Z-Experience 2018 was truly an amazing experience, although I attended the 2017 program. In 2018 I attended as an organizer but not as an attendee. This time I really felt how hard it is to manage and organize such a program and it was only 20 people! I can never imagine how much harder would be a congress with 100 people and I have to thank and congratulate all the LOC team of our MYM and Annual meetings for that. It was an honor to work for IADS and with Dr. Nicholas Charles in Zhermack company to organize this event for the dental students.

The program started in a very calm evening in Venice San Marco square, I was sitting there waiting for the participants with a lovely Aperol Spritz in front of me! They came one after another and we started to meet and get to know each other better, though some of us we knew each other from before. Nicholas came after all of us gathering and we went to have dinner in a lovely restaurant in Venice. We came back to the hotel early to get ready for tomorrow morning when the real program began. After being transferred to the Zhermack company the next morning, Zhermack program started with an introduction of the CEO of the company introducing its history and success to dental students. Following with Nicholas who presented the impression materials and basics that are necessary for dental students to be familiar with. In the afternoon of the first day, there was a hands-on impression workshop. Using the Zhermack products students took impression of a prepared bridge on a model. There were alginate impression, heavy body and soft body and of course putty impressions. Students learned about the undercuts and escape channels as an important factor in impressions. The whole workshop was posted live on IADS Webinar Facebook channel! The day ended with a smooth visit to the city of Romeo and Juliette (Verona). All students, including myself, enjoyed it. Gelatos were truly something to remember.
The second day started with a lecture regarding infection control, sterilization methods and disinfection products of the company. Students received a bag full of samples including alginate, disinfection wipes and etc. In the afternoon there was a nice and full visit to the Zhermack factory itself. Students learned how the dental materials are made and how much man work, instruments and technology is needed to make a simple putty, alginate of heavy body! I got surprised myself even though I had visited last year as well.

There was a large building just dedicated to making formulas of the products and chemical labs for experiments! We finished the day with a lovely dinner at Bernando’s with amazing Italian pizza and wine.

On the third day students said their goodbyes in the morning and took the shuttle back to Venezia Santa Lucia! They learned a lot. Experienced science, industry, food, culture and etc. Special Thanks to IADS and Zhermack for providing this opportunity for all the dental students! CIAO!

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