



# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ASCENSION ORTHOPEDICS RECEIVES FDA APPROVAL FOR THE ASCENSION<sup>®</sup> PIP PYROCARBON TOTAL JOINT IMPLANT**

**AUSTIN, TX — April 1, 2002:** Ascension Orthopedics, Inc., received FDA approval on March 22, 2002 to market the Ascension<sup>®</sup> PIP PyroCarbon Total Joint within the United States. The Ascension<sup>®</sup> PIP is a Humanitarian Use Device, and marks the second PyroCarbon joint implant developed by Ascension approved for U.S. distribution within the past 4 months.

“This regulatory approval continues to confirm Ascension’s revolutionary technology and will allow us to provide another solution to hand surgeons dealing with patients with debilitating arthritis,” said Tim Seese, President and CEO of Ascension.

The Ascension<sup>®</sup> PIP was developed in collaboration with Robert Beckenbaugh, M.D., of Mayo Clinic, and Professor John Stanley, M.D., of Wrightington Hospital in England. It is a two-component, bi-condylar, semi-constrained total joint prosthesis designed to replace the articulating surfaces of the proximal interphalangeal joint. The device is manufactured from PyroCarbon, a material proven to be strong, durable, wear resistant, and biocompatible in other small joint prostheses. Ascension<sup>®</sup> PIP component stems have an anatomic shape and are designed to be press-fit into the intramedullary canal to achieve fixation by direct implant/bone apposition. Bone cement is not required. Proximal and distal component sizes are interchangeable so that each component can be matched with an opposite component of the same size, one size smaller, or one size larger.

The Ascension<sup>®</sup> PIP has been available in international markets prior to this approval and has gained wide acceptance. The Ascension<sup>®</sup> PIP system provides the surgeon with precise instrumentation and flexible sizing options. Until now, there were limited options to treat patients with arthritis of the PIP joint. The Ascension<sup>®</sup> PIP total joint provides a new option.

Ascension received premarket approval to market the Ascension<sup>®</sup> MCP in the United States on November 19, 2001. The Ascension<sup>®</sup> MCP was the first total joint finger implant of its kind to receive FDA approval.

Ascension Orthopedics, Inc., is dedicated to the research, development, manufacture and distribution of revolutionary PyroCarbon orthopedic implants to replace the small skeletal joints of the hand, upper extremity, and foot. The founders of the company are pioneers in the use of PyroCarbon to combat the debilitating effects of arthritis.

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