

Appointment of Three New Vice-Presidents to the Executive Team at Ascenta Therapeutics

SAN DIEGO, CA, June 1, 2005

Ascenta Therapeutics, Inc., a developer of new medicines to treat cancer, today welcomed three new Vice-Presidents to its Executive team: Drs. Ming Guo, Jay Stoudemire and Mark Benedyk. "We welcome these three gentlemen to Ascenta" said Dr. Mel Sorensen, Ascenta's President and CEO, "Their expertise will considerably strengthen the company as it moves its portfolio of compounds through clinical development. Ming Guo, PhD, joined Ascenta as Vice President of Manufacturing. Prior to Ascenta, Dr. Guo was at Pfizer for eight years, where he led all aspects of drug manufacturing activities for multiple clinical development candidates in oncology, metabolic diseases, and infectious diseases. Dr. Guo was an organic chemistry research associate at the University of California at San Diego (UCSD) and the Institute of Materia Medica (IMM) in China and holds a PhD. in Organic Chemistry from UCSD and an MS in Medicinal Chemistry from IMM. His full biography can be found [here](#). John (Jay) Stoudemire, PhD, has joined Ascenta as Vice-President of Preclinical Development. Prior to Ascenta, Dr. Stoudemire was at CovX, where he was led preclinical evaluation of a broad range of novel CovX engineered antibody products. Dr. Stoudemire received his Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of Miami and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Cardiovascular Research Institute at the University of California San Francisco. His full biography can be found [here](#). Mark Benedyk, PhD, has joined Ascenta as Vice President, Intellectual Property and Business Development. Prior to Ascenta, Dr. Benedyk handled intellectual property matters at Optimer Pharmaceuticals and played a critical role in raising their \$24 MM combined C and D financing rounds. Dr. Benedyk received his Ph.D. in Genetics and Developmental Biology from The Rockefeller University, where he was a Lucille P. Markey Graduate Fellow. His B.S. in Microbiology and Botany was received from the University of Michigan. His full biography can be found [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.