

Appointment of J. Mel Sorensen, M.D., as President and Chief Executive Officer of Ascenta Therapeutics

SAN DIEGO, CA, August 16, 2004

Mel Sorensen, MD, has joined Ascenta Therapeutics, Inc., as President and Chief Executive Officer and a Member of the Board of Directors. "I am excited to be joining Ascenta Therapeutics", said Dr. Sorensen, "Ascenta is focused exclusively on developing new cancer therapies, has a special discovery relationship with Dr. Shaomeng Wang's group at the University of Michigan, and has technology aimed at stopping cancer by triggering apoptosis, a very promising area of cancer research today." "Clinical development for this life-threatening multiplicity of diseases we call cancer provides challenges and obstacles unique and distinct from other diseases. I am confident that a company focused exclusively on developing cancer medicines will have an efficiency edge over other models, because of better clinical trial design, smarter decision-making, more relevant procedures and a higher understanding of the needs of patients fighting cancer." Dr. Sorensen has dedicated his career to clinical cancer research since completing his oncology fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in 1988. He spent seven years at the National Cancer Institute as Senior Investigator in the Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program, then eight years in senior level positions in large pharmaceutical companies, managing clinical development teams of many drugs from Phase I through registration and beyond. Most recently, Dr. Sorensen was at GlaxoSmithKline as Vice-President, Global Leader and North American Head for Oncology Clinical Development and Medical Affairs.

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.