



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 ANNOUNCES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY SCHOLARSHIP

NEW YORK, October 21, 2025 – The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is announcing the establishment of a new scholarship, the Institute for Individual and Group Psychotherapy Scholarship. This scholarship is available to graduate students training in psychodynamic group therapy as well as early career therapists using the combined model of individual and group therapy. Preference will be given to those who have been in individual or group therapy themselves and in respect to the Institute's geographical origins to those who reside in Michigan. The scholarship will cover up to a 6-day registration for AGPA Connect as well as a travel stipend.

The Institute was established in 1977 by Reuven Bar-Levav, MD, Natan HarPaz, PhD and Pamela Torracco, MSW to encourage therapists to train and practice in the combined model of therapy. In this model the group serves as a powerful *in vivo* life experience, while the individual sessions provide the opportunity to integrate the group process for lasting character change. The IIGP's many resources on this topic are readily available on the website at iigp.org/library. This scholarship aims to encourage therapists to incorporate the combined model of therapy into their practices. Since the Institute sees the therapist's own character and mental health as key for effective psychotherapy, preference is given to applicants who have been in individual or group therapy themselves. Michigan residents will be given priority in light of the Institute's geographical origins. David Baker, MSW, Past President of IIGP, notes that "while our training program has closed, we wanted to ensure that our archives and legacy of 47 years are available to current and future therapists—through the scholarship and open access to our extensive psychotherapy publications and videos."

At the heart of the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health and AGPA is the desire to enhance the number and quality of effectively led therapeutic groups internationally in the public and private sectors. To accomplish this, we reach out to students, early career professionals, and other mental health professionals and offer them scholarships to assist them in attending the AGPA Connect Annual Training, where they receive exposure to safe and stimulating group experiences and an opportunity to learn from the most experienced and talented group therapists. The Institute for Individual and Group Psychotherapy Scholarship will be an important addition to this program. The application is now available for AGPA Connect 2026 in New York City [here](#).

"We are honored that the Institute for Individual and Group Psychotherapy has chosen to continue its legacy of group therapy training with this fund through the Group Foundation," says Darryl L. Pure, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP, AGPA-F, Chair of the Group Foundation Board of Directors. "Learning to enhance group therapy skills is an

important part of the mission of the Group Foundation and it is our privilege to work with them to make it possible for those dedicated to the group therapy profession.”

For more information, contact the Group Foundation at (212) 297-2143 or via email at dfairman@agpa.org or visit www.agpa.org.

About the Group Foundation and AGPA

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.

The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is the foremost professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a multi-organizational structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, a philanthropic arm; the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body; and the Affiliate Societies Assembly representing 21 local and regional affiliate societies providing continuing education, consultation, and support for group therapists across the country. AGPA represents over 2,000 mental health professional members, including clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, and psychiatrists, as well as mental health, family, school, and pastoral counselors, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists. AGPA members are experienced licensed mental health professionals who lead psychotherapy groups and/or various non-clinical groups. Many members are organizational specialists who work within the corporate world, non-for-profit organizations, and other groups to help them improve their functioning and delivery of services.

AGPA is committed to supporting the dignity and psychological safety of every individual without discrimination regarding race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, 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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