Montefiore Einstein Center for Innovation in Simulation Symposium
Teaching Skills Using Positive Reinforcement:
The Journey from the Skinner Box to the Operating Room

PROGRAM AGENDA

8:00-8:10  Welcome and Introduction
Dr. I. Martin Levy

8:15-8:45  Beginnings: A short history of where this powerful new training method came from, how it
developed, and what’s happening to it now
Karen Pryor
Founder, Karen Pryor Clicker Training
Author, Nursing Your Baby and Don’t Shoot the Dog

8:50-9:50  The ABCs of Positive Reinforcement Training: An overview of the science, power, and
potential of training
Ken Ramirez
Executive Vice President and Chief Training Officer, Karen Pryor Clicker Training

9:50-10:10 Break

10:10-10:40 Problems with Punishment as an Instructional Procedure and the Alternative
Julie Vargas, PhD
President of the B.F. Skinner Foundation

10:40-11:40 Skill Acquisition: When Time and Precision Matter
Theresa McKeon
Co-Founder, TAGteach International

11:45-12:00 Demonstration

12:00-12:45 Removing Ceilings on Performance: From Skinner’s Science to Fluency-based Instruction
(Part 1)
Carl Binder, PhD, CPT
Co-Founder, The Performance Thinking Network

12:45-1:30 Lunch

1:30-2:15 Removing Ceilings on Performance: From Skinner’s Science to Fluency-based Instruction
(Part 2)
Carl Binder, PhD, CPT
Co-Founder, The Performance Thinking Network

2:15-3:00 From Raising an Arm to Tying a Knot: Designing a Behavioral Experiment
Hannah Hoch, PhD, BCBA-D
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Barnard College

3:00-3:15 Break

3:15-4:00 The Millennial Student: Strategies for Instructional and Learning Success
Mary Niemczyk, PhD
Founder, Mastering Learning
Associate Professor, Arizona State University
Provost’s Teaching Fellow at Arizona State University

4:00-4:30  How the Brain Builds a Skill from Scratch
Saleem Nicola, PhD
Associate Professor, Dominick P. Purpura Department of Neuroscience, Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

4:30-5:00  From Rats to Residents: Teaching Surgical Skills Using Operant Methodologies
I. Martin Levy, MD
Professor of Clinical Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Residency Program Director, Orthopaedic Surgery, Montefiore

5:00  Q & A Session