Dr. SINA SAYGILI
IADS President
2016-17

Sina Saygili's journey in IADS started in August 2013 when he was assisting the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of the 60th IADS Annual Congress that took place in Istanbul. In that year he was elected as a Treasurer, next year in the 61th IADS Annual Congress he was re-elected to the same position. In 2015 he started to work as a General Secretary and in 2016 he became a President of IADS. This year Sina is working as a Past President, so in total he has spent 5 years in IADS Leadership! He is definitely one of the most hard working, determined and motivated people as well as a person with a good humour sense and super nice personality! One of the editorial board members did a live interview by “Skype” and had a chance to meet him for the very first time!
1. The most interesting moment in IADS?
Exchange fair was really interesting because every person was wearing its' cultural costume and there were so many mixture things... I mean I have been to summer camps before but it was the most multicultural event I have ever attended. Though I think more interesting was election in Italy because it changed my life. Even though no one knew me, in my first congress ever, I applied for a President post and somehow it happened.

2. What did you gain within IADS?
I believe there are some steps in your life. Firstly you finish high-school, later you learn how to work by yourself and so on. So IADS for me was like building something, like let's say a video game where you can achieve something, putting stones on the other ones. For the first time I experienced that I am doing something by myself without anyone's help. I have been in social clubs of high-school, in both local/national association of dental students but it felt different because people spoke in the same language and they were from the same culture. But IADS taught me how to rule my team, how to set up goals and how to put my steps in order to achieve something, it taught me how to struggle in life and how to be successful in the long term. I'm known as a guy who plans everything but thanks to IADS I can do it very accurate now.

3. What will you miss the most as you are leaving IADS?
I am not leaving IADS! I am leaving the Executive Committee but I will attend some events in future. I can say that those moments like G.A., which most people find boring, I really liked because I have learnt how to convince people, how to manage conversations. Also in IADS I will miss the fun part - social part, this is the moment where I don't want to tell a lot [laughing] but IADS gives you both: if you work hard, you play harder [laughing]. I remember in Slovakia [it was one of the wildest congress] after first day in G.A., we went out and thanks to Peter Dzupka, Peter Mourad we had so many shots, that in the end black-out appeared, I was forgotten in the club. So some friends brought me back. Then in the morning I had to read some documents in G.A. which I prepared and it was super hard... When you work hard, you know you deserve to rest, so you party even harder. I can definitely say that I will miss everything.

4. When did you start to feel that IADS is enough for you?
I started to work late in IADS. When I joined it, I was 4th year in 2013 but the moment when I attended my first congress as IADS President in Lebanon 2017 I saw a lot of younger students there and remembered my first time in IADS. I was thinking about them and why they are here. After this congress I decided I should stop coming to IADS because this association belongs to students and now it is already two years when I am working as a dentist. I mean, in my practice I am doing those cases which students are following lectures in the congresses. So that's the moment when I told myself that there is a limit to IADS, that I should go one step forward and I give a chance to younger generation work in this association.

5. What were the biggest challenges you faced during the years you've been working in IADS? And how did you manage to handle it?
IADS exists from 1951 but when I joined it was 2013. When I was elected as General Secretary, I come to a point that many people just want to continue with old projects or create new ones but my aim was trying to reach another level in IADS. Everyone was so obsessed with the Hardware, no one remembered the Software of association, so I wanted something better for organization, that's how I decided to re-code IADS Software. The biggest challenge was trying to understand how can we change destiny of IADS. In that moment I was pretty lucky to work with amazing team but I saw that we don't have an actual plan for it and everything what we were doing was just for one year because every year
new people are coming to positions and then leaving. So for the very first time, I managed to bring executive committee before Mid Year Meeting Lebanon 2017 and we shared ideas, the missing point of IADS and how to be more professional association, avoid problems related with members, leadership and its’ existence in the future. As I have noted sometimes people lack interest to work, so they don’t reply emails, etc. That’s why I wanted to make an actual plan for at least five years term which during last two years we were working on: rebuilding everything, “taking away trashes from the house” let’s say. Now we have four walls and we are trying to put old and new things there. We have planned everything from the scratch back then. Now IADS has a new face which I intended to see in the beginning and now I can really see the feedback. People who didn’t attend IADS 1-2 years ago, will only see how are things managed more ideally and professionally. So I am really happy for the structure and structural plan we have now. Hopefully next leadership will follow it and realize the importance of this, so that IADS would have a definite future, destiny and would be much more bigger in a couple of years. Continuity is a gold for IADS now!

6. What are the things you most like and most dislike about IADS?

Let’s start maybe what I dislike. This is biggest problem actually which I have learnt is that it can ruin your friendships and relationships. Some people just like to play “dirty” which is not really nice, they “played games” behind doors, so that’s why I believe IADS is is in a better place right now. I mean, we have changed the elections system which was one of the key points there. Now people have to apply by themselves for the positions in IADS, it is not something people can choose with their political games anymore. People get chosen for the positions because of who they are not where they are coming from. What I like the most about IADS is people around you, learning so much from them about everything. You meet different cultures there and become a better person for sure. I got life-time friends now all around the world. On the dentistry point of view you follow up all new features, technologies, people who are at your age can achieve something different, widen your horizon about you profession and life.

7. If you go back in time 5 years, would’ve you be joining IADS? What would you do differently?
YES, YES, YES! I would join earlier, do more, learn more and help more to those who have less experience than me. Also I would be more beneficial for IADS in this way.

8. When will you shave your moustache?
Haha.. That’s how I started IADS without it, a very young student from Istanbul. Then when I had my moustache it’s almost like people recognise me with it, so it will be with me until I retire dentistry. people recognise me with it, so it will be with me until I retire dentistry.

9. What advice can you give to younger student?
Well... I would love to tell a lot, not easy to shorten this. I met with amazing professionals in dentistry who attended as many events as a regular dentist can in his life, so here are the 3 gold tips I can tell. First have a mentor in your career. Maybe more than one but for example if you go start placing implants, have someone superior and expert to learn. Dentistry is a field of medicine but also have the side master apprentice relationship. Second, information is really easy to access, go ask for it, do research, be curious about your profession. Don’t be the one who just eat whatever served to you. Lastly sharing is caring, share your knowledge, share your experience, share what you know, what you can do for your environment, for the future in dentistry. Put yourself goals, do plans and dream. Have a balance in reality and fantasy world. There are very famous mottos as “impossible is nothing”, “just do it”. But here is my favorite one from Netflix: “Spend more time searching, than actually watching.” Search for better every day, every hour, every second! See you somewhere in the world.