriptions, and contacting authors directly for copies of manuscripts. They also suggested adjuncting at a local college in order to access that college's databases and holdings, or pursuing library privileges through their alumni association. They further reminded readers that in the U.S. these expenses are tax deductible. Some journal subscriptions are cost prohibitive for the practitioner, but others are free or available at reasonable rates. Another way of reducing response effort is to automate the literature search process (see Debuque, 2011, for a step-by-step procedure for automating this process).

#### Conclusion

Clinical practitioners have an important role to play in the scientific discovery process. They can make significant contributions to the literature if they can overcome the many barriers embedded in their settings. This paper focused on one such barrier— an inept research repertoire—and described a behavioral approach to surmounting it.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Many services for this purpose are low cost or free. Here's one example: https://www.freeconferencecall.com/

### Spotlight on a Mentor: Dr. Lizabeth Roemer

#### Helen Z. MacDonald, Emmanuel College

THE ABCT SPOTLIGHT ON A MENTOR program recognizes some of our organization's most talented and well-regarded research mentors. Our goal is to highlight excellent mentors across all levels of academic rank, area of specialization, and type of institution. We are pleased to present an interview with our current spotlighted mentor, Dr. Lizabeth Roemer.

Dr. Lizabeth Roemer is Professor of Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Boston, where she has been a faculty member since 1996. She received her Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University in 1995, under the supervision of Dr. T. D. Borkovec, and completed an internship and postdoctoral fellowship at the National Center for PTSD – Behavioral Sciences Division at the Boston VA. At UMass Boston, Dr. Roemer mentors clinical psychology doctoral students, provides clinical supervision to doctoral students in their first clinical practicum, and teaches.

Dr. Roemer has an active, productive research career, including publishing over 100 journal articles and book chapters and co-editing two books on the role of emotion regulation, mindfulness, and experiential avoidance in anxiety and other disorders, and the use of acceptance-based behavioral therapies. In collaboration with Dr. Susan Orsillo, Dr. Roemer has developed an acceptance-based behavioral therapy for generalized anxiety and comorbid disorders and, in collaboration with Dr. Sarah Hayes-Skelton, has examined its efficacy and mediators and moderators of change in a series of studies funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. Drs. Roemer and Orsillo are co-authors of Mindfulness- and Acceptance-Based Behavioral Therapies in Practice and The Mindful Way Through Anxiety, both published by Guilford Press, as well as a new forthcoming self-help book tentatively titled Worry Less, Live More: The Mindful Way Through Anxietv Workbook.

Ms. Natalie Arbid, one of Dr. Roemer's current clinical psychology doctoral students, nominated Dr. Roemer for the Spotlight on a Mentor award. Ms. Arbid described Dr. Roemer's mentorship style in this way:

From the first [individual mentorship] meeting, Liz is clear that she wants to help us clarify our own research interests and to support us in the process. She wants us to develop our own personal values and discover how those values fit into our professional and research goals as clinical psychologists. She takes an acceptance-based behavioral therapy approach to mentoring that involves being mindful during interactions with students and highlights her own commitment and values related to mentoring. This transparent process is central in her ability to help us explore and navigate our own professional and personal values.

Ms. Arbid also discussed the way in which Dr. Roemer's commitment to social justice informs her work as a mentor:

Liz helps us explore students' experiences with oppression and privilege, and how to negotiate various aspects of our identities as they interface with coursework, program material, research questions, and clinical experiences. Liz's commitment to social justice in her mentoring helps us explore various ways to respond to systemic inequities in our society. She does so by engaging in research exploring racism and discrimination across various identities, organizing community activism, and working to acknowledge areas of privilege and oppression, which all lead to policy changes at various levels within communities and organizations. Liz also openly discusses her process of working towards social justice, and does so in a way that normalizes and demonstrates compassion around the challenges that are inherent in this process. Liz has taught me that mentoring can be one of the most rewarding parts of a career. She has also modeled the ways in which compassion, commitment, and high expectations provide a context for students to thrive and develop personally and professionally.

