

NEWS

BENITEC APPOINTS SARA CUNNINGHAM TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

9 February 2005

Sydney, Australia – Benitec, Ltd., (ASX: BLT) announced today that Sara Cunningham has been confirmed as Chief Executive Officer of Benitec Ltd. Sara has agreed to join the Company's board of directors, effective immediately. This appointment expands the Company's board to a total of seven members.

Sara joined Benitec in May 2004 as Chief Operating Officer through its acquisition of Avocel, Inc. She was a co-founder and Vice President, Intellectual Property and Business Development of Avocel. Ms. Cunningham brings over a decade of experience in life science ventures with demonstrated success in both business and technology. Prior to co-founding Avocel, she was Senior Manager of Business Development at B-Bridge International where she was responsible for technology assessment and due diligence of new biotech ventures in Japan as well as for partnering Japanese technologies with US, European, and Asia Pacific companies. Prior to B-Bridge, Ms. Cunningham was Strategic and International Marketing Manager at BD Biosciences Clontech, where she identified and successfully negotiated profitable relationships with key pharmas, as well as achieved significant sales growth for the product areas she co-developed as a scientist.

“ I am delighted to welcome Sara to the Board. She has a great depth of knowledge and the leadership drive that will allow our company to achieve its full potential. Sara has quickly refocused Benitec on drug development and she will ensure that this transition will take place smoothly as we enter the next critical phase of pre-clinical and clinical trials.” Raymond L Whitten, Chairman of the Board, said.

About Benitec

Benitec is an international biotechnology company focused on developing therapeutics to treat serious diseases using its proprietary RNAi technology. Benitec (ASX: BLT) is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange and has its clinical operations centered in the heart of Silicon Valley in Mountain View, California, USA. Its lead therapeutic programs are designed to create novel RNAi-based therapies for the 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 Forward-looking Statements


This press release contains forward-looking statements that reflect the Company's 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 Company's research strategy, the applicability of

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the discoveries made therein, the successful and timely completion of clinical studies and the uncertainties related to the regulatory process.

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