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# The IBAO® News

by International Behavior Analysis Organization





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# Founders' Message

It has now been a full year since the BACB's decision and the starting point for IBAO's certifications. What a year it has been! The growth and support from around the world have been tremendous. There is a global recognition of the need for certifications in Applied Behavior Analysis and a growing understanding of the importance of *Global* rather than country-specific standards in ABA.

IBAO has successfully altered the landscape of International Behavior Analysis. When we started in 2020, we established a list of the barriers to certification outside of North America and created systems to address these obstacles. These systems have been successful! IBAO has the least expensive certification options. We have created a new system of educational providers that has allowed Approved Content Providers to exist in countries that never had educational options in ABA in the past. We have created competition for education and driven the cost to consumers down in unimaginable ways while further increasing the accessibility of the IBA and IBT certifications. We have modern and secure examination options that do not rely on "Test Centers."

IBAO has respected the cultural and geographical differences in educational systems and applied commonsense flexibility for those in areas where education differs from the US system. IBAO is the first certification body to require Cultural Topics for continuing education, the first to require continuing education for the therapist/technician level certification, and the first to have culturally relevant and flexible Ethical Guidelines that include a Problem-Solving Model when ABA Professionals are faced with a dilemma to how to proceed.

Tremendous growth! IBAO certificants and candidates have more than doubled in 2023 growing from 1720 this time last year to well over 4000 currently. This is growth of about 140% from 2022 to 2023.

We are getting the word out and educating people around the world. We presented live Q and A sessions this year in Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the UAE, Pakistan, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Moldova, Vietnam, Brazil, the USA, France, Italy, and China.

People all over the world, some in small groups of 2-3, and some in large auditoriums are being taught ABA, and making their way down the path to global ABA citizenship through new IBAO ACPs. The vision is becoming reality. It is working and thousands of people all of the world are the beneficiaries. The future of ABA certifications has arrived.

IBAO has made great strides towards accreditation! More on this important progress in this issue of the IBAO News!

To those who are part of IBAO's global ABA family, sincere thanks for your ongoing love and support! We cannot wait to see what 2024 holds!



Ajamu Nkosi, Ph.D., BCBA-D, IBA



Michael M. Mueller, Ph.D., BCBA-D, IBA, AdC

78	Professional Advisory Board Members	
40	Professional Advisory Board Member Countries	
4153	IBAO Certificants and Candidates Increase of 141% in a year!	1111111
77	Countries of certificants and candidates	
160	Approved Content Providers (ACPs) Increase of 175% in a year!	
160	Continuing Education Unit Providers Increase of 147% in a year!	
17	Languages of the IBAO Documents	
6	Languages of the IBA and IBT Exam	ns

#### Arabic 13 Portuguese Cantonese Russian 14 Mandarin 15 Serbian Danish Spanish 16 Dutch **17** Ukrainian English 18 Romanian French 19 Malayalam Georgian 20 Greek German 21 Turkish Hungarian 22 Latvian 11 Italian 23 Uzbek

24

Kazakh

# Languages of IBAO Approved

**Papiamento** 

12

# TRANSLATIONS IBAO Documents

Georgian German Turkish Filipino Spanish Portuguese French Hindi Hungarian Italian Japanese Lithuanian Mongolian Nepali Romanian Russian Ukrainian Arabic Chinese

# TRANSLATIONS IBAO Exams

Completed

English

Arabic

Portuguese

Spanish

Italian

Japanese

Chinese

Russian

French

2024-2025

**Turkish** 

Lithuanian

Romanian

Hungarian

Ukrainian

The IBAO News

### IBAO Around the Globe



**IBAO** has Brains!







Professional Advisory Board members Rachel Potter, Ph.D., BCBA-D, IBA (USA) and Yodit Reinhold, BCBA, IBA (Ethiopia)



Professional Advisory Board members Sloane Pharr, BCBA, IBA (Cayman Islands) and Gabrielle Torres, BCBA, IBA (Curacao)



Professional Advisory Board member Mapy Chavez-Askins, Ph.D., BCBA-D, IBA (Peru)



Italian Professional Advisory Board member Michael Nicolosi, BCBA, IBA with Italian friends of IBAO Nicola Cefalo, BCBA, IBA, Professor Fabio Tosolin, Carla Lasagna Del Val, BCBA, IBA, and Psychologist Guglielmo Monnecchi.

### From Around the Globe



Professional Advisory Board meeting 2023 including Gabrielle Torres, BCBA, IBA (Curacao), Sloane Pharr, BCBA, IBA (Cayman Islands), Erin Moran, Ph.D., BCBA - D, IBA (USA), Michael Mueller, Ph.D., BCBA-D, IBA, Michael Nicolosi, BCBA, IBA (Italy/Switerland), Meral Koldas, Ph.D., BCBA-D, IBA (Turkey), Elif Tekin-Iftar, Ph.D (Turkey), and Nicola Cefalo, BCBA, IBA (Italy)



Professional Advisory Board member Anton James, Ph.D., BCBA-D, IBA (Sri Lanka) discussing ABA with the Sri Lankan Vice President



IBAO Founders Ajamu Nkosi, Ph.D., BCBA-D, IBA and Michael Mueller, Ph.D., BCBA-D, IBA with Professional Advisory Board member from Nigeria, Helen Obiageli Oshikoya, IBA (far right).