Dr. Roemer responded to questions from ABCT's Academic Training and Education Standards Committee about her experience and goals as a mentor, as well as her mentorship philosophy and mentorship practices.

# For how long have you engaged in the type of mentoring that you engage in now?

My mentoring is always evolving, but I have been mentoring doctoral students and undergraduate students, and teaching, since 1996.

# What type of mentor do you aspire to be? Do you have a mentorship philosophy?

I aspire to provide students with the support, resources, guidance, and education they need to be successful in whatever way they want to be successful. This includes helping them to achieve competence across all the roles of clinical psychologists, while delving more deeply into the areas that are most important to them. I encourage my students to try on all possible roles because often a student who thinks she doesn't want to teach, for instance, finds she loves it. Once they've tried things, I'm respectful of what they value most, as long as they develop broad competencies. I also see my role as helping them to develop personally and professionally, including clarifying what is important to them and finding ways to engage in their work that are meaningful and rewarding, while also attending to other areas of their lives. I mentor the whole person and help each student find themselves in their work so that they are developing a lifelong relationship with their work that involves learning, growing, and stretching themselves.

My philosophy of mentoring is that my role is to facilitate growth through my presence, my genuine sharing of my own experiences, knowledge, and feedback, and by creating a context in which students feel comfortable trying new things, making mistakes, and then coming back and doing better. I encourage a collaborative environment in which students generally enjoy each other's successes, allowing them to each help the other reach higher and do more, rather than feeling competitive or lessened by others' successes.

### What practices do you engage in that foster your mentorship style?

I communicate to mentees that their work and learning is important to me by meet-

ing with them regularly, being present and attentive in meetings, and responding as quickly as possible to their questions and their work between meetings.

I consult with colleagues regularly to make sure that I am being attentive to specific needs of my mentees and doing everything I can to facilitate their growth and development. I also connect my students with secondary mentors who can provide role models and guidance in areas that I can't (e.g., who have expertise I don't, or share aspects of identity with my mentees that I don't).

I provide regular opportunities for leadership and scholarship to each of my students so they can practice taking on these roles and find their strengths and abilities in the context of my lab.

I practice mindfulness to help me be emotionally present and open so that I can have genuine, engaged relationships with mentees and be intentional in my interactions with them.

I am authentic and genuine so that I can provide an honest model of being a human being and a professional at the same time.

#### What are your strengths as a mentor?

My compassion and acceptance of my students, coupled with belief in their ability to excel and a willingness to challenge them to do so.

My ability to tolerate mentees' anxiety and distress and help them turn toward their experiences instead of avoiding, so that they can do what matters to them.

My genuine enthusiasm for clinical psychological research, including both the methods we use and the aims and implications of our studies. My genuine belief in the scientist-practitioner model and my ability to model this synthesis.

My commitment to social justice and to recognizing areas of marginalization and privilege and helping students to see these systemic factors in their own and others' lives.

My love of mentoring.

My ability to create an encouraging, supportive lab in which students genuinely care for one another and wish each other well, allowing everyone to be successful. In clinical supervision, my ability to create a context in which trainees feel comfortable being vulnerable and sharing their fears and reactions so that we can work together to address them to meet the needs of their clients and provide effective, ethical care.

My appreciation for the varied contributions that each student can make—letting them be the best clinical psychologist they can be, rather than fitting them into some set mold in which everyone needs to be the same.

# Whom do you perceive to be your most influential mentors? Describe the main lessons that you have learned from your mentors.

Tom Borkovec was my doctoral mentor and he is the person who taught me to love science, clinical psychology, and mentoring. He taught me to be passionate about the pursuit of truth, while maintaining humility about our ability to truly do so. He also modeled that one could be successful and productive while also truly caring about other people and having meaningful relationships. When I graduated, he told me that I had learned skills that would be valuable no matter what I did, including owning a bird store (he loved birds). The freedom to choose my career path and to know he would be proud of me no matter what is what allowed me to clearly choose the academic path and know that I was doing it because I loved it, not because I was expected to. I try to convey the same message to my own students and I do truly enjoy and feel proud of every path they choose.

