

AMD TechTrax

St. Paul, MN (May 20, 2008) –To address growing vision impairment caused by age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO®) established the program, *AMD TechTrax*®. The program, in collaboration with Focus-ED, a Florida-based continuing medical education company, will be available with the support of an unrestricted educational grant from Genentech at select regional continuing education (CE) events for ophthalmic medical personnel (OMP). *AMD TechTrax* is a forum for OMP to earn CE credit and to discuss and learn innovative problem solving ideas specific to retina and AMD.

According to 2007 statistics published by the Macular Degeneration Partnership (MDP), AMD currently affects as many as 15 million Americans. MDP currently cites the disease as the number one cause of severe vision loss and legal blindness in adults over the age of 60 in the U.S. In the field of ophthalmology, the disease is generating attention as the number of Americans entering this high risk demographic continues to swell. Estimates point to a virtual epidemic on the horizon with 35% of people aged 75 years or older currently affected by the disease.

JCAHPO leadership anticipates *AMD TechTrax* to help educate and foster discussion of AMD by getting assistants and technicians trained and informed. “As a result of the increasing senior population, AMD is rapidly becoming a prevalent disorder in ophthalmology,” says JCAHPO President Dr. William F. Astle. “We feel it is essential that our personnel be prepared to assist the ophthalmologist in treating the disease and properly educating patients.”

AMD TechTrax will be featured at select JCAHPO sponsored continuing education events across the country and will offer ophthalmic personnel the opportunity to earn credit while participating in an important field discussion. Together with Focus-ED, JCAHPO has organized leading ophthalmic professionals to lecture on a variety of AMD specific issues including: imaging, current and future treatments, current clinical trials, therapies, logistics and preparation of treatment, post-operative side effects, patient follow-up, and patient support.

AMD TechTrax is designed for technicians, medical assistants, and ophthalmic photographers, and is appropriate for all experience levels. For information on program availability at regional continuing education events in your area, visit www.jcahpo.org, or call 1-800-284-3937, or email info@focus-ed.net.