



25 East 21st Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10010

(877) 668-AGPA (2472)

www.agpa.org

Media Contact:

Diane C. Feirman, CAE
(877) 668-AGPA (2472)
dfeirman@agpa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

56 INDIVIDUALS EARN PRESTIGIOUS CERTIFIED GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPIST (CGP) CREDENTIAL

New York, July 29, 2009 – 56 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.

New CGPs

Joseph Acosta, MA, CGP
Mitchel Adler, Psy.D., CGP
Toni Yvonne Alex, L.C.S.W., CGP
Regina Armas, Ph.D., CGP
James Bessette, L.C.S.W., CGP
Sarah Brandel, Ph.D., CGP
Samuel Calderera, M.S.W., CGP
Janet Carbonneau, M.Ed., LPC, CGP
Marcia Dietz, MS, RNCS
Joseph Doherty, Ed.D., CGP
Vickie Dowling, Psy.D., CGP
Alice Faulkner, M.S.W., CGP
Ruth Folchman, Psy.D., CGP
Cara Gardenswartz, Ph.D., CGP
Daniel Gomez, LCSW, CGP
Les Greene, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA

Lauren Groves, MA, CGP
Sally Henry, L.C.S.W., CGP
Rita Higgins, MFT, CGP
Ann Horton, MSW, CGP
Susan Karpenko, M.S.W., CGP
Lois Kennedy, Psy.D., CGP
Dimitrios Kiriakos, M.D., CGP
Sheila Leroy, M.S.W., CGP
Yoav Lurie, MA, CGP
Cara Mendelow, Ph.D., CGP
Hannah Mirmiran, M.S.W., CGP
Melany Morrison, MA, CGP
Julia Moss, Ph.D., M.S.W., CGP
Kevin Murphy, M.S.W., CGP
Suzanne Brennan Nathan, LICSW, CGP
Elizabeth Olson, Psy.D., L.C.S.W., CGP

Siobhan O'Neill, M.D., CGP
Lara Beth Ostergaard, L.C.S.W., CGP
Eric Phelps, Ph.D.(c), L.C.S.W., CGP
DiAnne Proctor, LCMHC, MS, CGP
Pamela Schippell, Ph.D., CGP
Maureen Shannon, MS, CGP
Shari Skolnik-Basulto, M.S.W., CGP
Jonathan Stillerman, Ph.D., CGP
Maia Stone, LCSW, CGP
Christopher Straley, M.S.W., CGP
Mary Sussillo, L.C.S.W., BCD, CGP
David Ward, LCSW, LADC, CGP
MaryIn Westheimer, L.C.S.W., CGP
Dimitrios Xomalis, M.D., CGP

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 license 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.

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 foremost 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.

#