Sue Mineka was my undergraduate mentor and my first role model. She taught me the beauty and elegance of experimental psychopathology and I share that with my students all the time. She was also the first person to treat me like an independent researcher and to support me developing my own ideas, which had a powerful effect that I try to pass along to my students.

Brett Litz was my post-doc mentor. He helped me recognize what mattered to me as a professional, including my love of teaching and mentoring, which gave me the courage to leave the comfort of the VA and pursue an academic job.

Sue Orsillo was a post-doc when I was an intern and has been a peer mentor to me throughout my career. There isn't room to say what I've learned from her, but it's in pretty much everything I've written and everything I do. Mostly she taught me how to connect to what's important to me and to choose my actions, so that mentoring is a chosen, valued action, rather than a responsibility or a burden. The time I spend on mentor-

ing is extremely rewarding and nourishing to me and is closely tied to me being the person I want to be.

# What advice would you give to other professionals in your field who are starting out as mentors?

My advice is to be intentional about the kind of mentor you want to be. Reflect on your own experiences and the experiences of people you know and also on what you find rewarding about mentoring. Find ways to bring your full self to your mentoring relationships and be transparent and authentic with mentees. Be clear and transparent about expectancies with your mentees and learn how to provide honest feedback—it can feel challenging or unkind, but it is the way that we are able to best help our students learn and grow.

. . .

Spotlight on a Mentor interviews are presented by ABCT's Academic Training and Education Standards Committee with editing by Helen Z. MacDonald. If you are interested in learning more about Dr. Roemer's work as a mentor, to learn about other exceptional ABCT mentors, or to add your mentorship profile to the ABCT Mentorship Directory, please visit www.abct.org/mentorship/.

# **How Horse Training Made Me a Better DBT Therapist**

Holly Bedotto, DBT by Design, Miami, FL

I AM A DBT CLINICIAN AND A NASCENT equestrian. I rode as a child and this is important, because as a child I rode with a pathological amount of confidence.

Months ago I was on a young horse that I had ridden before. Horses, like many of our patients, can be very different across encounters. So, on a brisk morning, this familiar horse was out of control at the walk. Fear grew inside me and the worse I got, the worse she got. She refused to go forward, resisted my attempts for upward transitions, swished her tail, threw her head, pinned her ears, and engaged her hind end (these are all behaviors that communicate "no"). I knew something was wrong but I didn't have the skill or the confidence to fix these problems while on her back. I was reminded of my patients who often have this experience. I also was brought back to the years when I was a psychologist in training; I knew enough to be dangerous but not enough to be effective. A year before, I had attempted to fix just one of these problems on a different mare and she kicked out so many times, I threw my back out and couldn't ride for months. I made things worse, again like my patients. I did not want to experience that again. I made it through the ride without her throwing me off her back, then immediately called my riding coach and got on another horse the next day in order to calm my fears and move forward.

Something was missing. I knew I needed more knowledge, more skill, more something. I went to my online riding site, but nothing helped. So, of course, I went to YouTube. I found this Australian horse trainer, Warwick Schiller. This guy is a DBT specialist for horses! I couldn't believe what I was seeing...he retrains horses that are overly fearful (spook easily), have behavioral problems (can't be clipped, rear up), have been abused or neglected, or just plain old rude behavior (barging into people). Sound familiar?

For any of you who are true behaviorists, you know how animal training works. Dogs respond to positive reinforcement. Horses, being prey animals, respond to

release of pressure (negative reinforcement). I started showing my colleagues at work some of these videos and one in particular stood out: worming a horse that had refused oral wormer for years. In less than 15 minutes, Schiller successfully worms a horse through negative reinforcement. This horse apparently used to duck her head or flip over backward for years in order to avoid the oral wormer. We were so enchanted with the ease of seeing the best of behaviorism. We now use this video in our basic DBT skills groups to begin teaching our patients behaviorism.

