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## Editorial – July 2018

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Dear readers,

We would like to open with “The Point of View” column, which reports impressions from two important international conferences: The American Occupational Therapy Association Conference in Utah and The World Federation of Occupational Therapy International Congress in Cape Town, South Africa. We are proud to update that distinguished Israeli representatives were at both events.

These conferences provided opportunities for extensive professional activities, as well as a variety of inspirational and experiential workshops. The main issue discussed in both conferences dealt with the future of occupational therapy. The president of the American organization declared that creativity of the profession should be harnessed to innovate and create breakthroughs in education and research. The central theme at the conference in South Africa was how to be “connected in diversity” and how to be “positioned for impact” with varied populations and communities.

The “From a Personal Viewpoint” column presents the story of Amnon



**Dr. Batia Marom**



**Dr. Sonya Meyer**



**Naor Demeter**

Z”l, the son of Michal Gebert, an occupational therapist, who openly and courageously describes her personal, familial and professional experiences coping with his rare illness.

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The Israeli Occupational Therapy Conference this year will focus on sexuality. Despite the understanding of the importance of this subject, occupational therapists do not often deal with this topic. This issue presents an interesting group intervention focusing on intimate relationships and sexuality among youth having a psychiatric disability. The group is an example of a relatively new intervention and it presents an option for occupational therapists to advance practice in this domain.

As life expectancy increases, orthopedic injuries in the elderly are common and more people need rehabilitation. The "Review Article" emphasizes the effect of depression on the rehabilitation process in the elderly following a hip fracture and the implications for functioning in different areas of life. The article stresses the importance of early diagnosis of depression in order to optimize the rehabilitation period.

The difficulty in finding clinical facilities for training OT students exists in Israel and around the world. Indeed, it has become necessary to find creative solutions while maintaining high professional values. The "English" article presents practical learning in the

community. An educational approach that combines educational goals with community activity is discussed. This approach provides an advanced learning experience, while addressing social needs and emphasizes self-learning.

The need to address social and community desires is linked to the central theme of this year's conference in South Africa.

In conclusion, we would like to congratulate **Naor Demeter**, who joined the editorial board as a sub-editor.

We also would like to thank **Sarina Goldstand**, our English language editor for her professional work for so many years. We wish her great success in her studies and research. We are confident she will continue to contribute to our journal in the future.

Finally, a warm welcome to our new English language editor, Sharon August-Dalfen, and our new graphic designer, **Sarit Malhi**.

Pleasant reading,  
**Dr. Batia Marom**,  
Editor-in-chief, IJOT  
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## Introducing our new logo

المجتمع الإسرائيلي للعلاج الوظيفي  
ISRAELI SOCIETY OF  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY



החברה הישראלית  
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