

Ascenta Therapeutics Leaders Participate in Shanghai's Bio-Forum Conference

SHANGHAI , China, April 27, 2005

Mel Sorensen, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ascenta Therapeutics and Dajun Yang, MD, PhD, Vice-President of Research and a co-founder of Ascenta, participated in the Shanghai Municipality's Bio-Forum conference at the Galaxy Hotel in Shanghai, China. Also participating was Michael Powell, PhD, a Board member of Ascenta and Managing Director of Sofinnova Ventures in San Francisco.

- Dr. Mel Sorensen gave a lecture on "Novel Cancer Therapeutics: Targeting Signal Transduction and Triggering Apoptosis" He shared a top-line view of the company's lead product, AT-101, and its pipeline.
- Dr. Dajun Yang is a member of the Expert Committee of the conference. He moderated Session 3 on "Biotechnology and Medicine Innovation", which focused on the application of new technologies to advancing therapeutics.
- Dr. Michael Powell participated in the Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Entrepreneurs Summit (Session 1) and gave a presentation on "Investment Opportunities and Development Strategies for the Global Biopharmaceutical Industry".
- Following the Bio-Forum, the Ascenta delegation held several meetings with Chinese companies and government and academic representatives in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Beijing in preparation for opening an R&D center in Shanghai's Zhangjiang High-Tech Park in the Pu-Dong district. Ascenta expects to open this center in the fall of 2005.

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.