



AMERICAN GROUP
PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION
GROUP FOUNDATION
FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH
INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR
CERTIFICATION OF GROUP
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROUP FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH WILL PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TRAINING IN GROUP-BASED MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS FOR VIRTUAL MEETING

NEW YORK, September 29, 2020—The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is now accepting applications for its Scholarship and Awards Program for virtual AGPA Connect 2021. This robust scholarship program is offered annually through the Group Foundation and supports the training of group therapists, including students and early career professionals, public and private agency personnel, veterans' hospital and center staff, military clinicians and chaplains, and others providing mental health services to the public. The **early decision deadline is November 1, 2020**; applications are accepted after this date for review on a funds-available basis. Applications are submitted [online](#). The Group Foundation Scholarship Program is supported by private donations and grants; you can [contribute online](#) or contact the Foundation office.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AGPA Board of Directors made the unanimous decision to move AGPA Connect 2021 to a virtual format. The Two-Day Institute will be held on Saturday, February 13 and Sunday, February 14. The Special Institute Presentations will occur on Friday, February 19 and the Three-Day Conference will be held Thursday, February 25- Saturday, February 27.

“Many of those providing mental health services to underserved populations work in settings without the resources to support staff training,” said Darryl L. Pure, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA, Chairman of the Group Foundation. “The Group Foundation is pleased to be able to help these professionals receive training and support so that they can increase their use of groups in helping those in need. We hope the virtual format and new scheduling will make the training even more accessible.”

Past recipients have attested to the impact of the scholarship on their lives and that of their clients:

“The Two-Day Institute was a unique and life-changing experience for me, as I learned a great deal about myself and my effect on others, which I believe will significantly improve my ability to effectively serve my clients.”

“I remember my first day back at work following my two-day institute and how present I felt with my clients. My ability to attune in the therapy room felt so much sharper than just the week before. I believe the exploration of group work in an experiential institute setting with other clinicians serves as a strong reminder

of what it means to be a group member. I found myself leading group with an even greater self-awareness and empathy for my members than I had before.”

“With this scholarship, I was able to enhance my knowledge and can therefore continue providing clinical services to those who desperately need help, incarcerated juvenile offenders and their families, as well as acute inpatient psychiatric patients. These services are a great contribution to our community and I am truly thankful that you have supported my continued learning.”

“AGPA reinforced my love of group work; and provided new potential leadership opportunities in organizational development and future conference workshop development. Returning home from the conference, I discovered I gained a new family and professional home. A place where I feel welcome, belonging, seen, heard, and nurtured. A community where I can continue to recognize my social privileges and learn to develop greater cultural humility and competency.”

AGPA Connect attracts over 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, particularly in today’s economic climate. The Meeting theme, “The Power of Groups in a Challenging World,” reflects the meeting’s emphasis on the power of groups to connect individuals, families and communities in meaningful ways during this unprecedented time. For more information, contact AGPA at 877-668-AGPA (2472) or visit www.agpa.org.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Media are invited to attend select sessions of the AGPA Connect 2021. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfeirman@agpa.org or call 877-668-AGPA (2472).

About AGPA and the Group Foundation

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 22 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.

The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is a philanthropic organization that is committed to the fact that “Groups Change Lives” and believes in the power of group interventions to improve people’s quality of life. The Group Foundation supports group psychotherapy education, research, training, and information dissemination for the benefit of the public and professional communities. Among the

Foundation's most vital roles is the recognition of excellence, promise, and vision by honoring those individuals and groups who have demonstrated these qualities with awards and scholarships.

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