
From the Society's Table – March 2017

This year began with the announcement of two exciting events. The first was the publication of the updated MATAM (i.e., the Israeli version of the OTPF), produced by a team of volunteer occupational therapy professionals from a variety of fields. We all felt great anticipation for the arrival of this new revision, reflected by the many requests the Society received to purchase this document. We are delighted by this initiative and encourage all occupational therapists to study and apply this revision to help establish a shared and unified terminology for our profession. A hearty thanks to the staff of the MATAM who devoted so much of their time and effort to undertake this task for the betterment of our profession and for the occupational therapy community in Israel.

It is also with great excitement that we announce that the organization of this year's Israeli Society of Occupational Therapy (ISOT) annual conference is in progress. This year's conference represents a collaborative effort between the Society and the Department of Occupational Therapy at Ono Academic College. We are also celebrating 100 years of the occupational therapy profession and the 70th year of the profession in Israel. Our staff at ISOT has labored to produce a fascinating conference to mark this special occasion. The conference will be held on September 13th at the



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Dan Panorama Hotel in Tel Aviv and on September 14th at Ono Academic College in Kiryat Ono. The theme of this festive conference will be **“What have we achieved in the past and what does our future hold?”** This is an opportunity to meet, become updated on our peer's professional activities and innovations and learn from one another. We invite everyone to mark the conference dates in your appointment diaries and continue to follow our updated plans as they are posted in the Society's web site and Facebook page.

As our Society aims to advance the professionalism of our occupational therapy community, we are continuing our tradition of organizing seminars and courses at significantly discounted prices for members of the Society. A first of its kind course on the diagnosis and treatment of children with ASD opened in December 2016. The course is spread out over the school year and classes meet during the Education Ministry's holiday periods so that all interested occupational therapists can participate. The course represents a collaboration between the Israeli Society of Occupational Therapy, the Ministry of Health (division on autism) and the Health Ministry's National Occupational Therapy Service. This course is recognized by the Education Ministry and employees of the ministry will be reimbursed. Participants will be exposed to innovations in the areas of research, diagnosis and treatment of ASD, as well as to practical aspects relevant to the occupational therapy clinician. The collaboration between the Ministry of Health and the Society also resulted in the development of a forum on the topic of ASD, which should be up and running in the near future. Additional courses that will open this year include a course on the Parental Occupation Executive Training (POET) approach that involves the training of parents of children with ADHD, and a course on the subject of Parkinson's disease for occupational therapists. Recently, the Society established a number of new and successful collaborations. At the end of November 2016 the Society and the Migdal Or

Center organized a seminar on visual impairments and blindness in the group. Innovations in the field were presented while providing the opportunity for hands-on active experiences for the participants. We also held a panel discussion that included occupational therapists who work with professionals in other disciplines in treating members of this population, among other things. In addition, collaboration was formed with Ono Academic College to conduct a workshop on the subject of obesity among children and adults. The workshop was run by **Dr. Michael Pizi**, an occupational therapist from the US with expertise on this subject who organizes similar workshops world-wide. Participants of the workshop were made aware of the fact that the diagnosis of obesity is included in the DSM-5 and learned about how occupational therapists can intervene in treating individuals with obesity. Dr. Pizi shared his vast experience, while emphasizing important concepts familiar to all occupational therapists, such as the client-centered approach and the mind-body connection.

Pleasant reading,

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