

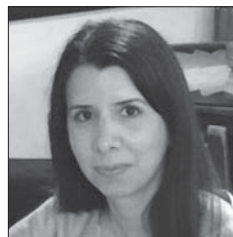
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## From the Society's Table – November 2017

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From the outgoing chairperson of the Society,

I came to the Society a few years ago and feel privileged to have had a firsthand look at how much it has grown in recent years towards establishing its status as a professional home for all Israeli occupational therapists. Towards this end, the Society has developed a variety of workshops and courses in various fields, providing occupational therapists with hands-on tools for adapting and refining treatment programs as well as theoretically-oriented courses. Moreover, we offer courses developed and adapted by the Society in cooperation with various bodies such as the Ministry of Health and academia. We have also examined the needs of therapists in the field and have strived to answer many of those needs. For example, we have provided courses that are recognized and accredited towards continuing education credits in various areas and at prices discounted for members of the Society. In addition, with the help of various media outlets we are pursuing various means, such as newspaper and television reports, to increase the profession's visibility to community bodies and respond accordingly to correct any inaccuracies in written press reports that relate to our profession.



**Nagham Gahshan-Haddad**

I completed my role as vice chairperson at the latest Society annual conference. This was a special conference given its timing, as the occupational therapy profession celebrated 100 years since its birth and 70 years in Israel. In honor of this special event, some of the original Israeli occupational therapists attended the conference and they each spoke about their contribution to the profession before the general assembly. This was their first collective meeting in many years, and we were excited together with them. For the first time a panel of Knesset members was conducted under the direction of Linnoy Bar Geffen. The Minister of Health, Rabbi Litzman, appeared to wish the conference attendees a productive and interesting learning experience. A video clip about the profession was shown - developed by the Ministry of Health, posters were presented in Hyde Park

style and a variety of interesting lectures were given, covering a variety of topics. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate **Professor Adina Maeir**, recipient of the Award of Excellence, **Dr. Dalia Sachs**, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award, and **Orna Tsarfati**, winner of the Exemplary Prize.

This month also marks the celebration of the Occupational Therapy Global Day of Service, and as the name implies, this is a day in which occupational therapists are called on to give back to the community. For this purpose, we encourage occupational therapists take part in community-based activities to promote our profession and inform the public about the services we provide. In this way we can increase the public's awareness of the significant impact our services have on improving quality of life, functioning and participation. This year, as in previous years, we have invited occupational therapists to participate in the various activities while providing participants with a platform through which they can disseminate information regarding these activities through the various means available to the Society.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the Committee who have contributed and continue to contribute their time to the Israeli occupational therapy community, and especially to the Executive Director of the Society, **Ms. Batel Zmora**, who upon taking on this role has been instrumental in further strengthening the position of the Society and of its members, on both a national and professional level.

In order for the Society to continue to honor its commitment to support and promote the Israeli community of occupational therapists, we depend on you to register for membership in the Society this year and every year. Only with your support will it be possible for us to continue to achieve our many goals and be able to achieve even greater goals.

Good luck to the new members of the Committee and to **Aya Hasdai** and **Dr. Naama Katz** who will be jointly sharing the role of Society Chair.

Pleasant reading,  
**Nagham Gahshan-Haddad**