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Anti-heart disease campaign launched

THE Magdi Yacoub Heart Foundation, in collaboration with the Egyptian Association for Care of Heart Failure Patients (EACHP), the Egyptian Society of Cardiology (EgSC) and a pharmaceutical company have launched a nationwide campaign entitled "Love life." It aims at highlighting heart failure disease and the latest therapeutic developments.

The campaign created a new hope in patients with heart failure for a better life, in addition to encouraging their caregivers to discuss symptoms with the doctors so that heart failure does not hinder patients from living a normal life.

Sir Magdi Yacoub, Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at London's Imperial College, said heart failure still spreads relentlessly and understanding the

causes of this has contributed to managing the disease effectively.

According to Dr Mohamed Sobhi, Professor of Cardiology, Alexandria University, heart failure is a major global problem. Sixty million people worldwide suffer from this disease. Heart failure is a more serious issue than several kinds of cancer due to the nature of the disease which rapidly progresses. About 50 per cent of patients suffering from heart failure die five years after diagnosis.

In addition, the patient's condition requires his or her going to hospital frequently, representing a substantial economic burden and has a detrimental effect on quality of life. Dr Sameh Shahin, Professor of Cardiology, Ain Shams University noted that about 63 per cent of patients

afflicted with heart failure suffer from depression so caregivers can play an essential role in improving the patients' life.

He added that most patients in Egypt have no idea about their state and wrongly think that heart failure happens as a result of ageing. So, doctors help patients to understand their sickness and teach them how to manage the condition. The conference announced the appearance of a new drug, Sacubitril, which showed an improvement in the treatment of heart failure. The drug is used alongside existing medications to lower mortality rates and improve the quality of life by up to 20 per cent for some patients, according to Dr Hossam Kandil, Professor of Cardiology, Cairo University.