It is so easy to see success in animals. This was the first moment in time where I paused. The second time occurred when I was talking with the mother of one of our teens and she was telling me about the subtle changes she saw in her son after only two groups. My response to her was, "Well now you see why that commitment period took so long before he entered group; he needed time to hook on to the therapist and the therapy." I walked out of my waiting room and realized I had used Schiller's term, "hooking on," to describe commitment. Hooking On in horse training vernacular is

... where a horse learns how to learn and [the process] has an amazing number of benefits including improving forward motion, bettering a horse's focus and instilling an inclination to stand still quietly which makes them easy to catch. The hooking on process will teach your horse things that will carry over to every other aspect of your relationship which ultimately makes being around your horse a much more enjoyable and safe experience. (Schiller, 2014)

This is DBT and CBT at its best—teaching our patients how to use the therapy and take what they've learned into their world. Renowned horse trainer Ray Hunt says, "... you ask [your horse]; you offer it to him in a good way. You fix it up and let him find it. You do not make anything happen,

no more than you can make a friendship happen" (Hunt, 1991, p. 1).

And then we enter the paradox: If a young untrained horse wants to be near you, move away. If it wants to run from you, move toward it. The dance of trainer and horse is similar to that of therapist and patient. One strives to create a sense of safety and control within the organism while building trust and rapport. The result is a horse who is in control of itself, allows the human to catch it in the paddock, and can stand within a safe and healthy boundary from its handler. Again, so familiar.

After the YouTube adventure, I, of course, join his video training site (Warwickschiller.com) and am amazed at his ability to teach these concepts. He videotapes his sessions and explains his theory. There are skills to learn once hooking on takes hold. There is lateral flexion and bending to a stop, disengaging the hind end, riding on a loose rein in walk, trot and canter, and riding with contact. All of these horse training skills are consistent with DBT skills: mindfulness, distress tolerance, emotional regulation, and interpersonal skills. They all must be mastered for a rider and horse to communicate and for the horse to function in the equestrian world. And they must be done in a language a horse understands. The language of the herd. Same for DBT, we establish a language our patients need in order to get what they want in healthy ways. Ray Hunt discusses the importance of observation, honesty, and effectiveness. Observation about what the horse can teach you about where it is psychologically, honesty about your shortcomings, and effectiveness in carrying out training with each horse.

Schiller addresses the relationship with horse and rider. In training a horse, he is often heard saying, "It's not my problem... I leave emotion out of it . . . they have to figure it out." I often find myself saying these things in my head when confronted with difficult patient experiences. These words help me create a healthy space to allow for mistakes so we can correct them. Schiller is excited when a horse makes a mistake. So many equestrians think they can control their 1,200-pound steed and prevent mistakes. I learned that, for a horse, like with humans, mistakes are an important part of learning and only in that space can learning and change occur. So, when a patient arrives to my office, head held low and says, "You're going to be mad ...," my response is "Great! Now we have an opportunity to learn."





#### online

#### **50th Anniversary Podcast**

Tune in as Ray DiGiuseppe invites you to the 50th celebration in NYC, describes his experience as a long-time member of ABCT, and reveals: "I've only missed two conventions— I've always felt very guilty about those . . ."

#### in-press

#### "Why" or "How": The Effect of Concrete Versus Abstract Processing on Intrusive Memories Following Analogue Trauma

"Accumulating evidence suggests that training individuals to process events (either during or afterwards) in a concrete relative to an abstract way increases resilience to these events."

White & Wild Behavior Therapy doi: 10.1016/j.beth.2016.02.004

#### archive

"...in so far as attention is a state favoring discrimination of stimuli, it is involved in that part of an animal's behavior which is derived from individual experience, since pure instinct discriminates but roughly ..."

