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Editor's Notes: Special Issue on the Model of Human Occupation - in Memory of Professor Gary Kielhofner

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## Editor's Notes: Special Issue on the Model of Human Occupation - in Memory of Professor Gary Kielhofner



*Rachel Kizony*



*Noga Ziv*

About a year ago, on the morning of September 2nd, the world-wide occupational therapy community was shocked to hear of the untimely passing of **Prof. Gary Kielhofner** from the University of Illinois in Chicago. Gary was one of the founding occupational therapy theoreticians, and a good friend and professional associate of countless numbers of occupational therapists around the globe. **Professor Kielhofner** passed away following a difficult illness. Friends and acquaintances who were with him during his final days, described with emotion and admiration, how on his deathbed, Gary continued to study, write, and converse with colleagues from all over the world, and was devoutly concerned with ensuring the continued development and application of the Model of Human Occupation (MOHO). In this manner, he continued to teach and demonstrate his basic belief in the significance of human occupation, and how it serves the individual in each and every moment of his/her life.

This issue, which is dedicated to his memory and to his unique and industrious character, was to come out this year to commemorate 30 years since the formation of the MOHO. This model - which integrates theory and practice, crosses domains, populations and cultures - continues to advance and has achieved world-wide recognition, especially in recent years, both in its application to research and to practice. The knowledge base that has accumulated from sources all over the world regarding the model constitutes a rich and fertile basis for professional evidence-based intervention, and currently it is the most commonly cited model in occupational therapy literature. Many journals world-wide have dedicated special issues to this model.

We are proud to join the ranks of these journals in publishing this special issue, which reflects the abundant use made of the model both in terms of research and practice, and thus contributes to the broadening knowledge base of the model.

A special contribution to the issue can be found in the article of **Carmen-Gloria de las Heras de Pablo** from Chile, a loyal adherent and dedicated colleague of **Prof. Kielhofner**, who is among those professionals continuing

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his legacy. Carmen-Gloria de las Heras de Pablo, a unique occupational therapist with a warm personality and love of Israel, responded willingly and enthusiastically to the request to contribute to this important issue of our journal. In her article, Carmen-Gloria de las Heras de Pablo presents the principles, goals and methods of intervention through which the model can be used towards the advancement of health, quality of life and participation. More specifically, she presents the 'Remotivation Process' program that she developed together with **Prof. Kielhofner**, and which has been applied to different populations across the world in a variety of contexts.

This issue contains original papers by Israeli authors who represent the spectrum of occupational therapy research and practice, from different and varied perspectives, such as the types of populations, assessment tools and interventions, as well as the central constructs of the model. The research of **Odes, Sarid and Ziv** represents a study performed in a psychiatric hospital and demonstrates the importance of the characteristics of the physical and human environment in influencing and advancing volition among patients with schizophrenia. **Avrech Bar, Labock-Gal and Jarus** examined the relationship between occupational performance, social support and satisfaction among single mothers as compared to married mothers. **Ivzori, Reiter and Sachs's** research focuses on the development of a transition program to prepare student's with intellectual deficits for a life of community work and participation. They present a model that combines the educational theory of Constructivist Learning, with the Model of Human Occupation.

The Book Review column contains a review of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Model of Human Occupation: Theory and Application**, which results from a joint international cooperative effort and includes contributions from 53 researchers, teachers and clinicians from 16 countries.

The issue closes with the moving words of **Dr. Renee Taylor**, Prof. Kielhofner's loyal partner in life and in his life's work. Dr. Taylor responded willingly to our request to contribute to this special issue of our journal, and in warm and intimate terms, she uses the concepts of the MOHO to describe how she is personally coping with the doubly painful loss of a man who was both her mentor and her beloved spouse, as well as the mission she has undertaken to continue his journey, in collaboration with the supportive and loving community of occupational therapists from all over the world.

Finally, a letter of consolation by **Prof. Shula Parush** and **Dr. Naomi Weintraub** is attached, which was written after the death of **Prof. Kielhofner**.

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We hope that this issue will arouse the interest and curiosity of both experienced and new occupational therapists, and inspire them to use the conceptual and practical tools of this valuable model for both research and practice. Hopefully, in this way, they may contribute to the continued development of the model in collaboration with colleagues across the globe.

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