



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

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPISTS PRESENTS 2014 HAROLD S. BERNARD GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY TRAINING AWARD TO DONNA J. MARKHAM, OP, PH.D., ABPP, CGP

**NEW YORK, February 24, 2014** – The International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists will be presenting the 2014 Harold S. Bernard Group Psychotherapy Training Award to Donna J. Markham, OP, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP. The presentation will take place during the AGPA Annual Meeting in Boston at the Westin Copley Place Hotel.

This award was established in 2001 and is given annually to an individual or organization whose work in group training and/or education contributes to excellence in the practice of group psychotherapy. It was recently renamed through a legacy gift provided to the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health by Dr. Bernard's estate for the purpose of endowing the award. Throughout his lifetime, training in group psychotherapy was near and dear to Dr. Bernard's heart. His legacy bequest and this award insure that individuals and programs meeting a high standard of training quality be identified and honored for their contributions to the field in developing the next generation of clinicians who use group psychotherapy to help people.

In a variety of healthcare settings, Dr. Markham has redesigned the treatment delivery model and initiated a structured treatment program that had psychodynamic group psychotherapy as the central component. In her current setting, Catholic Health Partners, she led the transformation of the delivery of psychiatric services across seven geographic regions by designing and implementing a system-wide, consolidated organization, The Behavioral Health Clinical Institute, with a structured training component. Quality metrics and treatment outcome measures already indicate a marked improvement in patient and staff satisfaction across the system. Dr. Markham has also introduced innovative supervision methods via video conferencing and streaming to allow for live supervision and increased communication among geographically spread sites, creating an enriched learning environment. She has also extended group therapy training to chaplains and spiritual care staff. Additionally, Dr. Markham also has an international presence in peace work. She has conducted group work in Iraq to assist in the reconciliation and forgiveness efforts of religious leaders from the Christian minority communities and has continued this work through the use of Skype.

“Dr. Markham has created a system in which group psychotherapy is an integral component and structured training a cornerstone of a quality delivery system,” said Sherrie L. Smith, CSW-R, CGP, FAGPA, Certification Board Chairwoman. “This combination captures the essence of the Harold S.

Bernard Group Psychotherapy Training Award.”

Past recipients of the award are as follows:

2013 Dr. David Panzer and the Group Psychotherapy Services of Rutgers University  
2012 Menninger Department Of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Group Therapy Program at the Baylor College Of Medicine  
2010 The Systems-Centered Training and Research Institute (SCTRI)  
2009 Robert Klein, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP, DLFAGPA  
2008 Center for Group Studies in New York City  
2007 Walter Stone, M.D., CGP, DFAGPA and One-Year Training Program in Group Psychotherapy of the Eastern Group Psychotherapy Society  
2006 Marvin Aronson, PhD, CGP FAGPA  
2005 Wendi Cross, Ph.D., CGP and Saul Scheidlinger, Ph.D., CGP, DLFAGPA  
2004 K. Roy MacKenzie, M.D., FRCP, CGP, DFAGPA  
2003 Gary Burlingame, Ph.D., CGP  
2002 Henry Spitz, M.D., CGP, FAGPA

This award presentation is a highlight of the AGPA’s 2014 Annual Training in Boston. Entitled “Group: Creating Connection in Turbulent Times,” this meeting attracts more than 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. The theme reflects the meeting’s emphasis on the power of groups to connect individuals and communities in meaningful ways and foster solutions to personal and public challenges. For more information, contact AGPA at (877) 668-AGPA (2472) or visit [www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org).

### ***About the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists***

The International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists is a standard setting and certifying body. This multidisciplinary credentialing body has over 1,500 certified clinicians, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, clinical mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, pastoral counselors and creative arts therapists who are recognized as group specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential.

### ***About AGPA***

The American Group Psychotherapy Association 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. This multidisciplinary association has approximately 3,000 members, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, clinical mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, pastoral counselors and creative arts therapists, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential. The association has 31 local and regional societies located across the country. 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.