



## ASX/Media Release

### Another Patent in Graham Family Allowed in US

#### Allowance of Another Key US Graham Family Patent Further Strengthens Benitec's ddRNAi Patent Position

**27 July 2011, Melbourne, Australia:** Benitec Ltd (ASX:BLT), a world leader in RNA-based gene silencing for human therapeutics, is pleased to report that the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has issued a Notice of Allowance on 25 July 2011 for US Patent Application 10/821,726 "Synthetic Genes and Genetic Constructs" ('726). The allowed claims of '726 are complementary to those of the foundational and re-issued '099 Graham patent and, as such, provide Benitec with even greater patent protection for use of its DNA-directed RNA interference (ddRNAi) gene silencing technology for human therapeutic applications. The claimed constructs have two sequences which are identical to a "region of a target gene in an animal cell". The "target gene" is not limited in scope.

Dr Peter French, CEO of Benitec said "Benitec has seen several significant patents granted or allowed over the past 12 months in the US, Europe and other jurisdictions. This has greatly turned around Benitec's position to a point where we once again dominate the gene silencing landscape using ddRNAi. This latest allowance solidly cements that position, and increases the value of Benitec's patent assets.

"ddRNAi has the potential to permanently silence any genes involved in chronic life threatening disease, and as such is likely to provide the basis for development of a broad range of novel human therapeutics. These patent decisions provide confidence to our existing and potential sub-licensees" he said.

Typically, a granted patent is issued by the USPTO about 4-6 months after a Notice of Allowance.

CSIRO and Benitec are currently awaiting decisions from the USPTO on three other pending applications within the Graham patent family. These applications contain claims that would further strengthen Benitec's dominant position in ddRNAi.

#### For Further Information

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**About Benitec** [www.benitec.com](http://www.benitec.com)

Benitec Limited is developing novel treatments for chronic and life-threatening conditions based on a transformational technology, DNA-directed RNA interference (ddRNAi) - sometimes called expressed RNAi. The technology's potential to address unmet medical needs and, potentially, to cure disease results from its demonstrated ability to permanently silence genes which cause the condition.

Benitec now either owns or exclusively licences from CSIRO more than 40 granted or allowed patents in the field of RNA interference for human therapeutic applications. Patents have been granted in key territories such as the USA, the UK, Japan, Europe, Canada and Australia. In addition, Benitec has almost 50 patent applications pending for which it is the owner or exclusive licensee from CSIRO, and has further intellectual property under development as a result of its pipeline program.

Benitec trades on the Australian stock exchange under the symbol "BLT". The Company was founded in 1997 and has been publicly held since 2001. The Company aims to deliver a range of novel ddRNAi-based therapeutics to the clinic in partnership with the pharmaceutical industry. In-house it is pursuing a focused R&D strategy in infectious diseases, cancer and chronic cancer-associated pain, as well as programs with licensees that have advanced to pre-clinical and/or clinical trials.