

## **BENITEC APPOINTS CITIGROUP'S ROB THOMAS AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MAY 7, 2004**

**Queensland, Australia ...** Benitec Ltd (ASX:BLT) today announced the appointment of Mr. Rob Thomas, Chairman Citigroup Global Corporate & Investment Bank, Australia and New Zealand, as a non-executive director and Deputy Chairman of Benitec's Board, chaired by Executive Chairman and CEO Mr. John McKinley.

Mr. Thomas has over 30 years experience in the securities industry. He was Managing Director of County NatWest Securities Australia Limited (CNWSAL) and was ultimately appointed Chief Executive Officer, Australia and New Zealand of Salomon Smith Barney following its acquisition of CNWSAL. Mr. Thomas has been a member of the Securities Institute of Australia since 1976 and was appointed as a Fellow to the Institute in 1997.

John McKinley said, "We are all delighted to welcome Mr. Thomas to the Board of Benitec. Having someone of his stature as Deputy Chairman brings greater independence, strength and credibility to the Board and his particular expertise in global capital markets will be of tremendous assistance to Benitec as it expands first into the USA and then on a worldwide basis. We look forward to working with Rob in this exciting period of Benitec's development."

### **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) and commercial licenses for therapeutic targets, revenue from which will support Benitec's in-house therapeutic development programs.

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*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**

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