Colourful perception and 50 shades of grey
Ken Harris provides a colourful update on the MSc

Well, six months have passed in the blink of an eye... and I don’t feel a day older. However, I have recently been forced to face up to reality as Smile-on has posted mug shots of all the MSc delegates on the website. I’m told you are getting older when the policemen look young, but what about the dentists, they all look so young! Wonder what they think of me?

Anyway, we’ve picked up speed since first embarking upon the joys of dental anatomy back in January, sprinting headlong through patient communication and management issues, and galloping ever onwards towards treatment planning, with a necessary genuflection at the altar of informed consent and legal matters. Consequently we’ve landed with an almighty bump of our clinical skills, showing off our clinical skills nowhere to hide; especially in the shape of our first clinical case reports, and there is nowhere to hide; especially with our new found dental photography skills.

However, before the diamond hits the enamel, I must tell you that as a finale to module two we have had to write our first proper essay. It’s been 50 years since I last penned 1,500 words to this standard, and I must admit that I have felt the ominous spectre of “academic writing” seeking me like the eye of Mordor, since I began this course. I faced the task with much trepidation, but I was determined not to let it devour me whole. Yes, perhaps I have been reading a little too much epic poetry of late; apologies folks! Anyway after numerous false starts, I managed to stop eating the lotus flowers and began upon my own epic essay. After avoiding Scylla & Charybdis, sidestepping the Cyclops, and getting an earful of the Sirens’ seductive song along the way, I finally made it home to Ithaca. Thankfully, my own personal Odyssey (odd essay?) did not take me 10 years, but it certainly took me a lot longer than I expected. We had to send in our completed manuscripts via the internet, and I suspect I was not the only one sweating over a hot laptop at two minutes to midnight on deadline day!

The webinars have still been coming fast and loose. Some good, and some not so good, but all have to be watched and inwardly digested as our “attendance” at these virtual lectures is strictly monitored by our tutors, and rightly so. Nevertheless, the sheer volume of work has made it tempting to perhaps cut a few corners and maybe miss out some lectures along the way. However, I can still hear the stern words of my old schoolmasters ringing in my ears; “remember, when you cheat you are only cheating yourself… now bend over Harris…” Somebody wake me, please!!!

Dr Gregory Brambilla is a clinician whose work I have been reading a little too much about “Advanced Anterior composite Techniques”. Does it get much better than this? Except perhaps a week in Brazil… (apologies Newton!!)

Anyway, tomorrow morning I have to place an all-ceramic crown on a root filled upper central incisor. The problem is with the root shade exhibiting 50 shades of grey, my nurse has suggested I need to be seriously disciplined, ooh-er missus! I don’t think she’s been reading Greek epic!!

Having trouble with 50 shades of root grey?

About the author
Ken Harris graduated from the dental school of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1982 and passed FDSRCS (Edin) in 1986. He maintains a fully private practice with branches in Sunderland and Newcastle upon Tyne specialising in complex dental reconstruction cases based upon sound treatment planning protocols. He is one of only two accredited Fellows of BACD, holds full membership of BAAD and remains a sustaining member of ACDG. He is currently UK Clinical Director for the California Center for Advanced Dental Studies and the only UK Graduate and Mentor of the Ken Center in Seattle.