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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION TO AWARD
DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIPS TO ELAINE JEAN COOPER, M.S.W., PH.D., CGP, FAGPA
AND SUSAN GANTT, PH.D., ABPP, CGP, FAGPA IN SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY 27, 2015**

New York, Feb. 24, 2015— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) announced that Elaine Jean Cooper, M.S.W., Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA and Susan Gantt, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP, FAGPA will be awarded Distinguished Fellowship in the Association at its upcoming 2015 Annual Meeting, February 23 - February 28 at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco at Embarcadero Center. The Award presentation will take place during the Anne and Ramon Alonso Plenary, Friday, February 27 at 8:30 AM. Distinguished Fellowship is the highest honor bestowed by the Association, recognizing outstanding leadership and contributions to the field of group psychotherapy.

Dr. Gantt has been a leader in AGPA locally through the Atlanta Group Psychotherapy Society, nationally at AGPA, where she is a regular presenter at the Annual Meeting, and internationally through the International Association for Group Psychotherapy and Group Processes. Her most significant achievements have come through her work, starting in partnership with Dr. Yvonne Agazarian, integrating the theory of living human systems. She is currently the Director of the Systems-Centered Training and Research Institute (SCTRI), where she has been instrumental in offering and expanding SCT in seven states and in the UK, Sweden, and Holland. Dr. Gantt is a prolific writer, having authored or co-authored more than 30 publications in a variety of professional journals as well as co-authored the book *The Interpersonal Neurobiology of Group Therapy and Group Process*. She has also presented over 125 local, national, and international programs. Among her many awards, she was recognized for Excellence in Teaching by the Psychology Division of the Emory University School of Medicine as well as received the Alonso Award for Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Psychotherapy for co-editing the Special Issue of the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy* "Neurobiology and Building Inter-Personal Systems: Groups, Couples, and Beyond." Dr. Gantt is Assistant Professor in Psychiatry at the Emory University School of Medicine where she coordinates group psychotherapy training and is also in private practice in Atlanta.

Dr. Cooper has been a highly respected leader and volunteer in AGPA nationally and locally through the Northern California Group Psychotherapy Society. She has served on the Boards of both organizations as well as held innumerable committee chair and membership positions and led workshops and institutes over several decades. A prolific writer, Dr. Cooper has published nineteen articles, six book chapters and three books, all on Group Psychotherapy. Her latest book, still in press, is titled "Let's all Hold Hands and Drop Dead: Three Generations - One Story." A renowned teacher, she was awarded the Psychiatric

Residents' Excellence in Teaching Award eight times at UCSF School of Medicine, where she has held the following positions: Department of Psychiatry Clinical Professor, Associate Clinical Professor, and Assistant Clinical Professor. She also presents workshops and institutes on group therapy at scores of local and national professional associations for all disciplines, sharing her knowledge of group therapy beyond the organizations. Dr. Cooper has also served as consultant for fifteen different Bay Area mental health agencies and has been in private practice in San Francisco and now East Bay, CA.

"The Distinguished Fellowship designation recognizes those who are seminal leaders, teachers, clinicians and authors in the global community of group psychotherapy," said Les R. Greene, Ph.D., CGP, LFAGPA, AGPA President. "Drs. Cooper and Gantt, with their local, national and internationally renowned leadership in AGPA and the group psychotherapy field, epitomize this recognition."

Contributions in honor of Drs. Cooper and Gantt can be made to the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health at www.agpa.org.

This award presentation is a highlight of the AGPA's 2015 Annual Training in San Francisco. Entitled "Promoting Secure Attachments through Group Therapy," 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, families 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.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Media are also invited to attend other select sessions of the AGPA 2015 Annual Meeting. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfeirman@agpa.org or call 877-668-AGPA (2472).

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 2,500 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 26 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.

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