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FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH
INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROUP FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH AWARDS TWO RESEARCH GRANTS ON GROUPS FOR SURVIVORS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND FOR REDUCING NON-SUICIDAL SELF-INJURY

NEW YORK, April 30, 2020— The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health announced that it has awarded two research grants this year to support original critical research reviews: *A Meta-analysis and Systemic Review of Psychoeducational Groups for Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse* and *Efficacy of Group Psychotherapy for Reducing Non-Suicidal Self-Injury*.

A Meta-analysis and Systemic Review of Psychoeducational Groups for Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse will be conducted by principal investigator Tammi F. Dice, Ph.D., Assistant Dean, Old Dominion University along with Co-Investigators, Steven Myran Ph.D., Associate Professor, Old Dominion University, and Alexis Wilkerson, M.S Ed., Doctoral Student, Old Dominion University. The use of psychoeducational groups with survivors of child sexual abuse (CSA) has produced favorable outcomes. The proposed meta-analysis aims to contribute to the efficacy of using psychoeducational groups in the treatment of psychopathology resulting from CSA.

Efficacy of Group Psychotherapy for Reducing Non-Suicidal Self-Injury will be undertaken by principal investigator Sara Rose Masland, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychological Science, Pomona College along with Co-Investigators, Lois Choi-Kain, M.D., Ed.D., Director of the Gunderson Personality Disorder Research Institute, McLean Hospital and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, and Ellen Finch, B.A., Doctoral Student, Harvard University. Although studies of group psychotherapy often measure non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI), it is not often examined as a primary outcome, and no systematic review of these studies has specifically focused on NSSI outcomes. This study will mine the group psychotherapy treatment literature for studies that measure NSSI outcomes.

“The Group Foundation, as part of its mission to help change lives through group psychotherapy, is pleased to be able to support these valuable research studies aiming to help survivors of childhood sexual abuse and those affected by non-suicidal self-injury,” said Darryl L. Pure, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA, Chairman of the Group Foundation. “They have tremendous potential to impact the field of group therapy and society.”

The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health annually supports research projects designed to broaden the available body of knowledge in evidence-based group psychotherapy clinical practice. The Group Foundation's current funding priority is supporting original critical research reviews, either qualitative or quantitative (particularly meta-analyses), that focus on some selected area of group psychotherapy. This direction was implemented with the goal to maximize the impact of the research in the field. For more information on research projects supported by the Group Foundation and grant opportunities, please contact Diane Feirman, CAE, at (212) 477-2677 or via e-mail at dfeirman@agpa.org or visit our website at www.agpa.org.

About AGPA and the Group Foundation

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.

The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is a philanthropic organization that is committed to the fact that "Groups Change Lives" and believes in the power of group interventions to improve people's quality of life. The Group Foundation supports group psychotherapy education, research, training, and information dissemination for the benefit of the public and professional communities. Among the Foundation's most vital roles is the recognition of excellence, promise, and vision by honoring those individuals and groups who have demonstrated these qualities with awards and scholarships.

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