

Annual Report

IN THIS ISSUE

Letter from the ACBS Board
President

Acknowledgements

Learn

Connect



2020



About ACBS

Vision Statement:

ACBS is dedicated to the alleviation of human suffering and the advancement of human well-being through research and practice grounded in contextual behavioral science.

Mission Statement:

ACBS is an international community of scholars, researchers, educators, practitioners, and others whose mission is to:

- support a dynamic interaction between basic and applied research;
- disseminate contextual behavioral science;
- continue to develop principles, theories, and practical applications grounded in empirical knowledge and guided by the best available scientific evidence;
- support all members who wish to participate in this work.

Values Statement:

Throughout the ACBS community, we work in a collegial, open, generous, self-critical, non-discriminatory, and mutually supportive way.

Letter from the ACBS Board President

At the close of perhaps the most impactful year many of us have ever known, I am writing to you from just south of Boston, listening in the darkness to the sounds of the ocean. The stars are bright and clear tonight, with Orion the hunter, followed by Sirius, the bright blue dog star, overhead. It is cold; the grass is brittle with ice. The windows glow with warmth behind me. I have been honored to work as the President of the Board this year. I am blessed with committed colleagues who love ACBS, who put in many hours weekly to support it, to help us as an organization grow in our wisdom and support of our members, to reflect honestly about where we can grow. I am lucky. Not all of us are so lucky.

ACBS is growing. We are growing steadily more diverse, with members around the world, from many cultures and nations, from different professions from coaches to public health scientists to evolutionary biologists, from marginalized to privileged groups. It is exciting to me that our organization may become a scientific home for so many different perspectives, for as we become more varied, and as we flex our thinking, we will richen and deepen our work.

But we are also experiencing growing pains. We continue to grapple with how best to amplify the diverse perspectives that make up our community; we continue to build our infrastructure to support our scientific and clinical goals; and we have had to be flexible to find our way through 2020. It has been a challenging year around the world. Yet, true to our nature, our community has stepped up, has reached out, has marshalled our resources to support those around us as we make our way through the COVID-19 pandemic. Many in ACBS have been creating resources, offering their time pro-bono, and reaching out in support of our colleagues and communities. If you are one of our members who has done this, thank you. Thank you for representing us well, and thank you for your generosity, time, and for sharing your expertise.

Now at the beginning of 2021, as the year turns towards the light and begins the slow and quiet shift into a new season, it seems a good time to reflect on how this time has changed us and has forged our community into something new.

Little did we know.

Little did we know that 2020 would be a year that would bring fires and floods around the world, the steady loss of biodiversity, unrest in many countries, and to top it off, we are in the middle of a pandemic that has resulted in mass lockdowns and over 2 million deaths.

Little did we know how short our time would be with each other. We have suffered many losses in our families, in our friends, to COVID.

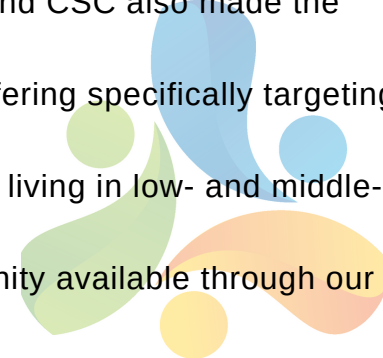
Let's pause for a moment and breathe. A good friend of mine sometimes reminds me that we can only take steps from where we are – not from where we wish to be. So let us take some steps now, as we are, together. And let us look back to see how far we have come.

Lisa W. Coyne, PhD,
ACBS Board President

2020 Board Actions and Initiatives

Throughout the year, the ACBS board worked on a variety of projects and initiatives. The following list shows some of these:

- The board supported the newly registered charity, the ACBS Foundation, by hiring a consultant to assist with developing policies and a development plan.
- The board continued to guide the work of our strategic teams in developing projects aligned with the strategic initiatives.
- The board released a public statement on Racism & Violence.
- The board worked to develop a closer working relationship with the DEI Committee, and has begun a process of examining how ACBS can be more welcoming to all of our members around the world.
- The board developed an aspirational Code of Conduct for ACBS members.
- The board and the Conference Strategy Committee (CSC) worked together with the ACBS staff to shift to an online conference as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The board and CSC also made the difficult decision to go online for the 2021 conference.
- The board approved a Grants Committee proposal for an additional grant offering specifically targeting those living in low-and middle-income countries.
- The board approved an ongoing Membership Scholarship program for those living in low- and middle-income countries, and has already awarded 25 scholarships in 2020.
- The board voted to move the ACBS investments to an ESG funding opportunity available through our investment bank.



