

ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

Benitec's UNSW Collaborator on the List of High Achievers in Australian Health and Medical Research

Highlights

- **Professor Maria Kavallaris, Benitec's Chief Investigator on the lung cancer program, included on the NHMRC List of High Achievers.**
- **The List includes Australia's Nobel Prize winners in Physiology or Medicine, amongst the elite of Australian medical research.**

Sydney Australia, 24 December 2013:

RNAi-based therapeutics company Benitec Biopharma Limited (ASX Code: BLT) today congratulated Professor Maria Kavallaris on being named amongst the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)'s List of High Achievers in Health and Medical Research (www.nhmrc.gov.au/high-achievers/biographies). Others on the List include Nobel Prize winners Peter Doherty, Barry Marshall, Robin Warren, Howard Florey, Elizabeth Blackburn, Sir Frank McFarlane Burnet and Sir John Eccles.

Professor Kavallaris is the Chief Investigator on Benitec's drug resistant non-small cell lung cancer program being conducted in her laboratory in the Children's Cancer Institute Australia (CCIA) at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia (UNSW). She is also a member of Benitec's Chief Investigator Group, which meets on a biannual basis to provide advice to the Company on Benitec's pipeline programs.

Last week Benitec announced that Professor Kavallaris and her team had demonstrated proof of concept that Benitec's gene silencing technology (ddRNAi) could significantly enhance survival *in vivo* in a model of human lung cancer.

Benitec's CEO, Dr Peter French commented: "Professor Kavallaris' inclusion amongst the giants of Australian medical researchers is thoroughly deserved. She has carved an international reputation in understanding the molecular basis of drug resistance in cancer. Her leadership of Benitec's lung cancer program has undoubtedly contributed to its success to date in demonstrating the potential of ddRNAi to make a significant difference in the treatment of this very difficult disease. Her inclusion on the List is wonderful recognition of her major contribution to the field."

For more information please contact:

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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.