A photo says a thousand words
Elaine Halley speaks about early mornings, comments, and those all-important clinical cases

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Meanwhile, while I have been away, email alerts to tell me the remaining clinical cases from Unit 5 (Anterior Aesthetics) have been marked have been coming in thick and fast. This has been driving me mad as it costs me considerably in roaming charges to access the internet on my iPhone to log in and get the results. However, patience has never been my strong point and so I have succumbed to finding out. Luckily, all good so far. The examiners comments have been interesting and it again is probably a sign of my personality (control freak, used to being the boss etc) that it is just as well the examiners are anonymous, as I disagree with a few comments and if I knew who it was I would be on the phone! I have also ‘tested’ the system somewhat by sending in different case outcomes – some I would be proud to present in a lecture, others that were a compromise in some form or another. Notably, my Class III composite case I sent in a phobic patient with a high caries rate where the result was not aesthetically perfect in the first attempt. My justification in the write-up was noted and I gained a good mark. The key, as in so many exam processes, is in the photography. Good photography seems to allow the examiners to see every detail of the case.

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The other thing I have missed since being away is all of unit 5 (Complex Treatment) – and it seems that the level of lectures has increased dramatically. Again, a criticism is the short notice of the exact dates and times of the lectures. I am sure that Smile-On will sort this out – but it is frustrating as time could be blocked out to watch and participate live – but less than a week and it is impossible!

So I am looking forward on my return to some more early mornings stints to catch up on hours of lectures on how to assess the complexity of a case, biological aspects of tooth loss, oral medicine update, diagnosis, treatment planning and letter writing plus consent, and the pathology of tooth loss, oral medicine update, diagnosis, treatment planning and letter writing plus consent, and medical emergencies. And I’m sure I saw something about an assignment due on the 7th May. Oh yes, and less than four weeks to go before I plan to run the Edinburgh Marathon – yes, and less than four weeks to go before I plan to run the Edinburgh Marathon – but less than a week and it is impossible!

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