



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

25 East 21st Street  
Sixth Floor  
New York  
New York 10010  
877.668.AGPA (2472)  
www.agpa.org

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Media Contact:  
Diane C. Feirman, CAE  
877-668-AGPA (2472)  
[dfeirman@agpa.org](mailto:dfeirman@agpa.org)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

**NEW YORK, November 1, 2021**—The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is now accepting applications for its Scholarship and Awards Program for AGPA Connect 2022, which will be held virtually. 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 December 15, 2021**; 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.

The AGPA Connect 2022 Annual Meeting is divided into three sections:

- I. The Special Institute: this year's presentation on anti-racism will be delivered by prominent educator and clinician Kenneth Hardy, PhD
- II. The Two-Day Institute is devoted to small group teaching, primarily in the experiential mode
- III. The Three-Day Conference offers a variety of formats, including limited registration workshops as well as open session panels on special topics and original scientific papers

“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, Chair 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 will make the training even more accessible.”

Scholarship recipients from the previous conference, virtual AGPA Connect 2021, have attested to the impact of the scholarship on their lives and that of their clients:

*“Whether wresting with the implications of racial strife in the United States, or unpacking the grief experiences of our clients as they navigate the losses brought by COVID-19, the experience of Connect 2021,*

*exposed me and others to the various interventions and processes which spoke to the above issues from a place of empathy, experience, and expertise.”*

*“I got to witness and experience some incredibly powerful moments of acceptance, belonging, and compassion. I was able to try out some relational behaviors that I have already noticed is having an impact on my current relationships. Overall, I came away from the experience on fire about the power of group therapy and its potential for massive change in the lives of people.”*

*“I have felt symptoms of burn out after a year of providing virtual group and individual therapy in a pandemic, but my experiences at AGPA rejuvenated me and reignited my joy and my excitement for the power of group therapy.”*

AGPA Connect annually 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. This year’s meeting theme, “Uniting Through Groups: Pathways to Understanding and Inclusion,” reflects the meeting’s emphasis on the power of groups to connect individuals, families and communities in meaningful ways, bridge cultural divides and create the space for empathy and healing. For more information, contact AGPA at (212) 297-2190 or visit [www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org).

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

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### ***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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