
Editorial - August 2016

This summer issue contains the fruits of the labors of occupational therapists from a variety of different areas. I would like to thank all the authors for their efforts in preparing the articles and sharing their research and clinical work with the occupational therapy community. As I prepared these articles and the editorial sections, I noticed a common theme between them. All described efforts to implement and integrate the client-centered approach - a foundational occupational therapy principle, into practice.

Opening this issue is an article entitled **“Going Together”**: **Developing a Student Booklet – A Tool for Building Parents-School Partnership in a Special Education Program**. The article is based on a final project, which is a requirement of the Master’s degree program at the University of Haifa occupational therapy department. The article describes the development and implementation of an intervention program aimed at promoting parental collaboration in developing their child’s educational program in a special education setting. In addition to describing this program, the article also reviews the theoretical background underlying family-centered services.

The second article, **Cognitive-Functional Evaluation within the Ultra-Orthodox Community: A Pilot Study**, is based on a research



Asnat Bar-Haim Erez

seminar course for occupational therapy (OT) students given at Ono Academic College. The article reflects the authors attempt to adapt functional occupational therapy assessments for the ultra-Orthodox population. To achieve this aim, they focused on a tool that is in the development process, the Functional Loewenstein Occupational Therapy Cognitive Assessment (FLOTCA). This assessment assesses executive skills used in performing structured functional tasks. The emphasis of the article is not on the validation process, but to inform the reader regarding the various dilemmas relating to the suitability of functional OT assessments for ultra-Orthodox individuals.

Next, **Attitudes of Employees in the Mental Health System towards Involvement of Consumers in the Areas of Care, Research, Management, Planning, Implementation and Evaluation**. The article is founded on a thesis study done as a part of the Master’s

degree requirements for the Department of Public Policy at Tel Aviv University. It describes a mixed design study employing qualitative and quantitative design. Its aim was to investigate the perceptions held by professionals responsible for planning and implementing mental health rehabilitation services that promote the involvement of their consumers. The article reveals interesting findings concerning the attitudes of care providers toward customer involvement, both qualitative and quantitative. Findings include those areas of service in which changes in attitudes can be achieved.

The fourth article is written in English - **Participation in Activities and Relationship to Musculoskeletal Pain in Elementary School Children**. The study examined the association between complaints of musculoskeletal pain and discomfort among elementary school students, following participation in various activities at school and at home. The participant sample was recruited from an elementary school that uses laptops as an integral part of learning pedagogy. The results and conclusions are analyzed from an ergonomic point of view.

The **Personal Glimpse** column, entitled “**Integrating a Consumer Expert as a Teacher at the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of Tel Aviv**” describes the teaching experience of Lior, an individual with mental health difficulties. Lior was invited to participate in teaching a course

in mental rehabilitation at the TAU OT department. The column is written as a dialogue between the lecturer of the course and Lior. It ends with a summary written by a student who took this course.

The “**Point of View**” column: **WFOT and the Israeli Point of View: Notes from the Conference in Columbia**. The representatives of the Israeli Occupational Therapy Union share their experiences from the World Federation of Occupational Therapists – WFOT annual meeting held in Colombia. The column summarized the various areas discussed as well as future plans.

The **Technology and Internet** column, **Technological Assistance for People with Dementia and their Families**, closes the current issue. The column presents an update of various technological solutions available to assist people with dementia perform a variety of activities. Areas involved include orientation to time, taking medications, fall prevention, and more. The column provides useful links and references relating to the various assistive technologies.

Pleasant reading,
Asnat Bar-Haim Erez, OT, PhD
Editor in Chief
ijot2.il@gmail.com