

## ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

### New TT-034 paper accepted for publication

**Sydney, Australia, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013:** RNAi-based therapeutics company Benitec Biopharma Limited (ASX Code: BLT) today announced that a third paper characterising the company's 'first in man' clinical therapeutic TT-034 (a ddRNAi-based therapeutic for treating Hepatitis C) was accepted for publication by the prestigious peer reviewed scientific journal *Molecular Therapy - Nucleic Acids*.

The paper describes the mechanism by which TT-034 works in cells to silence the hepatitis C virus. The research makes a significant contribution to understanding RNA interference at the molecular level, and the researchers conclude: "Our results indicate that the mode of action... might be considerably more elaborate than previously thought." Despite this increased complexity, the researchers concluded that the likelihood of any clinically adverse effects was very low, and that "...these findings justify progression of TT-034 to the clinic to investigate its potential benefit for the treatment of chronically infected HCV patients."

The paper was authored by Benitec's Senior Vice President of R&D, Dr David Suhy, along with several research scientists from Pfizer. This work was a result of the collaboration between Tacere Therapeutics (acquired by Benitec in October 2012) and Pfizer.

"We are delighted that this paper has been accepted for publication in the respected journal *Molecular Therapy – Nucleic Acids*. It highlights the significant interest that exists in the broader scientific community around Benitec's novel ddRNAi-based therapeutic approach to treatment and cure of hepatitis C." Benitec's CEO and Managing Director, Dr Peter French commented. "The notice of the paper's acceptance is timely following the recent submission to the US FDA of the Initial New Drug (IND) application for the TT-034 Phase I/IIa clinical trial that was announced yesterday."

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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. Animal 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).