During the 21st - 23rd of June Ministers responsible for youth and youth delegates from all over the world with partner organizations such as UNESCO, UNICEF, UN and others have gathered in this historic event organized after 21 years in the capital of Portugal, Lisbon. IADS was invited by the partner organisation International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO) to join the meeting and to participate in Youth Forum.

The event was opened with the speeches of Minister of Education of Portugal Mr. Tiago Brandão, President of the Portuguese National Youth Council Mr. Hugo Carvalho, United Nations Secretary - General’s Envoy on Youth Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, President of the United Nations General Assembly Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés and the President of the Portuguese Republic Mr. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.
To conclude, Lisboa+21 is a great example of how youth and youth-led organisations could be incorporated into global agendas and policy framework. Young people represent the future, so their participation and collaboration in the implementation of 2030 Agenda is necessary. Thanks again to Richard Francis and organisers of Lisboa+21 for great organisation and inviting IADS be part of a worldwide conference which aims to work together on a better future!

Greta Kersyte
IADS Editor 2018/2019

Later the meeting was followed by 3 parallel sessions: Discussion Session, World Conference and Youth Forum. IADS representative, Editor Greta Kersyte had a chance to participate in the 3rd session. The first part of Youth Forum was about Innovation and Digital Transformation with the speakers Ms. Tanya Accone, Senior Adviser - Innovation from UNICEF and Ms. Regina Honu, CEO of Soronko Solutions. As social media platforms are used everyday, they can make a big impact on our way of thinking and could be used as a good tool to spread information to different parts of the world. It is especially relevant to IADS which unites dental students and keeps them connected all the time by using social media channels. Another topic that was discussed in Youth Forum was Sustainable Development by speakers Ms. Rocio Cervera, Deputy Executive Director from North - South Centre of the Council of Europe and Ms. Mourana Monteiro, Climate Change Student Activist from Portugal. In this topic speakers discussed how to incorporate young people and youth-led organisations into the development and creation of national and regional policy as well as 2030 Agenda. Later after the Youth Forum, the meeting continued with Interactive Session on Youth Policies and Programmes in the framework of the 2030 Agenda. Ministers responsible for youth and youth delegates exchanged views on how each country could improve sustainable development goals. Participation of young people was encouraged in decision making, access to their rights, supporting youth organisations, advancement of international cooperation and involvement of youth in international forums. Last but not least, during the last day of the congress Lisboa+21 declaration was proclaimed. By this document governments and youth delegates promised to commit themselves to actively participating in collaboration and contributing to the further implementation of the integrated, human rights-based, human-centered and transformative global development agendas.
Zhermack is one of the main producers and distributors of dental materials in the world. This year, they collaborated with the IADS once again. From 9th to 12th of June 2019, they invited dental students to their headquarters in Badia Polesine in beautiful Italy.

Dr. Nicholas Charles greeted us, 10 dental students from 7 different countries, on Sunday evening, June 9th, in Piazza San Marco, the main square of picturesque Venice. We got to know each other better at dinner in the restaurant Rossopomodoro, followed by departure to our accommodation, Hotel Villa Bartolomea.

The next morning, we visited Zhermack headquarters in nearby Badia Polesine. After the mandatory morning espresso, Dr. Nicholas gave us a lecture called “Master Impression: Which? When? How?” We learned everything about alginate, condensation and addition silicones, as well as other factors that are crucial when taking impression, such as retraction, choosing the right tray, undercuts and escape channels. After lunch it was time for hands on -- we mastered our master impression skills. Dr. Francesco Grande concluded the first part of the day with a lecture on impressions in implant dentistry. We spent our afternoon in Verona, the city where Romeo and Juliet’s legendary love story took place. After a guided tour and some free time, we spoiled our tasting buds with delicious Italian food and wine in restaurant Maffei.
Besides impression materials, Zhermack also makes hygiene products. The next morning, Dr. Elena Tonini, presented everything about disinfection, sterilization and hygiene in dental clinics. We tested how well we wash our hands and it was interesting to see a before and after under a UV lamp. Afterwards, we had a guided tour of the factory where we saw all the steps of productions – from making the materials from scratch, packing, quality control and product development. We spent our free afternoon relaxing by the pool. For our last dinner we went to Bernardo’s and had some Italian pizza, of course. The next morning, it was time to part our ways. Some took the shuttle back to Venice while some decided to continue exploring Italy on their own.

I would like to thank Zhermack and IADS for this wonderful experience. We got more familiar with dental materials on the market and learned how to make a good impression while enjoying renowned Italian hospitality. Alla prossima!

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The International Association of Dental Students (IADS) is honored to attend the 97th International Association for Dental Research (IADR) representing the interests of dental students globally. Held in Vancouver, Canada from June 19th, 2019 to 22th, the IADR this year is co-organized with the 48th Annual Meeting of AADR and the 43rd Annual Meeting of CADR with aims to advance research and increase knowledge for the improvement of oral health worldwide. As Dr. Maria Ryan mentioned during her speech at the opening ceremony: "the role of dentists has been constantly evolving with oral health and research advances." So as an individual who cherish wisdom above anything, we students must be motivated to stay up to date with the advances beyond our school curriculum.