Professional Advisory Board members Natasha Debetencourt, IBA (Belgium) and Hanna



### From Around the Globe



Meeting IBA Approved Content Provider Antonina Shangraw, Ph.D., BCBA-D, IBA from the Moscow Institute of Psychoanalysis



Interview at the 11th Autism Challenges - Solutions Conference

#### Abu Dhabi, UAE 2023



Professional Advisory Board member Marina Ivanova, BCBA, IBA (Russia)

Professional Advisory Board member Ekaterina Zhestkova, BCBA, IBA (Russia)

The IBAO News

### From Around the Globe



Professional Advisory Board member Bahij Khouzami, BCBA, IBA (UAE/ Azerbaijan)) at the Dubai "Double Training"

Dubai, UAE 2023



Professional Advisory Board member Alexandrea Wiegand, BCBA, IBA (Bahrain)



Alexandrea Wiegand, BCBA, IBA (Bahrain)



Professional Advisory Board member Princess Acosta-Martinez, IBA (UAE/Philippines) and the owners of the Georgetown Early Intervention Center



Meeting the friendly staff of the Georgetown Early Intervention Center after a tour of the new expansion!

The IBAO News

# Brazil

ABA continues to grow and thrive in Brazil, with a growing number of ACP and CEU providers registering with the IBAO and behavior analysts certifying! As of right now, there are 3 established ACP providers nationally: CBI of Miami, Luna ABA and a number of organizations and work groups trying to establish the profession for behavior analysts in Brazil. Lawyers are also petitioning congress on this topic. In November of 2023, Selo ABA established criteria for behavior analysts which would automatically qualify IBAs as behavior analysts in Brazil. This is a huge step forward, as a number of those in the debate argue that only the Master of Science master's degree should be accepted for the credential, excluding the Master of Arts master's degree and many to most candidates who did not study psychology or a closely related field for a bachelor's degree. As demand increases for thoroughgoing ABA services nationally, and with ever-tightening requirements from insurance companies who are cutting funding, the fight to certify qualified behavior analysts and keep ABA accessible continues!

All of the documents on the IBAO website as well as the IBA and IBT exams have been translated into Brazilian Portuguese. Dissemination of information about certification and ABA into different language groups is very important to us at the IBAO, as so many times access to certification becomes limited to only those who speak English. As ABA continues to evolve and form into a profession in Brazil, finding an international certifying organization that will reciprocally recognize country specific certification becomes so important. In a globalized world (or not!), nobody likes to see a doctor unable to practice his profession when moving to a new country. It has been very gratifying to be part of the process of bringing the IBAO to Brazil!

Brazil has been making significant strides in the field of Behavior Analysis, with many professionals receiving specialized training and certification as IBA (International Behavior Analyst). Luna ABA, has been providing comprehensive IBA coursework to interested individuals. Notably, Luna ABA has supervised over 20 IBAs in 2023 alone, highlighting the effectiveness of their training programs.

As a part of their commitment to promoting the growth of IBAO in Brazil, Luna ABA has decided to offer free IBA coursework to all members of their streaming platform. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals interested in learning more about IBA to receive top-notch training from a reputable organization. It's also worth mentioning that Luna ABA values the efforts of the International Behavior Analysis Organization (IBAO), which has adapted the IBA to Brazil's graduation system.



# Bulgaria

Bulgaria is a small but cozy country that I happily call my home. There are just as many children and families in Bulgaria in need of effective and meaningful therapy as anywhere else. The difficulties here perhaps are not any different from those in other countries: a lack of funds, an unstable political and economic climate, the implementation of many fad interventions without any scientific support, lack of well-trained specialists... All this makes the parents' struggle even more hopeless. That's exactly why I chose to stay here and became the first certified RBT in Bulgaria. Then the first certified BCBA in Bulgaria. Then the first certified IBA in Bulgaria. Then the first Bulgarian in the IBAO Advisory board.



IBAO Professional Advisory Board member Zornitsa Ivanova, MS, BCBA, IBA

Hopefully this won't be the end of the list and I'll keep adding to it. The appearance of IBAO is a ray of light for many of us and a real opportunity to become more. So far, we are 3 IBAs and 2 IBTs. Currently I am supervising couple of IBA and IBT candidates that will be certified within a year.



Chad Honeycutt, MS, BCBA, IBA

Chad Honeycutt also made a great contribution to the development of ABA in Bulgaria. He organizes and leads two classrooms for children with difficulties in a mainstream school in a beautiful small town - Blagoevgrad. Also, he is IBAO Approved content provider and CEU provider and he already started to teach his first group of IBA candidates. Chad has experience in providing ABA services in very rural areas where quality training and supervision is lacking.

We are about to translate all the official IBAO documents and our next step will be to provide IBT/IBA training in Bulgarian and translate the exam. So yes, we are ready to join this amazing international team and to be part of changing ABA around the world.



**School Consultation and Training in Bulgaria!** 

Update provided by IBAO Professional Advisory Board member, Zornitsa Ivanova., BCBA, IBA

The IBAO News

# Caribbean Islands

It has been a busy year for behavior analysis in the Caribbean. The membership of the Caribbean Association for Behaviour Analysis (CABA) grew from 65 members to over 100 members. CABA now has members from 17 different countries. The CABA board which includes members from the Cayman Islands, Curacao and St. Croix added 2 new board members from Turks and Caicos Islands and Jamaica. Kameika Morgan is an IBT from Jamaica and Maxcia Williams-Rigby from Turks and Caicos is the island's first IBT and is working towards her IBA. Committees were also started with members from 7 different islands leading the work.

The Wellness Centre in the Cayman Islands, the Caribbean's only Approved Content Provider, and Find Your Balance LLC (FYB) launched IBT courses with participants from across the Caribbean. Working with FYB, Ms. Patricia Williams, the first IBA in Trinidad and Tobago, is supporting the supervised practice of IBT candidates in Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos Islands. FYB also has 4 students from the Caribbean enrolled in their IBA course which is wrapping up in early 2024.



In the US Virgini Island, members of Tropical Behavioral Services, led the island's first Neurodiversity Day bringing awareness to neurodiversity in St. Croix. The Wellness Centre continues to be at the forefront in behavior analysis in the Caribbean. In 2023 they expanded their services into behavioral gerontology becoming the first provider in the Cayman Islands to offer services across the lifespan.