ACBS Board of Directors

2019-2020 Board

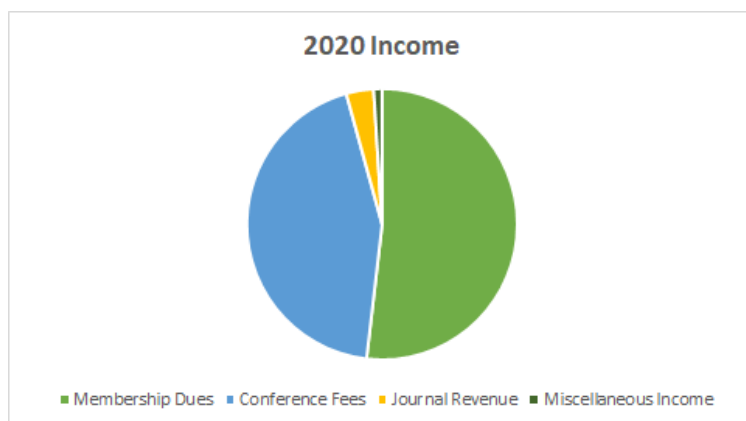
- **President:** Dennis Tirch, Ph.D.
- **President Elect:** Lisa Coyne, Ph. D.
- **Past President:** Louise Hayes, Ph.D.
- **Secretary Treasurer:** Maria Karekla, Ph. D.
- **Member at Large:** Miranda Morris, Ph.D.
- **Member at Large:** Diana Ferroni Bast, Ph.D.
- **Member at Large:** Lance McCracken, Ph.D.
- **Member at Large:** Jill Stoddard, Ph.D.
- **Student Representative:** Varsha Eswara Murthy

2020-2021 Board

- **President:** Lisa Coyne, Ph. D.
- **President Elect:** Miranda Morris, Ph.D.
- **Past President:** Dennis Tirch, Ph.D.
- **Secretary Treasurer:** Maria Karekla, Ph. D.
- **Member at Large:** Diana Ferroni Bast, Ph.D.
- **Member at Large:** Lance McCracken, Ph.D.
- **Member at Large:** Jill Stoddard, Ph.D.
- **Member at Large:** Jenna LeJeune, Ph.D.
- **Student Representative:** Lam Ching Yee

2020 FINANCIALS

ACBS 2020 Income



ACBS 2020 Expenses



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all of our hard-working 2020 Committee Chairs and Committee members:

Awards Committee:

Chair - Staci Martin, Ph.D.

- Connie Chung
- Anne Donnelly
- Meryem Hajji Laamouri
- Dan Maitland
- Mai Manchanda
- Bajesh A. Ramesh
- Laura Silberstein-Tirch
- Jennifer West

Chapter and SIG Committee:

Current Co-Chairs - Mark Sisti, Ph.D. & Brian Pilecki, Ph.D.

Future Co-Chairs - Mai Manchanda, Psy.D. & Melissa Schellekens, MSc

- John Armando
- Miranda Morris
- Holly Yates

CE Committee:

Chair - Hank Robb, Ph.D.

- Sandra Georgescu
- Zachary Isoma
- Jonathan Williams

Communications Committee:

Chair - Emanuele Rossi, Psy.D.

- Christopher Berghoff - *Special thanks for keeping the RCT page up-to-date*
- Vanessa del Aguila
- Jessica Hinman
- Eric Morris
- Timothy Ritzert
- Katy Rothfeldere

Conference Strategy Committee:

Chair - Manuela O'Connell, Lic.

- Sonja Batten
- Lisa Coyne
- Jennifer Gregg
- Louise Hayes
- Steven C. Hayes
- Louise McHugh
- Miranda Morris
- Giovambattista Presti
- Dennis Tirch
- Robyn Walser

2020 Program Chairs - Jennifer Gregg, Matt Boone

2021 Program Chairs - Rhonda Merwin, Maria Karekla



Acknowledgements

Developing Nations Committee:

Co-Chairs - Sindhushri BS, MS & Claudette Foley, MSc.

- Viliyana Maleva
- Ana Paula Moraes
- Khamisi Musanje
- Anushka Phal
- Bajesh A. Ramesh

Membership Committee:

Chair - Sarah Cassidy, Ph.D.

