

BUILDING ALLIANCES TO MAKE
BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS STRONGER

THE POLAND MODEL

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- Plan of the presentation

- History of BA in Poland
- Three organizations
- Current situation
- Strategies for development and building alliances
- A few guidelines

- The formal beginning of organizations devoted to behavior analysis took place only a decade ago.
- The nourishing and development of behavior analysis in Poland goes back to the 1980s, or even to the 1920s if we consider our short, albeit prominent “pre-history.”
- Two Polish neurophysiologists - Jerzy Konorski and Stefan Miller, introduced a concept of “the conditioned reflex Type II” and started to conduct physiological investigation of the “habit formation” by the method of “prize and punishment” (Miller & Konorski, 1928; Konorski & Miller, 1937).

- The present interest in behavior analysis in Poland has been stimulated by several significant events
 - establishing collaboration between dr. Leonard Green from the Washington University in St. Louis, MO and dr. Pawel Ostaszewski from the Warsaw University
 - establishing a comprehensive program for children with autism based on behavioral treatment (The Center for Children and Adolescents with Autism in Gdansk)
 - long-lasting and very fruitful collaboration between Polish professionals and behavior analysts from Norway

„TOO MANY CHEFS, TOO MANY KITCHENS”

- Polish ABA (2000-2009)
- Polish Association of Behavioral Therapy (March of 2002 - present)
- Polish Society for Behavioral Psychology (PTPB) (November of 2002 – present)

FROM CHAOS TO ORDER

- In 2009 Polish ABA merged with PTPB
 - Polish Society for Behavioral Psychology
 - Polish Association of Behavioral Therapy
- Both are affiliated chapters of ABAI

- Varied points of emphasis for the two associations:
 - Support for clinicians using behavioral therapy in their work with individuals with disabilities and dissemination of knowledge pertaining to behavioral therapy (Polish Association of Behavioral Therapy)
 - Development and dissemination of knowledge of behavior analysis as a science of behavior and about behaviorism of B.F. Skinner as a philosophy of this science (PTPB)

- Different goals:

- Polish Association of Behavioral Therapy

- Initiating and maintaining various forms of help for individuals with disabilities and their families
- Dissemination of knowledge about behavioral therapy
- Support of the clinicians using behavioral intervention

- Polish Society for Behavioral Psychology

- Arranging meetings, conferences, and workshops to disseminate knowledge about behavior analysis and behavioral psychology
- Supporting research in experimental analysis of behavior and clinical work in applied behavior analysis
- Supporting activities directed at development of conceptual analysis of behavior
- Organizing applied behavior analysis trainings for interested professionals
- Providing professional and legal advice for members of the associations
- Propagation and enforcement of ethical standards in research and clinical practice

- BA is still not a known discipline in Poland
- ABA is even less known
- There are many misconception regarding behavior therapy:
 - ABA is just one of many kinds of therapy for children with DD
 - ABA means DTT
 - ABA should be implemented 40 hours per week
 - ABA is just a „bag of tricks”
 - ABA is useful mainly for problem behavior reduction
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- Polish Society for Behavioral Psychology (PTPB)
 - PTPB was founded on November 16, 2002, thus in 2012 we are celebrating our 10th anniversary!
 - The society associates mainly psychologists (university lecturers and clinicians), students of psychology (undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate studies), and people representing other helping professions: mainly pedagogues and speech therapists.

- Since 2009, PTPB has been a stronger organization due to a fusion with another behaviorally-oriented society in Poland – Polish ABA.
- This fusion was done with mutual understanding of the two organizations' governing bodies with regards to its favorable outcomes for dissemination of behavior analysis in Poland.
- ABAI has approved PTPB as the organization which is going to continue on the international arena the work of Polish ABA.

