

News Release

European DR Barometer workshop champions multi-disciplinary collaboration to create patient-centered solutions for those living with diabetic eye disease

[Toronto, 1 October, 2018]: Some 70 experts including primary care physicians, diabetologists, ophthalmologists, patient groups and non-government organizations (NGOs), from 14 countries, came together on 14-15 September 2018 in Milan, Italy, to discuss the urgent need to implement clear educational and treatment care pathways within health systems for adults with diabetes at risk of diabetic eye disease. Prevention of unnecessary loss of vision associated with diabetes is vital to the lives of hundreds of millions of people around the world.

Hosted by the International Federation on Ageing (IFA) and Bayer in collaboration with the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), and the Vision Academy, participants at the 'Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) Barometer' European Advocacy Workshop discussed how to improve screening and diagnosis; treatment goals and recent advances in treatment; the impact of an ageing population associated with diabetes-related vision loss; the value of patient education and empowerment; achieving patient-centred care; uptake of guidelines and protocols; and moving forward with a multi-disciplinary approach, for improved patient outcomes.

"It was fascinating to watch a group of people at the front line of daily diabetes care, drawing on their joint experiences to develop new ideas and solutions to meet the common goal of improving their patients' diabetes and the impact it has on their lives," said Bora Eldem, Prof.,MD.,FEBO, Professor of Ophthalmology, Faculty of Medicine, Hacettepe University, Turkey and member of the Vision Academy. "I'm inspired to continue these dialogues with my colleagues as we work towards delivering realistic solutions that will address common issues at a regional level and can also be adapted to meet specific local challenges."

Three Communities of Practice (i.e. patient education and empowerment, guidelines and protocols and coordinate care) serve as the foci for attendees to devise solutions that addressed real-life issues around diabetic retinopathy faced by patients and/ or health care professionals. In a modified



Dragons' Den approach where ideas were 'pitched' and voted upon, nine key initiatives competed for the honour of the most impactful, realistic and scalable.

The DR Barometer program is committed to helping transform the winning initiatives into a real-life solution. "For the first time ever, disciplines from across the health care community and civil society are at the one table agreeing on the problem and making an investment to transform words into collective action for the improvement of patient outcomes in diabetic-related eye complications," said Jane Barratt, Secretary General, IFA. "A unified approach will deliver never before seen outcomes that can be implemented in real-life to enact change in policy and practice."

About the Partners

The International Federation on Ageing (IFA) is an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) with a membership base comprising government, NGOs, industry, academia and individuals in 70 countries. IFA is a voice alongside and on behalf of older adults globally and has General Consultative Status at the United Nations and its agencies including the World Health Organization. For further information visit: <https://www.ifa-fiv.org/>.

The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) is the coordinating membership organisation leading international efforts in blindness prevention activities. IAPB's mission is to eliminate the main causes of avoidable blindness and visual impairment by bringing together governments and non-governmental agencies to facilitate the planning, development and implementation of sustainable national eye care programmes. For more information, please visit: <http://www.iapb.org>.

The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) is an umbrella organisation of over 230 national diabetes associations in 170 countries and territories. It represents the interests of the growing number of people with diabetes and those at risk. The Federation has been leading the global diabetes community since 1950. For further information visit: <http://www.idf.org/>.

The Vision Academy comprises an international group of more than 80 experts worldwide. Through their collective expertise, the Vision Academy seeks to provide guidance for best clinical practice in the management of retinal disease, particularly in areas with insufficient conclusive evidence. The Vision Academy is sponsored by Bayer. For more information visit: <https://www.visionacademy.org/>



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