- Jessica Borushok
- Wyatt Evans
- Joseuda Lopes
- Danielle Moyer
- Stefan Wagler

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee:

Past Chair - Lucia Loureiro, Lic.

Current Chair - Matthew D. Skinta, Ph.D.

- Paulo Gomes
- Jacob Martinez
- Táhcita Mizael
- Miranda Morris
- Jennifer S. Payne
- Daniel C. Rosen

Publications Committee:

Chair - Rhonda Merwin, Ph.D.

- Dermot Barnes-Holmes
- Todd Kashdan
- Lance McCracken
- Jennifer Villatte

Grants Committee:

Chair - Megan Kelly, Ph.D.

- Kristy Dalrymple
- Nuno Ferreira
- Jaimee Heffner
- Andreas Larsson
- Thomas Szabo

Training Committee:

Past Chair - Patty Bach, Ph.D.

Current Chair - Victoria Follette, Ph.D.

- Shamell Brandon
- Jenna LeJeune
- Giovanni Miselli
- Mary Sawyer



2020 New ACBS Fellows

Fellowship in the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science is meant to recognize professionals with a terminal degree who have made strong and positive contributions to Contextual Behavioral Science. Our focus is deliberately broad. Fellowship can be awarded early, mid, or late career; contributions may be in research, scholarship, training, public information, policy, prevention, organizational work, practice, or any other area of CBS and of the Association; substantive areas include philosophy of science, basic, and applied domains.

- **Rikke Kjelgaard, MSc.**
- **Jenna LeJeune, Ph.D.**
- **Akihiko Masuda, Ph.D.**
- **Manuela O'Connell, MSc.**
- **Francisco J. Ruiz, Ph.D.**
- **Shinji Tani, Ph.D.**

2019-2022 Strategic Plan

The ACBS Board strategic planning meeting was held in early 2019. Informed by ACBS member focus group data, and one on one interviews, a picture of the current state of the organization came into focus. The Board felt four areas were priorities for change, so that we better execute our mission:

1. **Expanding and improving our digital presence** - *Eric Morris - Past Lead; Leann Harris - Current Lead; Tiffany Rochester – Champion*
2. **Centering Science** - *Louise McHugh - Lead; Jonathan Bricker – Champion*
3. **Creating a culture of empowerment and productivity** - *Jessica Borushok - Lead; Laura Silberstein-Tirch – Champion*
4. **Building a culture of competency to support effective dissemination in ACBS** - *Robyn Walser - Lead; Nanni Presti – Champion*

A Core Strategic Team was built for each pillar and the work has continued throughout 2020:

- All pillars submitted a sketch outline and received feedback from the board in late 2019 or early 2020.
- Each pillar worked to develop the projects most closely aligned with the strategic goals (this step in the process was protracted due to the COVID-19 Pandemic).
- The Centering Science and Creating a Culture of Empowerment and Productivity pillars additionally submitted final detailed plans to the ACBS Board in September of 2020. Selected projects, that most closely aligned with goals and with the best chance for success, will move forward.

[ACBS Foundation](#)

After the announcement of the ACBS Foundation at the Dublin World Conference, the new organization developed its founding policies and procedures which will inform the Foundation's work now and in the future.

The Foundation worked with a consultant to create a Development Plan to continue to move the work of the Foundation forward. The Foundation adopted as its goal to support existing activities within ACBS and explore additional areas for future development.

These activities include the announcement of a new funding mechanism for ground-breaking projects that share this aim in the realms of interventions, training, and research. The aim of the [ACBS Foundation grant](#) is to finance projects and/or research that advances the understanding of how CBS principles can be used to impact social or environmental issues.

- *The 2021 grant call is open from January 15 – March 1.*
- *Grant Award Announcements by June 1, 2021.*
- *Grant Start Dates, by September 1, 2021.*

The second activity was the creation of the [ACBS Foundation Student Scholarship](#), which provided outstanding students complimentary registration to attend the ACBS World Conference annually. Two ACBS Foundation Student Scholarship were awarded for World Conference 2020:

Nadina Pantea, Babeş-Bolyai University

Alison Stapleton, University College Dublin

The help and support of our [Founding Donors](#) mean so much! Your generous donations will make it possible for us to help the world through contextual science and to explore areas for future development. We would especially like to thank Jason Luoma and Jenna LeJeune for their great generosity which led to the creation of the Aaron S. Luoma Fund for Global Equity.



