

## ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

### Favourable RAC Review for Hepatitis C Therapeutic

#### Key points:

- RAC reviewers were supportive of the program and clinical protocol in open hearing
- Program on track - next step is IND filing

**Sydney, 12 June 2013.** Benitec Biopharma Limited (ASX:BLT) is pleased to announce that the National Institutes of Health (NIH)'s Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee (RAC) today gave a favourable review of the clinical protocol for the first-in-man trial for the Company's hepatitis C therapeutic TT-034 in a public meeting.

Dr Keyur Patel of Duke University, the Principal Investigator on the trial, presented the protocol to the RAC reviewers. The meeting was held at the NIH in Washington, DC.

The reviewers were generally supportive of the program and were complimentary of the protocol and of the informed consent form. Whilst formal written recommendations will be provided within the next few days, there were no requirements for any significant alteration to the protocol. As such, Benitec Biopharma, through its subsidiary Tacere Therapeutics is now moving forward to the next stages of the program – IND filing with the US FDA, and, if approved, initiation of the clinical trial.

Benitec Biopharma CEO, Dr Peter French said, "I am absolutely delighted with this outcome. The meeting went as well as we could have hoped. The generally supportive comments from the reviewers are a testament to the quality of the program and the hard work that has been put in by all, but in particular by Dr David Suhy, Senior Vice President of R&D for Tacere Therapeutics, and Dr Per Lindell, Benitec Biopharma's US-based Senior Vice President, Corporate and Product Development. We are on track to enter the clinic with TT-034 this year."

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**About TT-034** TT-034 is a potentially transformative therapeutic that is intended to provide a "one-shot-cure" for hepatitis C with a single injection. Preclinical studies have shown that the vector used to deliver TT-034 specifically targets liver cells where it transfects almost every cell without causing toxic effects. TT-034 is designed to prevent development of viral resistance (a major problem for most hepatitis C drugs) by simultaneously silencing three separate highly conserved regions on the virus genome. Studies have demonstrated that a single treatment of TT-034 is active out to 180 days (the duration of the studies).

**About Benitec Biopharma Limited:** Benitec Biopharma Limited is an ASX-listed biotechnology company (ASX Code: BLT) based in Sydney, Australia. The company has a pipeline of in-house and partnered therapeutic programs based on its patented gene-silencing technology, ddRNAi. Benitec is developing treatments for chronic and life-threatening human conditions such as hepatitis C, hepatitis B, wet age-related macular degeneration, cancer-associated pain, drug resistant lung cancer and oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy based on this technology. In addition, Benitec has licensed ddRNAi technology to other biopharmaceutical companies who are progressing their programs towards the clinic for applications including HIV/AIDS, retinitis pigmentosa and Huntington's disease. For more information on Benitec refer to the Company's website at [www.benitec.com](http://www.benitec.com).