Michigan Autism Training Videos Presents:

**Functional Communication Training: Research Foundations**

Wayne W. Fisher, Ph.D.
University of Nebraska Medical School and Monroe Meyer Institute

December, 2014

Section 3 of 3
How effective are multiple and chain schedules for thinning the schedule for the FCR during FCT across a large cohort of patients with problem behavior?
• Combinatorial schedules are schedules of reinforcement that combine two or more simple reinforcement schedules. Examples of ones typically used with FCT include:
  - mult FR1 EXT (A.K.A. mult FCT)
  - mult FR1 RR (A.K.A. RR FCT)
  - chain FR 32 FR 1 (A.K.A. chain FCT)

- FCT w/o EXT was relatively ineffective.

- FCT + EXT was highly effective in 11 of 25 (44%) applications; mean reduction was 68% for all 25 cases.

- When schedule thinning was attempted with FCT + EXT, problem behavior worsened in 7 of 12 applications (58%).
• FCT + Punishment was highly effective in 10 of 11 (90%) applications.

• When schedule thinning was added to FCT + Punishment, the treatment was effective in all 14 (100%) applications.
ROOKER ET AL. (2013). FCT WITH AND WITHOUT ALTERNATIVE REINFORCEMENT AND PUNISHMENT

• FCT + EXT + supplemental reinforcement was highly effective

• FCT + punishment produced somewhat more variable results.
CONCLUDING COMMENTS

• Destructive behavior reinforced by social consequences is highly responsive to treatment with FCT.

• Bringing the FCR under the stimulus control multiple and chain schedules can facilitate the transfer of treatment effects to novel therapists and settings and also to parents.

• Multiple and chain schedules can be used to increase the practicality of FCT and prevent or mitigate resurgence.