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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPISTS ANNOUNCES 2025 HAROLD S. BERNARD GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY TRAINING AWARD RECIPIENTS

**NEW YORK, March 4, 2025**— The International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists will be celebrating excellence in group psychotherapy training in its presentation of the 2025 Harold S. Bernard Group Psychotherapy Training Awards during AGPA Connect 2025 in San Francisco at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco on Wednesday, March 5, during the Annual Tri-Organizational Awards Ceremony, 6:00 – 7:30 PM.

This award was established in 2001 and is given annually to individuals or organizations 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 ensure 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.

This year's recipients are:

- **Seth Aronson, PsyD, CGP, Thomas Hurster, MSS, LCSW, CGP, AGPA-F, and Andy Pojman, EdD, CGP, AGPA-F** have had a deep impact in AGPA as Co-Chairs of the Child and Adolescent SIG, Faculty in AGPA Connect, AGPA governance roles and in the broader professional community by promoting teaching, training, supervision, mentoring and writing about Group Psychotherapy for Children and Adolescents. Among them they have: 130 years of combined clinical practice; 69 years of teaching child/adolescent and/or group psychotherapy across the U.S.; 46 publications; 150 presentations worldwide, including major cities in the U.S. and Japan, presented across prominent organizations like AGPA and APA; and 70 years in leadership roles within AGPA.
- **Jeanne Bunker LCSW, CGP, AGPA-F** has been engaged from the beginning of her career in community work against gay/lesbian and misogynist bias which is reflected in her training and group work. She currently runs three training groups along with several therapy groups in her private practice and supervises group therapists. She has conducted over 50 workshops on Modern Analytic group therapy technique and building relationships across diverse identities, most significantly women in leadership and their positive aggression. She has trained students internationally in Russia, China, Spain, and Romania.

Her contributions to the field of group psychotherapy are marked by her innovative writing, exceptional clinical practice, and leadership in education and training.

- **Michael P. Frank, MA, LMFT, CGP, AGPA-LF** published articles in the field of group psychotherapy, and led numerous presentations, workshops, and Institutes at AGPA Connect and other organizations over the years. He has been an annual guest lecturer on group psychotherapy at Fuller Graduate School of Psychology for nearly a dozen years, and has served as the Coordinator of Group Therapy at the Maple Counseling Center where he has provided training and clinical supervision for over ten years. He has taught the Group Principles Course at Group Psychotherapy Association of Los Angeles for nearly 15 years. He has made exceptional contributions to promoting group therapy continuing education including diversity, equity, and inclusion learning in recertification requirements and advancing creative, new ways for group therapists to access the consultation/supervision opportunities they need and deserve.

“This year’s Bernard recipients are respected and generous teachers whose dedication to supporting and growing the field of group psychotherapy personify this award,” said Steve Van Wagoner, PhD, CGP, AGPA-F, Certification Board Chair. “Their 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](#).

2024: Aaron Black, PhD, CGP, AGPA-F  
2023: Toronto Institute of Group Studies (TIGS)  
2022: Howard University Counseling Service  
2021: Farooq Mohyuddin, MD, CGP, AGPA-F  
2020: J. Scott Rutan, PhD, AGPA-DF

This award presentation is a highlight of **AGPA Connect 2025**. The meeting, with this year’s theme “*Being Seen: The Many Faces of Group*” attracts 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. For more information, contact AGPA at (212) 297-2190 or visit [www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org).

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### ***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 1,000 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 multi-organizational structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, a philanthropic arm; the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body; and the Affiliate Societies Assembly representing 21 local and regional affiliate societies providing continuing education, consultation, and support for group therapists across the country. AGPA represents over 2,000 mental health

professional members, including clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, and psychiatrists, as well as mental health, family, school, and pastoral counselors, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists. AGPA members are experienced licensed mental health professionals who lead psychotherapy groups and/or various non-clinical groups. Many members are organizational specialists who work within the corporate world, non-for-profit organizations, and other groups to help them improve their functioning and delivery of services.

AGPA is committed to supporting the dignity and psychological safety of every individual without discrimination regarding race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, 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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