

## EMINENT SCIENTISTS JOIN BENITEC'S SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

### LEADING MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGISTS WILL GUIDE DEVELOPMENT OF DNA-DIRECTED RNAi THERAPEUTICS

April 20, 2004

QUEENSLAND, Australia (April 20, 2004) Benitec Ltd (ASX: BLT) is pleased to announce that two eminent scientists of international standing have joined the Company's Scientific Advisory Board, under the Chairmanship of **Professor John Rossi** of the City of Hope National Medical Center, CA. The two are Professor Cy Stein (NY, USA) and Professor David Engelke (MI, USA), who bring a wealth of RNAi knowledge and experience in the practical use of RNAi against disease targets.

John Rossi said of the appointments, "I am delighted to welcome Professors Stein and Engelke to Benitec's Scientific Advisory Board. With members of this exceptional calibre, Benitec can be sure the SAB will provide the best possible guidance as the Company continues to develop novel therapeutics for serious diseases based on its proprietary DNA-directed RNAi (ddRNAi) technology and to drive these into clinical trials. Between them, these new members have a wealth of knowledge and expertise in cell and molecular biology gained over more than 50 years working in a range of academic and medical settings."

Benitec intends to further expand the SAB through the addition of experts in disease areas in which the Company is developing ddRNAi therapeutics.

The two members joining Benitec's SAB are:

**Professor David Engelke, PhD**, is Director of the Program in Biomedical Sciences at The University of Michigan where he also has an appointment as Professor of Biological Chemistry. Professor Engelke's extensive research and consulting activities stem from his world class expertise in the cellular synthesis, localisation and processing of small RNAs, key among which are the small RNAs that induce RNA interference. Professor Engelke recently edited a definitive textbook on RNAi technologies and is co-editor, with Professor Rossi, of a forthcoming major book on "RNA Interference."

**Professor Cy Stein, MD PhD**, is Head of Medical Genitourinary Oncology and Professor of Medicine, Urology and Molecular Pharmacology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York. He also serves as an Attending Physician at the Montefiore Medical Center and is a Diplomate of nearly 20 years' standing of both the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Oncology. Professor Stein's distinguished career in research and treatment of cancers has seen him involved for the past 15 years with leading preclinical and clinical trials of nucleic acid therapies for cancers, with increasing emphasis in recent years on RNA interference.



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## About Benitec Limited

Benitec Ltd. (ASX: BLT) focuses on developing therapeutics to treat serious diseases and advancing medical research using DNA-directed RNA interference (ddRNAi). Core patents are owned in partnership with CSIRO and Benitec holds exclusive rights for their prosecution and commercialization in the human field. The Company's in-house therapeutic programs cover diseases that can potentially be treated by silencing the expression of one or more genes. These diseases include HIV, hepatitis, autoimmune diseases and cancers.

In parallel, Benitec offers research licenses and product application development to its ddRNAi technology through its strategic licensee and partner, Promega (Madison, WI), revenue from which will support its therapeutic development programs.

*This press release contains forward-looking statements which reflect the Company's current expectation 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.*

## CONTACTS

### **BENITEC, LTD.**

Dr Ken Reed  
+ 61+7+32178540  
+61 407 250 245  
kreed@benitec.com

### **THE RUTH GROUP**

**US Contact:**  
Gregory Tiberend  
+646 536 7005  
gtiberend@theruthgroup.com

### **CITIGATE DEWE ROGERSON**

**UK & Europe contact:**  
Valerie Auffray  
+44 20 7282 2979  
valerie.auffray@citigatedr.co.uk