
Editorial – July 2020



Dr. Batia Marom



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Dear readers,

The second issue of this year is published during challenging times as a result of the Covid 19 virus, whereby we as therapists and academics have been required “to do a re-start”. Concepts that are at the core of our profession like routines, meaningful pursuits, agendas are being pushed to the forefront. Our contribution to this field of knowledge is of unique value. We intend to publish a special issue as soon as possible dealing with the intervention of occupational therapy during the Corona period. In the meantime, we have chosen to give a small “taste” of concerns that arose

in the field. We would like to invite our readers to prepare for the upcoming special issue.

In the **Point of View column**, we present Shelley Marcus, a seasoned occupational therapists thoughts. The article describes the challenges, experiences, and insights into distance therapy in occupational therapy during the COVID-19 epidemic (Corona).

The **Technology and Internet column** focuses on tele-health which has gained tremendous momentum during the Corona period. Occupational therapy clinics have

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been required to provide online interventions that are expected to be equivalent to direct treatment - a topic that has sparked quite a bit of ethical debate.

In the **Personal Perspective Column**, Libby Salonim, an occupational therapy student from Mivchar, brings her experiences during a time of uncertainty and lack of control, concluding that our ability as therapists is limited.

This issue has three articles in Hebrew and one in English.

The first article **Translation, Validation and Adaptation of Safe Driving Behavior Measure - (SDBM) to Israel's Elderly Drivers - Israeli Version (ISDBM)** discusses elderly driver safety. This topic raises concern among the public, as the annual rate of fatal road traffic accidents is high among drivers over age 65. The article deals with the validation of the Hebrew version of the Safe Driving Behavior Measure (SDBM) as a means of identifying and assessing life-threatening driving behaviors in elderly drivers. The findings indicate that the questionnaire is a valid and reliable self-report tool for assessing safe driving behavior among the elderly in Israel.

Another article explores **The Correlation between Circadian Type, Quality of Sleep and Quality of Life among Young Adults with Autism**. This study found that the

circadian typology is related to the quality of life of people with ASD. Although occupational therapists cannot change sleep patterns, they can, implement therapeutic interventions which contribute to sleep hygiene and sleep preparation, which may have an impact on the quality of sleep and ultimately quality of life.

Birth blindness is considered to limit human functioning throughout the life cycle and reduce social participation in various activities, as presented in the article: **Implications of the dysfunction of the cervical system in a re-analysis of hydrocephalus' occupational functions of blind youth - a case study description.** The article makes suggestions for educators, care givers of blind individuals as well as and for occupational therapists. Included in this article are suggestions for pediatric neurologists who are responsible for performing recurrent surgeries to correct the shunt system in blind patients with hydrocephalus.

Finally, the English article, **A Needs Assessment for the Development of an Educational Program for Occupational Therapists in the field of Sexuality and Intimacy** deals with assessing needs in the area of sexuality and intimacy in occupational therapy. Sexual dysfunction is part of basic education day-to-day activities under revised framework of Israeli OT practice. Nonetheless, occupational

therapists the feel they lack knowledge and are not comfortable discussing this topic. It is proposed that a training program which addresses these topics can assist occupational therapists working in physical medicine clinics overcome these obstacles.

We want to wish all of us good health and a quick return to routine,

Pleasant reading,

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