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Baheya Cancer hospital celebrated the conclusion of a ground-breaking cancer patient psychosocial support training, recognising efforts of 20 volunteers in the programme launched in April 2016 in partnership with the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) and Novartis Egypt. The first of its kind to offer psychological support, the programme also provides in-hospital entertainment to improve patients' morale. Training sessions prepare specialists to motivate patients to start treatment without fear or hesitation; thereby, increasing their chances of a rapid and positive response.

"Ten months of work have cul-



minated today as we conclude this training enabling specialists to better help cancer patients. Their improved morale support skills allow them to effectively take over the job from the ERC team. Research has demonstrated that psychosocial support can cut

mortality rates by up to 50%, encouraging Baheya and its programme partners to transform it into an integral element of comprehensive treatment strategies," said Dr Ahmed Hassan Abdel Aziz, head of the Oncology Division at Baheya hospital.