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## From the Society's Table – July 2017

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Part of the Society's goal is to serve as a unifying body for occupational therapy practitioners in the field. To that end, we have initiated discussion groups in recent months to stimulate professional dialogues between colleagues. These groups are distributed throughout Israel, divided according to geographical areas and areas of occupational therapy practice, and relate to a variety of professional activities.

We welcome the enthusiastic response to our initiative and encourage occupational therapists to join groups for peer discussion and professional advancement. We invite you to join an existing group or to initiate a new group and are available should you need any assistance. All the necessary information is available on the organization's website, in our newsletter and has been posted on the ISOT Facebook page. We'd appreciate it if you 'LIKE' our Facebook page!

The new MATAM (the Hebrew language version of the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework [OTPF]) is becoming an increasingly established tool among the members of our professional community. In fact, various organizations have already held seminars and training courses for their staff members to



**Nagham Gahshan-Haddad**



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help incorporate the use of the new terminology, which we greatly appreciate. We invite occupational therapists working in the field to continue to deepen their knowledge of the subject. The Society can assist in contacting relevant professionals who can help in assimilating this new terminology. We thank and appreciate all those who are involved in this task!

The Society also continues to promote professional courses for occupational

therapists. The first course on the subject of children with ASD, which emphasizes occupational therapy practice, is nearing its conclusion. This course was organized by the Society in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. The course was developed and directed by Ms. Lilach Irad and taught by leading lecturers. Two additional courses on the subject are being planned for 2018 to enable additional occupational therapists to expand their knowledge and practice in treating individuals with ASD.

In addition, the POET course is slated to begin this October. The POET is designed to provide guidance to parents of children with impairments in attention and concentration. Unfortunately, no places remain for this year's course. We will soon publish details of the next POET course, which is scheduled for 2018.

Another course for occupational therapists on the subject of Parkinson's disease will begin in October, developed by the Society in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. We recommend that you register soon, as the number of places is limited. All details regarding this course can be found on the Society's website.

The Society's annual conference will soon be held. We welcome the enthusiasm of our members who have played an active role in the conference. Abstracts have already been submitted

to the conference committee from a wide range of areas of activity that reflect the many diverse issues that we deal with. We were pleased to learn of new collaborations being formed between different organizations/centers and occupational therapists, as evidenced by the submission of joint abstracts for the conference. We thank everyone who have invested their thoughts, time and energy to submit abstracts, provide feedback and were actively involved in making this a conference to remember.

The two-day conference will include sessions, posters and workshops that will present the fruit of your labors! In addition, attendees will benefit from a number of unique and fascinating plenary lectures and, of course, a wide range of exhibitions.

On this occasion, we would like to thank the staff of Ono Academic College, the members of the entire scientific committee and members of the Society's committee who worked on the planning of the conference. Together, we can celebrate our profession's achievements as well as learn about the new developments of our field. So again thanks to all those who were involved.

Registration for the conference is in full swing! Come taste, see, hear, feel, think, converse...

The 70th year anniversary of our profession only occurs once! Let's

celebrate and learn together. Remember,  
community is empowering!

Pleasant reading,

**Nagham Gahshan-Haddad**

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

**Batel Zmora**

The executive director of the Israeli  
Society of Occupational Therapy

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OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

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