Walking in a webinar wonderland
Elaine Halley on deadlines, daughters and the bread-and-butter of dentistry

The time has flown past since my last blog – but I am happy to report that I did manage to get my final six cases for Unit 3 Anterior Aesthetics in and complete on time. This sounds so straightforward when I write it now – and does not reveal the reality which was that despite my best intentions, I was still texting my treatment co-ordinator last Saturday to ask her ‘how do I export the patient chart again?’, and snapping at my family on a Sunday afternoon to the tune of ‘I just need peace to get this DONE...and then I can play with Barbie, test you on your geography and paint your nails (not all the same child I hasten to add)!’ Thank goodness the Six Nations started the following week or I would have had no hope of playing the ‘Go and ask Daddy’ card...

We also had a January deadline for the end of Unit 6, which was a final assignment based around designing a clinical research project. I must admit, that as a general practitioner, I have found the research unit the most interesting but also the most challenging. I particularly found this final assessment to be a challenge – I guess with years of experience and because restorative dentistry is my bread-and-butter, I have plenty to say in the case reports under the ‘discuss your use of materials and justification’, and ‘discuss what could have gone better or you would have done differently’ always leaves me with a torrent of justifications for the end result I see before me.

‘Define your structured search making use of MESH terms and Boolean Operators’ leaves me a little less than verbose. I did try – I went back through my notes, re-listened to webinars but still I found my writing in this area felt a little like my 10-year old daughter's sentence construction. Something along the lines of ‘And then I would...’ being as this counts for 60 per cent of my Unit 6 mark – we’ll have to wait and see!

The web platform now lets us keep track of our marks across all the completed units. We had our introductory webinar for Unit 4 where the rest of the year was mapped out. Part of the webinar was carried out by Wolfgang Richter who outlined some of the subjects that will be covered under Posterior Aesthetics. Fiona Clarke let us know about some changes to the course – we have four case reports to do in this unit which are not due in until September, but need a 500-word ‘defence’ in addition to our case reports. There was something about a complex case with 1,000 words to write but all will be revealed at the next residential in June. Eddie Scher is heading that up so should be good – but a few webinars to get through first. Posterior aesthetics – both direct and indirect. Luckily, I have just taken bitewings for a team member who shall remain nameless – and I may be able to get two or even three posterior quadrants of restorative work from her!!

We haven’t had a webinar for several months – I knew I was missing something in my life...!