

## ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

### TT-034 clinical trial update and University of Westminster collaboration role

**Sydney, Australia, 18 February 2014:** RNAi-based therapeutics company Benitec Biopharma Limited (ASX Code: BLT) is pleased to provide an update on the expected timing of first patient dosing for the Phase I/IIa clinical trial for TT-034, as well as reference to the supportive work performed by the University of Westminster in the United Kingdom (UK) on the TT-034 program.

Despite the severe weather conditions being experienced on the East Coast of the United States, patient screening has commenced at Duke Clinical Research Unit in North Carolina, and first dosing is expected to occur in early to mid March 2014.

Researchers at the University of Westminster in the United Kingdom (UK) have indicated “robust confidence” in Benitec’s ddRNAi-based drug TT-034 for hepatitis C based on their research data. In a Press Release dated 17 February, 2014 in the UK, they have detailed their pivotal role in developing a “groundbreaking method” to validate TT-034. The methodology was utilized in the *Molecular Therapy Nucleic Acids* paper, which was published last week and was the subject of an ASX announcement from the Company.

Dr Sterghios A. Moschos, MSB, developed the comprehensive and innovative method of genome sequencing technologies to show exactly how TT-034 works at the molecular level. Using next-generation sequencing they identified and characterised the active silencing molecules (shRNAs) produced by TT-034. In the University’s Press Release, Dr Moschos indicated that his group’s research showed that TT-034 works like a much larger combination of multiple drugs than originally thought possible. In the published paper, the authors concluded that “these data support an on-target mechanism of action for TT-034 without cytotoxicity...”. The full Press Release can be accessed here: <http://www.westminster.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/science-and-technology/2014/university-of-westminster-develops-groundbreaking-method-to-test-hepatitis-c-cure>

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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).

**About University of Westminster:** The University of Westminster is located in London and boasts a vibrant learning environment attracting more than 20,000 students from over 150 nations. The University has a distinguished 175-year history and as a result leads the way in many areas of research, particularly politics, media, art and design, architecture and