IBAs Sloane Pharr-Strang (Cayman Islands), Meghan Crowley (St. Croix) and Gabi Torres (Curacao) joined Yaniz Padilla (Puerto Rico) at ABAI in Denver in May were they shared their experiences as service providers in the Caribbean with a panel titled *Cultural Responsiveness and Values-Based Care: What Starting Services in the Caribbean Can Teach Us.* The Caribbean was also represented at the Black Applied Behavior Analyst's conference in Detroit, where Gabi Torres joined a panel on considerations for professional development organizations, and IBA candidates Moraini Isenia and Juristica Granviel from Curacao attended their first behavior analysis conference.

At Hope Academy (Grand Cayman), there are 6 IBTs and 2 individuals pursuing the IBA certification under the tutelage of IBAO Professional Advisory Board member Lechelle Wallace, BCBA, IBA. They are being trained following the IBAO requirements to contribute to the continuous and persistent growth of the organization.

# Chile

Empowering Behavioral Analysis in Chile

In Chile, the dedicated efforts to promote Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) are spearheaded by a group of professionals within the organization called ABACHILE (Asociación de Practicantes del Análisis Aplicado del Comportamiento - Chile). ABACHILE has been actively working toward its legal formalization after years of invaluable contributions to the field.

This month, one of our notable initiatives involved providing a complimentary training session for a group of parents in the Chilean city of Talca. We are committed to supporting the responsible usage and dissemination of ABA therapies in Chile. Additionally, we collaborated with an Argentinean group to present a training opportunity titled "Ampliando el Repertorio de Habilidades Mediante Secuencia de Alta Probabilidad" (Expanding Skill Repertoire Through High-Probability Sequencing).

The collective efforts of ABACHILE signify a pivotal step toward advancing ABA practices in Chile and fostering a community dedicated to promoting positive behavior change.

Este mes, una de nuestras iniciativas destacadas incluyó proporcionar una sesión de formación gratuita para un grupo de padres en la ciudad chilena de Talca. Estamos comprometidos con apoyar el uso responsable y la difusión de las terapias ABA en Chile. Además, colaboramos con un grupo argentino para presentar una oportunidad de formación titulada "Ampliando el Repertorio de Habilidades Mediante Secuencia de Alta Probabilidad".

Los esfuerzos colectivos de ABACHILE representan un paso fundamental hacia el avance de las prácticas de ABA en Chile y la creación de una comunidad dedicada a promover el cambio de comportamiento positivo.



Top Row: IBAO Professional Advisory Board member Rodrigo Mendoza, BCBA, IBA and Constanza Saavedra Lopez Speech Therapist

Bottom Row: Rodrigo Ferreira Valdes, Speech Therapist; Magíster en evaluación e intervención ABA; Magíster en trastornos del habla., Juliana Carne, BCBA, Javiera Solis BCBA, IBA, and Lizette Varos Ulloa, Master en ABA e Intervencion educativa.

# China

www.ibao-aba.cn

We have major breakthroughs in all 4 geographic regions - China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan.

IBAO Chinese official website has been up and running since February 2023, and students start to register and some have passed the test and gotten certified. We began with zero this year, and so far we have 2 Chinese ACPs starting to recruit candidates; 2 more on preparation stage. These are located in Mainland China formed by experienced ABA experts. We are hoping to double the figure by end of 2024, and make 10 to 12 ACPs by 2028. More importantly, we think it is a good start to serve over 1.4 billion people!

Many former BCBA and BCaBA candidates are asking how to sign up and become an IBA now that we are operational.



Hong Kong is the fastest paced region in China in terms of ACP development. A fully functional ACP also covers Macau region since the two "special administrative regions" of China are politically and economically related. Meanwhile, in Taiwan, we managed to make contact with local advocates and expert instructors to build a new ACP. These instructors have good influence not only in Taiwan but also in China, and a number of future Chinese candidates of IBA and IBT are already waiting in line for their opening.

# China

Generally speaking, China needs more behavior analysts for course developments, strategic planing, supervision, and evaluation. It's certification - population ratio is about 85 times less than that of the US. Chinese experts make efforts to build up replacement systems to train new behavior analysts but struggle a lot due to lack of resources, expertise, and cohesion among the developers. IBAO China is taking three major strategies in this market: (1) to make ACPs more capable, higher quality educators; (2) to build and maintain a more practical supervision framework (which is common in the US); and (3) to stress on the importance of career planning of special educators (many of who burn out after being first-line teachers for years). We believe by increasing the quality of instructions and making enough career choices for practitioners, IBAO will become a mainstream in Chinese ABA field.



Professional Advisory Board member Dr. Fanyu Lin, BCBA-D, IBA, holding an online workshop to promote IBAO.

# Egypt

Radwa Eltanab was the inaugural International Behavior Analyst (IBA) in Egypt, achieving this distinction in January 2020 following the establishment of the IBAO organization. She subsequently assumed a position on the professional advisory board. In 2021, two individuals obtained IBA certification. With the increasing acknowledgment of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and a growing number of individuals pursuing certification, especially in response to the BACB decisions for international candidates residing outside the US and Canada, an additional three individuals obtained IBA certification in 2022. This trend continued with two more individuals becoming IBAs in 2023, bringing the total number of certified IBAs in Egypt to seven by the end of the year.

Similarly, the International Behavior Therapist (IBT) certification saw a notable increase, with a single certificant in 2021 expanding to ten in 2022, and a total of 14 IBTs by December 2023.



IBAO Professional Advisory Board member Radwa El Taneb, MS, BCBA, IBA



Nouran Shaker, BCBA, Nardeen Masoud, BCBA, Meryt Tawfilis, BCBA, Menna Mahrous, BCBA, Mariam Azzazi, BCBA, and IBAO Professional Advisory Board member Radwa El Taneb, MS, BCBA, IBA

# Ethiopia

Ethiopia has been going through a lot of political unrest for the last four and a half years, and often, there are power outages and internet interruptions, which significantly affected teaching the IBA Course and remote supervision.

