



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

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION RECEIVES ACCREDITATION WITH COMMENDATION FROM THE ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

NEW YORK, August 12, 2016 - The American Group Psychotherapy Association announced today that it has been awarded Accreditation with Commendation as a provider of continuing medical education for physicians through the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). This status, the highest accreditation the ACCME offers, has been awarded for six years for the organization's continuing education programs.



ACCME accreditation seeks to assure the medical community and the public that AGPA provides physicians with relevant, effective, practice-based continuing medical education that supports US health care quality improvement. The ACCME employs a rigorous, multilevel process for evaluating institutions' continuing medical education programs according to the high accreditation standards adopted by all seven ACCME member organizations. These organizations of medicine in the US are the American Board of Medical Specialties, the American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association, the Association for Hospital Medical Education, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Council of Medical Specialty Societies, and the Federation of State Medical Boards of the US, Inc.

Accreditation with commendation is an exemplary status which is awarded to providers that signifies full compliance of the highest standards in all criteria and accreditation policies. It demonstrates that the AGPA is a learning organization and a change agent for physicians and the patients they serve and part of a system for quality improvement.

"AGPA's continuing education program is a cornerstone in its mission to advance knowledge and research, and provide quality training in group psychotherapy," said Eleanor F. Counselman, Ph.D., CGP, LFAGPA, AGPA President. "It is gratifying to have its quality and standards nationally recognized by the ACCME through Accreditation with Commendation."

From its Annual Training Week (next taking place March 6-11, 2017 and celebrating the organization's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) to its distance learning events offered via teleconference and videoconference to its self-study program, the AGPA offers mental health professionals of all clinical disciplines a diverse range of opportunities to advance their knowledge and skills in group psychotherapy and related fields. Details on the programs can be found on the website at <http://www.agpa.org/home/continuing-ed-meetings-events-training>. Our Online Continuing Education Center also houses an online store where training curricula, audiotapes and videotapes on group psychotherapy can be obtained (many of these publications can be used for teaching purposes and as student and participant manuals). For more information please visit our website at [www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org) or contact Diane Feirman, CAE, at 877-668-AGPA (2472) or via e-mail at [dfeirman@agpa.org](mailto:dfeirman@agpa.org).

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### *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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