

Appointment of Dajun Yang, M.D., Ph.D., as Vice-President of Research of Ascenta Therapeutics

SAN DIEGO, CA, March 1, 2004

Dajun Yang, MD, PhD, has joined Ascenta Therapeutics, Inc., as Vice President of Research. Dr. Yang co-founded Ascenta with Drs. Marc Lippman and Shaomeng Wang at the University of Michigan, where he was an Associate Professor of Internal Medicine in the Comprehensive Cancer Center. He now brings his nearly twenty years of academic cancer research experience to lead the Research programs of Ascenta. In 1983, Dr. Yang obtained his Medical Degree from Sun Yat-sen University of Medical Sciences (SUMS), and then pursued a Masters of Medicine in Oncology that was completed in 1986 from the SUMS Cancer Center in China. He then emigrated to the United States to continue his research. He received his PhD in Genetics from Michigan State University in 1992, where he continued there for postdoctoral training in the Carcinogenesis Laboratory. In 1993, he moved to Georgetown to the Lombardi Cancer Center as a SPORE (Specialized Program of Research Excellence) postdoctoral fellow in breast cancer. In 1995, he joined the Georgetown University Medical Center (GUMC) as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and a Senior Investigator in the Lombardi Cancer Center. He became an assistant professor in the Department of Oncology and member of the Lombardi Cancer Center in 1999, where he was promoted to Associate Professor in 2001.

Link to more detailed bio [here](#).

Founded in 2003, Ascenta is a privately-held biopharmaceutical company that discovers and develops targeted new medicines for the treatment of cancer, and is headquartered in San Diego, CA. Ascenta's 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.