
Editorial – July 2017

First I would like to thank **Dr. Asnat Bar-Haim Erez**, who has completed her 4-year role as editor-in-chief of the IJOT. Asnat, you have done an amazing job in promoting and establishing this journal. Thank you for your long-standing dedication, expertise and intense efforts. I wish you much success in your future ventures. It is with great humility and in the same spirit of dedication and responsibility that I step into the shoes of my predecessor as editor-in chief of the journal.

Special thanks to our associate editors, **Amiya Waldman-Levi, Liat Raz-Yehene, Yael Zilbershlag and Adi Stern**, and the Point of View Column editor **Dr. Yonat Ivzori**, who have completed their duties. I wish them much continued success.

I'd like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome the new members of the journal editorial board: **Sonya Meyer and Esti Naim-Peled; Tamar Paley-Altit**, the editor of the *Point of View* column and **Dr. Sharon Kirshner**, the editor of the *Technology and Internet* column. Together in collaboration with our language editors, **Varda Eytan and Sarina Goldstand**, our production manager **Meital Korman**, as well as Israeli Occupational Therapy Association CEO **Batel Zmora**, vice chairperson & interim chairperson



Batia Marom

Nagham Gahshan-Haddad, and, last but not least our board members - we aspire to continue to promote and advance the journal.

In this issue we present **A Position Paper on Community Occupational Therapy Intervention: Treating Clients in their Homes and their Natural Environments**. In the not so distant past, medical and rehabilitative care was shifted to the sterile hospital environment resulting from changes in the medical, social welfare and educational systems. Today the trend has been reversed and for exactly the same reasons. Nevertheless, occupational therapist professionals have the knowledge and experience needed to adapt their interventions to a myriad of different environments in general, as well as in their clients' natural environments in particular.

The first article **The Importance of the Cultural Context - Caregiver Interactions of Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Women and their Family Members**

with Mental Illness, emphasizes the complexity and multidimensionality of the encounter between family, religious culture, communication and psychiatric illness. This article was to be published in the special issue of the IJOT devoted to the subject of multiculturalism, but could not be included for purely technical reasons.

Two articles in this journal were written by occupational therapists in which they describe their Master's degree projects, which stemmed from a needs assessment of the authors' areas of practice. These led to the development of professional training programs in two areas of occupational therapy practice.

The Development of a Group Program for Integrating Novice Occupational Therapists Working in the Field of Physical Medicine and Geriatrics is an article that describes a professional integration group program. This program is designed to help student therapists make the necessary transition to become certified occupational therapists in this area of practice through improving their self-confidence and modes of professional communication and establishing their professional identity.

The article entitled **“Increasing Awareness and Understanding of Sensory Modulation Disorder among Mental Health Occupational Therapists”** was written to increase the awareness of occupational therapist regarding Sensory Modulation Disorder

(SMD), a common phenomenon among people with mental illness. However, in practice, no clinical application currently exists to treat SMD in mental health rehabilitation treatment frameworks.

The Personal Glimpse Column describes openly and with sensitivity, a ‘glimpse’ into the perspective of an expert colleague working in the framework of psychiatric rehabilitation. She candidly shares her concerns and insights in coping with the challenge of working as a member of the professional team, but also as a person who has undergone a mental crisis herself.

The Technology and Internet Column is the first in a two-part series on technologies for people with low vision disabilities. The author is a professional occupational therapist who works in the United States and has hosted and lectured in Israel. Her column provides a brief look into a field of therapy practice that is not commonly addressed by occupational therapists in Israel.

Finally, I invite you to submit to the IJOT. As a therapist who has worked extensively in clinical practice, I know first-hand of the professional and meaningful services we provide as occupational therapists. The journal is an effective platform for disseminating the work we do.

Pleasant reading,

Batia Marom – on behalf of the staff
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