



Media Release

Formation of Chief Investigators' Group

International Experts in RNAi Therapeutics Join Benitec's Inaugural Chief Investigators Group to Help Deliver Excellence and Innovation Across its Therapeutic Programs

18 February 2011, Melbourne, Australia: Benitec Ltd (ASX: BLT), a world leader in expressed gene silencing for human therapeutics, today announces the formation of the Benitec Chief Investigators' Group (CIG), bringing together the Company's scientific founders with its collaborative partners. The CIG, which replaces Benitec's Scientific Advisory Board, reflects both the collaborative approach to its R&D and the clinical focus of its programs. The founding membership of the CIG includes International experts in the field of RNA interference (RNAi) therapeutics.

The six strong group comprises: Dr Michael Graham (the discoverer of Benitec's RNAi technology); Dr Ken Reed (Benitec founder); Professor John Rossi (City of Hope Cancer Centre, CA, USA); Dr Yorke Zhu (Biomics Biotechnologies, Nantong, China); and Professor Maria Kavallaris (Children's Cancer Institute Australia (CCIA) at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia). Benitec's CEO, Dr Peter French, will chair the group. CIG membership is not a remunerated role.

Benitec's R&D pipeline of human therapeutics are all conducted in collaboration with leading organisations and are focused on the areas of infectious disease and cancer. In infectious disease, a therapeutic for Hepatitis B virus is being developed in collaboration with Biomics Biotechnologies; and a Phase I clinical trial has been completed in HIV with the City of Hope in the USA. In the cancer field, Benitec has a pre-clinical program addressing drug-resistant lung cancer in collaboration with researchers at the CCIA at UNSW; whilst in chronic cancer pain Benitec is contracting with TetraQ at the University of Queensland. This latter program is aimed at developing a single RNAi-based therapy to silence a gene associated with transmission of pain.

Announcing the formation of the group, Dr Peter French, CEO of Benitec said:

"The aim of the CIG is to bring together internationally renowned scientists in the field of RNAi to review the progress of Benitec's R&D programs and to ensure that Benitec's science remains at the cutting edge of the technology. Each member of the CIG is playing an important on-going role in Benitec's development and we are grateful to them for their commitment to ensuring Benitec's programs are scientifically rigorous and robust.

"That Benitec can bring together these scientific leaders is testament to the leading position that Benitec has in the RNAi field and underlines the significance of Benitec's potential to revolutionise human medicine."

It is anticipated that the CIG will meet twice annually with the inaugural meeting planned in Melbourne in May 2011.

For Further Information

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About Benitec

Benitec holds a dominant position in expressed RNA interference (RNAi)-based human therapeutics, with a transformational platform technology supported by a robust and extensive intellectual property portfolio. Benitec is leveraging this platform to develop and build a pipeline of expressed RNAi therapeutics focusing on treatment and alleviation of cancer and infectious disease. With strong global partnerships and committed scientific and clinical investigators, Benitec Ltd aims to deliver a range of novel RNAi-based therapeutics to the clinic in partnership with the pharmaceutical industry.