



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROUP FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH CELEBRATES SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD WINNERS AND CONTRIBUTORS DURING THE AGPA CONNECT MEETING WEEK MARCH 2-7, 2026

NEW YORK, March 2, 2026— During AGPA Connect this week in New York, NY, March 2-7, 2026, the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, the philanthropic arm of the AGPA, will once again honor scholarship and award winners, as well as the generous contributors who make the program possible. A myriad of tuition, travel, and monetary awards, supporting the training of group therapists and the use of group in communities to effect change, are distributed through the Foundation.

Award recipients being honored include:

- The Alonso Award for Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Theory is awarded to Paul L. Hewitt, Ph.D., David Kealy, Ph.D., Anna Kristen, M.SC., Martin M. Smith, Ph.D., Ella Davidson, B.A., and Danielle S. Molnar, Ph.D. for their paper “Therapeutic Mentalization in Group Therapy: Development and Preliminary Validation of a Measure of Experienced Mentalization”
- [Irondale Ensemble Project](#), a Brooklyn, NY Theater that melds art, education, community engagement and social justice, is receiving the Humanitarian Award.
- The Robert H. Klein Social Responsibility Award is honoring Latoyia Griffin LCSW, CGP, AGPA-F for her commitment to social justice, social responsibility, human rights and DEIA initiatives within AGPA as well as in communities-at-large.
- Almost 300 individuals have received scholarships to attend the meeting, supported through endowed scholarship funds and private donations.

Scholarship and award recipients and donors will be recognized during the Tri-Organizational Awards Ceremony on the evening of March 4 as well as at the Group Foundation sponsored Luncheon on Saturday, March 7.

“The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is privileged to honor those whose use of groups in clinical and community settings helps people in need,” said Darryl Pure, PhD, CGP, AGPA-F, Chair of the Board. “The AGPA Connect week is our opportunity to publicly thank our donors, whose generous contributions make it possible for us to carry out our mission.”

AGPA Connect 2026 will take place in New York City. Entitled “*Group Life: Holding Space For Deeper Connection in Complex Times*” this meeting attracts 1,000 group therapists, researchers, and scientists from around the world. Group therapists of all disciplines 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.

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 AGPA Connect 2026. 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 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 20 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.

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.