—Margaret F. Washburn (1936)

The Animal Mind

New York, Macmillan

As I watch more video, I wonder, Does this guy have some training in human therapy? Is his wife a clinician? He often refers to horse training theory books but sometimes he refers to concepts such as love language and mindfulness. Okay, I'm hooked! One of the reasons I ride horses is to engage in a truly mindful activity. Riding and training as I am now seeing takes all of one's cognitive and physical engagement. It is a true "participate" exercise. Like learning how to ride a bike or play an instrument, one has to learn a new language. How to engage one's body on horseback or on the ground in order to have effective communication. Horses have incredible memories and attend to the subtlest behaviors. We may be reinforcing the wrong behaviors without even knowing it and they will remember. Often, as a DBT therapist, I have had to disengage and review to see my part in an unhealthy behavior. And then comes the metaphor for wise mind . . .

My goal with a horse is for us to someday be in perfect harmony. It's like a candle light at the end of a long tunnel. It gets brighter and clearer all the time. Even though I realize I will never hold it in my hand, working for this goal is very real and rewarding. Each step along the way is its own reward (Hunt, 1991).

Schiller is also known for his saying, "Make the wrong thing hard and the right thing easy" (Schiller, 2014). "As a rider, you must slowly and methodically show your horse what is appropriate. You also have to discourage what's inappropriate, not by making the inappropriate impossible, but by making it difficult so that the horse himself chooses appropriate behavior. You can't choose it for him; you can only make it difficult for him to make the wrong choices. If, however, you make it impossible for him to make the wrong choices, you're making war" (Brannaman, 2001, p. 201). For example, if a horse gets locked up or is attracted to the gate (which means, home, food, and friends), the trainer will annoy his steed with tapping or kicks in the area close to the gate. When they move in the other direction, he leaves the horse alone. This is similar to the process of chain analysis. My patients hate them. They make the mistake, we chain it (annoying) and when they stop engaging in the wrong behavior, I leave them alone.

Balancing exercises are akin to dialectics and distress tolerance. A trainer will sensitize a horse (wave a flag, swing a lead rope to get the animal moving). Then he will desensitize (throw the rope over the horse's back or rub on the neck) in order to

repair any damage from sensitizing exercises (Acceptance and Change). These exercises help a horse to act in the world without being overly sensitive or overly numb. Schiller calls this "mental collection" (Schiller, 2015).

Recently, in a horse-assisted therapy training, the equine specialist said to an arena of 50 mental health professionals and horse trainers mixed in with three loose horses, "the horses know how to take care of themselves in a herd, it is your job to figure out how to keep yourselves safe" (Lytle, M., personal communication, September 16, 2015). Trust, respect, and faith. I trust my training, respect my patient's level of commitment and have faith, even during the most difficult parts of the therapy, that my patients will create a life worth living.

"In life, we don't know why things happen. I believe God is not responsible for the bad things that happen to you. Sometimes I think He's responsible for the good things, but sometimes it's something you shape up for yourself" (Brannaman, 2001, p. 260).

Happy trails.

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#### www.wcbct2016.com.au

advances and innovations in the behavioural and cognitive therapies across the world

# ABCT ONLINE WEBINARS

www.abct.org



#### **Learning doesn't need to stop** at the Convention!

ABCT is proud to provide online webinars for psychologists and other mental health professionals. Our webinars can be attended live or viewed online at your convenience. The webinar series offers opportunities to learn about evidence-based treatments and latest research from the convenience of your home/office.

