This month’s special theme is hearing loss: building capacity for a public health response. In editorials, Adrian C Davis & Howard J Hoffman (646) call attention to an increased global prevalence and incidence of hearing loss. Shelly Chadha et al. (647) examine health system requirements for hearing care services.

Gary Humphreys (650–651) reports on efforts to reduce noise exposure in the workplace. Bolajoko Olusanya talks to Sophie Cousins (652–653) about her experience with a late diagnosis of hearing impairment, and her efforts to improve the hearing care provided to children in Nigeria.