British Columbia awaits ... The Pacific Dental Conference (PDC) in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, expects some 12,000 attendees, but may very well exceed this figure from last year. The PDC is fast becoming the most recognized dental conference in Canada by attendees, exhibitors and speakers. This year’s program boasts 138 speakers, so we’d be willing to bet you’ll find a lecture on a topic that interests you.

Dentists at risk for hearing loss

By Fred Michmershuizen, Online Editor

Everyone knows there are certain jobs that carry a risk for loss of hearing. Rock musicians come immediately to mind. So do construction workers who use jackhammers. And don’t forget the people who use those yellow flashlights to direct planes at airports. According to a recent study, dentists can also consider themselves among those at risk for ear trouble.

Most individuals would not consider a dental office to be a place where noise is a problem, but the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) warns that any workers exposed to noise levels in excess of 85 decibels are at risk.

The exposure to continuous high frequencies from a dental drill can degrade one’s hearing. According to the experts, dental professionals should use protective hearing...