#### Webinars On-Line

Abramowitz | Exposure for OCD

Albano | CBT for Adolescent Anxiety

**Barnett | Ethics in Behavioral Telehealth** 

**Brown | CBT for Child Trauma** 

Farchione | Unified Protocol

Fisher | Ethics

Gallagher | Children with ADHD

**Gurwitch** | Parent-Child Interaction Therapy

*Harvey* | **CBT for Insomnia (CBT-I)** 

**Hayes | ACT for Anxiety** 

Herbert | ACT

Keane | PTSD

**McCrady** | Substance Abuse

McNeil | Parent-Child Interaction Therapy

Miller | DBT With Adolescents

**Persons | Overcoming Treatment Failure** 

Rego | Utilizing Social Media

Resick | CPT for PTSD

Roemer | Acceptance-Based BT for GAD

Segal | Mindfulness in Clinical Practice

Shafran | OCD/Perfection

**Shear | Complicated Grief and Its Treatment** 

Sudak | Supervision

Tirch | Compassion-Focused Therapy

#### Upcoming Webinars

April 22, 2016 • 11:00-12:30 EST

Joe Himle | What Every Social Worker Needs to Know About CBT

May 6, 2016 • 11:00-12:30 EST

Mary Fristad | Treatment of Child Bipolar Disorder

May 13, 2016 • 11:00-12:30 EST

Michelle Craske | Modern Exposure Therapy

June 3, 2016 • 11:30-1:00 EST

Amy Tischelman | Working With LGBT Adolescents

July 28, 2016 • 11:30-1:00 EST

Anu Asnaani | Clinic Issues in Multiculturalism

August 2016 (day/time TBD)

**Barbara Kamholz | Teaching CBT to Residents** 

September 9, 2016 • 11:00-12:30 EST

Craig Bryan | CBT to Prevent Suicidal Behavior

December 19, 2016 • 11:00-12:30 EST

Muniya Khanna | Technology and Mental Health



# Call for Editor of the Behavior Therapist

Candidates are sought for Editor-Elect of *the Behavior Therapist*, Volumes 41–43. The official term for the Editor is January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020, but the Editor-Elect should be prepared to begin handling manuscripts approximately 1 year prior.

Candidates should send a letter of intent and a copy of their CV to Steve Safren, Ph.D., Publications Coordinator, ABCT, 305 Seventh Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10001-6008 or via email to teisler@abct.org

Candidates will be asked to prepare a vision letter in support of their candidacy. David Teisler, ABCT's Director of Communications, will provide you with more details on the selection process as well duties and responsibilities of the Editor. Letters of support or recommendation are discouraged. However, candidates should have secured the support of their institution.

Questions about the responsibilities and duties of the Editor or about the selection process can be directed to David Teisler at the above email address or, by phone, at (212) 647.1890.

Letters of intent MUST BE RECEIVED BY June 1, 2016.

Vision letters will be required by June 15, 2016.

# call for Golden Moments ))))))

In celebration of ABCT's 50th Anniversary, we are seeking "Golden Moments" from the ABCT membership. Small or large, silly or serious, please send your enduring memories. This can entail:

- your own personal golden moment
- a colleague or friend's golden moment
- a BT/CBT-related golden moment
- an ABCT-specific golden moment

The Golden Moments will be featured in the Oct. issue of tBT, on our website, and live at the 50th Annual Convention in NYC (Oct. 27-30).

Please send to ABCT in the form of text, image (jpeg, 300 dpi), or both to: **GoldenMoments@ABCT.org Deadline:** August 25, 2016

#### Examples:

"Being in awe every moment of my first ABCT meeting in 1985..." (Michelle Craske)

"Watching Art Freeman and Art Nezu compare ribbons..." (David Teisler)

"In 1979, ABCT, then AABT, offers first award, President's New Researcher, and Dianne Chambless is first recipient!" (M. J. Eimer)

the Behavior Therapist

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### What Do You Want?

It's not completely open-ended, although you could tell us anything, if you really wanted. But we were hoping that you might take a few moments — really, that's all you'll need — to take the *tBT* survey and help us map out the future that you're touching right now. And, yes, I get the irony of sending you to the web to complete a survey about a paper newsletter; if that tickles your funny bone or really annoys you, send me a note at teisler@abct.org (but after you do the survey online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/tBT\_Survey\_2016).

-DAVID TEISLER, CAE, Director of Communications

#### About the tBT Survey

We're conducting a survey of members trying to gauge their interest in tBT. We'd like your thoughts. As a thank you, we'll enter you into a drawing for one of three webinars/webcasts. PLEASE TAKE THE SURVEY HERE: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/tBT Survey 2016