- Major accomplishments:
 - Symposia devoted to behavior analysis
 - Book publications
 - SABA International Grant Awards (2003, 2009)
 - BACB approved course sequence
 - Department of Behavior Analysis
 - Courses in BA and ABA
 - 400% growth in the number of BCBA's (from 1 to 4!!!)
 - International grants to facilitate collaboration between US and EU universities

SYMPOSIA

- Organizing yearly national symposia
 - The VII International Scientific Symposium of PTPB “**Behavior Analysis: Perspectives on Verbal Behavior**”
 - gathered about 250 attendees.
 - about 200 individuals participated in the pre-conference workshops
 - hosted four international presenters from California State University Stanislaus (USA), Marshall University (USA) and Bangor University (UK)
 - organized jointly by PTPB and the Department of Behavior Analysis at the Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities.

- The VIII International Scientific Symposium of PTPB “**Applied Behavior Analysis – evidence-based and effective treatment for developmental disabilities**”
 - gathered about 300 attendees
 - hosted eight international presenters from Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc., California State University Stanislaus (USA), Marshall University (USA), Bangor University (UK), Kendall School (USA), and Connecticut Center for Child Development (USA)
 - opened with a tribute to dr. Gerald (Jerry) Shook.
 - organized jointly by PTPB, the Department of Behavior Analysis at the Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities and STEP BY STEP – Foundation for Children with Developmental Disabilities and their Families.

BOOKS

- **„Contemporary behavioral psychology. Selected readings.”** (2008) edited by P. Bąbel and P. Ostaszewski. M. Suchowierska contributed several chapters.
- **“Behavior Analysis from A to Z”** (2010) written by P. Bąbel, M. Suchowierska and P. Ostaszewski for which we received SABA International Grant. The forewords to this book were written by prof. W. Joseph Wyatt and the late Jerry Shook.
- **“Behavioral interventions for children with autism. Theory, research and practice of applied behavior analysis”** (2012) written by M. Suchowierska, P. Ostaszewski and P. Bąbel which is the first book in Poland which deals comprehensively with ABA. The forewords to this book were written by prof. W. Heward and prof. G. Novak.

SABA INTERNATIONAL GRANTS

- 2003 – „Beginning lessons in behavior analysis. A training program.”
- 2009 - “Publication ‘Behavior Analysis from A to Z’ – promoting the discipline to the public.”

UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

- BACB approved course sequence
 - The only one in the country
 - In existence for 6 years
 - Growth from 12 to 47 people per year
- Department of Behavior Analysis
 - The only one in the country
- Courses in BA and ABA
 - each block 150 hours
 - Autism and DD
 - Education of children
 - Rehabilitative psychology
 - Team teaching
 - Developmental psychology
 - Psychology as a helping profession

CERTIFICATION

- No contingencies on professionals to become BCBA's
- More interest
- Growth in numbers
- Local certification

INTERNATIONAL GRANTS

- International Certificate in Applied Behavioral Studies
- Dual Master Degree in Psychology with Emphasis on Behavior Analysis



- General information

- Duration of the project: 2009-2013
- Subject Area: Psychology
- Language of instruction: English
- Partners:
 - Marshall University, WV, USA
 - University of Charleston, WV, USA
 - Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Poland
 - University of Debrecen, Hungary.

- This project will implement a program of study developed by utilizing an innovative approach and a specific educational strategy aimed to add value to the study of psychology, to integrate the strengths of each of the partner universities and to promote multicultural and multinational awareness.



- Student mobility

- During the project period, 24 students (12 from Marshall and 12 from UC) will study on the other side of the Atlantic for one academic semester. During the same period, 24 European students (12 from Poland and 12 from Hungary) will study for one academic semester on the US partner universities.



