

2021 Annual Report

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President**

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ASSOCIATION FOR CONTEXTUAL BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

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.

ASSOCIATION FOR CONTEXTUAL BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE



Letter from the ACBS Board President

With 2021 behind us, we continue to wrestle with the reality of a global pandemic and the myriad challenges it has presented. Many -- if not all of us -- have had pain and loss. These trying times have required us to adapt and to grow in ways that we might not have anticipated under ordinary circumstances. Now more than ever, ACBS is striving to evolve in such a way that we might be an organization worthy of our members, ready to meet the challenges of the coming year.

And we have indeed evolved - ACBS is now a community of 9,200 people representing over 100 countries. For the second year running, we held our annual World Conference online with record attendance: 1500 attendees from 69 countries. Our hope was to make this conference the most accessible to date by including offerings in both Spanish and Portuguese and by offering reduced rates for members from low and middle income countries (LAMIC). In addition, ACBS created a number of new resources for our members, including video recordings of the 2020 World Conference, many of which are available in Spanish.

Also of note this year, several ACBS chapters - India, Poland and Turkey - hosted conferences that were culturally tailored and designed to be accessible to members of LAMIC and other communities. Our Awards committee created a new award intended to support work that advances diversity, equity and inclusion in our community. The strategic teams that are entrusted with carrying out the work of our four pillar plan have made commendable progress, including three major projects and several upcoming papers. Finally, the impact factor of the Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science (JCBS) more than doubled, going from 1.523 to 3.092 in just one year.

Looking forward, we hope to make 2022 a year of connection -- expanding our work and creating new opportunities for our members. In June of 2022, we will host our World Conference in San Francisco, California. At this writing, we are working to make at least some offerings available online as we move toward an increasingly hybrid model for our annual conferences. We will also be calling for applications for talented people to fill a few vacancies on our committees and to work with our strategic pillar teams. We are always looking for passionate people who want to help shape the future of ACBS. Please consider getting personally and professionally involved with our mission. You can explore opportunities [here](#).

Miranda K. Morris, Ph.D.
ACBS Board President

2021 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 approved an ongoing Diversity Award for members who disseminate CBS work aimed at advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion - proposed by the ACBS Awards Committee.
- The board continued to guide the work of our strategic teams in developing projects aligned with the strategic initiatives.
- The board approved the ACBS Task Force on the Strategies and Tactics of CBS Research report and the Open Science initiatives document.
- The Conference Strategy Committee (CSC) and the board worked together with the ACBS staff to shift to an online conference as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic for the second year. The board and CSC decided on the future ACBS conference format based on a member survey.
- A new formal process for Committee Chair recruitment and replacement was implemented by the board.

ACBS Board of Directors

2020-2021 Board

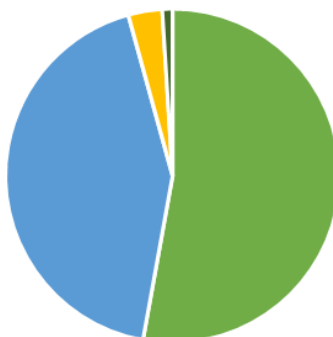
- **President:** Lisa Coyne, Ph.D.
- **President Elect:** Miranda Morris, Ph.D.
- **Past President:** Dennis Tirch, Ph.D.
- **Secretary Treasurer:** Maria Karekla, Ph.D.
- **Member at Large:** Diana Ferroni Bast, Ph.D.
- **Member at Large:** Lance McCracken, Ph.D.
- **Member at Large:** Jill Stoddard,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

2021-2022 Board

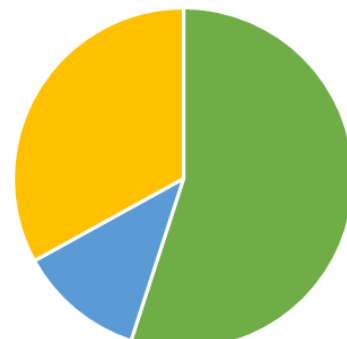
- **President:** Miranda Morris, Ph.D.
- **President Elect:** Maria Karekla, Ph.D.
- **Past President:** Lisa Coyne, Ph.D.
- **Secretary Treasurer:** Jill Stoddard, Ph.D.
- **Member at Large:** Jenna LeJeune, Ph.D.
- **Member at Large:** Nigel Vahey, Ph.D.
- **Member at Large:** Rhonda Merwin, Ph.D.
- **Member at Large:** Sindhu BS, MS
- **Student Representative:** Marianna Zacharia

2021 FINANCIALS

ACBS 2021 Income
2021 Income



ACBS 2021 Expenses
2021 Expenses



Acknowledgements

Thank you to the 2021 Committee Chairs and Committee members:

Awards Committee:

Chair - Staci Martin, Ph.D.

