



AMERICAN GROUP  
PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION  
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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 2016 HAROLD S. BERNARD GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY TRAINING AWARD TO THE NATIONAL GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY INSTITUTE OF THE WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF PSYCHIATRY

**NEW YORK, Feb. 12, 2016** – The International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists will be presenting the 2016 Harold S. Bernard Group Psychotherapy Training Award to the National Group Psychotherapy Institute (NGPI) of the Washington School of Psychiatry. The presentation will take place during the AGPA Annual Meeting in New York City at the Sheraton New York Times Square 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 renamed through a legacy gift provided to the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health by Dr. Bernard 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.

NGPI is being recognized with this award due to their significant contribution, spanning over twenty years, of training mental health professionals of all disciplines in the art and craft of group psychotherapy. The NGPI training program has a depth and breadth that includes an expansive study of prevailing theories in the field. The leading thinkers, and often the originators of the theoretical approach, typically offer this training. The faculty itself is a group of highly recognized local thinkers and clinicians in the field who also have a national, and in some cases, international presence. A review of their list of faculty and invited guest faculty yields a review of the most distinguished thinkers in the field. NGPI has trained over 300 group psychotherapists, many of whom go on to be significant contributors to the field. Students come from all over the world and are often well-established clinicians. The curriculum is a model of offering diversity and multicultural perspectives.

The program is notable for its structure that combines didactics, large and small group experience, supervision that includes essential topics within a wide array of theoretical perspectives; and, the on-going relationship between graduates and NGPI resulting in continued participation in their "post-graduate" programs and collaboration in contributions to the field.

"The scope, excellence and longevity of NGPI's program is a direct result of the superb faculty and the

quality programming,” said Tony L. Sheppard, Psy.D., CGP, FAGPA, Certification Board Chairman. “This combination captures the essence of the Harold S. Bernard Group Psychotherapy Training Award.”

Past recipients of the award are as follows:

2015 Haim Weinberg, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA

2014 Donna J. Markham, OP, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP

2013 David Panzer, Psy.D., CGP 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 2016 Annual Training in New York City. Entitled “Transformation in Group: From Isolation to Connection,” 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 to effect change on personal and societal levels. 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 over 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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