



AMERICAN GROUP
PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION
GROUP FOUNDATION
FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH
INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR
CERTIFICATION OF GROUP
PSYCHOTHERAPISTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPISTS PRESENTS 2019 HAROLD S. BERNARD GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY TRAINING AWARD TO JUDITH COCHÉ, PHD, ABPP, CGP, LFAGPA

NEW YORK, February 20, 2019 – The International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists will be presenting the 2019 Harold S. Bernard Group Psychotherapy Training Award to Judith Coché, PhD, ABPP, CGP, LFAGPA. The presentation will take place during AGPA Connect 2019 in Los Angeles at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel on Thursday, February 28 during the Membership Community Meeting.

This award was established in 2001 and is given annually to an individual or organization whose work in group training and/or education contributes to excellence in the practice of group psychotherapy. It was renamed through a legacy gift provided to the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health by Dr. Bernard for the purpose of endowing the award. Throughout his lifetime, training in group psychotherapy was near and dear to Dr. Bernard's heart. His legacy bequest and this award insure that individuals and programs meeting a high standard of training quality be identified and honored for their contributions to the field in developing the next generation of clinicians who use group psychotherapy to help people.

Dr. Judith Coché is being recognized with this award due to her significant contributions to the training and supervision of group psychotherapists throughout her career (often on a pro bono basis). At the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine residency training program she has embedded standards of excellence in group in over 150 of tomorrow's leaders in psychiatry. Dr. Coché convinced the Department of Psychiatry to require that each faculty member teaching group therapy attain the CGP credential. By creating and expanding the group psychotherapy program (Power of Groups) for Psychiatric Residents at Penn and through programs offered nationally and internationally via AGPA and the International Association for Group Psychotherapy and Group Processes (IAGP), Dr. Coché has consistently provided opportunities for psychiatrists, psychologists and other professional providers to become well educated and certified in the practice of group psychotherapy.

She has been dedicated to the supervision of graduate students in group psychotherapy and developed a two-year pro bono mentoring program in which a student co-leads a therapy group with her and receives supervision. Dr. Coché has instilled her commitment and knowledge about group therapy in her trainees who have developed group psychotherapy training programs in many cities and countries. She has developed a model of group therapy for couples which has been the focus of numerous widely distributed books and training DVDs. She is a prolific writer with three books, and over forty journal articles and invited chapters. She has long championed certification as a necessary statement of ethical and professional expertise in group therapy

“Dr. Coché is a respected and generous teacher whose dedication to supporting and growing the field of group psychotherapy personifies this award,” said Tony L. Sheppard, Psy.D., CGP, FAGPA, Certification Board Chairman. “Her work has had an impact on innumerable trainees and practitioners, benefitting the profession and the public.”

Past recipients of the award are as follows:

2018 Helene Satz Psy.D., ABPP, CGP
2017 Norman Neiberg, Ph.D., DLFAGPA
2016 National Group Psychotherapy Institute (NGPI) of the Washington School of Psychiatry
2015 Haim Weinberg, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA
2014 Donna J. Markham, OP, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP
2013 David Panzer, Psy.D., CGP and the Group Psychotherapy Services of Rutgers University
2012 Menninger Department Of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Group Therapy Program at the Baylor College Of Medicine
2010 The Systems-Centered Training and Research Institute (SCTRI)
2009 Robert Klein, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP, DLFAGPA
2008 Center for Group Studies in New York City
2007 Walter Stone, M.D., CGP, DFAGPA and One-Year Training Program in Group Psychotherapy of the Eastern Group Psychotherapy Society
2006 Marvin Aronson, PhD, CGP, FAGPA
2005 Wendi Cross, Ph.D., CGP and Saul Scheidlinger, Ph.D., CGP, DLFAGPA
2004 K. Roy MacKenzie, M.D., FRCP, CGP, DFAGPA
2003 Gary Burlingame, Ph.D., CGP
2002 Henry Spitz, M.D., CGP, DFAGPA

This award presentation is a highlight of AGPA Connect 2019 in Los Angeles. Entitled "Building Bridges of Connection Through Groups," 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, 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 Connect 2019. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfeirman@agpa.org or call 877-668-AGPA (2472).

About the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists

The International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists is a standard setting and certifying body. This multidisciplinary credentialing body has over 1,500 certified 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 (AGPA) 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. AGPA represents over 2,000 mental health professional members including psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers, as well as mental health, family, and pastoral counselors, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential. 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. The association also has 21 local and regional societies located across the country.

AGPA is committed to supporting the dignity and psychological safety of every individual without discrimination regarding race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sex, age, or disability. Central to our mission is a belief in the power of groups to treat mental illness, heal the scars from traumatic events, and enhance the well-being of adults and children in their families, schools, corporate settings, and communities.

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