Co-Chair - Connie Chong, Ph.D.

- Anne Donnelly
- Meryem Hajji Laamouri
- Maria Hamdani
- Dan Maitland
- Yim Wah Mak
- Baijesh A. Ramesh
- Mai Manchanda
- Amanda Rhodes
- Jennifer West

Chapter and SIG Committee:

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

- Holly Yates
- Stephanie Lin
- Daniel Simsion

CE Committee:

Chair - Hank Robb, Ph.D.

Co-Chair - Katy Rothfelder, M.A.

- Zachary Isoma
- Jonathan Williams

Communications Committee:

Chair - Emanuele Rossi, Psy.D.

- Christopher Berghoff - Special thanks for keeping the RCT page up-to-date
- Randy Burgess
- Vanessa del Aguila

Conference Strategy Committee:

Current Co-Chairs - Manuela O'Connell, Lic. & Emily Sandoz, Ph.D.

- Sonja Batten
- Luisa Cañon
- Evelyn Gould
- Jennifer Gregg
- Louise Hayes
- Steven C. Hayes
- Maria Karekla
- Louise McHugh
- Miranda Morris
- Giovambattista Presti
- Dennis Tirch

2021 Program Chairs - Rhonda Merwin, Maria Karekla

2022 Program Chairs - Luisa Cañon, Evelyn Gould



Acknowledgements

Developing Nations Committee:

Co-Chairs – Claudette Foley, MSc. & Baijesh A. Ramesh

- Suzan Adel Hassanein
- Viliyana Maleva
- Cheryl Malek
- Paulo Bozza

Membership Committee:

Chair – Sarah Cassidy, Ph.D.

Incoming Co-chairs – Wyatt Evans, Ph.D. & Danielle Moyer, Ph.D.

- Nancy Lee
- Jacob Martinez
- Stefan Wagler

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee:

Past Chair – Matthew D. Skinta, Ph.D.

Current Chair – Paulo Gomes, Ph.D.

- Lucia Loureiro
- Jacob Martinez
- Táhcita Mizael
- Jennifer S. Payne
- Daniel C. Rosen
- Aarathi Selvan

Publications Committee:

Chair – Rhonda Merwin, Ph.D.

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

Grants Committee:

Chair – Megan Kelly, Ph.D.

Incoming Co-Chairs – Kristy Dalrymple, Ph.D. & Jason Lillis, Ph.D.

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

Training Committee:

Current Chair – Victoria Follette, Ph.D.

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



2021 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.

- Megan Kelly, Ph.D.
- Rhonda Merwin, Ph.D.
- Jean-Louis Monestès, Ph.D.
- Joe Oliver, Ph.D.
- Kenneth I. Pakenham, Ph.D.
- Jill Stoddard, 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** - Carmine DiChiara - 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 2021:

- **February 2021** - Centering Science Pillar is approved for 3 major projects and moves on to the planning stage
- **February 2021** - Board looks to recruit new lead for the Digital Pillar
- **April 2021** - Open call for Digital Pillar Lead. The Centering Science Pillar opens the application for the Early Career Mentee Program
- **June 2021** - The Centering Science Pillar announces the CBS Superlab and the Contextual Behavioral Scientist-Practitioner Network at the 2021 Virtual Conference
- **September 2021** - The first CBS Superlab session is held
- **October 2021** - The Centering Science Pillar opens the application for the first Interdisciplinary Science Capacity Building Seed Grant

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ACBS 2021 VIRTUAL World Conference

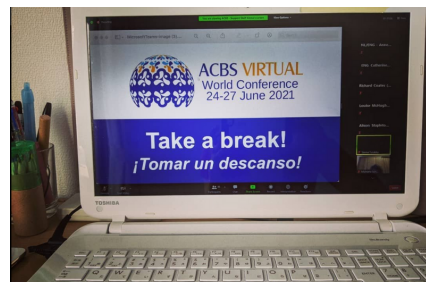
In 2021 ACBS took the annual ACBS World Conference online again. The online conference had record high registration, with 1,500 total conference attendees. Attendees participated in the online conference from 69 countries, as seen in the list below:

- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bolivia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Brasil
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Haiti
- Hong Kong SAR
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Luxembourg
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Norway
- Oman
- Paraguay
- Perú
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Puerto Rico
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Saudi Arabia
- Serbia
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Thailand
- Turkey
- UAE
- Ukraine
- UK
- Uruguay
- USA
- Vietnam



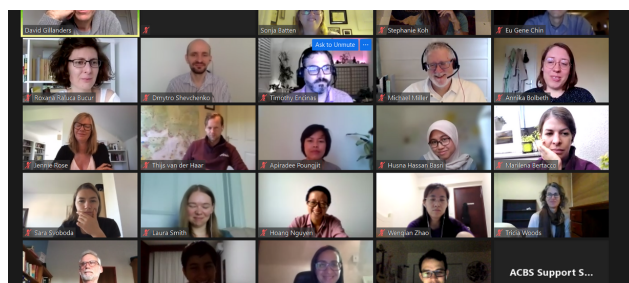
Jennifer Kemp
13 hours ago

Hanging with @myACBS family @dr_lisacoynne plenary and real explore how to CBS to build a ju and sustainable #ACBSWC



Association for Contextual Behavioral Science
3 hours ago

Because my laptop hinge was broken, I stuck this reminder to KEEP OPEN on top so I don't close it accidentally. But that reminder takes on a whole new meaning as I continue to participate the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science (ACBS) World Conference, being in unfamiliar situations and encountering new things that I don't fully understand. Day 2 of #ACBSWC done! At least for me in Japan 🇯🇵





ACBS VIRTUAL World Conference

Broadening Our Vision: Using CBS to Nurture a Just and Sustainable World

Program chairs:

Maria Karekla and Rhonda Merwin

2021 Plenary & Invited Speakers:

- Anne Marie Albano, Ph.D., Columbia University
- Gerhard Andersson, Ph.D., Linköping University
- Joseph Ciarrochi, Ph.D., Australian Catholic University
- Lisa W. Coyne, Ph.D., McLean/Harvard Medical School
- Linda Steg, University of Groningen
- Joanna Arch, Ph.D., University of Colorado Boulder
- Andrew Christensen, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles
- Kenneth Fung, M.D. FRCPC MSc, University of Toronto
- James Kirby, Ph.D., The University of Queensland
- Dominika Kwasnicka, MA, MSc, Ph.D., University of Melbourne
- Jo Lloyd, Ph.D., Goldsmiths, University of London
- Takashi Muto, Ph.D., Doshisha University
- Júlio De Rose, Ph.D., Universidade Federal de São Carlos
- Kelly Wilson, Ph.D., University of Mississippi

ACBS World Conference Scholarship and Award Winners

Developing Nations Scholarship

- Mohamed Abdelalem Aziz Ahmed, Egypt
- Edmond Joe Bodie Brandon, Sierra Leone
- Lara Dobrkovic, Serbia
- Huiyuan Li, China
- Jamie Nyaa, Sierra Leone
- NeVERN Subermoney, South Africa
- Maria Jose Vuckovich, Paraguay

Diversity World Conference Scholarship

- Bianca Augustine, USA
- Tanya Bankston, USA
- Shatangela Gibbs, USA
- William Hwang, USA
- Deirdre James, USA
- Melody Sylvain, UAE

Women in ACBS SIG Scholarships in Honor of Leann Harris

- Mayra Díaz - Mexico
- Daniela González Rodríguez - Colombia
- Alex Margosian - USA
- Danielle Moore - Australia
- Kristen Parente - USA
- Maria Alexis Martinez Segura - Colombia

Student World Conference Scholarship

- Jennifer DiBartolomeo, Widener University
- Léo Guarnieri, Universidade de São Paulo, Instituto de Psiquiatria do Hospital das Clínicas da Faculdade de Medicina
- Hannah Johnson, Utah State University
- Joseph Lavelle, University College Dublin
- Luke Mather, University College Dublin
- Victoria Visscher, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology
- Heloisa Ribeiro Zapparoli, Federal University of São Carlos
- Zhang Xuelin, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- Zhao Wenqian, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Early Career Research Paper Award

- Emily Kroska, PhD, University of Iowa, Iowa, USA: Evaluating an ACT-based mobile micro-intervention for distressed first-generation college students

ACBS Foundation

ACBS Foundation Student Scholarship

- Jin Xiaohuan, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China (ACBS Foundation Student Scholarship)
- Pinelopi Konstantinou, University of Cyprus, Cyprus (ACBS Foundation Student Scholarship)

We want to thank you for supporting the ACBS Foundation in our early days. Our members are at the core of what makes us great and why we have so much potential to make change in the future. We're proud to say that we're already making an impact. To see some of the steps we achieved over the last year, [please see the ACBS Foundation Annual Report](#).

