

Curriculum Vitae – Yael Zilbershlag, Ph.D

Name: Yael Zilbershlag, Ph.D

Current Position: Lecture and researcher in the Department of Occupational Therapy. Head of Geriatric Curriculum. Academic Director of the Master's program in Rehabilitation.

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1. Education

Ph.D. – Department of Occupational Therapy, Faculty of Welfare and Health Sciences, University of Haifa (2010–2015).

Thesis: Predicting the ability of elderly persons with cognitive decline to live independently and safely at home in their community: The development of a theoretical model and empirical test.

M.A. (2008) – Gerontology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben Gurion University (2004–2007).

Thesis: The effect of computerized cognitive training in older adults with mild cognitive impairment.

B.A. (1997) – Occupational Therapy, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University (1993–1997).

Postdoctoral Studies (2020) – Department of Occupational Therapy, University of Haifa

2. Academic Experience

2015-2025– Lecture and researcher, Head of Geriatric Curriculum, Department of Occupational Therapy, Ono Academic College.

2022–2025– Academic Director and Lecture, Master's degree in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Ono Academic College.

2019-2025– Lecturer, Department of Sport Therapy, The Faculty of Health Professions, Ono Academic College

2021-2025– Lecturer, Master's degree in Gerontology Management, Netanya Academic College.

2020-2025 –Mivchar, Department of Occupational Therapy, Faculty of Welfare and Health Sciences, Branch of University of Haifa.

2011–2025 – Extensive lectures/workshops for professionals (hospitals, health services, Ministry of Health, Joint-Eshel, etc.) and for the public (retirement courses, caregiver workshops, National Insurance Institute volunteer training)

3. Academic Activities

2022–2025 – Contributing writer, *Gerontology and Geriatrics Journal (Israel)*

2022–2025 – Consultant, Ministry of Health Committee for “Legal Competence”

2021–2025 – Representative, Ono Academic College to Ministry of Health Committee on OT testing & certification

2020–2025 – Advisory Board Member, Cognishape

2019–2025 – Board Member, Israel Gerontological Society

2016–2025 – Leader, Israeli Lifestyle Redesign Program for Older People

2016–2025 – Leader, COFEE Evaluation Tool implementation across hospitals & clinics in Israel

2016 – Assistant Editor, *Israeli Journal of Occupational Therapy (IJOT)*

2017–2024–Multiple subcommittee roles in the Israel Gerontological Society .

Invited Lectures

2024 – UN International Day of Older Persons, Vienna – “Marginalization of Older Persons in Society – A Significant Health Risk”

2025 – Multiple seminars in Israel (rehabilitation, dementia, cancer, caregiver strategies) – Keynote and opening lectures.

Supervision of Graduate Students

2019–2025 – Supervised multiple M.A. theses and final projects at University of Haifa and Ono Academic College. Topics included:

- Validity of COFEE assessment
- Leisure patterns in Arab society
- Loneliness among older adults
- OT for diabetes patients
- Medical decision-making capacity
- BCAT assessment in Israel
- Sleep disorders intervention protocols
- Institutionalization attitudes in nursing care
- Zar phenomenon among Ethiopian immigrants

4. Professional Experience

1997-2015– Maccabi Health Services , Head of Occupational Therapy Services, Geriatrics Department- Central District

- Managed team of Occupational Therapists
- Created work processes
- Conducted home visits
- Functional-cognitive evaluation

2008-2012– AGAM –Geriatric comprehensive Evaluation – Private geriatric clinic, director and partner.

