

NEWS

BENITEC LTD. ADDS LEADING HEMATOLOGY RESEARCHER AND FDA ADVISOR TO SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

March 15, 2005

Mountain View, California - Benitec Ltd. (ASX: BLT) announced today the addition of Katherine A. High, M.D., a leading hematology researcher and Advisory Committee member of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), to its Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).

Dr. High is the William H. Bennett Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, an attending physician in the Division of Hematology at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and an Investigator of the prestigious Howard Hughes Medical Institute. She serves on the Advisory Council of the NIH National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. Dr. High is internationally known for her preclinical and clinical studies on gene therapy to replace clotting factors for hemophilia. She is currently President of the American Society of Gene Therapy and is a member of the FDA's Cellular, Tissue and Gene Therapies Advisory Committee (CTGTAC). Dr. High received her M.D. from the University of North Carolina School Of Medicine, and completed her hematology training at Yale University School of Medicine.

Dr. John Rossi, Chair of Benitec's SAB, commented "We welcome Kathy High to Benitec's outstanding team of advisors at a time when the company is planning its transition from preclinical studies to clinical trials in 2006."

Sara Cunningham, CEO of Benitec, stated "We are extremely pleased that Dr. High has joined our SAB. Dr. High has long experience with translational research and the scientific, clinical, and regulatory aspects of drug development."

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 for the Hepatitis C Virus and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Benitec's RNA-based HIV therapeutic, co-developed with the [City of Hope](#) in Los Angeles, California, will enter Phase I clinical trials in 2006. For more information, please visit www.benitec.com.

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia was founded in 1855 as the nation's first pediatric hospital. Through its long-standing commitment to providing exceptional patient care, training new generations of pediatric healthcare professionals and pioneering major research initiatives, Children's Hospital has fostered many discoveries that have benefited children worldwide. Its pediatric research program is among the largest in the country, ranking second in National Institutes of Health funding. In addition, its unique family-centered care and public service



programs have brought the 430-bed hospital recognition as a leading advocate for children and adolescents. For more information, visit www.chop.edu.

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

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