
Editorial - November 2012

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This issue, the last issue of IJOT in 2012, is my first issue as the editor in chief for the IJOT. Before describing the contents, I would like to begin with a few opening words. The publication of a professional journal is not something to be taken for granted, especially since the community of Israeli occupational therapists is not a large one. However, the clinical and academic achievements of occupational therapists in Israel attest to the progressive, challenging and groundbreaking nature of the work we do here, thus justifying the appropriateness of producing a journal such as the IJOT. Every few years an occupational therapist volunteers to undertake the task of editor in chief to continue the advancement of the IJOT. Every editor in chief in the last two decades has contributed layer upon layer of enhanced professionalism and organization to this journal.



Asnat Bar-Haim Erez

*I now take my place within this line of editors, knowing that my job was made easier by the masterful work of my predecessor, **Dr. Rachel Kizony**, both in the administration and organization of this journal and in enhancing and insuring the professional and academic status of its contents. Following the work of my predecessors I think the Journal is ready now to continue to its next developmental stage, that is, to increase its international circulation and rating. Currently, most of the articles are published in Hebrew; however, the Israeli Occupational Therapy Association has begun to make efforts to translate articles from Hebrew to English as a first step towards enabling their access to non-Hebrew speakers. Furthermore, we are calling for occupational therapists and other health allied professionals, both from academia and from those who practice in the field, to send manuscripts to the IJOT. Another important part of advancing the journal is in maintaining the high professional standards of its contents. We are currently initiating the process of enlisting reviewers who will commit to review up to three articles a year. The larger the pool of reviewers that we can recruit, the smaller the burden that will be imposed on those who perform this important work. We call on those who are prepared to participate in the Review Board to email us at ijot2.il@gmail.com.*

*Many people contribute their time to assist in the advancement of the IJOT and I want to use this opportunity to thank those contribute their time and knowledge to the journal. These include **Dr. Noami Hadas Lidor** and **Mrs. Liron Benisti** who invest their energies into managing the 'Personal Glimpse' and 'Book Review' columns. The 'Technology and Internet' section will be*

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managed by **Mrs. Iris Adato - Biran** and I wish her much success. To promote the excellency of the articles and the primary specialty areas from which they are derived, four editors joined the IJOT's board. These include **Amiya Waldman-Levi**, OT, PhD who will be responsible for articles in the areas of pediatrics, women and family relations; **Dr. Liat Raz-Yehene**, OT, PhD, who will be responsible for articles relating to the various domains of physical disabilities; **Adi Stern** (who is completing her PhD), will concentrate on articles in the mental health area and; **Yael Zilbershlag**, (well into the process of her PhD research) will take on the task of editing articles in the field of geriatrics. If you have any ideas / questions please contact me or the other team members by emailing us at ijot2.il@gmail.com.

And now, what does the current issue contain? This issue opens with a paper by **Dr. Aviva Fried**, which incorporates a translation of the lecture she gave upon receiving the Israeli Occupational Therapy Excellency award. She has entitled it "**The Courage to Treat**". This, inspiring paper concentrates on the art of treatment, which goes beyond knowledge and empirical processes. In it, Aviva reveals the courage that therapists must attain to accept the existence of their personal strengths and weaknesses, as well as those of their patients. This paper takes us back to our profession's philosophical roots within which our outlook towards human interactions lies.

The second article, "**Plant Activities for Children with Mental Retardation and Limited Mobility**", was written by occupational therapists who describe an intervention that they formulated in their clinic to treat children with intellectual and motor disabilities. The paper discusses the theoretical background of their approach and provides us with a detailed case study and their treatment protocol.

The third Hebrew article, entitled "**The P-5 Glove: Computer Game as a Tool for Measuring Upper Limb Reaching Movement**" was based on a doctoral research project carried in the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Haifa. Occasionally, we receive a manuscript from other health allied professions, something which we highly commend and would like to further encourage. The article itself describes a process of assessing the usefulness of a device, originally developed for commercial computer games, which was adapted by the researchers for the kinematic assessment of upper limb reaching movements.

The paper in English, entitled "**A Pilot Study of Computerized Cognitive Training in Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: Change in Executive Functions and Quality of Life**", describes a study assessing the effect

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of computerized cognitive training for adults with ADHD on measures of ADHD symptomatology, executive function skills, occupational performance and quality of life. The research was done in the Occupational Therapy Department of Hadassah and the Hebrew University and its findings are very interesting and pertinent, both to clinicians and researchers.

The **'Personal Glimpse'** column was written by a social worker and peer-support specialist who shares with us the process that led him to make a change in his living environment in order to improve his professional life. He entitled the column **"On My Way to Itica"** and describes his journey from the perspective of personal recovery principles.

The **'Internet and Technology'** column provides a look into the popular world of the tablet - **a new source of technologically-based therapeutic tools for occupational therapy**. The column contains a synopsis and description of popular applications that are available and are useful for occupational therapists.

The **'Book Review'** column describes the book **"Smart but Scattered"**, which focuses on children in whom we can discern a puzzling gap between their intellectual capabilities and their organizational abilities and actual performance.

I would like to conclude with a call for papers for a special issue on Accessibility that is planned for May 2013. Guest editors for this issue are **Dr. Nava Ratzon** and **Ms. Tal Zimnavoda** from the occupational department of Tel-Aviv University. A call for papers for this issue can also be seen on the Israeli Occupation Therapy web site.

Pleasant reading,

Asnat Bar-Haim Erez - on behalf of the editorial team

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