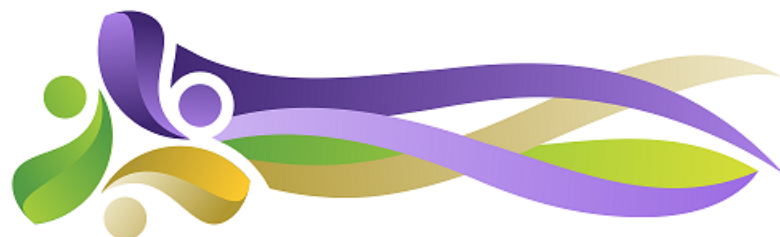
———— ASSOCIATION FOR ————
CONTEXTUAL BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE
———— *FOUNDATION* ————

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ACBS World Conference 2020-Online

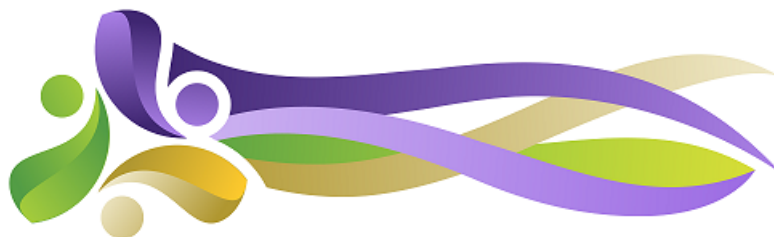
In 2020 ACBS took the annual ACBS World Conference online. The online conference had record high registration, with 1,321 total conference attendees. Attendees participated in the online conference from 50+ countries, as seen in the list below:

- Argentina
- Aruba
- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bolivia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Brasil
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Cook Islands
- Costa Rica
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- Ecuador
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hong Kong SAR
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Korea
- Luxembourg
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Panamá
- Paraguay
- Perú
- Poland
- Portugal
- Puerto Rico
- Romania
- Russia
- Saudi Arabia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Turkey
- UAE
- UK
- Uruguay
- USA
- Vietnam



ACBS World Conference
— **ONLINE** —
July 16-19, 2020

ACBS World Conference 2020-Online



ACBS World Conference

ONLINE

July 16-19, 2020

Conference Theme:

The annual 2020 conference theme - *Reclaiming the World*- gave participants the opportunity to collaborate with peers in our contextual behavioral science community virtually, for the first time ever.

Program chairs:

- Jennifer Gregg and Matt Boone

Plenary & Invited Speakers at the Conference:

- Amanda Diekman, Ph.D.
- Michele J. Gelfand, Ph.D.
- Joseph LeDoux, Ph.D.
- Anthony Biglan, Ph.D.
- Lisa Coyne, Ph.D.
- Tiffany Dubuc, MS, BCBA
- Julia H. Fiebig, Ph.D., BCBA-D
- Dennis Tirch, Ph.D.
- Patrick Friman, Ph.D., ABPP
- Akihiko Masuda, Ph.D.
- Caio Miguel, Ph.D., BCBA-D
- Siri Ming, Ph.D., BCBA-D
- Graciela Rovner, Ph.D.
- Emily K. Sandoz, Ph.D.

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ACBS World Conference Scholarship and Award Winners

Developing Nations Scholarship

- Abu Onesimus Bockarie, Sierra Leone
- Ceri Lan, Vietnam
- Emina Osmanovic Basic, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Diversity World

Conference Scholarship

- Desmond Bull, Lanham, MD
- Sandi James, Malaysia
- Fady Safwat, Egypt
- Nguyen Tran, Seattle, WA

Student World

Conference Scholarship

- Rebeca Castellanos, University of South Carolina
- Joseph Lavelle, University College Dublin
- Huiyuan Li, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Jill Loving, University of Denver
- Marissa Sbrilli, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Women of Color World Conference Scholarships - awarded by the Women in ACBS SIG and the ACBS Board

- Bianca R. Augustine
- Rogéria Adriana de Bastos Antunes
- Corteneé Boulard
- Jasmine Burton
- Marquita Carter
- Amanda Casco
- Lexi Chavez
- Aya Cheaito
- Zelda Fleming
- Shana Harris
- Jennifer Kuo
- Nancy Lee
- Marla Martinez-Parker
- Sehar Moughal
- Puveshini Rao
- Melody Sylvain
- Serena Wong
- Rebecca Wright

