

Appointment of Craig Kussman, MBA, as Chief Financial Officer of Ascenta Therapeutics

SAN DIEGO, CA, September 18, 2006

Craig Kussman, MBA, joins Ascenta Therapeutics, Inc., as Chief Financial Officer. "I am excited to be joining Ascenta Therapeutics", said Mr. Kussman, "Ascenta has several of the hallmarks of a successful biotech company: a great management team, a uniquely efficient business model and a portfolio of cutting-edge apoptosis-triggering compounds." Mr. Kussman comes to Ascenta with an extensive financial, strategic and operational background combined with significant experience in companies ranging in size from large multinational corporations to start-ups in both service and manufacturing environments. He has a broad base of expertise with IPO's, mergers & acquisitions, turn-arounds and high growth companies. After obtaining a Masters of Business Administration at the Wharton School of Business in Philadelphia, Mr. Kussman began his financial career in Manhattan with fourteen years with Dun and Bradstreet, a global leader in business information and consulting. He subsequently held various positions with IMS HEALTH, including Senior Vice President of Corporate Development. Mr. Kussman also served as Vice President of Corporate Development and as Vice President of Mergers and Acquisitions for Cognizant Corporation, and was Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Administrative Officer at SYNAVANT Inc., a provider of customer relationship management solutions to the pharmaceutical industry. Most recently, as Senior Vice President Finance and Administration, Chief Financial and Chief Administrative Officer of Discovery Partners International, Inc., Mr. Kussman successfully shepherded the merger of Discovery Partners with Infinity Pharmaceuticals.

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. The company has offices in San Diego, California and Malvern, Pennsylvania, and a preclinical research facility in Shanghai, China. 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.