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Editorial - February 2013

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## Editorial - February 2013

*We are pleased to present this issue that deals entirely with the field of geriatrics. This issue reflects the changes and the impressive growth of the field of geriatrics in occupational therapy that has occurred in Israel in recent years. This development is reflected in clinical practice and research alike.*



Sarit Rabinowicz    Dganit Gross-Beker

*The field of geriatrics has taken on an increasingly central role in the research and practice of health systems around the world, including Israel. The development of the field of geriatrics in occupational therapy in Israel represents part of this development.*

*Currently, occupational therapists are an integral part of the multidisciplinary team treating the elderly in almost every place in which they are found. Today, occupational therapists work in a wide variety of contexts and roles in the geriatric field, from the treatment of healthy elderly living in the community to the care provided them at the end of life.*

*The clinical and research experience that is accumulating in the field of geriatric occupational therapy in Israel is accompanied by a steadily expanding professional and productive dialogue between clinicians, academics and policy-makers at the Ministry of Health. This discourse led to the recognition that the field of geriatrics is both complex and extensive. Accordingly, therapeutic intervention in geriatric occupational therapy is no longer unifaceted, but has a wide ranging scope, encompassing a variety of areas of practice, rich in challenges, each contributing a unique perspective on the condition of the elderly and the therapeutic framework in which it is found.*

*In addition to the areas of geriatric practice in which occupational therapists have traditionally been involved, such as rehabilitation and nursing care departments, there are now many new innovative areas in which occupational therapists were not previously involved.*

*We are now in the process of rapid development and of uniquely defining the therapeutic intervention in each framework, and there is no doubt that this process will continue to evolve in the coming years. In this issue, we tried to emphasize the breadth of current practice in geriatrics today while providing a forum for areas of practice that have not yet been sufficiently investigated. Thank you for the overwhelming response in terms of submitting articles for*

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this issue and we apologize that not all of the articles could be included in the current issue.

We are hopeful that this issue will provide the occupational therapy community with the opportunity to become familiar with the practice being performed in the field of geriatrics in all of its forms.

In this issue **Shlomit Rotenberg-Shpigelman, Shikma Yoel, Hila Shachar, Dina Batson and Adina Maeir** present an article in the area of community practice, entitled "**Occupation-Based Group Intervention for Individuals with Memory Complaints: Extreme Case Analyses**". This is an original article in an important area of practice that occupational therapists often deal with, but which has not been adequately reviewed in research and in the literature. The article: "**Examination of the Reliability and Validity of the Hebrew Version of the Modified Mini-Mental State Examination - 3MS in Geriatric Rehabilitation**" was written by **Orit Lif Kimchi, Marwa Sarsoor, Zeev Arinzon, Renana Shor, Bronia Finkeltov and Yitshal Berner**. This article is important in that it provides evidence of its validity and reliability as well as the recognition of an additional evaluation for our toolbox that can be used in all geriatric frameworks.

An important literature is presented by **Netalie Banne and Sarit Rabinowicz** in their article: "**The Role of Occupational Therapy in Palliative Treatment for the Elderly**". This article provides us with a glimpse of the palliative care approach that currently occupies a prominent place in the public discourse in geriatrics.

In the English language article **Shira Yama Hadad, Patrice L. (Tamar) Weiss and Rachel Kizony** describe **Using a Physical Model of a Supermarket to Assess and Treat Stroke**. This model provides the foundation for a new working environment that will enable a variety of assessment tools and interventions to improve and encourage participation among people who have undergone stroke and prepare them to return to the community after their discharge from a rehabilitation facility.

With respect to our regular columns, **Dina Shalif** opens with the **Personal Glimpse** column that provides us with a view into the world of the **Jewish Patient of Faith** and reviews perspectives that will enable us to provide optimal treatment. In the **Literature Review** column, **Inbal Gniel Z'ltiakov** reviews the new book by Yuval Naveh and Margarita Rachnayb, on **Leisure Activities and Employment for the Elderly - A Guide to Increase Participation in Purposeful Leisure Activities**. In the **Technology Column**, **Shoshi Goldberg-Meir** presents **New Developments in the Field of**

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*Gerontology that may improve the quality of quality of life of the elderly.  
Special thanks to **Yael Zilbershlag**, the new assistant editor, for taking on this  
position and for her contribution to this issue.*

*Finally, we hope that the various articles in this issue will contribute to the  
work of practitioners in the field of geriatric and will motivate occupational  
therapists to become more familiar with the field of geriatrics.*

*Pleasant reading,*

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