



Critical Health Presents Innovative Diabetic Retinopathy Progression Biomarker at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology

At the PAAO/AAO Joint Meeting, Critical Health (Booth 4342-4344) Showcases the RetmarkerDR, a Breakthrough in Predicting Diabetic Retinopathy Progression

Coimbra, Portugal, October, 21th, 2009 – Critical Health will be showcasing the **RetmarkerDR**, an innovative Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) progression biomarker software at the upcoming 2009 Joint Meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and Pan-American Academy of Ophthalmology (PAAO), that will be held October 23 – 27, in San Francisco, CA.

Critical Health (booth 4342-4344) is a leading provider of innovative products that help prevent the loss of vision, mobility and cognitive skills in an ageing population. The RetmarkerDR software solution is a breakthrough in predicting Diabetic Retinopathy progression from a Nonproliferative stage to Clinically Significant Macular Edema (CSME), a sight-threatening stage.

The solution, developed in partnership with the leading research institute AIBILI (Association for Biomedical Research and Innovation in Light and Image), is based on the latest research on Microaneurysm Turnover, a new biomarker for Diabetic Retinopathy progression. It is scheduled to become available in the US market in early 2010.

Also at the PAAO/AAO Joint Meeting, Professor Cunha-Vaz from AIBILI, will be presenting new research results that support this breakthrough in predicting Diabetic Retinopathy progression. The presentation is part of the “Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis Symposium: Current Concepts for Management of Diabetic Retinopathy” and will take place at 10am of October 25th, at WEST 3011. Professor Cunha-Vaz, will be presenting “Biomarkers for Progression of Early Retinopathy”.

The **RetmarkerDR** solution underlying approach is supported by recent leading edge research being presented by AIBILI at the most important scientific forums. “*According to our research, where we analysed different type 2 diabetic patients with nonproliferative retinopathy, Microaneurysm Turnover was a key factor for the classification in different phenotypes and appears to be a good predictor of progression to Clinically Significant Macular Edema (CSME)*”. Stated Professor Conceição Lobo, leading ophthalmologist and researcher from the University Hospital of Coimbra.



Recently, two scientific papers supporting the **RetmarkerDR** technology were published in the Ophthalmologica magazine and posters were presented at ARVO, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA. The main conclusions of these studies are: Microaneurysm Turnover (more than just MA count) is a key indicator for the progression of Diabetic Retinopathy; **RetmarkerDR** is a reliable software tool which can be used to capture the MA turnover in the initial stages of DR.

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About Critical Health

*Critical Health (www.critical-health.com) is a leading provider of innovative products that help prevent the loss of vision, mobility and cognitive skills in an ageing population. Critical Health's first solution is the Retmarker, available in two product versions. **RetmarkerC** provides a quick assessment of retinal changes over time and **RetmarkerDR** enables ophthalmologists to manage diabetic retinopathy progression.*

Critical Health is a spin-off of Critical Software's healthcare technology division. Critical Software (www.critical-software.com) is a successful European IT services company specializing in business and mission critical systems for defense, aerospace and telecommunications with solid reputation for software reliability (CMMI-3, ISO9001 Tick-It, Spice). Critical Health innovative solutions are driven by key partnerships with prestigious universities, hospitals and scientific institutions. For more information: info-cht@critical-health.com

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