

Shaomeng Wang, Ph.D.

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Innovation, Discoveries, and Entrepreneurship

My primary research interest is the discovery and development of novel small-molecule therapeutics for the treatment of human cancer and other diseases and conditions. I have built a comprehensive drug discovery program at the University of Michigan. My research program consists of three research laboratories. Our computational/informatics laboratory has the expertise in lead identification and lead optimization using structure-based methods and informatics. Our Chemistry laboratory has the capability of synthesizing complex small molecule ligands. Our biology/biochemistry/pharmacology laboratory has the capability and expertise for assay development, in-depth molecular mechanism studies in vitro and in vivo and evaluations of the biological activity of our designed compounds in relevant biochemical assays, cellular models and animal models of human cancer, as well as in vivo pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamic analysis of our designed compounds in animal models. We have advanced four novel anticancer drugs into Phase I and Phase II human clinical trials and two additional anticancer drugs into IND-enabling studies. To translate our discoveries into clinical development and commercialization, I have started three U-M start-up companies since 2003 (Ascenta Therapeutics founded in 2003, Ascentage Pharma founded in 2009 and OncoFusion Therapeutics in 2012). Through Ascenta, we advanced three novel anticancer drugs into clinical development and successfully licensed two drugs to pharmaceutical companies for advanced clinical trials and commercialization (Sanofi and DebioPharm). Through Ascentage, we have advanced one drug into clinical trials and three additional compounds into IND-enabling studies. Through OncoFusion Therapeutics, we have successfully licensed one class of drugs to our partner in 2014 for clinical development and commercialization. I have served on the board of directors for Ascenta and as the Chief Scientific Advisor. I currently serve as the Chief Scientific Officer for both Ascentage Pharma and OncoFusion and on the board of directors in both companies.

I am an inventor on 40 issued US patents and a large number of pending patent applications. I have won the 2014 University of Michigan Distinguished Innovator Award and have been elected as the Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors in 2014.

I have been selected to serve as the Therapeutics Champion for Fast Forward Medical Innovation.

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16. Shaomeng Wang, Dongguang Qin, Jiangyong Chen, Shanghai Yu, Indole inhibitors of MDM2 and the uses thereof, US Patent Number 7,737,174, June 15, 2010.
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