Wun-Ting Lin; the International Scientific Officer of the IADS was a delegate to participate in this year’s IADR. She was given a chance to represent IADS to witness high-quality research presentations and attend professional oral health speeches during the summit. By doing so, she urges IADS; as the leading dental student governed organization to dedicate more in promoting and carrying out relative strategies in oral health.

SCADA (Student Competition for Advancing Dental Research) is a student research competition sponsored by Dentsply Sirona. Thousands of students spent a tremendous effort on their research projects in hopes to win the opportunity to represent their countries. The national champions of dental students research competition from all over the world have gathered together at the IADR in Vancouver, where IADS was given the rare opportunity to present our organization in front of them. Hundreds of companies and well-known universities were present the IADR exhibitions, and IADS is looking forward for more collaboration with them in the future.
Dental Education System Symposium
by IDSA

To begin with, IDSA is a dental students’ organization founded in Iraq on April 2017 by the efforts of independent students. IDSA represents more than 30 dental schools and 1500 dental students around Iraq.

On November 30th 2018, IDSA held a students’ symposium in Iraq about the dental education system as a first step for long-term projects to improve the reality of studying dentistry in Iraqi dental schools. This project is based on several surveys done by “IDSA” over the course of one year, which implied that a lot of students said that the education of dentistry in Iraq is not in the level of other countries. Many important subjects do not exist in the dental syllabus like (infection control - evidence based dentistry and so many more). The symposium started with a panel discussion in the presence of Iraqi Dental Association vice president, Dr. Abo Baker Ziad Al-Rawi, the Dean of Tikrit dental school, Dr. Muthanna Rajab, the team leader of World Health Organization (WHO) in Iraq, Dr. Thamer Yousif and one of the graduate dentists from the Royal College department of dentistry. The panel discussion included different points (The opinion of doctors about the basis of studying dentistry in Iraq, their experiences outside Iraq in the field of dentistry, the basics and the important subjects that should be included in the dental education syllabus, the surveys and the opinions of the participants, the possible solutions for the problems present in the dental education system of Iraq).

The importance of the panel discussion was to create a link between the experienced doctors in the field of dentistry outside Iraq and the dental students to find the best solutions for the problems of dentistry education. Also develop the syllabus of the dental education system to become in level with the global education. The vice president of the Iraqi dental association, Dr. Abo Baker, said “He was happy to participate in this symposium and that the (IDA) will spend all efforts to develop the education of dentistry. This symposium is just the beginning! There will be more researches and more symposiums about the dental education system in Iraq until the Iraqi Dental Students Association (IDSA) reaches what all students aspire to have and what makes the dentistry in Iraq at the top level.

The outcome of this symposium was: 
1- Try to create workshops on specific subjects like (Infection control & Evidence-based dentistry).
2- Try to find a way to convey the message of dental students in Iraq and the experienced dentists to the ministry of higher education and scientific research to put the starting point for the development of the dental education system.
3- Try to solve the problems of dental education in the Iraqi dental schools and create surveys to know the specific problems that need to be solved.
Building the momentum for oral health

The 72nd World Health Assembly is a high-level global health event held annually in Geneva, Switzerland. This year, the health ministers, youth and professional health organizations gathered under the main theme of “Health for All”.

One of the World Health Organization’s top priorities is aimed towards supporting national health authorities in strengthening health systems to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This includes covering areas such as health workforce, service delivery and health information systems. This September, the United Nations High-Level Meeting is dedicated to UHC. This event gathering decision-makers and leaders in health aims to ensure a global commitment from countries towards ensuring that “all individuals and communities receive the health services they need without suffering financial hardship” (def. of UHC by WHO).

But how can Oral Health fit into this health policy?

To ensure that oral health is not left behind anymore, we need to involve a large variety of partners and look outside of dentistry and even outside of healthcare. Long-time partners of IADS, the International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA), know the importance of interprofessional teams. Each year, they provide seats from their delegation also to dental, veterinary and chiropractic students. This year, the IADS General Secretary, Abanob Yosry, joined the IFMSA delegation. The IADS President, Ave Põld, was attending the WHA as part of the FDI delegation. The experience IFMSA gives to youth interested in health policy is both educating and motivating but most important is the potential for future engagement it involves. “Meaningful youth engagement” towards the Sustainable Development Goals is a focus area for the UN and WHO. Incorporating young people to shaping national policies serves an important role for the future. Building capacity among dental students to work on a national level with other health professions for better oral health is the target area for IADS.
WHO has declared 2020 to be the year for Nursing and Midwifery. Let’s gather together and invite our global partners to make 2021 the year for Oral Health!

