FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGPA TO PROVIDE TRAINING IN GROUP-BASED MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS IN BOSTON, MARCH 3 - 8, 2014

NEW YORK, November 22, 2013 – The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is coming to Boston for its 2014 Annual Training, March 3 - 8 at the Westin Copley Place, Boston Hotel. Entitled “Group: Creating Connection in Turbulent Times,” this meeting attracts more than 1,000 group therapists, researchers and scientists from around the world. Group therapists of all disciplines will gather to learn the most effective techniques in working with a variety of populations in groups, an increasingly utilized modality due to its effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. The theme reflects the meeting’s emphasis on the power of groups to connect individuals and communities in meaningful ways and foster solutions to personal and public challenges.

“The AGPA Annual Meeting is the source for experiential training in leading therapeutic groups,” said Kathleen Ulman, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA, AGPA President. “It is a one-of-a-kind educational opportunity that teaches group skills in an innovative format that blends learning with self-care and rejuvenation.”

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

- Two Special Institutes will be offered this year on Monday, March 3, providing experiential learning in a large group. Susan Gantt, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP, FAGPA, FAPA will present "Systems-Centered’s Functional Subgrouping and Its Neurobiology: Lowering Scapegoating and Enhancing Emotional Regulation." Bessel van der Kolk, MD will present "The Body Keeps the Score: Integration of Mind, Brain, and Body in the Treatment of Trauma." Dr. van der Kolk’s session will also be simulcast for those unable to be in Boston.

- Cecil Rice, Ph.D., CGP, DLFAGPA, co-founder of the Boston Threshold Group (Northern Ireland Group Psychotherapy Conference), teacher at Harvard Medical School, and Distinguished Fellow of the AGPA, will deliver the Institute Opening Address on Tuesday, March 4, “Sailing into the Unknown.” Dr. Rice will address the fear, and the benefits, that come from the new connections made in meeting new people in groups.

- Albert Rizzo, Ph.D., will present the Mitchell Hochberg Memorial Public Education Event, Wednesday, March 5, entitled “The Birth of Interactive Virtual Humans for Clinical Assessment
and Intervention,” exploring the effective use of virtual reality, including virtual humans, in online health guides and clinical treatment.

- **Stephen Porges, Ph.D.**, is presenting the Conference Opening Plenary on Thursday, March 6, entitled “Social Connectedness as a Biological Imperative: A Polyvagal Perspective.” Dr. Porges will present his theories on how social interactions and connections are biologically significant in optimizing physical and emotional health.

- Incoming AGPA President, **Les Greene, Ph.D., CGP, LFAGPA** will deliver the Annual Anne and Ramon Alonso Presidential Plenary Address, Friday, March 7 entitled, “Psychologist Researcher: Holy Matrimony or Wholly Acrimony?” Dr. Greene will address the clash of cultures between clinicians and researchers as well as present his ideas for positive collaborations that advance the field and help people.

- **Macario Giraldo, PhD, CGP**, will deliver the Louis R. Ormont Lecture on Saturday, March 8. Entitled “Ethics and the Unconscious: The Symptom as a Turbulent Connector.” Dr. Giraldo will address ethical questions that are core and common issues for those in treatment.

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 can help people and communities in today’s world. Scholarships are also available to attend this Meeting. For more information, contact AGPA at 877-668-AGPA (2472) or visit [www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org).

EDITOR’S NOTE: Media are invited to attend select sessions of the AGPA 2014 Annual Meeting. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfeirman@agpa.org or call 877-668-AGPA (2472).

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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 Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, its philanthropic arm; and the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body. This multidisciplinary association has over 2,500 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.