

Media Contact:
Diane C. Feirman, CAE
212-297-2190
dfeirman@agpa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

NEW YORK, October 1, 2022—The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is now accepting applications for its Scholarship and Awards Program for AGPA Connect 2023, which will be held in New York City at the Sheraton New York Times Square. This robust scholarship program is offered annually through the Group Foundation. It 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, 2022**; applications are accepted after this date for review on a funds-available basis. Applications are submitted [online](#). Private donations and grants support the Group Foundation Scholarship Program; you can [contribute online](#) or contact the Foundation office.

The AGPA Connect 2023 Annual Meeting is divided into three sections:

- I. The Special Institute is an in-depth one-day training event combining experiential and didactic learning.
- 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.

Scholarship recipients from the previous conference, virtual AGPA Connect 2022, have attested to the impact of the scholarship on their lives and that of their clients:

"...the scholarship I received allowed me to attend Dr. Hardy's special institute: Group Therapy in a Time of Racial Reckoning and Unrest. Much like group therapy, the topic of Dr. Hardy's presentation was challenging and important. Working in the non-profit sector, I am often serving and working alongside people of color. Dr. Hardy invited me to think more critically of myself as a racial being and group leader, as well as to reflect on the potential experiences of my colleagues and my patients..."

“In my experience, conferences have been distant and non-engaging, but this was not the case with the AGPA conference. I ended every day exhausted from high levels of mental and emotional engagement and excited to take my new learning into my daily work. I learned about bringing vitality into groups, confronting scapegoating, utilizing countertransference, and applying meditation. It was an honor to learn from such notable and skilled group leaders....”

“Again, thank you to all the folks who made attending AGPA Connect possible for me and others. Because of you, the world has gained more group therapists, and more patients will be served through this unique and important modality.”

AGPA Connect annually attracts over 1,000 group therapists, researchers, and scientists. 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, “Group as a Catalyst for Reimagining and Embracing Our Future,” reflects the meeting’s emphasis on the power of groups to connect individuals, families, and communities in meaningful ways, bridge cultural divides to create a brighter future full of inclusivity. AGPA remains dedicated to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in all areas. 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 the AGPA Connect 2023. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfeirman@agpa.org or call (212) 297-2190.

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 1,600 mental health professionals, 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 leading psychotherapy and non-clinical groups. Many organizational specialists work with businesses, not-for-profit organizations, communities, and other "natural" groups to help them improve their functioning. The Association also has 18 local and regional Societies located across the country.

AGPA is committed to supporting every individual's dignity and psychological safety 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 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 to benefit the public and professional communities. Among the Foundation’s most vital role 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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