2009-2010– Meonot Margoa – Nursing home- Director of occupational therapy department

- Created work processes and managed occupational therapist team
- Conducted assessments
- Provided both individual therapy and group performance

2007-2010– Day centers for older people - Bnei Brak and Givat Shmuel locations

- Professional staff training
- Conducted assessments

2008-2009– Clal Health Services – Nursing home – Director of occupational therapy staff

2003-2004–Rehabilitation Center run by Harav Firer (Ezra L'Marpeh)

1997-1998– Tel Hashomer Hospital - Geriatrics department

5. Grants and Awards

Grants

2011 – Macabi Health Services Research Institute – 100,000 NIS – Cognitive functional evaluation (PI)

2017 – Chief Scientist Office, Ministry of Health – 100,000 NIS – COFEE evaluation (PI)

2022 – Ono Academic College Research Authority – 8,000 NIS – Judgment evaluation (PI)

2023 – Ono Academic College Research Authority – 8,000 NIS – Physical activity park (Co-PI)

2025 – Joint Committee Ono Academic College & HIT – 20,000 NIS – Technological Functional-Cognitive Assessment Tool (Co-PI)

Pending

2025 – Israel National Institute for Health Policy Research – Physical activity park project (PI)

Scholarships, Awards & Prizes

2012 – Arie Yaros Fund – Award for research on cognitive functional evaluation (1,000 NIS)

2016 – Israeli Society of Gerontology – Award for research on cognitive functional evaluation (1,500 NIS)

6. Publications

1. **Zilbershlag, Y.**, Turgeman, R., Mansbach, W (2025). Incorporating a standardized judgment assessment for older adults into the healthcare system: A national validation study. *Geriatrics & Gerontology International*. doi.org/10.1111/ggi.70177. IF 2.5, Q2 Geriatrics & Gerontology.
2. **Zilbershlag, Y.**, Liraz-Zaltsman S, Been, E (2025). Feasibility and impact of an outdoor physical activity park for older adults to encourage healthy aging and maintain independence. *Health Promotion Practice*. doi.org/10.1177/15248399251349463. IF 1.7, Q1 Nursing.
3. **Zilbershlag, Y.**, Maeir, T., Beit Yosef, A., & Gilboa, Y (2024). Lifestyle Redesign, Quality of Life, Depressive Symptoms in Older Adults. *Educational Gerontology*. doi.org/10.1080/03601277.2024.2352231. IF 1.5, Q2 Education, 575/1469 Education.
4. **Zilbershlag, Y** (2024). Transitioning from hospital to home: Validation and application of a Cognitive-Functional Evaluation of older people (COFEE – HD). *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy*. doi.org/10.1080/03601277.2024.2352231. **IF 2.2, Q2 Occupational Therapy, 8/28 Occupational Therapy.**
5. **Zilbershlag, Y.** (2023). Pilot validation of a verbal practical judgement assessment (VPJ) among community-dwelling older adults in Israel: the first step toward a national standard. *Dementia & Neuropsychologia*, 17, e20220047. doi.org/10.1590/1980-5764-DN-2022-0047. IF (SJR) 1.268, Q3 Geriatric and Gerontology; 226/373 Neurology (clinical).
6. **Zilbershlag, Y.**, Ravitz-Ron, K., & Engel-Yeger, B. (2023). The role of altered sensory processing and its association with participation in daily activities and quality of life among older adults in the community. *Occupational therapy in health care*, 37(2), 230-247. doi.org/10.1080/07380577.2022.2025552. IF 1.2, Q3 Occupational Therapy, 10/28 Occupational Therapy.
7. Fantinati, J., Sabin, I., Crosignani, S., **Zilbershlag, Y.**, Cesari, M., & Dwolatzky, T. (2022). Tale of two countries: attitudes towards older persons in Italy and Israel during the COVID-19 pandemic as seen through the looking-glass of the media. *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 48(12), 1010-1014. IF 4.2, Q1 Health, 33/440 Arts and Humanities.
8. Engel-Yeger, B., & **Zilbershlag, Y.** (2022). Fall risk in older adults mediates the association between depression, executive dysfunction and daily life. *British Journal of*

Occupational Therapy, 85(9), 685-693. doi.org/10.1177/03080226211072769. IF 1.3, Q2 Occupational Therapy, 9/28 Occupational Therapy.