I am consistently trying to recruit new candidates via social media. I established a relationship with two other centers (Joy autism center and Melu's foundation autism center). I partnered with Ethiopian and Eritrean Special Needs Communities (a non-profit organization based in Maryland) to give 7 weeks of parent training for 30 parents from three different centers. Now, I am discussing how we can do IBT training for the staff in these centers. I was also able to meet with seven psychology graduates from Addis Ababa University who are currently working with students with autism in a private school setting. I presented to them individually about the vision of IBAO and with more training and certification how much more they can do to help children with autism in Ethiopia.

Several are interested in the IBA program!

My one candidate in Ethiopia has completed 214 out of the 296 total hours of coursework and logged in 650+ implementation and 32+ direct supervision hours of the 50 required hours. He plans to finish the coursework and supervision and take his IBA exam in the summer. I will visit Ethiopia from January 1st to 19th for in-person recruitment and networking. I will visit the two new centers I am currently working with in addition to the original (Nehemiah autism center) and two new private schools that provide services for autistic students. I also plan to meet with the Psychology department head at Addis Ababa University to discuss collaboration in recruiting candidates for IBA and IBT Certification. Candidates have approached me from countries such as Kenya, Nigeria, the Philippines, Bahrain, and Egypt seeking supervision and IBA coursework work.





All the IBAO documents have been translated to Amharic and are undergoing final review. There is a significant language barrier to recruiting IBTs in Ethiopia. So, I am also recruiting Ethiopian BCBAs who are fluent Amharic speakers who live and work here in the USA to become an IBA so that they can help and collaborate with me in supervising candidates from Ethiopia.

## France

France has a small but growing ABA community and since the BACB's decision to only certify those in North America, behavior analysts in France formed a national association for ABA called L'Organisation Nationale des Professions de l'Analyse du Comportement (ONPAC). ONPAC has created a certification system very similar to the IBAO system for those practicing in France.

ONPAC and IBAO have had several meetings over the past year seeking ways to collaborate with the hopes that IBAO can support ONPAC's growth while nationally certified French behavior analysts can also stay connected to the growing international community. Sharing approved CEU providers is the first step in what will likely be greater future collaboration.



Magali da Costa, BCBA, ACC-A of ONPAC



Another big achievement for ABA in France occurred this past year as Formavision began to publish and sell the newly translated Assessment of Functional Living Skills! **Angelique Bruet, Ph.D., BCAB, IBA** pictured here to the left was the translator for the AFLS in French. She single-handedly translated all 6 assessment protocols and the AFLS Guide before turning it over to the team at Formavision for review and editing!

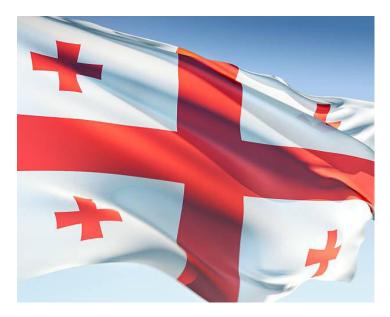


Formavision hosted an ABA and Autism conference in December focusing on Functional and Vocation sills in learners with Autism. The conference was very well attended and demonstrates the growth of the ABA community, the forward thinking and concern for supports for older person's affected with Autism.

France currently has 14 IBAO-certified professionals and 3 candidates.

# Georgia

In the last two years, Georgia has made impressive strides in behavior analysis. We have 12 specialists who have obtained the IBA certification, 2 IBT content providers, 1 IBA content provider, and 5 CEU providers that were established in the country. All of the IBAO documents have been translated into Georgian and actively promoted on social media for wider accessibility.



This is just the beginning of an exciting journey! IBAO has opened doors for new opportunities, fostering a thriving community dedicated to advancing behavior analysis in Georgia. We express gratitude to IBAO for laying the foundation for this transformative journey. Together, we aim to make a significant impact and create a brighter future for behavior analysis in our country.







The IBAO News

# Italy and Switzerland

The demand for ABA services is skyrocketing, particularly when it comes to assisting individuals with autism, hyperactivity, or other behavioral difficulties. Data Driven ABA operates in Switzerland and Italy, providing daily information and guidance to parents and professionals free of charge. While ABA remains relatively unknown in Switzerland, hundreds of thousands of people in Italy are seeking ABA services. However, the more questions and demands Data Driven ABA answers, the clearer the need becomes for an ethical code to standardize the professions of behavior analysts and behavior technicians. As the demand for services surges, so do cases of blatant malpractice: a vast number of professionals in psychology and education are hastily applying ABA, leading to outcomes no better than those of someone completely ignorant of medical science attempting a heart transplant for the first time.

The disaster for users is on all fronts. Thousands of people are describing ABA as a discipline with disastrous outcomes they have experienced firsthand, due to pseudo-professionals utterly unprepared to provide quality, evidence-based, data-driven ABA services. This is not even the worst part of the story. The trouble is that even qualified professionals often provide their diluted, substandard version of ABA, again producing no results or even harmful results for their clients and justifying failure with phrases like "We must respect their being autistic!"

Being tired of all this, thousands of parents and primary and secondary school teachers are seeking training in behavior analysis according to the requirements of IBAO. The IBAO Ethical Guidelines, which Italy in particular needs like water for a thirsty person in the desert, are like a beacon showing which direction to take and whom to trust. The following points of the IBAO Ethical Guidelines, in particular, are valuable to parents and teachers to help them distinguish serious professionals from charlatans:

3.2 Certificants display integrity by providing information and services that rely on peer-reviewed research outcomes, data, and behavioral theory to inform treatment decisions.



IBAO Professional Advisory Board member Michael Nicolosi, Psych, BCBA, IBA, AdC, Satia Riva, BCBA, IBA, AdC, Nicola Cefalo, BCBA, IBA, Francesca Siciliano, BCAB, IBA, Gerard Enrico, and Gaia Pilotto - Speech Therapist.

