



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

AGPA INCOMING PRESIDENT DR. LEONARDO LEIDERMAN TO DELIVER HIS PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS “BELONGING AND THE POWER OF GROUP IN STRESSFUL TIMES” MARCH 6, 2026

NEW YORK, March 4, 2026 – The American Group Psychotherapy Association’s (AGPA) incoming President **Leonardo Leiderman, PsyD, ABPP, FAACP, CGP, AGPA-F**, will deliver his Presidential Address at AGPA Connect in New York City at the Sheraton New York Times Square on Friday, March 6, 2026 as part of the Three-Day Conference portion of the annual meeting. The address, taking place during the Anne and Ramon Alonso Presidential Plenary Session, is entitled “**Belonging and the Power of Group in Stressful Times**.”

Dr. Leiderman will address the promise of group psychotherapy to treat the overwhelming stress and mass trauma so many individuals and communities are currently experiencing. He will explore factors contributing to successful therapeutic outcomes including the “magic ingredients” that make groups effective and efficient, leadership considerations, incorporating DEIA constructs, and translating trauma. Dr. Leiderman will share how community involvement and belonging to a professional organization can play a crucial role in mitigating stress, essential core values that enhance organizational cohesion and self-care strategies for therapists to insulate themselves from burnout, fatigue, and co-morbid stress and vicarious trauma symptoms.

Dr. Leiderman is a Diplomate in Clinical Psychology and Group Psychology and is the Director of Neurofeedback & Psychological Services, in Purchase, N.Y. He was the Director of Westchester County's first Bilingual/Bicultural Mental Health Treatment Program at St. Vincents Hospital & Medical Center for almost 20 years. He served on many Mental Health and Governmental Boards of Directors including the 18th Congressional District Hispanic Advisory and the Westchester County Hispanic Advisory Boards. He has lectured extensively nationally and internationally and has made guest appearances on both radio and television on topics related to mental health and trauma. He co-edited the book *Advances in Group Therapy Trauma Treatment* (2025) by Leiderman & Buchele, and is a prolific author of published peer reviewed articles, chapters, and columns. He received the Alonso Award for Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Theory and the Dr. Robert Klein Social Responsibility awards from the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health. He is the past- Editor of AGPA’s newsletter *The Group Circle*, and on the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*.

Dr. Leiderman’s Presidential Address is a highlight of AGPA Connect 2026 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

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, 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.

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