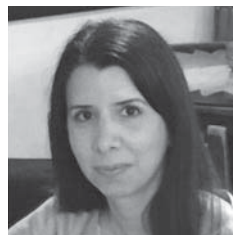

From the Society's Table – November 2016

This unique and festive issue results from the work of the Subcommittee for Matters of the Arab Society of the Israeli Society of Occupational Therapy. Given the achievements of this subcommittee, we deemed it important to present research that focuses on the Arab culture in Israel and the resulting research evidence. Here in Israel, we live in a multicultural society that includes a variety of cultures and societies besides the Arab society. As we know, understanding the environment, society, norms and values of our patients is very important in promoting their participation in occupations that they find meaningful. Therefore, the committee elected to devote this issue of IJOT to multiculturalism. The aim was to increase occupational therapists' awareness of the cultural differences between societies in Israel and how they influenced and characterized the research that was performed. Moreover, we hoped to inspire clinicians to achieve maximal cultural accessibility so that their evaluations and treatment plans will best suit their patients. In this issue, readers can enjoy learning about studies performed on a variety of topics conducted among the different cultures that make up the Israeli society.

World Occupational Therapy Day is celebrated world-wide each year on October 27th with the support of



Nagham Gahshan-Haddad

the World Federation of Occupational Therapy, which will take place prior to the publication of this issue. This event will enable the occupational therapy community to be informed about all our accomplishments and promote the important contribution made by our profession to the wider public through events, workshops, free lectures and more. As part of the Society's activities we plan a special day for the occupational therapy students at the different universities as well as other events with the combined help of the Student Committee and the Community Relations Committee of the Society. All the projects will be widely publicized through all means available to the Society and occupational therapists are encouraged to take action, participate and celebrate this special day.

Another important development is the upcoming publication of the revised "MATAM" (i.e., the Israeli version of

the OTPF). The modifications will not only be related to changes in its content but also to its format, and will include a clearer and more coherent definition of the profession as well as a reorganization of the new terminology.

Finally, the Annual Israeli Occupational Therapy conference on the subject of "The Brain – Inside and Outside the Box", (which was described at greater length in the previous issue of IJOT) was held this past July. This year it was organized in a seminar format. I would like to thank all the occupational therapists who participated in the conference and the members of the Society's Committee who organized it in collaboration with the staff of the Department of Occupational Therapy Tel Aviv University. We appreciate all the positive feedback we received, and wish to take this opportunity to thank all the committee members, the staff of the Tel Aviv Department of Occupational Therapy as well as the Society's executive director, **Ms. Batel Zamora**, for all their hard work in organizing this conference.

The CEO and members of the Society's Executive Committee are continuing to promote projects, seminars and additional courses for the professional advancement of the Israeli community of occupational therapists. The professional courses being planned will focus on the subjects of autism, Parkinson's disease, handwriting and a variety of seminars. Looking forward to your participation!

Pleasant reading and Happy New Year,

Nagham Gahshan-Haddad

Vice chairperson & Interim
chairperson of the Israeli Society of
Occupational Therapy