3.6 Scientific Practice. Certificants make data-based decisions in behavioral assessments, behavior change procedures, and in all other behavior analytical activities. [...] Certificants should rely on the use of single-case experimental designs in research and in practice so data can be analyzed along relevant dimensions for decision making.

In a territory where most professionals offer their sweetened version of ABA intervention, with no measurements, with no experimental designs guiding decisions, and instead with an abundance of unfounded mentalism justifying choices, the IBAO Ethical Guidelines are defining the dividing line between those who practice ABA seriously and those who are polluting the field of ABA with dreadful malpractice.

# Japan

#### Introducing IBAO-Japan: Advancing ABA Standards and Trust in Japan

I am pleased to announce that in 2023, IBAO-JAPAN achieved a significant milestone. We have established a company dedicated to operating and developing IBAO-JAPAN. This accomplishment holds immense significance, solidifying the foundation of both ABA and IBAO-Japan, playing a crucial role in garnering trust and credibility for the organization within our country.

#### ABA Development in Japan

As ABA is in its early stages in Japan, laying the groundwork for IBAO's introduction is essential. The country lacks specialized ABA education, leading to limited awareness and a shortage of specialists. Current ABA services often lack comprehensive therapeutic practices.

Promoting IBAO in these circumstances requires widespread understanding of ABA. Establishing IBAO as a leading certifier of ABA practices meeting global standards in Japan is crucial. Recognizing these challenges, my business partner Hitomi and I formed a corporation to support IBAO-Japan, acknowledging the limitations of individual efforts.



Our goal for 2024 is to boost IBAO's reputation and expand its presence in Japan. This involves disseminating information via social media and various channels. Additionally, highlighting IBAO-Japan's affiliation on the main IBAO website will underscore its credibility and the value of IBAO certifications in Japan.

#### Expressions of Gratitude and Collaborative Initiatives

Our sincere thanks to Michael Mueller and Hilary O'Gorman for their unwavering support. Through Dr, Mueller's connections, I connected with Dr. Fan Yu Lin, IBAO's representative in China. The collaboration to promote ABA and IBAO within East Asia's unique cultural sphere is both encouraging and exciting. I look forward to further joint efforts. It's an honor to serve on the IBAO Board of Directors, and working together towards our shared objectives is incredibly fulfilling. I am excited about continued collaboration and progress.



IBAO Professional Advisory Board member Tomoko Imamura, MS, BCBA, IBA



Friend of IBAO Japan, Hitomi Honma

# Nigeria



Osezusi Bolodeoku, IBA and IBAO Professional Advisory Board member Helen Obiageli Oshikoya,

We also noticed a gap in the training of the QASP-S when it comes to obtaining the IBA. My team of dedicated IBA specialists in Nigeria created the IBA conversion course which enabled QASP-S to become IBA by undergoing a 90hours conversion programme. We are presently on Cohort 3 with 12 new IBA's created in Nigeria including Pakistan.



My name is Helen Obiageli Oshikoya. I am a Qualified both as a

last 10 years we have been able to provide better treatment for children on the Autism Spectrum because the treatment plans are data driven and the evidence of success is clearly seen. In the last year since becoming an IBA, we have trained about 22 teachers that

Behaviour Analyst and an International Behavior Analyst. I am the current WBADA Ambassador for Nigeria. I have been working as a Neurodevelopmental Clinician for 10 years and became a Certified Behaviour Analyst 6 years ago. Promoting the Science of ABA has been incredible for the simple reason that the Science works. In the

CARRIED NYD

Tinuola Olaiya, IBA and IBAO Professional Advisory Board member Helen Obiageli Oshikoya,

In November this year (2023) I was presented with an award from the Association of Private Educators of Nigeria (APEN). This award humbly acknowledges my dedication and service in the education sector in Nigeria. This was only possible because our organization could prove with data that children using ABA had the most effective treatment leading to a more independent and better quality of life. I must conclude and say; if in doubt, just try the science and you will be pleasantly surprised how effective it is. To all the Behaviour Analysts of the World, keep the flag flying because IBAO is going to be a major player in the world when it comes to Applied Behaviour Analysis. The passion and dedication of the IBAO team gives me inspiration and I truly believe in their vision because so many individuals of the world are left behind when it comes to effective treatment for the simple reason that they do not have access to ABA.

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### Peru

The Peruvian government has made significant efforts to increase awareness and access to behavioral services and other interventions for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The government has implemented new policies to expand behavior support services- a positive sign that behavior analysis is gaining recognition and support. Alcanzando Inc. and other organizations continue working closely with the Peruvian government to ensure that these efforts are sustained and expanded in the future. Through ongoing collaboration and advocacy, it is likely that we will see even more advances and improvements in the field of behavior analysis in the years to come.

Trained by Alcanzando Inc., an increasing number of professionals have promoted awareness of Applied Behavior Analysis, not only for individuals with developmental disabilities but for a wide range of populations, including in the increasing educational inclusion movement taking place in Peru. The increased demand for these services has created new job opportunities for behavior analysts, therapists, and other professionals.

One notable achievement we are proud of is an increased awareness of the importance of certification requirements not only from the professionals themselves but also from the consumers who seek their services. More and more professionals are realizing the significance of their work and its impact on their clients' lives. As a result, they are seeking out training opportunities and certification to enhance their skills and knowledge.



Professional Advisory Board member Mapy Chavez-Askin, Ph.D., BCBA-D, IBA in the Amazon jungle during a parent training session



Dr. Gustavo Rivara (neonatologist pediatrician), Mapy Chavez-Askin, Ph.D., BCBA-D, IBA, Adriana Kouri (artist and digital creator), and Antonella Bustamante (child nutritionist)

# Portugal

Stephanie Teixeira, an innovator in Portugal's behavioral analysis landscape, embodies the spirit of change and progress. As the inaugural IBA in Portugal and a member of the esteemed IBAO Professional Advisory Board, Stephanie's dedication knows no bounds. Her tireless efforts in tailoring IBT requirements for the Portuguese community exemplify a commitment to inclusivity and excellence.

