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FOCUS medical conference in Dubai reveals advances in macular edema treatment

Nearly 450 ophthalmology experts from 14 countries took part in FOCUS, a lynchpin regional conference hosted by the pharmaceutical division of Bayer Middle East in Dubai from 4-5 November. Participants discussed advances in treating diabetic retinopathy (DR) and diabetic macular edema (DME), a complication of diabetes that can lead to vision impairment and blindness, and which affect nearly one-third of an estimated 422 million people with diabetes worldwide.

Bayer Middle East hosts FOCUS annually, bringing together renowned international and regional ophthalmologists to share experiences and join forces to improve treatment of retinal diseases, and DME in particular.

"Diabetes is a major public health crisis affecting nearly 8 million Egyptians, a number projected to grow to 12 million by 2035. With the increasing prevalence of diabetes, DR and DME are emerging as a leading cause of avoidable blindness among the working age population," said Dr Salah Shelbaya, Professor of Endocrinology at Ain Shams University.

According to Dr Shelbaya: "Every person with diabetes is at risk of developing DR. Approximately 35% of people living with diabetes have some degree of DR and 1 in 10 will develop a vision threatening form of the disease."