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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGPA LAUNCHES VIRTUAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH ONLINE CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTER AND TELECONFERENCES

NEW YORK, May 28, 2009 — The American Group Psychotherapy Association announced the launch of its new Distance Learning Program, through an Online Continuing Education Center at the AGPA website www.agpa.org as well as a series of teleconferences.

The Online Continuing Education Center provides the opportunity to obtain continuing education credits for a variety of topical areas on group psychotherapy, including current research and ethics. Courses are available through audio sessions as well as print based curricula and are accredited for CE for psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, counselors, and alcohol and drug abuse counselors. Telecourses are a series of scheduled one hour sessions, with CE available for psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, counselors, alcohol & drug abuse counselors, and marriage & family therapists. Visit the AGPA website at www.agpa.org for detailed information on course offerings, schedules and information on how to register.

The first series of telecourses, with a focus on the basics of starting a psychotherapy group, have been a resounding success, with a high number of attendees testifying to the need for this type of flexible training. For added convenience, sessions which have already taken place can be accessed via the phone or the internet (for one month following the event through the phone and after one month on the internet).

“Distance based training opportunities are yet another way that AGPA delivers on the high quality training that is an integral part of its mission,” said Connie Concannon, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA, AGPA President. “The flexibility afforded to clinicians in deciding when and how to participate addresses their challenges of busy personal and professional lives and limited funding available for needed professional development.”

The Online Continuing Education Center also houses an online store where training curricula, audiotapes and videotapes on group psychotherapy can be purchased (many of these publications can be used for teaching purposes and as student and participant manuals). For more information please visit our website at www.agpa.org or contact Diane Feirman, CAE, at 877-668-AGPA (2472) or via e-mail at dfeirman@agpa.org.

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.

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