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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION PROVIDES INNOVATIVE TRAINING RESOURCE ON CULTURAL SENSITIVITY IN DISASTER RESPONSE TO THE HAITIAN COMMUNITY

**NEW YORK, MAY 12, 2010** – The American Group Psychotherapy Association announced the availability of an audio learning opportunity “Cultural Sensitivity in Disaster Response: Haiti and the Haitian Community.” This unique event, offered in partnership with the William Alanson White Institute of New York, was a simultaneous in-person and teleconference event and recorded in order to provide widespread availability. It addresses the importance of cultural sensitivity in disaster response within the context of the Haitian earthquake; social, political and spiritual aspects of trauma, resilience, recovery, and post-traumatic growth are examined. Culturally-oriented approaches and ethical guidelines for collaborative disaster work are considered from multiple perspectives. The faculty included Suzanne B. Phillips, Psy.D., ABPP, CGP, FAGPA as Chair, and panelists Rev. Benal Bermingham, Grant Brenner, M.D., Claude-Marcel Grand-Pierre, Alexandra Mazard, M.D. and Siddharth Ashvin Shah, M.D., MPH

“Group and community-based mental health response work is increasingly delivered on the global stage through a variety of channels, said Jeffrey Kleinberg, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA, AGPA President. “It is imperative that knowledge and respect of unique cultures be a part of any intervention and this program was developed specifically for that purpose.”

The event audiotape is available at the AGPA Online Continuing Education Center (CE credits are available) at [www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org).

This is just one of the many resources that AGPA has available for disaster response. The website also includes feature articles directed towards the public which provide tools for recognizing trauma, suggestions on finding an appropriate caregiver and offer coping strategies. Resources for mental health practitioners include guidelines on using group psychotherapy as a trauma treatment tool, guidelines for working with first responders, and information on how caregivers can make sure to care for themselves. Publications and training curricula are also available, including *Group Interventions for the Treatment of Psychological Trauma*, and *Public Mental Health Service Delivery Protocols: Group Interventions for Disaster Preparedness and Response*. In-service trainings can be arranged by contacting the Association office.

For more information on group interventions in response to disaster, please contact Diane Feirman, CAE, at (877) 668-AGPA (2472) or via e-mail at [dfeirman@agpa.org](mailto:dfeirman@agpa.org).

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### ***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 2,000 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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