

NEWS

BENITEC FEATURED ON ABC-TV'S CATALYST

*Science Program Illustrates Medical Impact of Australian
Discovery of ddRNAi*

April 18, 2006, Mountain View, California – Benitec Ltd. (ASX: BLT), a leading developer of RNA interference (RNAi)-based therapeutics, announced today that its groundbreaking technology will be featured on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)-TV's Catalyst (www.abc.net.au/catalyst). "Virus Busters," which airs on Thursday, April 20, 2006 at 8:00 PM AEST, highlights the advances made by Benitec in RNAi therapeutics in the three years since Benitec was last featured on Catalyst.

Sara Cunningham, Benitec CEO, stated, "It's been a pleasure to have the opportunity to present RNAi to a larger audience. We spend much of our time speaking to fellow scientists, pharmaceutical and biotech executives, and investors, so we greatly appreciate the efforts of leading scientific programs like Catalyst to bring medical innovations such as ours to a larger audience, educating the public about revolutionary technologies that have the potential of meeting major unmet medical needs such as Hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS."

In addition to Ms. Cunningham, Catalyst interviewed the inventor of the core patents in Benitec's extensive RNAi portfolio, Mick Graham, Ph.D., as well as several key advisors to Benitec and scientific pioneers in RNAi. Dr. Graham's discovery led to the development of DNA-directed RNAi (ddRNAi), a technology that has transformed basic and applied research in the life sciences, as well as introduced this entirely new class of therapeutics.

Also featured is Mark Kay, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Pediatrics and Genetics at Stanford University, and the Chairman of Benitec's Scientific Advisory Board, in addition to John Rossi, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Molecular Biology at the Beckman Research Institute at City of Hope and Larry Couture, Ph.D., Senior Vice President of the Center for Biomedicine & Genetics, also at City of Hope. Benitec's core clinical program for the treatment of Hepatitis C was built on the extensive work of Dr. Kay, and Benitec, along with City of Hope, have co-developed an AIDS/Lymphoma drug that will enter the clinic later this year.

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.

Forward-looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements that reflect the Companies' current expectations regarding future events. Forward-looking statements necessarily 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 Company's 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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