the Behavior Therapist

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Engaging Our Stakeholders

David F. Tolin, The Institute of Living

As I write this column, the 54th ABCT Annual Convention has just wrapped up, and our pivot to a virtual meeting seems to have gone extremely well. I’d like to express my deepest gratitude to the ABCT central office staff who made it happen, with a special thanks to Stephen Crane, our Convention Manager, for his exceptional work. We had 2,334 attendees; I’m particularly happy that of those, 225 were nondoctoral clinical professionals attending their first ABCT convention, suggesting that our efforts to expand our tent are working. Although I have not yet been able to review all of the attendees’ comments about the convention, the anecdotal information I’ve received thus far suggests that our attendees were particularly appreciative of the increased emphasis on diversity in our offerings. Here I want to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of the 2020 Program Chair, Shannon Wilsey Stirman, and the Associate Program Chair, Daniel Cheron. Know that 2021 Program Chair Gregory Chasson, Associate Program Chair Elizabeth Katz, and I have every intention of continuing, and even expanding on, their work and vision for a convention that embraces diversity in all its manifestations.

I’d also like to thank our immediate Past-President, Martin Antony, for his steady lead-