

## NEWS

### **BENITEC ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF DR. MIKE DALLING TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**March 24, 2006, Mountain View, California** – Benitec Ltd. (ASX: BLT), a leading developer of RNA interference (RNAi)-based therapeutics, is pleased to announce today the appointment of Mike Dalling, Ph.D. to its Board of Directors.

Dr. Dalling has over 20 years' of senior level experience in the biotechnology field. He was formerly Group General Manager – R&D of ASX-listed Nufarm Limited, one of the world's leading crop protection chemicals companies. Prior to joining Nufarm, Dr. Dalling was Managing Director of the Strategic Industry Research Foundation Limited, a joint initiative of the Victorian government and CSIRO. Prior thereto, Dr. Dalling was the founding Managing Director of Calgene Pacific Pty Ltd, which started as an affiliate of the US-based Calgene, Inc. Calgene Pacific was one of Australia's first biotechnology companies. Recently, Dr. Dalling was appointed a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia for service to the biotechnology industry through contributions to research and development organizations and commercialization efforts to benefit Australian companies, producers, and consumers.

Peter Francis, Chairman of Benitec, welcomed Dr. Dalling to the Board, stating "Mike's extensive experience with technology commercialization, in particular biotechnology corporate transactions, will be of great benefit to the Company."

Mike Dalling stated, "I'm delighted to accept the role and look forward to working with the Board and executive team to fully realize the immense potential of Benitec's RNAi technology."

#### **About Benitec**

Benitec is an international biotechnology company focused on developing therapeutics to treat serious diseases using its proprietary RNAi technology. Benitec is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange and has its operations in Mountain View, California, USA. Its lead therapeutic programs are for Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Benitec's RNA-based HIV therapeutic, co-developed with the Center for Biomedicine & Genetics at the City of Hope in Los Angeles, California, will enter Phase I clinical trials in 2006. Benitec's RNAi therapeutic for HCV will enter clinical trials in 2007. For additional information, please visit [www.benitec.com](http://www.benitec.com).

## **Forward-looking Statements**

*This press release contains forward-looking statements that reflect the Companies' current expectations regarding future events. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. Actual events could differ materially from those projected herein and depend on a number of factors including the success of the Companies' research strategy, the applicability of the discoveries made therein, the successful and timely completion of clinical studies and the uncertainties related to the regulatory process.*

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