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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO TAKE OFFICE MARCH 3, 2022

NEW YORK, March 3, 2022— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) announced today the new Officers and members of the Board of Directors who will be installed at Virtual AGPA Connect February 28 – March 5, 2022.

Gary Burlingame, PhD, CGP, DFAGPA will be assuming the position of President of the American Group Psychotherapy Association. Dr. Burlingame is Professor and Chair of the Psychology Department at Brigham Young University. He is affiliated with the clinical psychology doctoral program, where he teaches group psychotherapy and co-leads BYU's Consortium for Group Psychotherapy Research and Practice. His clinical settings include the Utah State Psychiatric Hospital and BYU CAPS. Dr. Burlingame's scholarly work on small group treatments and measurement have produced over 70 books, technical manuals and chapters, and over 160 articles. He's received national (American Psychological Association; American Group Psychotherapy Association) and international (German College of Psychosomatic Medicine) recognition for his training and scholarship, including being a Distinguished Fellow of AGPA.

"AGPA is the professional home to thousands of group therapists who provide help to those in need," said Molyn Leszcz, MD, FRCPC, CGP, DFAGPA AGPA President. "The organization is privileged to have the experience and strong leadership of Dr. Burlingame in place to guide us over the coming years."

Other members of the organization who will be taking office will be as follows:

AGPA Officers

Lorraine Wodiska, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA, President-Elect
M. Sophia Aguirre, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, Secretary, 2022-2024
Leonardo Leiderman, PsyD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA Treasurer, 2022-2024

AGPA Newly Elected Board Members 2022-2026

Eri Suzuki Bentley, PhD, CGP
Shemika Brooks, PsyD, CGP
Marvin Evans, MS, MBA, CGP
Marcée Turner, PhD, CGP

Early Career Professionals and Students Board of Directors, 2022-2024

Teresa Lee, MD
Aziza Belcher Platt, PhD

Affiliate Society Assembly Chair-Elect 2022-2024

(nominated and voted on by the Assembly):
Marc Azoulay, LPC, LAC, ACS, CGP

AGPA Continuing Board Members

Molyn Leszcz, MD, FRCPC, CGP, DFAGPA,
Retiring President
Michelle Collins-Greene, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA,
Assembly Chairperson
Darryl Pure, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA,
Foundation Chairperson of the Board

Steven Van Wagoner, PhD, CGP, FAGPA,
Certification Chairperson of the Board
Alexis Abernethy, PhD, CGP, FAGPA

Helen Chong, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA
Shunda McGahee, MD, CGP
Ryan Spencer, LMFT, CGP

Contributions in honor of Dr. Burlingame or any of the new leadership may be made to the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health at www.agpa.org, or via phone at (212) 297-2190; please indicate the individual to be notified regarding the receipt of the gift in their honor.

This leadership transition is a highlight of Virtual AGPA Connect 2022, AGPA's second annual conference held virtually. Entitled "Uniting through Groups: Pathways to Understanding and Inclusion," this meeting attracts more than 1,000 group therapists, researchers and scientists from around the world. Group therapists of all disciplines will gather to learn the most effective techniques in working with a variety of populations in groups, an increasingly utilized modality due to its effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. Comments from attendees of Virtual AGPA Connect 2021 were overwhelmingly positive as to the richness of the new virtual experience, promising another exciting opportunity this year for group psychotherapists of diverse backgrounds. The theme of this year's conference reflects the desire to deepen group practitioners' capacities to promote understanding and inclusion in group work. 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 dfeirman@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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