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The Jiang-Su algebra is of fundamental importance in Elliott's classification program for separable amenable  $C^*$ -algebras. Attractive presentations of this algebra are therefore of interest. M. Rordam observed that the Jiang-Su algebra would satisfy an interesting universal property if it were true that this algebra always embeds unitaly into a unital  $C^*$ -algebra without finite-dimensional quotients; he asked whether this last statement might be true in 2003. We present a negative answer to his question, even when the target algebra is simple, separable, and amenable. This is joint work with M. Dadarlat, I. Hirshberg, and W. Winter. (Received February 04, 2008)