Pioneering groundbreaking research, Stephanie oversees one of the first theses exploring the perception of ABA in Portugal at Ser Único. Together with three other dedicated behavior analysts, she co-founded AAMC, marking a significant milestone as the first ABA association in Portugal.

Nicole Dias, a force at Nature and Nurture, has made indelible contributions by officially translating the ABLLS-R. This milestone achievement promises a lasting impact on Portugal's special needs community, fostering accessibility and understanding. Denise and Rita from Oficina do Comportamento are catalysts for change, empowering educators and support staff through workshops focused on implementing ABA strategies in school settings. Their dedication stands as a testament to the pursuit of quality education and transformative practices.

Building upon the groundwork laid by IBAO, AAMC is forging ahead with the first-ever IBT course in Portugal. In a landscape where ABA therapy lacks standards and supervision, this initiative seeks to establish clear guidelines and elevate the quality of care. Through IBAO's guidance, stakeholders are informed about standardized practices and empowered to discern high-quality providers.

Moreover, IBAO's impact extends beyond, reaching established fields like Psychology Associations, introducing the principles of ABA. Looking ahead, AAMC, with the support of IBAO, aims to host a landmark conference in 2024, shining a spotlight on the transformative power of ABA in Portugal. This collaborative effort underscores a commitment to advancement and the promise of a brighter, more informed future for all involved.



Nicole Dias, BCBA, IBA and Professional Advisory Board member Stephanie Teixeira, BCBA, IBA

# Republic of Moldova



SOS Autism Public Association, a non-governmental organization established in May 2008 by parents of children with autism in the Republic of Moldova and led by IBAO Professional Advisory Board Member Aliona Dumitras, has emerged as a pioneering force in advocating for and supporting individuals on the autism spectrum. The center currently accommodates 75 children and 20 young individuals with autism and their families. Operating as a Social Center, accredited Medical Center, Parent Resource Center, and Mobile Team, SOS Autism is providing applied behavior analysis therapy, psychological interventions, internationally recognized diagnostic tests, home-based support, and educational training services. SOS Autism is actively engaged in public awareness campaigns, school inclusion efforts, and the development of a legal framework to improve the lives of those with autism in Moldova.

Professional Advisory Board member Aliona Dumitras, MS, IBT

#### New ACP in Moldova!

A big news in 2023 is that Republic of Moldova has its first IBAO Approved Content Provider! SOS Autism Moldova is now an approved provider for both IBT and IBA training programs, planned to start in early 2024.



#### ABA and Autism Conference

On October 12<sup>th</sup> 2023, SOS Autism Moldova held the conference on Quality Standards for Treatments and Services for individuals with Autism. A variety of topics was covered, including financial issues, costs, quality standards for organizations providing services, as well as the importance of certification in the field of ABA. A special guest, Dr. Michael Mueller, founder of IBAO, talked about the pathways for IBAO certification for behavior therapists and behavior analysts, available for international candidates. Anastasia Trofilova, IBA, BCBA, and IBAO Professional Advisory Board member, presented IBT and IBA programs, which will be available through SOS Autism Moldova in English, Romanian, and Russian languages.



# Romania

In Romania, there has been an increasing interest in the international IBAO accreditation. At the moment, we have 16 accredited individuals, and there are 4 candidates registered for accreditation. Additionally, at the end of this year, we had the honor of organizing an event with the founder of IBAO Romania, Dr. Michael Mueller, to convey information as clearly as possible to all those who are interested. The event was a success, with over 70 people registering and receiving answers about the history of IBAO, IBA certifications, IBT, registration conditions, ethics, and the importance and differences from BACB. Attendees also received immediate answers from the founder. On this occasion, we extend our gratitude to Dr. Michael Mueller and Hilary O'Gorman.

For those who could not attend the event but are interested in international accreditation, there is good news because all IBAO documents have been translated into Romanian and can be found on the official website, theibao.com, in the IBAO downloads section. It's worth mentioning that there is currently an IBA and IBT course approved by IBAO. Let this be the beginning of many more to come.



### Russia

International Behavior Analysis Organization® inspires Russian practitioners to learn further, under supervision of certified professionals, accumulate experience hours to become members of the international community of behavior analysts.

The IBAO exams and website were translated into Russian in 2023, and candidates were able to take the international

certification exam in their native language.

IX International Conference "Applied Behavior Analysis: Theory and Practice" was held in Moscow in October. Michael Mueller, the IBAO co-founder and Alexandrea Wiegand, member of The IBAO Ethics Committee supported the conference with their presentations.

In October 2024, we plan to hold the anniversary, X International Conference "Applied Behavior Analysis: Theory and Practice", and will Broadcast the conferencein two languages: Russian and English, to make it available to behavioral analysts around the world.

The community decided to organize Russian National Certification, which will be consistent with the IBAO certification and professional standards. Currently, the documentation required to include the profession of behavior analyst into the Unified Qualification Directory of Occupations of the Russian Federation is being prepared.



Professional Advisory Board member Alexandrea Zhestkova, MA, BCBA, IBA



Irina Golovka, Professional Advisory Board member Ekaterina Zhestkova, MA, BCBA, IBA, Zarema, Ahmethanova, and Tatyana Rimskaya (bottom)



Tatjana Gruzinova, Katya Men, Julia Presnyakova



Maria Sudarikova, Nikolay Alipov and Professional Advisory Board member Ekaterina Zhestkova. MA. BCBA. IBA.

# Spain

The great news of 2023, not only for Spain but for the entire Spanish-speaking community, is that the IBAO exams for IBA and IBT candidates in Spanish are now available!