Asher Student Dissertation Award

This award is given to students based on their doctoral dissertation proposal related to the use of Contextual Behavioral Science with children/adolescents. Michael J. Asher, Ph.D., ABPP passed away in 2016 and was a clinical psychologist at Behavior Therapy Associates, P.A. since 1988. He was passionate about his work, loved psychology, cognitive behavior therapy, and especially enjoyed learning about and practicing ACT. Dr. Asher greatly impacted the lives of many and his contribution to the field of psychology and education was significant. He will be remembered fondly. This year the awards went to:

- First Prize - **Olivia Gratz**, Western Michigan University, for her project "*Using Functional Analytic Psychotherapy to Develop Social Skills in Adolescents with High Functioning Autism*".
- Second Prize - **Caitlyn Gumaer**, Claremont Graduate University, for her project "*Evaluating the Effects of an Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Behavioral Parent Training Program on Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their Parents*".

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JCBS – Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science

The *Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science (JCBS)* is the premier source for important developments in all areas of contextual behavioral science. *JCBS* is distributed to most major academic libraries and included as a benefit of ACBS membership.

2020 was the third year that *JCBS* received a Clarivate Analytics (formerly of Thomson Reuters) Journal Impact Factor in the Journal Citations Report. The impact was estimated at 1.523, a slight decrease from our Impact Factor of 1.890 at the end of 2018. The number of citations received by the Journal increased to 662 citations compared to 474 citations at the end of 2018. This, combined with the increases in the number of submissions along with diversity of topics, authors, and methodologies, is a good sign that *JCBS*' impact will continue to grow.

In 2020 *JCBS* welcomed Michael Levin, Ph.D., as the new editor in chief, replacing the previous editor in chief, Emily Sandoz, Ph.D. Michael served as an associate editor prior to being appointed to this position. Michael has transferred to a new editorial management system, updated the website, removed outdated information, put up new guidelines for authors, changed submission categories, set up new author notifications, and set up new reviewer notifications. Michael has been in contact with Elsevier to get *JCBS* set up in PubMed and to increase the efficiency of indexing.

Three Special Issues were published in 2020, including:

- [CBS Perspectives on COVID-19](#)
- [Contextual Behavioral Science and the Psychedelic Renaissance](#)
- [Interbehaviorism as Contextualism](#)



JCBS published Volumes 15-18 in 2020, with 110 articles total. Some of the titles included:

- o [A psychological flexibility -based intervention for Burnout: A randomized controlled trial](#) - Anne Puolakanaho, Asko Tolvanen, Sanna M. Kinnunen, Raimo Lappalainen
- o [A quasi-experimental, multicenter study of acceptance and commitment therapy for antisocial youth in residential care](#) - Fredrik Livheim, Anders Tengström, Gerhard Andersson, JoAnne Dahl, Caroline Björck, Ingvar Rosendahla
- o [Effect of acceptance and commitment therapy in improving interpersonal skills in adolescents: A randomized waitlist control trial](#) - Koryn N. Bernal-Manrique, María B. García-Martín, Francisco J. Ruiz
- o [The empirical status of acceptance and commitment therapy: A review of meta-analyses](#) – Andrew T. Gloster, Noemi Walder, Michael E. Levin, Michael P. Twihog, Maria Karekla

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ACBS Research Development Grant - 2019-2020 Awardees

The Association for Contextual Behavioral Science (ACBS) Research Development Grant periodically provides financial support for research that advances the field of CBS.

The following were awarded grants in 2020:

- **A Process-Based App Intervention Study for Clinical Perfectionism** - Clarissa Ong, M.S., Utah State University; Eric B. Lee, Ph.D., Institute of Living, Anxiety Disorders Center, Hartford Hospital; Michael P. Twohig, Ph.D., Utah State University; Michael E. Levin, Ph.D., Utah State University
- **Values and committed action for inpatients with acquired brain injury and depression: A Single Case Experimental Design** - Jessica Kingston, DClínPsy, PhD, MSc., BSc (Hons), Royal Holloway, University of London and Richard Irwin, PGDip in Clinical Neuropsychology, DClínPsy, MSc., BSc.(Hons), Royal Hospital for Neurorehabilitation

New Education Resources

The Association and ACBS volunteers have been actively adding valuable content and new resources to the ACBS website. Some of the new content includes:

