Appointment of Lance Leopold, M.D., as Vice-President of Clinical Development

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Lance Leopold, MD, has joined Ascenta Therapeutics, Inc., as Vice-President of Clinical Development.

Dr. Leopold, a board certified oncologist and hematologist, comes to Ascenta after several years at GlaxoSmithKline, where he had responsibilities for solid tumor clinical development programs involving both traditional chemotherapeutics and targeted agents. Prior to GSK, Dr. Leopold was at Wyeth for 3 years, where he was part of the core team that supported the Mylotarg NDA and post-approval studies.

"I am excited to be joining a top-tier company like Ascenta that is at the forefront of oncology drug development," Dr. Leopold said. "AT-101 is the only oral pan-Bcl-2 inhibitor in development, and Ascenta's other innovative, next-generation compounds are moving rapidly towards the clinic. I look forward to working with the Ascenta team to move these compounds forward towards approval."

"We are delighted to have such a strong clinical development executive as Lance join Ascenta. He is a great addition to our oncology-focused development group as we advance AT-101 and other emerging therapeutic candidates in our pipeline", said Chief Medical Officer Dr. Jon T. Holmlund.

Dr. Leopold began his research career at Temple Cancer Center and the Fels Institute for Cancer Research developing antisense and ribozyme-based therapies for chronic myelogenous leukemia.

A recipient of an ASCO Young Investigator Award and Career Development Award, Dr. Leopold received his medical school training at University of Virginia and Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. He completed his internal medicine, medical oncology, and hematology training at Temple University and Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, PA.

Founded in 2003, Ascenta is a privately-held biopharmaceutical company that discovers and develops targeted new medicines for the treatment of cancer. The company has offices in San Diego, California and a preclinical research facility in Shanghai, China. Its technology is focused on discovering molecules that hit vulnerable targets in endogenous apoptosis pathways and shut down cell growth and proliferation in cancer cells. Ascenta's broad pipeline of compounds is licensed from both the National Institutes of Health and the laboratory of Dr. Shaomeng Wang at the University of Michigan.