9. Maeir, T., Beit-Yosef, A., Wechsler, T., Safra, Y., **Zilbershlag**, Y., Katz, N., & Gilboa, Y. (2020). The Feasibility and Efficacy of an Israeli Lifestyle Redesign®–Based Program for Well Older Adults: A Pilot Study. *OTJR: occupation, participation, and health*, 1539449220928141.

doi.org/10.1177/153944922092814. IF 1.4, Q1 Occupational Therapy, 6/28 Occupational Therapy.

10. Bar-Tur, L., Inbal-Jacobson, M., Brick-Deshen, S., **Zilbershlag**, Y., Pearl Naim, S & Brick, Y. (2020). Telephone-based emotional support for older-adults during the Covid-19 pandemic. *Journal of Aging & Social Policy*. doi.org/10.1080/08959420.2021.1924414. IF 5.1, Q1 Gerontology, 1/38 Nursing-Gerontology.

11. Hevron, G., **Zilbershlag**, Y. (2020). Adjustment of cognitive-functional diagnoses among independent seniors in the community. *Israeli Occupational Therapy Journal* 29 (3), H209-H225. (in Hebrew)

12. Bar Tov, L., Brick, Y., Inbal-Jacobson, M., Brick-Deshen, S., **Zilbershlag**, Y., Perl Na'im, S. (2020). Emotional support for the elderly in the community during the Corona epidemic: An initiative of the Israel Gerontological Association for telephone support by experts in the field of ageing. *Gerontology and Geriatrics* [Israel], 47 (3-4), 147-160. (In Hebrew)

13. **Zilbershlag**, Y. and Josman, N. (2019). The functional cognitive evaluation and model to assess older adults' ability to function in their homes in the community. *Physical & Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics*, 37(3), pp.151-170.
doi.org/10.1080/02703181.2019.1622620.

IF 0.9, Q2 Occupational Therapy, 15/28 Occupational Therapy.

book chapters/ manuals

Zilbershlag, Y, Katz, M, Brodsky, J & Rasoolu, I (2018): Services for older adults in Israel. In B.T. Bonder & D. Bello-Hass (Eds.), *Functional performance in older adults* (4th edition) (pp 45-49). F.A. Davis.

Translation and Development of Assessment Tools

Zilbershlag, Y and Josman, N. (2015). Translation of the Performance Assessment of Self-Care Skills (PASS – Home). Version 4.0.

Zilbershlag, Y and Josman, N. (2015). Translation of the Assessment of Capacity for Everyday Decision Making.

Zilbershlag, Y and Josman, N. (2015). Translation of the Alternate Executive Function Performance Test- medication task.

Zilbershlag, Y, Talmore, T, Maeir, T, Beit-Yosef, A, Katz, M, Gerbert, M, Haninowitz, G, Madar, N, Katz, N. (2019). Development of the booklet of the Israeli Lifestyle Redesign®–Based Program for Well Older Adults.

Zilbershlag, Y (2020). Translation and adaptation of the Verbal Test Of Practical Judgment - VPJ-H.

Zilbershlag, Y, Mahamid, N and Josman, N. (2020). Development of the Cognitive OT functional Evaluation of the elderly-Home (COFEE-H).

Zilbershlag, Y, Peleg, L and Josman, N. (2020). Development of the Cognitive OT functional Evaluation of the elderly-Hospital Discharge (COFEE-HD).

Zilbershlag, Y, Levkowitz, H, HIT (2025). Computerized Functional Mobile-phone assessment (CFMa).

In preparation

Zilbershlag, Y., Been, E., Liraz-Zaltsman S (2025). Active Communities: A unique physical activity park to promote healthy aging and engagement among older adults.

Segal-Reich, M., Peleg, L. Yitzhak, I., **Zilbershlag, Y.**, Yael Nissn (2025). A Spectrum of Shades for the Individual: From a Medical Diagnosis to a functional evaluation by occupational therapists in legal competency processes (*In Hebrew*).