- [WC2020 Powerpoints & Handouts](#) - Including titles such as:
 - **Gender as Embedded in Societal Structure, Social Context, and the Self: Opportunities and Obstacles** - Amanda Diekman
 - **Fierce, fabulous and female** - Rikke Kjelgaard
 - **Values Prototyping: Using Action to Help Clients Explore Their Values** - Jenna LeJeune, Jason Luoma, Brian Pilecki
 - **Using the ACT matrix to explore and work with interpersonal processes and self-disclosure** - Benjamin Schoendorff, Fabián Olaz
- [WC2019 World Conference - Dublin, Ireland - Audio Recordings](#) - Including titles such as:
 - **Toward an Effective and Relevant Science of Behavior** - Ruth Anne Rehfeldt
 - **A contextual approach to psychiatry: Momentary Assessment and Intervention** - Inez Myin-Germeys

CONNECT

ACBS Chapters, Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Affiliates

ACBS is truly an international organization, and our chapters and SIGs aim to help members connect with those who have similar interests or live in the same area. This year we were proud to welcome 2 new chapters, 6 new SIGs and 3 Affiliates:

Chapters:

- Arizona Chapter
- Colombia Chapter

SIGs:

- ACT Across Cultures SIG
- ACT in Education SIG
- ACT and Judaism SIG
- ACT in Perinatal SIG
- Climate Justice & Action SIG
- Comparative Psychology SIG

Affiliates:

- Czech Republic Affiliate
- Mexico City Affiliate
- USA – New Mexico Affiliate

Additional Educational Opportunities were held by Special Interest Groups this year:

- [ACBS DEI SIG Webinar Series: Context for Decolonization](#)
- [Creating Opportunities for Long-Distance ACT Peer-To-Peer Consultation with Video Teleconferencing](#)
- [Creative Metaphors in ACT](#)
- [Cultural Humility in Counseling and Clinical Supervision](#)
- [Working with Asian Clients Using ACT](#)

Social Media Connections in 2020

Facebook:

- 11,323 Likes
- More than 12,500 Followers

Twitter:

