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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION TO AWARD DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIPS TO JEANNE PASTERNAK, MSW, CGP, FAGPA AND KATHLEEN H. ULMAN, PHD, CGP, FAGPA

New York, February 6, 2018— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) announced that **Jeanne Pasternak, MSW, CGP, FAGPA** and **Kathleen H. Ulman, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA** will be awarded Distinguished Fellowship in the Association at its upcoming AGPA Connect 2018, February 26 – March 3 at the Westin Galleria Hotel. The award presentation will take place during the Anne and Ramon Alonso Presidential Plenary Address on Friday, March 2, 2018 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.

Ms. Pasternak is a highly respected clinician and is devoted to the promotion of group psychotherapy. She has been a valued leader in both the Southwestern Group Psychotherapy Society and the Houston Group Psychotherapy Society, including serving as Secretary and President of Houston GPS. She served as Co-Chair of the AGPA Membership Committee during a time of significant growth and has been a member of the Board of Directors. She was integral to the creation of the Certified Group Psychotherapist (CGP) credential and served on the first Board of Directors for the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists (then the National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists), and later as Chair of the Board. She is currently in private practice in Houston. In addition to her contributions to both regional and national group organizations, Ms. Pasternak also served for many years on the faculty of the Northern Ireland Group Psychotherapy Conference, where she was a valued teacher and an important advocate for AGPA and the CGP standards.

Dr. Ulman has been a highly respected leader in AGPA locally, nationally and internationally, including serving as President of AGPA and a member of the AGPA, Group Foundation and Certification Boards of Directors. Dr. Ulman currently serves as the Co-Chair of the AGPA Public Affairs Committee and AGPA/IBCGP Joint Agency Survey Task Force. She has been active in the Northeastern Society for Group Psychotherapy serving as NSGP President and Chair of the NSGP Foundation. Currently, Dr. Ulman is a Psychologist in Private Practice in Boston, MA. She is Staff Psychologist with the Women's Mental Health Associates and Massachusetts General Hospital, where she has held the position of Director, Center for Group Psychotherapy, since 2000. She is an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School and a member of the American Psychological Association and the Massachusetts Psychological Association. She has also published extensively

in the field of group psychotherapy with nine journal articles including several in the *IJGP* and eight book chapters. She has over 85 presentations at the local, national and international levels.

“Distinguished Fellowship recognizes those who are seminal leaders, teachers, clinicians, researchers and authors in the global community of group psychotherapy,” said Eleanor F. Counselman, EdD, CGP, LFAGPA, AGPA President. “Ms. Pasternak and Dr. Ulman, with their local, national and internationally renowned leadership in AGPA and the group psychotherapy field, epitomize this recognition.”

This award presentation is a highlight of AGPA Connect 2018. Entitled “The Healing Power of Groups in a Fragmented World,” 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.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Media are also invited to attend other select sessions of AGPA Connect 2018. 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 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 21 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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