- Program of study

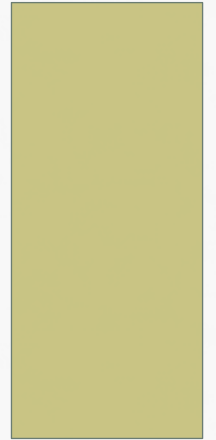
- The four participating institutions will offer a special diploma supplement consisting of 5 to 7 courses in a concentration titled “International Certificate in Applied Behavioral Studies”.
- Intensive language and cultural training



- Faculty exchange

- Faculty members from each partner universities will carry out teaching and research assignments at partner institutions.

**DUAL MASTER DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY
WITH EMPHASIS ON BEHAVIOR
ANALYSIS**



- The purpose of this project is to develop and implement a model dual master degree program in psychology.
- This degree will have an emphasis on behavior analysis and will contribute to excellence and innovation in the international graduate level education and thus better prepare the graduates for the competence level required by the modern global job market.
- California State University, Stanislaus (CSU Stanislaus), the Warsaw School of Social Studies and Humanities (SWPS), and Bangor University (BU) have agreed to form a multilateral consortium that will work cooperatively and effectively to accomplish this purpose.

- The main focus of the dual program is to develop a joint curriculum upon completion of which a student would be awarded two master-level degrees – MA in Psychology from CSU Stanislaus and a Master in Science from Bangor University.
- Another component of the program is to arrange the joint curriculum in such manner that it would meet the requirements for becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).

- The proposed project will utilize a jointly developed innovative and integrated curriculum accompanied by teaching materials, methods and modules.
- The joint curriculum will be developed to utilize the strengths of each of the three universities and to promote multicultural and multinational awareness.
- Particular attention will be given to the BACB approved coursework because of the emphasis on behavior analysis within the proposed project.

- During the project period, 24 American students will study in Europe for one academic year (one semester at each of the European institutions) and 24 European students (12 from Poland and 12 from the UK) will study in the US for one academic year and in the partner European institution for one semester.
- The language of instruction in all universities will be English.

STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

- the importance of having a clearly stated mission
- the importance of having highly motivated individuals leading the organization
- collaboration with other societies/associations
- collaboration with a university and/or other higher education institution
- collaboration with international chapters/international representatives
- the importance of establishing a certification that is relevant to individuals in Poland
- performing continuing education activities
- having a newsletter/webpage that draws interested individuals

- the importance of having a clearly stated mission
 - a clear sense of what you want to do (simply stated goals)
 - a good way to assess level of activity
 - information for other organizations who may have similar goals and would like to collaborate
- the importance of having highly motivated individuals leading the organization
 - leadership skills
 - good communicator
 - good catalyst
 - sets successors
 - focuses on opportunities, not problems

- collaboration with other societies/associations
 - Organize common events
 - Invite to have a common publication (e.g., newsletter)
 - Share knowledge (e.g. BACB – English Polish glossary of BA terms)
 - <http://www.bacb.com/Downloadfiles/Polish%20BA%20Glossary.pdf>
- collaboration with a university and/or other higher education institution
 - Courses/workshops/symposia
 - Contact with students
 - New connections (e.g., Department of clinical child psychology at SWPS)
- collaboration with international chapters/international representatives
 - Great venue for learning and sharing your experiences
 - E.g. ABAI 2011 Professional Development Series – International Applied Behavior Analysis

- the importance of establishing a certification that is relevant to individuals in Poland
 - „behavioral therapist” certificate (110 persons)
 - „behavioral supervisor” certificate (15 persons)
- performing continuing education activities
 - an agreement with STEP BY STEP – Foundation for Children with Developmental Disabilities and their Families based on which the two organizations will collaborate to promote knowledge on applied behavior analysis and its applications to working with children with autism
- having a newsletter/webpage that draws interested individuals

GUIDELINES

- Be patient – establishing true collaborations takes time
- Network, find a common ground
- Get out to interested people (from all walks of life)
- Get „foot in the door” to a higher education institution
- Apply for grants
- Keep in touch with other chapters and your „mother-association”
- Organize events (e.g. conferences)
- Get students and parents interested
- Disseminate information