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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 2020 HAROLD S. BERNARD GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY TRAINING AWARD TO J. SCOTT RUTAN, PHD, CGP-R, DFAGPA

NEW YORK, March 3, 2020— The International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists will be presenting the 2020 Harold S. Bernard Group Psychotherapy Training Award to J. Scott Rutan, PhD, CGP-R, DFAGPA. The presentation will take place during AGPA Connect 2020 in New York City at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel on Thursday, March 5, 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. Scott Rutan is being recognized with this award due to his significant contributions in training, writing and leadership in the field of group psychotherapy locally, nationally and internationally. He received his Ph.D. in 1971 at Boston University and completed his postdoctoral training at Boston University Counseling Service. Since that time, he has been involved in multiple organizations and held various positions. Throughout his professional career, Dr. Rutan held academic appointments at Franconia College, Boston College School of Social Work and the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. He worked at the Department of Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital as a clinical assistant, clinical associate and a psychologist. His major committee assignments include the New Hampshire Alcoholism Advisory Committee, Advisory Committee on Health Care, Board of Directors at Boston Institute for Psychotherapies, Board of Advisors at Stetson University and Advisory Board for the Eastern Group Psychotherapy Society Training Program.

Dr. Rutan founded the Center for Group Psychotherapy at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School, where he is reviewed as being in the top 5% of the entire faculty. He co-founded the Boston Institute for Psychotherapy and continues to teach via co-leading an ongoing therapy group. He has been the President of AGPA and the Northeastern Society for Group Psychotherapy and has led many workshops and demonstration groups on a national and international level. He co-authored the book *Psychodynamic Group Psychotherapy*, which offers practical guidelines for new and experienced group therapists. Since 1996, Dr. Rutan has been on the

Editorial Committees for *Group Dynamics: Theory, Research, and Practice*; *Group*, the journal of the Eastern Group Psychotherapy Association; AGPA's *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*; and *Revista Italiana di Gruppoanalista*. His current research interests are effectiveness of group psychotherapy, teaching of psychotherapy and adult developmental stages.

"Dr. Rutan 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. "His work has had an impact on innumerable trainees and practitioners, benefitting the profession and the public."

The past few years' recipients of the award are as follows; the full list can be found [here](#).

2019 Judith Coché, PhD, ABPP, CGP, LFAGPA

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

This award presentation is a highlight of AGPA Connect 2020 in New York City. Entitled "Group: Growth and Renewal," 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 effect change in meaningful ways 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 2020. 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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