

**ASX/Media Announcement**

**Benitec appoints Chief Scientific Officer**

21 August 2007, Melbourne, Australia: Benitec Limited (ASX: BLT) has appointed drug development and biotechnology expert Dr Jason Smythe as the Company's new Chief Scientific Officer. Dr Smythe will direct and execute research and development of Benitec's novel gene silencing drug candidates. His appointment is effective from October.

Dr Smythe was most recently the Chief Scientific Officer at The Australian Tissue Engineering Centre Ltd. He previously held senior scientific positions in the anti-viral research unit at Johnson & Johnson Research, CSIRO as biotechnology program manager and as Unit Head of the gene therapy research unit at the Children's Medical Research Institute, Westmead, Sydney.

Dr Smythe has also worked in the US with eminent AIDS researcher Dr John Rossi and with Professor Bob Gallo, co-discoverer of the AIDS virus at the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health in Maryland.

"We are delighted that Jason has joined the Benitec team. Jason has a proven record of success driving drug development spanning over 22 years. Ten of these years were working with gene expression-modification technologies including antisense, ribozymes, RNAi, RNA-based decoys, and transdominant expression in a variety of infectious diseases (predominantly HIV-1) and cancer applications (anti-tumour therapeutics development) in institutional and commercial organisations," said Sue MacLeman, CEO of Benitec.

Dr Smythe has a Bachelor of Science with 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours (BScHons) from Monash University and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Medical Biology from The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for Medical Research in Melbourne. He also has a Graduate Certificate in Change Management from AGSM and has completed his AICD qualifications.

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**About Benitec**

Benitec is an Australian biotechnology company focused on licensing its extensive intellectual property portfolio and developing therapeutics to treat serious diseases using its proprietary ddRNAi technology. Its current therapeutic program is focused on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). For additional information, please visit [www.benitec.com](http://www.benitec.com).