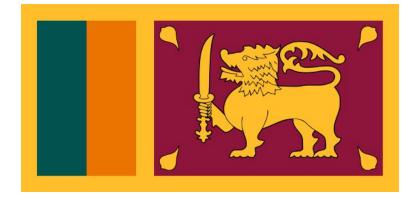








### Sri Lanka and Maldives





Professional Advisory Board member Anton James, Ph.D., BCBA-D, IBA meeting the Sri Lankan Vice President

Dr Anton James (IBA) founded The Tree House International school in Sri Lanka and through the school, he introduced ABA for the first time in the island. He also has formed the Behaviour Therapist Registration Board (BTRB) of Sri Lanka and the Maldives, which was successfully registered with the government of Sri Lanka. The main objectives of the BTRB are to promote ABA and to certify Behaviour Therapists and Behaviour Analysts in Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

BTRB has decided to achieve these objectives within the IBAO's framework of IBT and IBA. During the grandfathering phase, existing IBTs and IBAs in Sri Lanka and the Maldives will be admitted to the register of BTRB. We are also working closely with the Ministry of Social Services to expand ABA in the island.



Professional Advisory Board member Anton James, Ph.D., BCBA-D, IBA meeting the Minister of Social Services of the Maldives

### Ukraine

The focus this year to support the growth of IBAO membership in Ukraine has been to finalise and post the translation into Ukrainian of all the documents on IBAO's website. Members of the Ukrainian Board for Behavior Analysts have finally completed this task! Work will now start on translating the exam questions into Ukrainian.

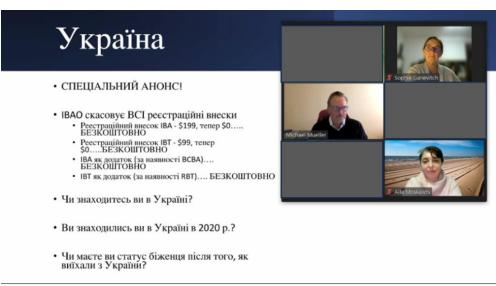
A team of behavior analysts, members of the Ukrainian Board for Behavior Analysts and the Ukrainian Association of Behavior Analysts (UABA), have been developing a glossary of terms for the field of ABA, a translation of Makoto Shibutani's "The ABA visual glossary". This will be printed and circulated by the publishing house of the Ukrainian Society for Behavior Analysts. This glossary will lay the foundation for the terminology that will be used in future literature, VCS programs, and will facilitate the translation of the IBAO examination questions to ensure consistency.



ABA modules continue to be taught through three organizations, as well as in-person training for tutor-level ABA specialists. This year, one of the universities in Kyiv, University Borys Grinchenko, introduced a course on ABA as part of their speech and language therapists' Masters programme. The curriculum was developed and taught to the first cohort by a behavior analyst.

Work is ongoing to promote the Ukrainian version of the ABLLS-R, with monthly online consultations open to parents and professionals. The Ukrainian translation of the AFLS is being proofread, with an aim to publish next year. The VB-MAPP has now also been translated and is available in Ukrainian.

During the UABA's annual general meeting, Michael Mueller presented on the mission of IBAO and announced that enrollment fees for Ukrainian behavior analysts would be waived until the end of 2024. This is to reflect the impact the war has had on income and earning opportunities for Ukrainian professionals within the field, both inside and outside of Ukraine. IBAO membership will support the consistent development of the profession, especially during this challenging period.



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# United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates has 470 certified Professionals and 93 Candidates from IBAO and is one of the leaders in ABA services outside of North America. UAE has 10 Approved Content Providers offering training in Arabic, English, and Russian. IBAO is fortunate to have a diverse representation from our Professional Advisory Board members living in Dubai who come from a variety of other places, making their representation even more diverse and representative of the international culture found in Dubai. Our Professional Advisory Board members from Dubai include those who are from there as well as from the Republic of Moldova and the Philippines.

Autism Intervention Specialists (AIS) is one such Approved Content Provider in Dubai. The AIS is operated by its Founder, Clinical Director and Professional Advisory Board Member for UAE and Azerbaijan, Mr. Bahij Khouzami. October 21, 2023 Autism Intervention Specialists held a successful event in collaboration with the IBAO at the Voco Bonnigton Hotel, Dubai. Professionals in the field of ABA gathered together to learn about the Dynamic Functional Analysis presented by Dr Michael Mueller, the Executive Director of the IBAO, and an Overview of the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) presented by Mr. Khouzami.

Practitioners from Bahrain, India and Saudi Arabia joined as well. All participants who were accruing CEUs received 3 IBAO and BACB CEUs. Participants who did not need CEUs also received a certificate of attendance. Another event took place on November 23, 2023 at Senses Residential Center in Dubai, where Mr. Bahij Khouzami spoke about Behavior Analysis and promoted the IBT course and how to obtain the IBT credentials. It is expected that 20 new candidates to start the course of the IBT from that centre. Also, 25 IBT candidates competed the 40 hours IBT course.



IBAO Professional Advisory Board member Bahij Khouzami MS, BCBA, IBA



IBAO Professional Advisory Board members Bahij Khouzami MS, BCBA, IBA and Alexandrea Wiegand, MS, BCBA, IBA with Michael Mueller, Ph.D., BCBA-D, IBA



# Vietnam

Making Your Life Yours (MYLY), a U.S.-based non-profit organization, has made significant strides in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) in Vietnam over the past year. Establishing its local arm, MYLY In Vietnam (MOV), the organization has expanded its global footprint and reinforced its commitment to disseminating ABA practices. Recognized as an Approved Content Provider (ACP) by the International Behavior Analysis Organization (IBAO), MOV has been instrumental in bringing high-standard ABA

content and training to the region.

In November 2023, MOV successfully conducted Vietnam's first-ever International Behavior Therapist (IBT) course, a landmark event in the country's ABA landscape. The organization has built on this success, scheduling three additional IBT courses in the next three months, reflecting the burgeoning interest and demand for ABA training in Vietnam.



