
Editorial – March 2018

The 22nd conference of the Israeli Society for Occupational Therapy, in September 2017, was an event that celebrated 70 years of occupational therapy in Israel and 100 years of the profession worldwide. We at IJOT decided to establish a new tradition of dedicating a special issue to the proceedings of the Society's annual conference. This will provide our readers with a glimpse of the rich and varied range of professional enterprises engaged in by Israeli occupational therapy clinicians and academicians. This special issue includes the abstracts of the conference symposia and workshops, descriptions of the various posters and summaries of the round table discussions. We hope this issue will inspire and encourage the conference participants to expand their abstracts and submit them articles for publication in the IJOT.

The issue opens with a position paper on the role of occupational therapists in the promoting accessibility of institutions of higher education. The position paper emphasizes the importance of enabling individuals from different population groups to attend and engage in academic studies. In terms of the individual, accessibility services could include the evaluation and support of students as well as the establishment and management of centers for accessibility and support programs at the universities and colleges. To facilitate accessible academic programs, higher educational



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institutions should appropriate a specially trained teaching staff and provide adapted learning and service environments.

This year we are honored to present articles by **Prof. Sara Rosenblum** and **Dr. Pnina Weiss**, based on their Award

of Excellence lectures. The articles of each of these award recipients provides a fascinating look at the authors' unique perspective on their respective fields of expertise as well as a description of their contributions to the promotion and development of our profession.

The current issue's "**From a personal glimpse**" column describes the personal and professional development of **Dr. Dalia Sachs**, winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award for 2017. "**From a professional point of view**" highlights the unique contribution of **Aviva Fried**, winner of the 2010 Excellence Award, in which she elucidated the role of the "human spirit" in occupational therapy intervention. More about the 2017 award winners can be read later in this issue.

The Technology column describes state-of-the-art and innovative technologies presented at a variety of international technology conferences. Many of the technologies presented at these conferences were developed by Israeli occupational therapists.

In conclusion, we would like to thank **Esti Naim-Peled**, our departing journal co-editor, for her innovative contributions to the IJOT. We wish her great success at all of her future pursuits.

Pleasant reading.

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