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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGPA CONNECT ANNUAL GROUP-BASED MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS TRAINING TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 5, 2022

NEW YORK, January 21, 2022 – The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is hosting its 2022 Annual Training, *Virtual AGPA Connect*, online in February and March. The 79th annual conference offers an extraordinary array of state of the art educational offerings. Entitled “Uniting Through Groups: Pathways to Understanding and Inclusion,” this experience promises to include the development of new clinical approaches, refinement of therapeutic methods, exchange of clinical and empirical knowledge with colleagues, exposure to current research and theory, and the opportunity to participate with a multidisciplinary peer support network.

The success of Virtual AGPA Connect 2021 last March promises another exciting opportunity this year for group therapists of all disciplines to gather and learn the most effective techniques in working with a variety of populations in groups. Group work is a valuable therapeutic modality due to its effectiveness and cost-effectiveness, not to mention its communal healing power. The theme of this year’s conference reflects the desire to deepen group practitioners’ capacities to promote understanding and inclusion in group work.

“*AGPA Connect* is the source for experiential training in leading therapeutic groups,” said Melyn Leszcz, MD, FRCPC, CGP, DFAGPA, AGPA President. “This annual training is a one-of-a-kind educational opportunity to learn group skills in an innovative format that blends learning with self-care and rejuvenation. We hope the virtual format of this year’s conference enables increased access for all much like it did during AGPA Connect 2021, our first virtually-held meeting.”

AGPA Connect is designed for clinicians, mental health workers, psychiatric residents and graduate students in mental health degree programs. It is composed of three major sections:

Special Institute Presentation: Monday, February 28

- Special Institute: "Group Therapy in a Time of Racial Reckoning and Unrest" with Kenneth V. Hardy, PhD

Two-Day Institute: Tuesday-Wednesday, March 1-2

- Institute Opening Plenary Session: “The Odyssey of a Group Therapist: Discovering Oneself in the Presence of Others” with Lisa Mahon PhD, CGP, FAGPA
- [Process Group Experience Sections](#)
- [Specific Interest Sections](#)

Three-Day Conference: Thursday-Saturday, March 3-5

- Special Events:
 - Mitchell Hochberg Memorial Public Education Event: [“Iwankapiya \(Healing\) - Historical Trauma and Unresolved Grief Intervention and Group Interpersonal Psychotherapy for American Indians”](#) with Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart, PhD & Josephine Chase, PhD
 - Conference Opening Plenary Address: [“IntraConnected: Integrating Identity and Broadening Belonging as MWe \(Me + We = MWe\)”](#) with Daniel J. Siegel, MD
 - Anne and Ramon Alonso Plenary Address: [“The Future of Group Therapy is Bright!”](#) with AGPA President-Elect Gary M. Burlingame, PhD, CGP, DFAGPA
 - Louis R. Ormont Lecture: [“The Elusive Technique of No-Technique in Group Psychotherapy”](#) with Robert A. Unger, MSW, PhD, CGP, FAGPA
- [Thursday, March 3](#)
- [Friday, March 4](#)
- [Saturday, March 5](#)

This one-of-a-kind event, bringing together many of the nation’s leading group therapists, will explore the variety of ways in which group therapy can help people and communities in today’s world. Scholarships are also available to attend this Meeting. For more information, contact AGPA at (212) 297-2190 or visit www.agpa.org.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Media are invited to attend select sessions of **AGPA Connect 2022**. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfairman@agpa.org or call (212) 297-2190.

About AGPA

The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is the foremost professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a tri-partite structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, its philanthropic arm; and the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body. AGPA represents over 2,000 mental health professional members including psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers, as well as mental health, family, and pastoral counselors, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential. Its members are experienced mental health professionals who lead psychotherapy groups and various non-clinical groups. Many are organizational specialists who work with businesses, not-for-profit organizations, communities and other "natural" groups to help them improve their functioning. The association also has 21 local and regional societies located across the country.

AGPA is committed to supporting the dignity and psychological safety of every individual without discrimination regarding race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sex, age, or disability. Central to our mission is a belief in the power of groups to treat mental illness, heal the scars from traumatic events, and enhance the well-being of adults and children in their families, schools, corporate settings, and communities.

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