



AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.

25 East 21st Street, 6th Floor

New York, NY 10010 (212) 477-2677

Toll Free: (877) 668-AGPA (2472) Fax: (212) 979-6627

E-mail: info@agpa.org Website: www.agpa.org

Media Contacts:

Diane C. Feirman, CAE

(212) 477-2677

dfeirman@agpa.org

Claudia D'Avanzo/Jen Dunaway

(404) 898-0423

davanzo@healthcomminc.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AGPA ANNUAL MEETING
RETURNS TO NEW YORK CITY, MARCH 7-12, 2005**

NEW YORK, Feb. 3, 2005 — The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) returns to New York City for its 2005 Annual Meeting on March 7-12 at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers. Entitled, “Best Group Practices: Expert Consensus,” this meeting attracts more than 1,000 group therapists, researchers and scientists from around the United States. Group therapists of all disciplines will gather to learn the most effective techniques in working with a variety of populations and to further their professional development with this powerful and effective treatment modality. The theme, “Best Group Practices,” reflects the meeting’s emphasis on teaching clinically proven techniques and helping to bridge the gap between science and services.

“The AGPA Annual Meeting is the hallmark educational event in the field of group psychotherapy,” said Robert Klein, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA, AGPA president. “This year’s meeting promises to maintain our tradition of excellence.”

The meeting includes more than 200 programming events over six days. Following are some highlights:

- **Michael Hogan, Ph.D., Chair, President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health**, will present “Research, Recovery and Mental Health Care: Compatible Partners?” Drawing upon the Commission’s findings, Hogan will address the challenges facing the mental health field as it tries to improve quality amid scarce resources.
- **Dr. Judith Wallerstein will present new research on the effect of children and divorce.** An increasing number of children are growing up in divorced families; a unique 25-year study (documented in the best-selling book *The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce: A 25-Year Study*) indicates this may result in a variety of difficulties for those children in adulthood. Dr. Wallerstein, an authority on marriage and the effects of divorce on children and a best-selling author, will discuss this study and the implications for treatment, including in groups.
- **Irvin Yalom, M.D., DFAGPA**, a prolific fiction and non-fiction writer and group psychotherapy pioneer, will talk about his newest novel, *The Schopenhauer Cure*. A teaching novel intended to provide an accurate depiction of group therapy, this fact-based fiction is set in a contemporary therapy group and provides an illustration of group leader techniques. Among many other titles, Dr. Yalom is the author of the seminal work in the field, *The Theory and Practice of Group Psychotherapy*.

This one-of-a-kind event, bringing together many of the nation’s leading group therapists, will explore the variety of ways in which group therapy provides opportunities for healing in today’s world. For more information, contact AGPA at (212) 477-2677 or visit www.agpa.org.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Media are invited to attend select sessions of the AGPA 2005 Annual Meeting. To register, please send e-mail request to dfeirman@agpa.org or call 404.898.0423.

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 approximately 3,000 members, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, 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.

#