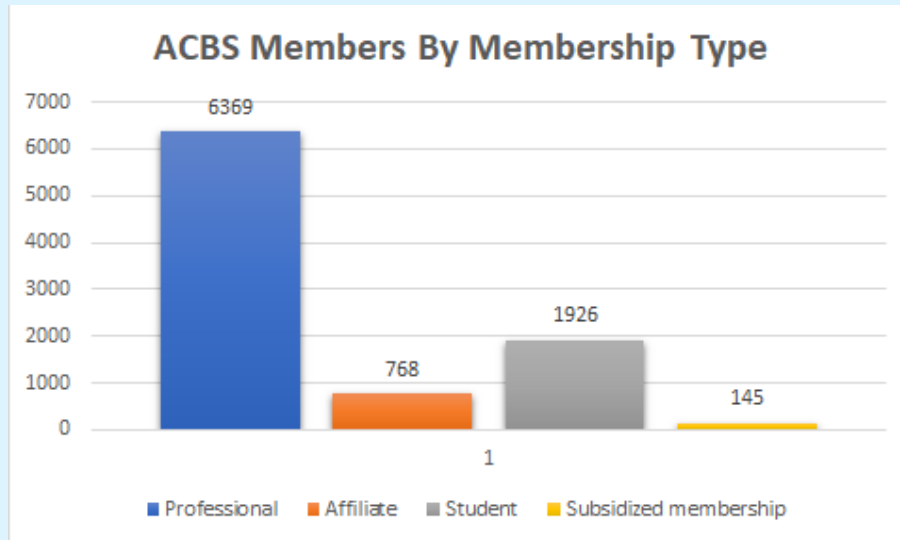
- 6,444 Followers



ACBS Membership

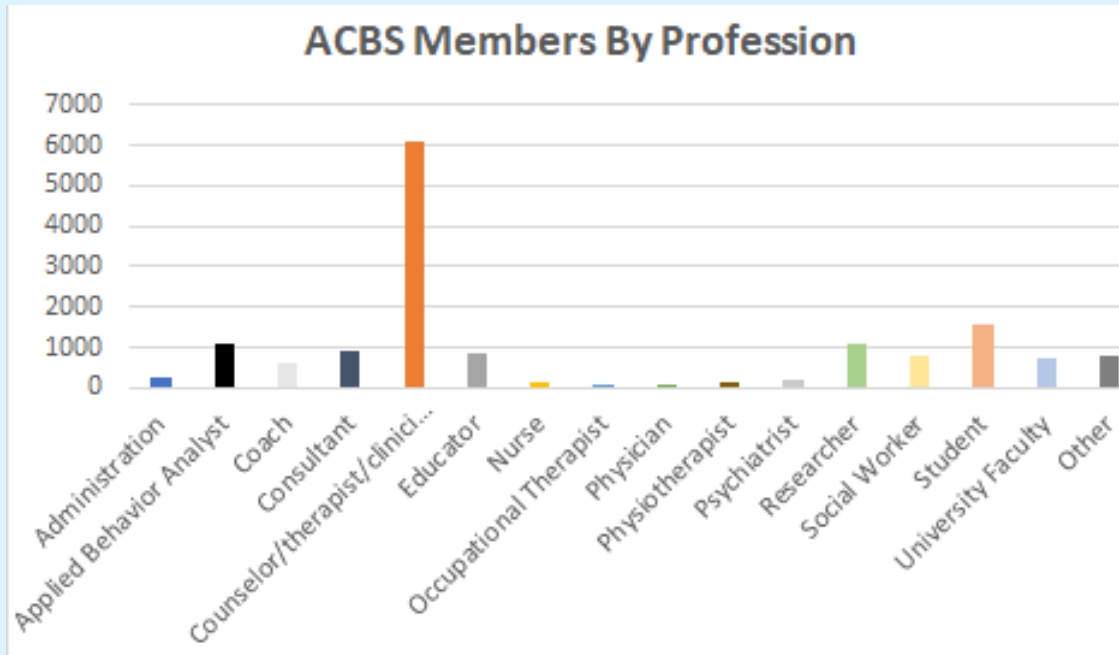
ACBS is home to over 9,200 members worldwide. The ACBS community is made up of professionals, students, and affiliate members – all working in a variety of fields.

The following provides more information on the ACBS membership:



- Afghanistan - 1
- Argentina - 201
- Australia - 603
- Austria - 8
- Bahrain - 1
- Belgium - 71
- Bermuda - 1
- Bhutan - 1
- Bolivia - 5
- Bosnia and Herzegovina - 4
- Brazil - 341
- Bulgaria - 1
- CÃ´te d'Ivoire - 1
- Canada - 533
- Cayman Islands - 1
- Chile - 9
- China - 16
- Colombia - 41
- Costa Rica - 6
- Croatia - 3
- Cyprus - 14
- Czeck Republic - 2
- Denmark - 49
- Dominican Republic - 1
- Ecuador - 5
- Egypt - 2
- El Salvador - 1
- Estonia - 1
- Faroe Islands - 2
- Finland - 99
- France - 114
- Germany - 190
- Greece - 10
- Guatemala - 2
- Guernsey - 1
- Hong Kong - 62
- Hungary - 4
- Iceland - 2
- India - 44
- Indonesia - 2
- Iran - 10
- Ireland - 74
- Israel - 99
- Italy - 137
- Japan - 52
- Jersey - 2
- Kazakhstan - 1
- Kenya - 2
- Kuwait - 1
- Latvia - 1
- Lebanon - 5
- Lithuania - 1
- Luxembourg - 4
- Malaysia - 18
- Mexico - 38
- Morocco - 2
- Netherlands - 265
- New Zealand - 170
- Norway - 76
- Oman - 2
- Pakistan - 1
- Panama - 1
- Paraguay - 4
- Peru - 51
- Philippines - 6
- Poland - 76
- Portugal - 14
- Puerto Rico - 28
- R union - 1
- Romania - 20
- Russian Federation - 37
- Saudi Arabia - 3
- Serbia - 4
- Singapore - 27
- Slovakia - 1
- Slovenia - 1
- South Africa - 22
- Spain - 92
- Sri Lanka - 1
- Sweden - 82
- Switzerland - 52
- Taiwan - 5
- Thailand - 5
- Turkey - 36
- Uganda - 15
- Ukraine - 4
- United Arab Emirates - 4
- United Kingdom - 755
- United States - 4415
- Uruguay - 12
- Vanuatu - 1
- Venezuela - 2
- Vietnam - 2
- Virgin Islands, US - 1

ACBS Membership



ACBS members were able to indicate more than one profession as appropriate.

**All of the data and information above was collected on December 22, 2020

