

---

Media Contact:  
Diane C. Feirman, CAE  
(212) 477-2677  
[dfeirman@agpa.org](mailto:dfeirman@agpa.org)

---

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO TAKE OFFICE IN NEW YORK CITY MARCH 6, 2020

**NEW YORK, March 4, 2020**— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) announced today the new Officers and members of the Board of Directors who will be installed at AGPA Connect in New York City, March 2 - March 7, 2020 at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel.

Molyn Leszcz, MD, FRCPC, CGP, DFAGPA will be assuming the position of President of the American Group Psychotherapy Association. Dr. Molyn Leszcz is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto where he served as Vice Chair, Clinical, and as Psychiatrist-in-Chief at Sinai Health System. In addition to more than 100 peer-reviewed papers and chapters, he co-authored with Irvin Yalom, the Theory and Practice of Group Psychotherapy, 5th ed. (2005). The 6th edition will be published in 2020. Dr. Leszcz was awarded the Alonso Award for Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Theory and is a Distinguished Fellow of AGPA. Dr. Leszcz has also been the recipient of a number of teaching and education awards at the University of Toronto.

“AGPA is the professional home to thousands of group therapists who provide help to those in need,” said Eleanor Counselman, EdD, CGP, LFAGPA, AGPA President. “The organization is privileged to have the experience and strong leadership of Dr. Leszcz in place to guide us over the coming years.”

Other members of the organization who will be taking office will be as follows:

#### AGPA Officers

Gary Burlingame, PhD, CGP, DFAGPA, President-Elect  
Hank Fallon, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, Treasurer, 2020-2022  
Martha L. Gilmore, PhD, CGP, LFAGPA, Secretary, 2020-2022

#### AGPA Newly Elected Board Members

Alexis Abernethy, PhD, CGP, FAGPA  
Kelsey Balaban, LMSW  
Helen Chong, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA  
Nubia Llubes, MD  
Shunda McGahee, MD, CGP  
Darryl Pure, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA, Group Foundation for  
Advancing Mental Health Chairman of the Board  
Ryan Spencer, MFT, CGP

#### AGPA Continuing Board Members

Shari Y. Baron, MSN, CNS, CGP, FAGPA  
Aaron E. Black, Ph.D., CGP  
Michelle Collins-Greene, PhD, CGP, Chair, Affiliate  
Societies Assembly  
Leonardo (Leo) M. Leiderman, Psy.D., ABPP, CGP, FAGPA  
Jeanne Pasternak, LCSW, CGP, DFAGPA  
Michele D. Ribeiro, Ed.D., CGP  
Jana Rosenbaum, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA, Chair-Elect,  
Affiliate Societies Assembly  
Tony Sheppard, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA, International Board  
for Certification of Group Psychotherapists Chairman of the  
Board  
Lorraine B. Wodiska, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP, FAGPA

Contributions in honor of Dr. Leszcz or any of the new leadership may be made to the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health at [www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org), or via phone at (212) 477-2677 or mail to 25 East 21<sup>st</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY, 10010; please indicate the individual to be notified regarding the receipt of the gift in their honor.

This leadership transition 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](http://www.agpa.org).

EDITOR’S NOTE: Media are invited to attend select sessions of AGPA Connect 2020. To register, please send an e-mail request to [dfeirman@agpa.org](mailto:dfeirman@agpa.org) or call (212) 477-2677.

---

## 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.

# # #