Living in the post-Christmas haze

Elaine Halley provides us with an MSc update

This will be my shortest blog to date as it is currently the 3rd January and I am coming out of the post-Christmas haze with the stark realisation of the amount of work I need to cover before the next two deadlines of 17th January and 28th January. The scene at the moment as I have plugged in my laptop to finally face-up to the detail of what I need to accomplish, is that I have a three year old asking me to put the skirts on her Playmobile princesses and a nine year old piano practice to lull me into concentration mode. And it is snowing AGAIN – although not badly, but still a good motivation to stay inside!

So, we have the final assignment of our clinical re-search module to complete. This involves composing a research question, designing a structured search using terms such as Boolean Operators and MeSH terms – I’ll definitely need to refer back to my notes as I think the Christmas port must have deleted the part of my brain which studied that in November! What research question will I come up with? Something to do with bonding I think, maybe even direct dentine bonding as I am such a Magna disciple (or is it groupie?). Or I could do something on bacterial testing in periodontal? The dilemmas continue... somewhere along the line I have to discuss relevant outcome measures and ethical issues so maybe I should start from there and work back? Oh help...

Then there are the final six clinical case studies for module three. I have at least been organised enough to have the cases ready with all the photos uploaded (this takes forever in itself - I’m sure Smile-On will improve this platform for future students) - I only (!) need to write up the case reports - oooops, not quite, I’ve got five but I still need to find someone who needs complex whitening - know anyone with tetracycline staining in Perth? Send them along to me....!

So, Endnote references at the ready – here I go... Nothing like starting the New Year with a healthy dose of stress!!

About the author
Elaine Halley BDS DGDip (UK) is the BACD Immediate Past President and the principal of Cherrybank Dental Spa, a private practice in Perth. She is an active member of the AAGD and her main interest is cosmetic and advanced restorative dentistry and she has studied extensively in the United States, Europe and the UK.