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 research 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 Magne disciple (or is it groupie?). Or I could do something on bacterial testing in perio? 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 – oops, 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!!