

The Use of Advanced Behavior Techniques to Create a Patient-Centered Care Environment

4 CEU's
\$135

Saturday February 8, 2025 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
UNLV School of Dental Medicine Bldg. A Auditorium

Continental
breakfast included

SYNOPSIS:

In the context of the dental profession, research provides sufficient evidence that the use of a behavioral approach including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) principles or behavior modification can be effective in reducing the patient's physical resistance during dental treatment, thus allowing the treatment to be completed. In addition, a behavioral approach can be implemented in combination with desensitization techniques to create a more comfortable environment for the patient. Sharing pamphlets, brochures or videos that describe the dental office, supplies and procedures can also help create a more comforting environment.

The behavior process can strengthen the patient-provider relationship and develop the foundations of a patient-centered environment. Therefore, it is important that dental providers are aware of proactive behavioral strategies to not only limit the use of medications and other aversive procedures, but to help relieve anxiety so that patients are more accepting of the dental treatment.

Participants will be able to apply what they have learned from this workshop in small group settings facilitated by licensed behavior analysts. A dental specific case study/vignette will be used to facilitate the small group experience.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Discuss the evidence-based practice of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
2. Discuss behavioral tools for managing anxious dental patients, including ABA, the modified dental anxiety scale, ABC contingencies, and functional behavior assessment.
3. Describe how the application of ABA principles can be effectively implemented in dental practice.
4. Describe how adopting behavior management techniques can create a comforting and patient-centered care environment.
5. Understand what resources are available for dental providers.
6. Identify gaps that exist in implementing ABA in dental settings.

SPEAKER: CHRISTINA A. DEMOPOULOS, DDS, MPH



Dr. Demopoulos is a faculty member at the UNLV School of Dental Medicine (SDM). She attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) for her undergraduate and her Master of Public Health (MPH) training. She received her dental degree from the University of Southern California (USC) and her dental public health training from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA). She recently completed the course work for the Verified Course Sequence, 5th edition as part of the Master of Education in Special Education Subplan Applied Behavior Analysis Program at UNLV. She is on-track to being a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) in the Fall of 2024. She is the current Faculty Advisor for the UNLV AAPHD (American Association of Public Health Dentistry) Student Chapter and the Program Director for the UNLV School of Dental Medicine Advanced Dental Education Program in Dental Public Health. She is also President for AAPHD and a Diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health (ABDPH). She serves on various local, state and national organizations.

Dr. Demopoulos oversees the service-learning curriculum for the UNLV School of Dental Medicine. She is very interested in integrating more Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) principles to the clinical practice of dentistry and public health.



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Email: <https://www.unlv.edu/dental/continuing-ed>

GUEST SPEAKERS/FACILITATORS:

Joshua Baker, PhD, BCBA, LBA

Jon Paul Saunders, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA

Ashley Hoban, DMD

Jennifer Strobel, FEAT Executive Director

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