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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

45 INDIVIDUALS EARN PRESTIGIOUS CERTIFIED GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPIST (CGP) CREDENTIAL

New York, April 10, 2008 – 45 group clinicians have recently earned their Certified Group Psychotherapist (CGP) credential from the National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists, joining more than 1,500 CGPs nationwide.

Since its inception in 1993, the Registry has served to elevate professional standards and provide recognition for specialists in group psychotherapy. In a competitive and demanding practice environment, certification is an important way for group therapists to distinguish themselves from other clinicians. To earn the CGP credential, candidates must satisfy clinical experience and education requirements in group psychotherapy as well as hold an active state licensure and/or active clinical membership/certification status with designated professional organizations and current professional liability insurance. Once earned, the certification must be renewed every two years by participating in 18 hours of continuing education in group psychotherapy, insuring ongoing professional development.

“The CGP designation is a symbol of competency and accomplishment,” said Sherrie Smith, CSW-R, CGP, FAGPA, Chairwoman of the Registry. “These individuals should be commended for their commitment to the group field, and their drive to pursue standards that make them effective group leaders, providing quality mental health services to the public-at-large.”

The Registry also provides an online searchable directory of CGPs at www.agpa.org which is available to the public for referral purposes and is searchable by city/state, zip code and/or type of group. The search options help a person find a therapist(s) in their area who works with the appropriate population (multiple referrals are often available). A confidential contact can then be made by telephone or e-mail directly to the therapist(s).

The site also contains general information for the consumer who is interested in joining a group, including what happens in a group, who can benefit, and answers to other frequently asked questions. This information is also available in a printed pamphlet “Group Works” available free of charge through the Association office.

For details on any of the above resources, how to apply for the CGP, or how to utilize the CGP as a qualifying credential in a practice or healthcare organization, please contact the Registry office at 877.668.2472 or visit our website at www.agpa.org.

New CGPs

C. Albert Alvarez, LMHC, MAC, M.Div., CGP	Danielle Fraenkel, Ph.D., ADTR, NCC, LCAT, LMHC, CGP	Laverne MacInnis, MS, CGP
Claudia Arlo, MSW, CGP	Elizabeth Gaskill, M.S.W., CGP	Michael McGrath, M.S.W., LICSW, CGP
Travis Atkinson, LCSW, CGP	Jacob Gershoni, MSW, CGP	Amanda Michael, Psy.D., CGP
Mayada Banaja, M.D., CGP	Katie Griffin, MA, LPC, CGP	Kurt Mohning, M.S.W., CGP
Gail Brown, M.A., CGP	Carrie Grochow, M.A., LMHC, CGP	Shinobu Ogasawara, Psy.D., CGP
Deborah Cohen, MA, CGP	Andrea Grunblatt, Ph.D., CGP	David Perna, Ph.D., CGP
Jeffrey Conway, LCSW, CGP	Christine Hager, DLSP, M.S.W., CAC III, CGP	Colleen Russell, M.A., MFT, CGP
Evelyn Cumberbatch, MD, CGP	David Hanft, MA, CGP	Alina Schwiep, M.S.W., CGP
Michelle Dean, MA, ATR-BC, LPC, CGP	Kenneth Hechter, MSW, CGP	Charneta Scott, Ph.D., CGP
Avril Lindsay Dennis, LCSW, CGP	Alexandria Hodes, M.A., CGP	Witold Simon, Ph.D., M.D., CGP
Naomi Dogan, Ph.D., CGP	Nancy Kelly, Ph.D., M.S.S.W., CGP	James Siwy, Ph.D., CGP
Mark Elliot, M.D., CGP	Mark Kiel, Psy.D., CGP	Rebecca Stadtner, Ph.D., CGP
Shelly Foster, M.A., CGP	Michael Korson, M.A., CGP	Judith Ullman, MSW, LICSW, CGP
Delinda Fox, LCSW, CGP	Karsten Kueppenbender, M.D., CGP	Katalin Vladar, M.D., CGP
	Seth Labovitz, Ph.D., CGP	Lynne Wheeler, M.S.Ed., LMHC, CGP
		Thomas Wilda, M.S.W., Ph.D., CGP

About the National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists

The National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists is a standard setting and certifying body. This multidisciplinary credentialing body has certified over 1,500 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 oldest and largest professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a tri-partite structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Psychotherapy Foundation, its philanthropic arm; and the National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body. This multidisciplinary association has over 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.

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