
From the Society's Desk – February 2016

Another year has passed and we are at the beginning of a new calendar year, 2016. Reading what I wrote a year ago at the start of 2015, I am pleased to see how many goals the society met this year and how much we achieved. This is an excellent opportunity to remind everyone that the **registration** period for the **2016 membership in the society** is at its peak. Join the society to enjoy all that it has to offer. Become an active part of shaping and advancing our profession!

I would like to use this platform to applaud our professional community's impressive response in promoting last year's **World Occupational Therapy Day**, endorsed also on the society's website and on Facebook. The activities carried out across the country generate feelings of pride and inspiration. I would also like to congratulate the students of the School of Occupational Therapy of Hadassah and the Hebrew University on their hard work and on winning the society's student competition to raise awareness of our profession on World Occupational Therapy Day - well done!!!

This issue includes a **position paper** on the subject of **occupational therapy for individuals with autism spectrum disorders throughout the life cycle**. A large team of professionals, led by **Dr. Eynat Gal** and **Dr. Ayelet Ben-Sasson**



Adi Stern

from the Autism Research Laboratory, Department of Occupational Therapy, University of Haifa, expended much effort in preparing it. The position paper serves to consolidate fundamental and important information about the disorder and describes the role occupational therapy plays in the evaluation and treatment of these individuals. I am confident that this position paper will serve as an important resource for occupational therapists and other professionals, and will inform people who suffer from this disorder and their families as to what OT services can offer them.

So, what do we have planned for the near future? First, on 18.2.16, a seminar on will be held in Haifa entitled "**Tidbits of Rehabilitation**". The seminar was put together by the Israeli Society of Occupational Therapy committee in cooperation with the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of

Haifa to enable occupational therapists to become updated and get a taste of a variety of intervention techniques. Many companies have collaborated with the society to organize and support this important seminar. Heartfelt thanks to **Dr. Naomi Schreuer** and **Mr. Yuval Naveh** on advancing the idea, and then stepping up and actualizing this event.

On 17.4.16, for the first time, a **student conference** has been organized! The conference will take place at Ono Academic College and we invite all students to attend this unique event, designed just for you! More details will be announced shortly. First and foremost, I wish to thank the student representatives from the various academic institutions, **Tair Shitiat, Ethar Welly** and **Dana Levin**, as well as **Judith Sharvit** who is directing them. I am grateful for the remarkable assistance and support we received from all the academic OT departments in actualizing this idea.

This year our annual conference will be a one-day event, scheduled for 6.7.16 at Tel Aviv University. It is being organized by the society in collaboration with the Department of Occupational Therapy at Tel Aviv University, along with the Ministry of Health and other organizations. The "Call for Papers" and additional information will be published shortly. Please save the date!

As always, the members of the society's committees are continually working hard to advance various professional issues and

the profession itself. We are also working with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, the Higher Professional Committee, the OT departments at the various academic institutions and numerous other bodies to assist the population of occupational therapists and those who are on their way to becoming therapists, in the best manner possible... Moreover, we are working with the Israeli Association of Health Professionals to address the most important and relevant needs of professional health care therapists in the field, including occupational therapists and other health professionals. I invite you to inform (and be informed) about all that is happening through the society website, our Facebook page and our newsletters.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to bid farewell and thank those who served as society committee members in 2015. First and foremost, my sincere gratitude to **Hanna Jakobovits**, who, beyond being a board member, excelled in her role as the society treasurer. She was committed to her post, invested great effort in performing all the tasks required, and displayed a caring and pleasing manner throughout. Thanks to her, my initiation into this office was made much easier for me and her assistance was invaluable. Thanks also to **Vered Yaari** who worked diligently in implementing the activities of the society and, before leaving her post, organized a large number of wonderful seminars. We continue to be helped by her efforts... Thank you also **Orly Diamant Gomez** for your

contributions and help in all of the society's activities and your willingness to assist in any way, and to **Dana Milman**, who was one of our student representatives and helped greatly in advancing all the issues relating to OT students. Thanks again to all of you for all you did for the society and I wish you the best in your future endeavors. As for the incoming committee members, may you find the work interesting and challenging. I invite anyone who wants to make an impact and contribute to the advancement of the profession to join the society committee.

Wishing us all a happy New Year; an interesting year, a year of personal and professional achievement and development, and a year in which we come to enjoy the fruits of our labor along with those around us.

Yours,

Dr. Adi Stern

Chairman of the Israeli Society of
Occupational Therapy

www.isot.org.il

THE ISRAELI SOCIETY OF
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Society Board

Chairperson:

Adi Stern
adischleyer@hotmail.com

Vice Chair:

Nagham Gahshan-Haddad

Board Members:

Asnat Bar-Haim Erez - Ono
Academic College representative
Beata Klabin
Chen Cohen
Daphna Arditi
Inbal Regev
Judith Sharvit
Layla Esa
Maya Winerman
Merav Gelis
Michal Orpaz Tsipris
Naomi Schreuer - University of
Haifa representative
Neta Kelner
Noga Ziv - Tel Aviv University
representative
Orit Dvir
Shani Shefa
Sue Levinstein

Student representatives:

Dana Levin - Ono Academic College
representative
Ethar Welly - Tel Aviv University
representative
Tair Shitiat - University of
Jerusalem representative

Treasurer:

Chaya Zingerevich

ISOT

Webmaster & Electronic

Newsletter:

Omer Azriel

Accountant:

Uri Amsterdamer

Advocate:

Yossef (Ossi) Manobella

ISOT Secretary:

Dorit Shapira
Tel: 08-6372562
Fax: 08-6487314
isot@013.net