

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **ASCENTA THERAPEUTICS ANNOUNCES MULTIPLE PRESENTATIONS ON AT-101 AT 2009 ASCO ANNUAL MEETING**

MALVERN, PENNSYLVANIA – May 26, 2009 – Ascenta Therapeutics announced today that eleven presentations or publications on pre-clinical and clinical studies of AT-101, an oral, pan-Bcl-2 inhibitor, in several major tumor types will be made during the 2009 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting, May 29-June 2, in Orlando, Florida. Abstracts are available at [www.asco.org](http://www.asco.org).

#### **Prostate Cancer**

MacVicar G, et al. An open-label, multicenter, phase I/II study of AT-101 in combination with docetaxel (D) and prednisone (P) in men with castrate resistant prostate cancer (CRPC). Abstract #5062; Poster Board #17; Poster Discussion, May 31, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Poiesz B, et al. Preliminary report of an open-label, multicenter, phase I/II study of AT-101 in combination with docetaxel (D) and prednisone (P) in men with docetaxel refractory prostate cancer. Abstract #5145; Poster Board #J13; GU General Poster Session, May 31, 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

#### **Glioma**

Fiveash J, et al. NABT-0702: A phase II study of AT-101 in recurrent glioblastoma multiforme (GBM). Abstract #2010; Poster Board #2; Poster Discussion, May 30, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

#### **Lung Cancer**

Heist R, et al. A phase I/II study of AT-101 in combination with topotecan (T) in patients with relapsed or refractory small cell lung cancer (SCLC) after prior platinum containing first line chemotherapy. Abstract #8106; Poster Board #R14; Lung Cancer – Metastatic, May 30, 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Ready N, et al. AT-101 or placebo (P) with docetaxel (D) in second line NSCLC with gene signature biomarker development. Abstract #3577; Poster Board #J19; Developmental Therapeutics, May 30, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Min P, et al. Small molecule pan-bcl-2 inhibitor AT-101 induces apoptosis in NSCLC by upregulating noxa and enhances antitumor activity of docetaxel or targeted kinase inhibitors. Abstract #e14591; Publication only.

#### **Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma**

Kingsley E, et al. An open-label, multicenter, phase II study of AT-101 in combination with rituximab (R) in patients with untreated, grade I-II, follicular Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (FL).

Abstract #8582; Poster Board #S11; Lymphoma and Plasma Cell Disorders, May 30, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### **Advanced Cancers**

Leal TB, et al. A phase I study of AT-101 in combination with cisplatin (P) and etoposide (E) in patients with advanced solid tumors and extensive-stage small cell lung cancer (ES-SCLC). Abstract #e13502; Publication only.

Saleh M, et al. Extended phase I trial of the oral pan-Bcl-2 inhibitor AT-101 by multiple dosing schedules in patients with advanced cancers. Abstract #e14537; Publication only.

### **Mechanism of Action/Pharmacokinetics**

Wang S, et al. AT-101 induces transcriptional up-regulation of Noxa and Puma and overcomes Mcl-1-mediated cancer cell resistance to apoptosis. Abstract # e14611; Publication only.

Pitot H, et al. Analysis of a phase I pharmacokinetic (PK)/food effect study of AT-101 in patients with advanced solid tumors. Abstract #2557; Poster Board #B18; Developmental Therapeutics, May 30, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

### **About AT-101**

AT-101 is an orally-active, pan-Bcl-2 inhibitor (including Bcl-2, Bcl-xL, Bcl-w, and Mcl-1 inhibition) that has been shown to induce apoptosis directly by operating as a BH3 mimetic and indirectly as an independent upregulator of Noxa and Puma. By blocking the binding of Bcl-2 family members with proapoptotic proteins and upregulating specific proapoptotic factors, AT-101 lowers the threshold for cancer cells to undergo apoptosis in various tumor types. In Phase I and Phase II trials, AT-101 has demonstrated single-agent cytoreductive activity in several cancers, including chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), non-Hodgkins lymphoma (NHL), and prostate cancer. Phase II combination trials are ongoing in several cancers, including hormone-refractory prostate cancer and non-small cell lung cancer (with Taxotere<sup>®</sup>), B-cell malignancies (with Rituxan<sup>®</sup>), small cell lung cancer (with Hycamtin<sup>®</sup>), glioma (with Temodar<sup>®</sup>, +/- chemoradiotherapy [XRT]) and esophageal cancer (with docetaxel, 5-fluorouracil and XRT).

### **About Ascenta Therapeutics**

Ascenta Therapeutics, Inc. is a privately-held, clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company that discovers and develops new medicines for the treatment of cancer. The company is headquartered in Malvern, Pennsylvania, and has a preclinical research facility in Shanghai, China. Its technology, licensed from both the National Institutes of Health and the laboratory of Dr. Shaomeng Wang at the University of Michigan, is focused on discovering molecules that restore the natural potential for cancer cells to undergo cell death (apoptosis). Ascenta's lead agent, AT-101, is an orally-active small molecule pan Bcl-2 inhibitor (Bcl-2, Bcl-xL, and Mcl-1) currently in Phase 2 clinical trials in castrate resistant prostate cancer. The Company's preclinical pipeline includes the oral multi-IAP antagonist AT-406, and an HDM2-p53 inhibitor program.

For additional information on Ascenta Therapeutics, please visit the company's website at [www.ascenta.com](http://www.ascenta.com)

###

Media Contact:

Mike Beyer, Sam Brown Inc.

(773) 463-4211

beyer@sambrown.com