

From the Society's Desk – February 2015

A new calendar year is the appropriate time to take stock of the actions taken in the previous year and to make plans for the new one. This past year, 2014, was filled with activities; those that were more apparent (organized seminars and courses, IJOT journal publications, the operation of the registration exam test simulator and more ...) and things that were done behind the scenes (preparing our new updated website, continuously deliberating on how to promote the society and more ...) and we hope that 2015 will be as busy and productive as 2014 was.

The latest events of the society in 2014 included the **annual seminar** that focused on group interventions in occupational therapy and the **annual general meeting**. The seminar was attended by over 180 occupational therapists with a wide range of expertise. Presented was a fascinating combination of theory and practice innovations from the field and the lectures were varied, interesting and enriching. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who took part in the organization of the seminar and in its implementation. We hope that in the future we will be able to dedicate more seminars to this important and relevant topic. The 2014 general meeting was attended by a more limited group of members of the society,



Adi Stern

but it resulted in the acceptance of a number of important decisions for the continuing administration of the society. Detailed information about the meeting and the matters discussed can be found on the society's website.

Activity for the year 2015 is already at its peak. The society's new website is going to be launched in the coming months. We are working to make it both accessible and useful and it will include information relevant for occupational therapists, students and the general public. In addition, the call for papers and guidelines for the annual 2015 conference have been posted. The conference, entitled "Together we are Engaged in the Future- Innovations and Updates in Occupational Therapy Professional Activity", will be held from 1.6.15-2.6.15 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Jerusalem. We will be happy to take advantage of the conference to

display and discuss the professional work being performed in the field and in academia and invite all of you to submit proposals for abstracts. We will ensure that the conference is interesting and fun for all of us! Moreover, important work has been accomplished in a wide and comprehensive range of fields: results of deliberations about courses and seminars to be offered to the occupational therapist community, work being performed in collaboration with various entities (such as the Ministry of Health and the Israeli Occupational Therapy Association), continuous improvements being made to the test simulator for preparing for the OT registration exam, and considering and planning professional responses to various sectors of society.

I also wish to take this opportunity to say goodbye and thank the members who left the society in 2014 - especially to **Efrat Ben-Naeh** the previous chairperson and vice-chairperson **Dr. Sharon Kirshner**, along with **Michal Harel, Avivit Yochanan, Hila Reizis, Shimona Lev-On, Shira Jaikin and Nofar Zadok** - and to welcome our new members and wish them an interesting and challenging work experience. I invite anyone who is interested in influencing and contributing to the advancement of the profession to join the society's committee. Currently, registration to the society for 2015 is in full swing and this is an opportunity to join the association and enjoy all it has to offer, at a discounted

price for early registration until the end of February.

I wish you all a year full of professional accomplishments both at the personal and at the general level: may we succeed in achieving an occupational balance and also in devoting time to things that contribute to our well-being!

Yours,

Dr. Adi Stern

Chairperson 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
Judith Sharvit
Maya Winerman
Merav Gelis
Naomi Schreuer - University of
Haifa representative
Layla Esa
Noga Ziv - Tel Aviv University
representative
Orit Dvir
Orly Diamant Gomez
representative
Sue Levinstein
Vered Yaari

Student representatives:

Dana Levin - Ono Academic College
representative

Treasurer:

Hanna Jakobovits

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