**AGPA Connect 2023 Presenter Information**

**Course Code:** 217

**Course Title:** To Treat or to Teach--The Clinical and Ethical Consequences of Dual Relationships at Group Psychoanalytic Training Institutes

**Course Times:** 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM

**Course Dates:** Saturday, March 11

**Instructors:** Robert Pepper

**Course Description:** The focus of this Open Session will be to address the conflict of interest between the need to teach and the need to train at some analytic group training institutes where dual relationships exist. Dual relationships occur when institute leaders are also the supervisors, teachers, administrators, friends and of their patient/trainees, Simultaneously, these patient/ trainees are in complicated dual relationships with each other. The 8 potential iatrogenic hazards of these blurred boundaries, which constitute abuses of power, will be explained and discussed.

**Learning Objectives**

The attendee will be able to:‎

1. ‎‎‎‎‎Differentiate between boundary crossings and boundary violations.‎
2. ‎Identify the eight hazards of blurred boundaries at group training institutes.‎
3. ‎Explain the occurrence of iatrogenic treatment reactions at institutes where boundaries are blurred.‎

**Significant Articles:**

1. Black, A. (2017) On attacking and being attacked in group psychotherapy. The International Journal of ‎Group Psychotherapy. Vol. 67 (3) p. 291-313.‎
2. MacColl, G. (2016) The art of bridging revisited. The International Journal of Group Psychotherapy. Vol. ‎‎66 (3) p.443-454‎
3. Pepper, R.S. (2014). Emotional incest in group psychotherapy—A conspiracy of silence. Lanham, MD: ‎Rowman & Littlefield.‎

**Agenda:**

1. Present the parameters of abuses of power at group training institutes that emerge as a result of dual relationships and the inherent potential of iatrogenic treatment reactions among trainees/patients. (20 min, Obj 1&3, Lecture)
2. Explain the 8 dangers of dual relationships at analytic group institutes (20 min, Obj.2, PwrPnt/case study)
3. Participants sharing of personal experiences (15 min, Obj., 1,2,&3, Discussion/ Q&A )
4. Participant Evaluations (5 min) Back to top

**Assessment Questions:**

Question 1 (include possible answers)

1. T/F Dual relationships in group therapy blur the boundary between therapy and not therapy.

Correct Answer 1

ANSWER TRUE

Question 2 (include possible answers)

2. What are two basic needs of analytic training institute that are mutually exclusive?

Correct Answer 2

ANSWER: The need to treat and the need to train.

Question 3 (include possible answers)

3. What is an iatrogenic treatment reaction in group psychotherapy?

Correct Answer 3

ANSWER: It is a negative treatment reaction that is caused by the treatment itself.

Question 4 (include possible answers)

4. Where does the term ‘gaslighting come from?

Correct Answer 4

ANSWER: The classic movie of the 1940’s entitled : GASLIGHT

Question 5 (include possible answers)

What is gaslighting?

Correct Answer 5

ANSWER: It is the unconscious process of invalidating a member or members’ perception of reality thereby undermining their emotional stability.

Question 6 (include possible answers)

6. What is ‘looping’?

Correct Answer 6

ANSWER: It is a breach of confidentiality in which personal information revealed in one context is inappropriately revealed in another

Question 7 (include possible answers)

7. What is scapegoating?

Correct Answer 7

7. ANSWER: Scapegoating occurs when the group colludes with the leader, protecting him or her from too close scrutiny at the expense of a weaker group member.

Question 8 (include possible answers)

8. What is the double-bind?

Correct Answer 8

ANSWER: It is a process whereby a member is damned if they do and damned if they don’t reveal personal information in the group.

Question 9 (include possible answers)

9. What is overstimulation?

Correct Answer 9

ANSWER: Occurs when the leader’s transparency becomes too gratifying for all participants

Question 10 (include possible answers)

10. Why are dual relationships in group psychotherapy inherently unethical?

Correct Answer 10

ANSWER: This is because the blurring of boundaries in group psychotherapy opens the door to the intrusion of unconscious and largely uncontrolled elements of the subjective countertransference, which are nonetheless undermining of the emotional, and even at times, the physical well-being of group members. This constitutes an abuse of power which, by definition, is unethical.