

Venus S. Masselam, PhD, LCMFT, MS, CGP: Championing Mental Wellness Through Every Stage of Life

A Trailblazer in Group Psychotherapy and Lifespan Development with 50 Years of Clinical Excellence



New York City, New York Jun 18, 2025 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Venus S. Masselam, PhD, LCMFT, MS, CGP, a practicing lifespan developmental psychologist and Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist, is recognized for her extraordinary contributions in psychotherapy, group therapy, education, and mental health advocacy over a remarkable career spanning more than five decades. Her extensive experience reflects a deep commitment to the mental well-being of individuals and families across all stages of life.

Dr. Masselam's academic journey began at the University of Massachusetts, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in 1960, followed by a Master of Education in 1963. She completed a fellowship in counseling at the University in 1962, laying a strong foundation for her future endeavors in developmental psychology, which is the study of how people change throughout their lives. Her early career included a vital role as a Guidance Counselor at Lower Dauphin High School from 1966 to 1967, marking the beginning of her contributions in educational settings.

In 1977, Dr. Masselam received a Certificate for Group Work and Therapy from the Psychiatric Institute of Washington, D.C. and Howard University. She has been a certified group psychotherapist for over 20 years. She earned a Certificate of Professional Development. Community Education from the University of Virginia. Her commitment to professional growth was recognized that same year with a Scholarship in Group Studies from the Psychiatric Institute.

Dr. Masselam's clinical career flourished as she took on leadership roles. She began serving as Head Counselor from 1978 to 1981 at the Enterprise School in Vienna, VA, then as Director for Therapeutic Services from 1981 to 1986. In 1987, she assumed the role of Program Director of the school.

Her significant academic achievement culminated in 1989, when she earned her PhD in Human Development from the University of Maryland, followed by her receipt of the Outstanding Dissertation Award from the Northern Virginia Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa in 1990. She went on to earn a professional master's degree in pharmaceuticals from Alliant International University in California in 2005.

As a licensed professional counselor in Maryland and Virginia, and later in the District of Columbia, Dr. Masselam expanded her credentials to include board certification as a Certified Group Psychotherapist and a Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist. Her passion for teaching and mentorship led her to faculty positions at prestigious institutions, including Johns Hopkins University, the University of Maryland, George Washington University, and George Mason University, where she supported the next generation of mental health professionals. She continues to provide supervision to professionals earning their required certification from the DMV area.

Since 1998, Dr. Masselam has been a faculty member and supervisor at the New Washington School of Psychiatry in Washington, DC. As a Steering Committee Member for the Center for Aging and the Aging Certificate Program from 2010 to 2014, she played a pivotal role in advancing educational initiatives in the field of gerontology. She was a co-chair of the Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity and Culture until 2023 and is currently the Chair of the Community Chairs at the school.

In addition to her academic contributions, Dr. Masselam maintains a thriving private practice in Bethesda, Maryland, offering psychotherapy services to individuals, couples, families, and groups. She is a certified supervisor in marriage and family therapy and a certified group psychotherapist. Her clinical focus encompasses a wide range of challenges and transitions, including depression, anxiety, stress, self-image, anger management, relationship issues, and the complexities of aging.

Dr. Masselam's influence extends beyond her practice, as she continues to deliver presentations and training workshops on critical topics, such as group therapy for adolescents and care for aging adults. Her research, reflected in four published articles in the *Psychiatry Journal*, addresses significant themes in adolescence, family dynamics, couples therapy, diversity issues, and aging.

Dr. Masselam is an active member of several professional organizations, including the American Psychological Association (APA), the American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA), and the

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). Her dedication to the field has been acknowledged through numerous accolades, including the Youth Advocacy Award in 1998, the Outstanding Service Award from the Mid-Atlantic Group Psychotherapy Society (MAGPS) in 2013, and the Outstanding Master's Research Award from the Fairfax Education Council in 2010.

Dr. Masselam is committed to philanthropic initiatives, having established support groups for individuals affected by federal employment loss and facilitated training programs for professionals working with aging adults. She is a member of the Adult Education committee at the Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, MD. In her personal time, she enjoys painting, writing, and gardening, drawing inspiration from her favorite vacation spots in New England and Europe.

Reflecting on her career, Dr. Masselam attributes her enduring success to her tenacity and genuine interest in people. These qualities continue to shape her work, leaving a lasting legacy in the fields of psychology and group psychotherapy. She plans to write a book clarifying the aging processes and considering the cultural gap that exists between the 20th and 21st centuries for Aging Adults.

Learn More about Dr. Venus S. Masselam:

Through her findatopdoc profile,
<https://www.findatopdoc.com/doctor/2714819-Venus-Masselam-Psychologist>

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