

## **Dajun Yang, MD, PhD of Ascenta Therapeutics Presents Award at 11th Annual Chinese Biopharmaceutical Association Conference**

**ROCKVILLE, MD, May 13, 2006**

Dajun Yang, MD, PhD, Vice President of Research and General Manager, Ascenta Shanghai presented the 2006 CBA Brilliant Achievement Award to Dr. Paul Schimmel today at the 11th Chinese Biopharmaceutical Association (CBA) Annual Conference held in Rockville, Maryland. The recipient of last year's CBA Brilliant Achievement Award was Mr. Fred Frank, Vice Chairman and a Director of Lehman Brothers Inc.

Established in 1995, the majority of CBA members are Chinese scientists, researchers, and professors working in government agencies, universities, research institutes, and the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. Dr. Yang is CBA President.

Dr. Schimmel is Ernest and Jean Hahn Professor of Molecular Biology and Chemistry at the Skaggs Institute for Chemical Biology at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California. Dr. Schimmel's laboratory focuses on structure-function relationships of aminoacyl tRNA synthetase enzymes, proteins critical to cellular protein synthesis. His laboratory has also elucidated the roles these enzymes play in signal transduction as it relates to angiogenesis and other biological processes. Therapeutic candidates stemming from this work were part of the portfolio held by Angiosyn, a company in La Jolla that was founded in mid 2003 and purchased by Pfizer in 2005 for an aggregate price of \$527 MM.

This meeting highlighted some of the recent changes in the pharmaceutical industry that touch upon the rapidly growing Chinese pharmaceutical services sector, and Dr. Schimmel spoke on both the history of biotechnology and future directions of the industry. In addition to his plenary speech, other speakers touched upon significant changes in the biotechnology industry, including current strategies of vaccine development, generic biologics, new FDA guidelines in clinical development and the growing globalization of the pharmaceutical development services market. "We are honored to present Dr. Schimmel with this award for his outstanding contributions to the pharmaceutical sciences", said Dr. Yang. "I am very pleased to serve as President of the CBA, an institution whose profile is increasing in visibility as China and Chinese-American scientists play greater and greater roles in pharmaceutical development - an industry that is truly international."

*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.*