

SUB AREAS

- ▶ Neurocognitive Disorders and Memory Problems
- ▶ Behavioral Medicine
- ▶ Health and Fitness
- ▶ Mental Health

OVERVIEW

Behavioral gerontology is the application of behavior analysis to age-related issues. By 2030, more than 20% of the U.S. population will be over the age of 65, and 1 in 3 seniors will have obesity, depression, diabetes, and/or a neurocognitive disorder, among other conditions. Behavior analysts can work directly with seniors or with care staff to implement sustainable, non-pharmacological supports to enhance quality of life and care services, decrease challenging behaviors, maintain daily life skills, implement memory and language programs, preserve medication adherence, and prolong independence.

LEARN MORE

Initial Publication

Lindsley, O. R. (1964). Geriatric behavioral prosthetics. In R. Kastenbaum (Ed.), *New thoughts in old age* (pp. 41-61). New York: Springer.

Recommended Reading

Burgio, L. D., & Burgio, K. L. (1986). Behavioral gerontology: Application of behavioral methods to the problems of older adults. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 19, 321-328.

Drossel, C., & Trahan, M. A. (2015). Behavioral interventions are first-line treatments for managing changes associated with cognitive decline. *The Behavior Therapist*, 38(5), 126-131.

Fisher, J. E., Harsin, C. W., & Hayden, J. E. (2000). Behavioral interventions for patients with dementia. In V. Molinari (Ed.), *Professional psychology in long term care* (pp. 179-200). New York: Hatherleigh Press.

LeBlanc, L. A., Raetz, P. B., & Feliciano, L. (2011). Behavioral gerontology. In W. W. Fisher, C. C. Piazza, & H. S. Roane (Eds.), *Handbook of applied behavior analysis* (pp. 472-488). New York: The Guilford Press.

Additional Resources

- ▶ [Behavioral Gerontology Special Interest Group](#)
 - [On Facebook](#)