IBAO Professional Advisory Board member Doan Nguyen, MS, BCBA, IBA

Beyond training, MYLY's collaborative efforts with leading Vietnamese educational institutions, including the Vietnam National Institute of Educational Sciences, the National Center for Special Education, VINH University, and Vietnam National University – University of Education, have been noteworthy. Together, they have published three studies focused on the implementation and dynamic adaptation professional development programs using ABA techniques. These studies are tailored to meet the unique cultural and educational contexts of Vietnam, showcasing MYLY's commitment to culturally adaptive and relevant ABA practices.



Their efforts in training, research, and development highlight the importance of a culturally inclusive approach to ABA, paving the way for its broader acceptance and application worldwide. This pioneering work by MYLY, through its dedicated arm MOV, stands as a testament to the potential and adaptability of ABA methodologies in diverse cultural landscapes.

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# Know the NEW Language!

#### **IBAO**

International Behavior Analysis Organization

#### **IBA**

International Behavior Analyst - the Certification requiring 270 hours of REOs, 1000 hours of practice, 50 hours of supervision, Candidate Skills Testing, CEUs, and the IBA Exam.

#### **IBT**

International Behavior Therapist - the Certification requiring 40 hours of REOs, 300 hours of practice, 10 hours of supervision, Candidate Skills Testing, CEUs, and the IBT Exam.

#### **ACP**

Approved Content Providers. ACPs are Universities, colleges, organizations, or individuals who can provide the REOs for the IBA or IBT REOs.





#### **REOs**

Required Educational Objectives. REOs are the ABA-specific training required for the certifications.

#### **CST**

Candidate Skills Tests. CSTs are required for both certifications. The CST is a supervisor-led evaluation of some ABA service implementation. Which service is evaluated is decided by the supervisor and candidate.

### International Behavior <u>Analyst</u>



### Requirements

270 Hours of REOs (ABA Coursework)

1000 Hours of Practice

50 Hours of Supervision

2 Candidate Skills Tests

Master's Degree or Bachelor's Degree and Projects for the non-Master's Experience Route

12 Hours of Continuing Educational Units
6 Hours in General ABA Topics
2 Hours in Ethics
2 Hours in Supervision
2 Hours in Cultural

150 Item Online Exam

### International Behavior <u>Therapist</u>



### Requirements

40 Hours of REOs (ABA Coursework)

300 Hours of Practice

10 Hours of Supervision

2 Candidate Skills Tests

High School Diploma

4 Hours of Continuing Educational Units
2 Hours in General ABA Topics
1 Hour in Ethics

1 Hour in Cultural

75 Item Online Exam

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### Professional Advisory Board

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Zornitsa Ivanova, MA, BCBA, IBA - Bulgaria

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### Professional Advisory Board

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### Professional Advisory Board

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IBAO is greatly appreciative of each and every one of our amazing PAB members. Each has given time, ideas, and effort to grow ABA in their region or country. Everyone growing the appropriate practice where they live is growing the field in the right direction everywhere.

IBAO is thankful and proud of this creative, professional, and dedicated group of Behavior Analysts.

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#### **Accreditation UPDATE**

# IBAO Partners with Leaders in Accreditation Expertise

IBAO is and has always been on a path to certification accreditation. From the very first day the organization began, IBAO became members of the Institute of Credentialing Excellence (ICE). Following the guidance of ICE, IBAO formed an Accreditation Committee with in the Professional Advisory Board to guide IBAO's decision making to align it with future accreditation efforts. Several members of this committee took 40-hour training courses in accreditation and became certifed experts in the accreditation process.

Mapy Chavez, PhD, ARS-CABAS®, BCBA-D, QBA, IBA Lima, Peru Sophie Ganevitch, BCBA, IBA Kyiv, Ukraine and London, England Thuji Grace, BCaBA, IBA Dhaka, Bangladesh Shain Hamrick, MS, IBA Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Anton James, PhD, BCBA, IBA, > Canada, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and UK Rodrigo Mendoza, BCBA, LBA Chile and Arizona, USA Michael M. Mueller, PhD, BCBA - D, IBA Georgia, USA Celia Nogales González, PhD Psych, BCBA, IBA Madrid, Spain M. Hilary O'Gorman Amado, MA, BCBA, IBA, LBA USA and Florianopolis, Brazil Helen Obiageli Oshikoya, BL, QBA, IBA Lagos, Nigeria Rachel Potter, EdD, BCBA-D, LBA, IBA Staunton, Virginia USA Eliana Pozzi, MS, BCBA, LBA, IBA Barcelona, Spain Elif Tekin-Iftar, PhD Eskisehir, Turkiye Gabrielle Torres, MS, BCBA, IBA Curacao and USA Dianna Hiu Yan Yip, MEd, BCBA, IBA, Hong Kong, China and Vancouver, Canada Ekaterina Zhestkova, MS, MA, BCBA, IBA Moscow, Russia

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# Accreditation UPDATE IBAO Partners with Leaders in Accreditation Expertise

Following the survey results and discussions, the next steps of the process beginning in early 2024 are items writing, standard setting, and the introduction of new examination forms. This is an exciting step in the history of IBAO. This process mirrors the process that was used in late 2020 and 2021 to establish the current examinations for both certifications.

The second consultant group is SeaCrest (www.seacrestcompany.com), specifically Janice Moore, Ph.D. Dr. Moore helped IBAO conduct a GAP analysis in relation to the ANSI/ANAB standards required fro accreditation. This analysis brought to light the processes and systems that are currently in alignment with ANSI standards, those that need to be adjusted, and any that need to be created. The resulting workbook will serve as the new blueprint and roadmap for the organizational, procedural, legal, and financial aspects of the accreditation process.

IBAO is immensely grateful to both Dr. Matthews and Dr. Moore for their professionalism and expertise in guiding us through this process. IBAO again thanks the SMEs for their time and effort as they literally went about the business of changing ABNA around the world.



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