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.

The impact was estimated at 3.092, more than double our Impact Factor of 1.523 at the end of 2019. The number of citations received by the Journal increased to 910 citations (Citescore of 3.2) compared to 498 citations (Citescore of 2.3) at the end of 2019. 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. Mike Levin has had a smooth transition to editor. He has already made some operational improvements and is taking on open science and DEI initiatives. We have set Level 1 standards for open science and are moving toward a comprehensive plan for implementation. The completion of the CBS Research Task Force Report is also a major development, with a tool for designing studies and study quality checklist expected soon. Plans to address each of the recommendations have been set.



JCBS published Volumes 19-22 in 2021, with 76 articles total. Some of the titles included:

- **Coping with the invisible enemy: The role of emotion regulation and awareness in quality of life during the COVID-19 pandemic** - Georgia Panayiotou, Maria Panteli, Chrysanthi Leonidou
- **Occupational stressors, mental health, and sleep difficulty among nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic: The mediating roles of cognitive fusion and cognitive reappraisal** - Chun-Qing Zhang, Ru Zhang, Yongzan Lu, Hongguo Liu, Suhua Kong, Julien S. Baker, Hongguang Zhang
- **Psychological inflexibility and mental health symptoms during the COVID-19 lockdown in Spain: A longitudinal study** - Mónica Hernández-López, Antonio Cepeda-Benito, Pilar Díaz-Pavón, Miguel Rodríguez-Valverde
- **The role of psychological flexibility in the context of COVID-19: Associations with depression, anxiety, and insomnia** - Lance M. McCracken, Farzaneh Badinlou, Monica Buhrman, Karin C. Brocki

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ACBS Research Development Grant - 2021-2022 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 2021:

- **A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Sleep Disturbances in Sickle Cell Disease:** Amanda Rhodes, PsyD, Center for Cancer Research of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) / National Institutes of Health (NIH); Staci Martin, PhD, Health Psychology and Neurobehavioral Research Group; Mary Anne Tamula, MA, Health Psychology and Neurobehavioral Research Group; Melissa Baker, BS, Health Psychology and Neurobehavioral Research Group
- **Exploring the Relationship of Perceived Social Connection and Value-Based Behaviors in Adherence to Cardiac Rehabilitation Recommendations: A Momentary Ecological Evaluation** - Amanda Muñoz-Martínez, Ph.D., Universidad de Los Andes (Colombia); Clara Sophie Otto-Scheiber, M.S., Hospital Universitario de la Fundación Santa Fe de Bogotá (Colombia)
- **Gaps in Supportive Care for Cancer Patients in Kenya: Recommendations for Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Intervention** - Lydiah Maingi, PhD, Kenyatta University, Kenya; Joanna Arch, PhD, University of Colorado Boulder

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:

- [ACBS World Conference Online 2020 - Video Recordings](#) - Including titles such as:
 - Embody your ACT processes supported by neurosciences: And explore your own movement practice to boost both you and your client's psychological flex and health - [Graciela Rovner](#)
 - Evolving a Society That Works for Everyone - [Anthony Biglan](#)
 - Reclaiming Ourselves and Restoring Our World Through Compassion - [Dennis Tirch](#)
- [Spanish Language Video Recordings](#)
 - Creación de prototipos de valores: uso de acciones para ayudar a los clientes a explorar sus valores - [Jenna LeJeune](#), [Jason Luoma](#), [Brian Pilecki](#) (World Conference Online 2020)
 - Habilidades básicas del terapeuta ACT - [Daniel Granados](#) and [Tomás Castillo](#)
 - Recuperando y restaurando nuestro mundo a través de la compasión - [Dennis Tirch](#) (World Conference Online 2020)
 - Ser ACT en cada paso: Tejer lo que importa en su trabajo en situaciones clínicas complejas - [Jennifer Plumb Vilardaga](#)

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:

- Malaysia Chapter

SIGs:

- OCD and Related Disorders SIG
- Process-Based Therapy SIG

Affiliates:

- ACT in Austria - Affiliate
- Minnesota Northland Affiliate

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

- [ACBS India Chapter Conference: Emerging Voices!](#)
- [ACBS Polska Chapter - CBS LAMIC Online Conference](#)
- [ACT and Exposure Therapy for OCD and Anxiety](#) - Jack Jacobsen (Social Work SIG)
- [ACT for Psychosis: supporting individual and family recovery](#) - Maggie McCulloch (Social Work SIG)
- [ACT and Treatment of Body Focused Repetitive Behaviors](#) - Lisa A. Conway & Pam Katz (Chicago Chapter)
- [Cultural Difference in the Understanding of Experiential Avoidance between Chinese and Western People](#) - Panel sponsored by Asian Culture and CBS SIG
- [In the Room where it happens: Intro to FAP](#) - Holly Yates & Miranda Morris (Student SIG)
- [Music and Defusion](#) - Levin Schwartz (Social Work SIG)
- [The Client's Journey Understanding Women's Experiences with Trauma](#) - Panel sponsored by the Women in ACBS SIG

2021 Social Media Connections

Facebook:

- 12,700 Likes
- More than 14,400 Followers

Twitter:

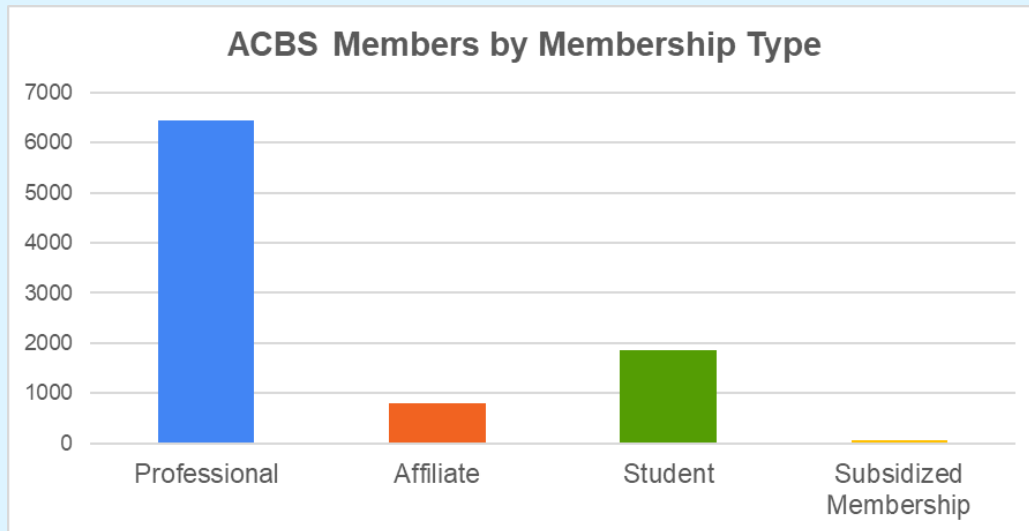
- 7,420 Followers

Follow ACBS on social media today!

