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## Editorial – March 2019

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Dear readers,

We are pleased to present this special issue of IJOT, dedicated to the topic of Chronic Pain and OT: Pain Management and Managing the Pain. This journal is the product of a collaborative effort, and so we would like to thank many people: the IJOT staff; individuals who submitted manuscripts and those who reviewed them; and other people who contributed to the writing of the Position Paper entitled: “Intervention in Occupational Therapy with Patients Suffering from Chronic Pain”, that appears in this issue. We also would like to thank you the readers.

Pain is the most common cause of suffering and discomfort, impairs the performance of occupations in a variety of areas of functioning, in maintaining an independent lifestyle, in participation and quality of life. While pain may accompany various health conditions, chronic pain is a disease in itself. As occupational therapists on the one hand we encounter the pain in our daily work and we witness the suffering, helplessness and frustration of service recipients. On the other hand, we also witness the gaps in knowledge when dealing with people with chronic pain.



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Moreover, we understand today that it is not possible to realize the full potential of our intervention in service delivery if we do not know how to deal with the pain even if pain is not the primary reason for their referral.

The most widely accepted approach to the evaluation and treatment of people suffering from chronic pain is a multi-professional approach, with reference to various aspects of pain: medical, pharmacological, behavioral, sensory, emotional, perceptual and cognitive. Readers of the issue will be

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able to expand theoretical, clinical and research knowledge on the subject of chronic pain. Occupational therapists have the knowledge and skills to significantly advance the participation of the individual coping with pain, both in the individual and group work, as well as in counseling. Moreover, according to the first article in this issue, as of 2018, occupational therapy services in the United States was defined as a primary service provided for people with opiate-addicted pain. The world is currently looking for non-drug alternatives to chronic pain, and we as occupational therapists have something to offer.

We hope that this issue will help advance the awareness and future involvement of occupational therapists and contribute significantly to clinic and to clinical research in rehabilitation, treatment and prevention programs in this field. We also invite you to continue submitting articles on this important topic.

We hope you enjoy reading this journal,

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