This year’s WHA targeted health workforce and the prognosed global shortfall of 18 million health workers by 2030. The unequal distribution of oral health professionals contributes to this number together with a lack of appropriate health facilities in most countries. In 2017, the WHO Global Health Workforce Network Youth Hub was established joining together various youth healthcare organizations to prevent the 18 million shortfall from taking place. IADS is one of the founding organizations of the YH and sits on the Steering Committee. During this year’s WHA, the Youth Hub was involved in several side events on HRH matters and also hosted a big event joining together youth representatives present at the assembly. The key discussion areas involved meaningful youth involvement in shaping national policies on health workforce. The YH also encourages interprofessional youth-led research and cooperation on HRH matters, presents data on issues young health professionals face that influence workforce retention and providing health services. As future oral health professionals, it is essential that we get involved in initiatives such as the Youth Hub that allow us to connect with youth from other sectors to contribute to solving workforce issues and take an active role in preventing a severe shortfall of health workers.

Interprofessional teams in healthcare is the key towards patient-centered care and the core element of primary health care. Currently, essential oral care is not included to PHC in most countries, therefore, contributing negatively to the already severely unequal distribution and lack of access to oral care. Based on the definition of UHC, all communities worldwide should receive the health services they need without facing financial hardship. In most lower-middle income countries, vast population groups have no oral care service providers or they lack access to them. In most middle and high-income countries, patients face a financial barrier in access to dental care. These are issues that influence all future dentists, all members of IADS. All countries have problems in context to providing dental care. To achieve optimal oral care to all population groups worldwide, dentists need to work interprofessionally in teams with other healthcare providers. Platforms of engagement that IADS provides such as the World Health Students Alliance and the WHO Youth Hub and others give dental students the opportunity to engage with medical, nursing, veterinary, pharmacy, etc students on local levels to shape the future of health and make the lives of their communities better. It is important for us as dental students to understand that the dentistry of tomorrow stands for global health and collaborates with various sectors involved in healthcare. In order to be knowledgeable about the future, a new generation of dentists will be needed to pave the road. This includes new educational and training models, integration of oral care to primary health care and lowering the burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) through a common risk factor approach.
Under the thematic approach of ‘Shaping the Future of Dental Education’, the third ADEE/ADEA joint meeting took place this April in Brescia, northern Italy. The congress brought together dental educators worldwide to discuss the current state of dental education, share best practices and look into the future of shaping competent dentists globally.

The EDSA President Alyette GREIVELDINGER and General Secretary Tin CRNIC and the IADS President Ave POLD and General Secretary Abanob YOSRY were present representing the leading youth organizations in dentistry.
The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and the Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE) are two of the biggest associations working on dental education and professional competency. As IADS is aligning an extensive part of its work also to dental education and especially public health oriented competencies, a strong collaboration with both the American and European educators is relevant for us. This term, IADS organized the first panel discussion on Dental Education in the history of our organization with well-known specialists in dental public health participating. The President of the ADEE was also participating as a panelist in our session. A second landmark this year was the survey on “Global Oral Health” in dental undergraduate curricula that was conducted among IADS members. It evaluated the current knowledge and motivation of dental students worldwide regarding global health during their undergraduate studies. This survey received 500 replies from 61 countries and will be used to shape future policy areas relevant to the members of IADS, also involves and introduces the needed reforms in dental education to students and motivates them to conduct research on competencies of graduating dentists relevant on both national and global levels.

**Sessions from “Shaping the Future of Dental Education”**

An introductory keynote lecture was delivered by the WHO Chief Dental Officer, Dr. Benoit VARENNE on the WHO Global Oral Health Programme and dentistry in context with the global health agenda and key policy areas such as Universal Health Coverage and Sustainable Development Goals. This presentation targeted the key advocacy areas IADS is also working on and further confirmed the need for providing dental students with global health competencies already during their undergraduate training.

The congress featured workshops on 4 main pillars identified essential for shaping dental education:

1. Assessment in Competency-based Education
2. Engaging with Global Networking to enable global oral health
3. Interprofessional education
4. The impact of scientific technologies and new discoveries on oral health globally

The workshops gave an insight to how dental educators are practically teaching the before mentioned 4 key elements, what are the challenges and potential best methods for building competencies in future dentists. The areas most aligning with the work of IADS were “Global Networking” and “Interprofessional education.” The long-time partnership IADS has with other student healthcare organizations such as IFMSA and IPSF contributes to interprofessional collaboration and aims to encourage IPE on local and national level. Various workshops addressed the issue of a great need for dental professionals to start working in teams with others in healthcare to achieve patient-centered care.

The workshop on “Global networking” targeted creating strong networks of collaboration to advance dental education worldwide. Participants shared best practices of global networking and commented on future areas of collaboration. IADS emphasized to the educators present on the need to start collaborating more with youth organizations, also sharing information about projects such as voluntary work programmes, that would contribute to building global competencies of dental students worldwide.

The annual congress of ADEE will take place in August in Berlin together with the yearly meeting of EDSA. IADS will be sending representatives to both events to continue collaboration for shaping a future of competent and progressive dentists worldwide.