ACBS Membership

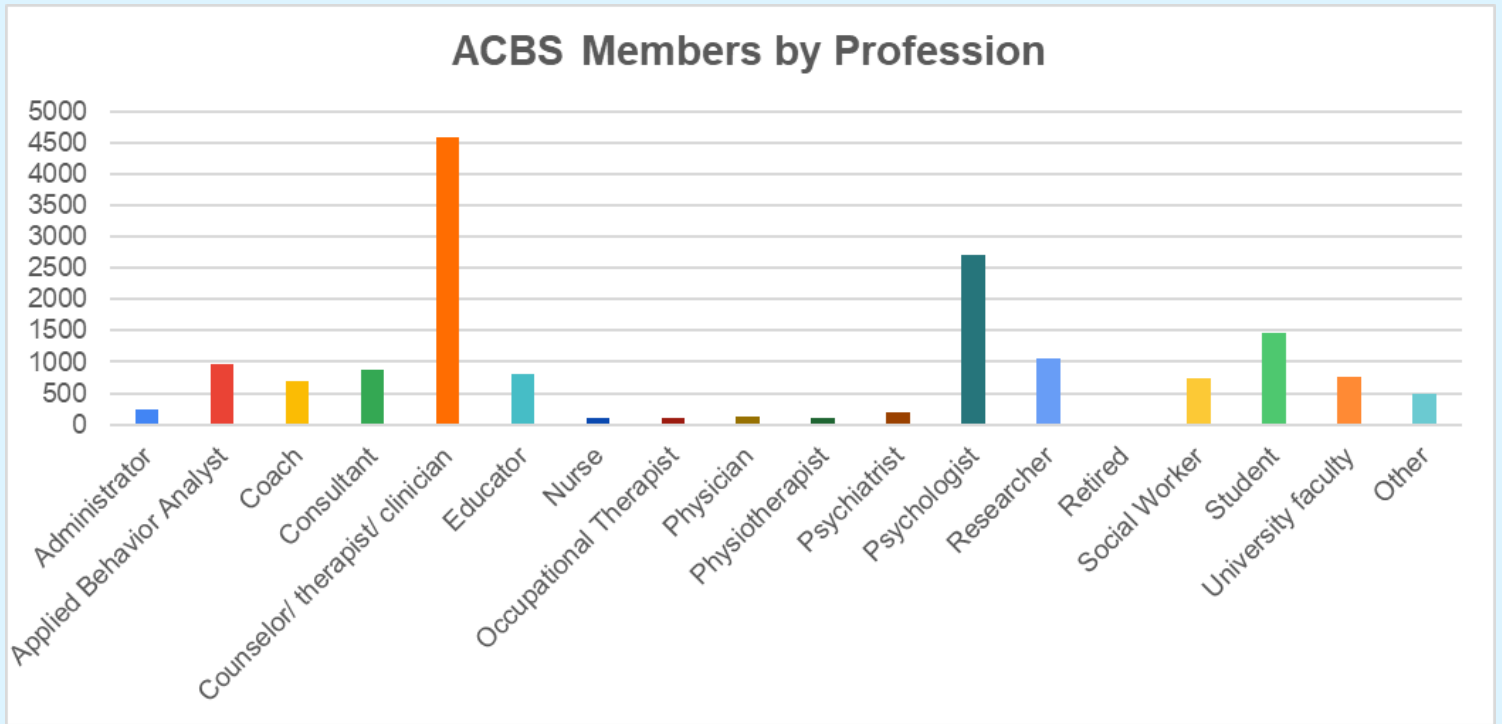
ACBS is home to over 9,200 members worldwide. The ACBS community is made up of professionals, students, and affiliate members – all working in a variety of fields.

The following provides more information on the ACBS membership:



- Albania - 1
- Algeria - 1
- Argentina - 128
- Australia - 530
- Austria - 7
- Belarus - 2
- Belgium - 74
- Bolivia - 4
- Bosnia and Herzegovina - 4
- Brazil - 435
- Bulgaria - 3
- Canada - 523
- Chile - 8
- China - 18
- Colombia - 30
- Costa Rica - 4
- Croatia - 1
- Cyprus - 25
- Czech Republic - 6
- Denmark - 44
- Ecuador - 6
- Egypt - 38
- El Salvador - 1
- Estonia - 1
- Faroe Islands - 1
- Finland - 97
- France - 108
- Germany - 203
- Greece - 15
- Guatemala - 1
- Guernsey - 1
- Hong Kong - 45
- Hungary - 4
- Iceland - 5
- India - 37
- Iran - 41
- Iraq - 1
- Ireland - 73
- Israel - 93
- Italy - 207
- Japan - 58
- Jersey - 4
- Jordan - 1
- Kazakhstan - 2
- Kenya - 2
- Kuwait - 1
- Latvia - 2
- Lebanon - 2
- Lithuania - 2
- Luxembourg - 5
- Malaysia - 51
- Malta - 1
- Mexico - 46
- Morocco - 1
- Netherlands - 279
- New Zealand - 138
- North Macedonia - 1
- Norway - 53
- Oman - 1
- Pakistan - 1
- Panama - 3
- Paraguay - 2
- Peru - 40
- Philippines - 10
- Poland - 127
- Portugal - 16
- Puerto Rico - 22
- Republic of Korea - 12
- Reunion - 1
- Romania - 27
- Russian Federation - 47
- Saudi Arabia - 5
- Senegal - 1
- Serbia - 7
- Sierra Leone - 1
- Singapore - 14
- South Africa - 20
- Spain - 103
- Sri Lanka - 1
- State of Palestine - 1
- Sudan - 1
- Sweden - 96
- Switzerland - 52
- Taiwan - 4
- Thailand - 5
- Tunisia - 1
- Turkey - 41
- Uganda - 5
- Ukraine - 6
- United Arab Emirates - 6
- United Kingdom - 770
- United States - 4315
- Uruguay - 12
- Venezuela - 2
- Vietnam - 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, 2021

