Peter Atadja Ph.D.

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Biographic abstract: Born in Ghana, Peter Atadja received the Bachelor of Pharmacy degree Honours from the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana. At the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, he made critical contributions to the pioneering work of his mentors Professors Alex Levitzki and Michael Chorev in the designing and developing of first-generation tyrosine kinase inhibitors (Tyrphostins) for anti-cancer therapy. This work was recognized with his M.Sci. (Magna Cum Laude) in Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry and the Hebrew University's Michael Sherwood Prize for graduate research. Peter Atadja obtained his Ph.D. in Molecular and Cellular Oncology from the University of Calgary, Canada, where his research yielded important fundamental observations in molecular mechanisms of cellular senescence and their linkage with tumor suppressor pathways. His doctoral dissertation was also nominated for two prestigious Canadian research awards (the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Award and the Canadian Graduate Research Award). In 1997, he joined Novartis Pharmaceuticals in New Jersey to work on their efforts to develop drugs that target epigenetic mechanisms for anti-cancer therapy. Peter Atadja's productive research at Novartis has led to the development of LBH589, a histone deacetylase inhibitor that was discovered and developed preclinically in his laboratory, which has shown dramatic responses in cutaneous T-cell lymphoma and is now undergoing further clinical development in additional hematologic and solid malignancies. Peter Atadja is currently a Group Leader and Senior Research Investigator at the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, MA, and has published more then 50 peer reviewed articles, invited reviews and book chapters, and more than 100 abstracts and presentations.

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