



Media Contact:

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**IRVIN D. YALOM, MD, DLFAGPA TO BE HONORED WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
AT THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MEETING OF THE AGPA**

NEW YORK, February 27, 2017— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) announced that it will be presenting its first ever Lifetime Achievement Award to Irvin D. Yalom, MD, DLFAGPA at its 75th Anniversary Celebration Meeting, March 6-11, 2017 in New York City.

Dr. Yalom, a Distinguished Fellow of AGPA, is an iconic figure in the field of group therapy, having made innumerable contributions through his research, teaching, literature, and training videos. Dr. Yalom has been in the forefront of developing the existential and interpersonal fields of the therapy group, and his textbook *The Theory and Practice of Group Psychotherapy* is the seminal publication in the field. In addition to his scholarly non-fiction writings, Dr. Yalom has pioneered the creation of teaching novels, with a number of works of fiction with their basis in the principles and theories of therapy.

“Dr. Yalom is the most recognized leader in the field of group psychotherapy, whose influence spans several generations of therapists, said Eleanor Counselman, Ed.D., CGP, LFAGPA, AGPA President. “It is fitting that we make this inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award to him on the historic occasion of AGPA’s 75th Anniversary.”

The award will be presented to Dr. Yalom in person at his home in San Francisco and a videotaping of the event will be shown during the Anne and Ramon Alonso Plenary Address on Friday morning, March 10.

The presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award is a highlight of the AGPA’s 2017 75th Anniversary Annual Training in New York City. Entitled “Connecting, Educating, and Leading for 75 Years: The Theory, Science, and Practice of Group Therapy,” 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 celebrates AGPA’s history of 75 years of demonstrating the power of groups to connect individuals, families and communities in meaningful ways to effect change on personal and societal levels. For more information, contact AGPA at (877) 668-AGPA (2472) or visit www.agpa.org.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Media are invited to attend select sessions of the AGPA 2017 Annual Training. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfeirman@agpa.org or call 877-668-AGPA (2472).

About AGPA

For 75 Years the American Group Psychotherapy Association has been the foremost professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy. It operates 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 approximately 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 26 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.

#