Benitec Biopharma Ltd
ABN 64 068 943 662
F6A / 1-15 Barr Street
Balmain NSW 2041 Australia
Tel: +61 (0) 2 9555 6986
Email: info@benitec.com
www.benitec.com

HCV TRIAL UPDATE

Sydney Australia, 29 August 2014: ddRNAi therapeutics company Benitec Biopharma Limited (ASX: BLT, OTC: BTEBY) provides the following update regarding patient dosing and plans to accelerate the enrolment of patients in the TT-034 Phase I/II(a) clinical trial for Hepatitis C (HCV).

Dosing of the second patient continues to take longer than anticipated due to the unexpected failure of two patients being monitored for eligibility at Duke Clinical Research Centre (Duke). During the 28-day monitoring process, the patients experienced fluctuations in viral load and/or liver enzymes that were outside the clinical protocol inclusion criteria. Before any patient can be dosed under the trial, their viral load and liver enzyme results must be within acceptable levels.

Additional patients at Duke are currently going through the 28-day monitoring process, and a further patient is also progressing through the process at University of California San Diego (UCSD), the second site recently commissioned for the TT-034 trial. The first of these patients to satisfy the criteria at the end of the 28-day period will be dosed.

In parallel to the patient screening at existing trial sites, further changes have been implemented to patient recruitment, which are designed to accelerate trial progress, and take into consideration the strict clinical protocol inclusion/exclusion criteria for the US-based trial. The changes to patient recruitment are designed to address the delay experienced in dosing of the second patient, and support the recruitment of subsequent patient cohorts.

Steps taken by Benitec Biopharma to accelerate patient enrolment in the trial include:

- Commencing recruitment of additional clinical trials sites, in addition to Duke and recently commissioned second site UCSD
- An examination of the enrolment process to identify areas for enhancement
- Appointment of an internal clinical trial specialist to actively manage the trial in conjunction with the company's contract research organisation and trial sites

Benitec Biopharma's Managing Director & CEO Dr Peter French commented, saying:

"While the delay in dosing is frustrating, the trial protocol and the stringent inclusion/exclusion criteria therein were developed based on the input of numerous expert bodies, including Pfizer Inc. (who had a long history with TT-034). We appreciate the efforts that Duke is making to recruit and screen patients, and are pleased that UCSD has also commenced patient screening.

"We are confident that the steps taken to accelerate patient enrolment will increase the pace of the study, and we will keep the market updated as we make progress."

Chief Investigator at Duke, Dr Keyur Patel, said: "The criteria for this first-in-man trial are appropriately robust. We appreciate Benitec Biopharma's patience with this process, while we continue our work to recruit, screen and dose the patients on this TT-034 trial.

We will maintain our focus on ensuring the trial is completed in as timely a fashion as the process allows."

Dr Patel's comments were supported by Dr Barry Mangum, Director of Clinical Pharmacology at Duke, who noted: "We remain vigilant in the quest for success. This therapy, if proven successful, will be life changing to those patients who desperately require eradication of HCV. We at Duke remain committed to support Benitec's efforts to complete the first trial of this promising treatment."

As any other material events occur relating to the trial, Benitec will provide updates to the market. Investors interested in tracking the progress of Benitec's TT-034 trial should monitor progress via announcements lodged through the ASX.

For further information regarding Benitec and its activities, please contact the persons below, or visit the Benitec website at www.benitec.com.

Company	***Investor relations***
Carl Stubbings Chief Business Officer Tel: +61 (2) 9555 6986 Email: cstubbings@benitec.com	Jane Lowe Buchan Consulting Tel: +61 (2) 9237 2807 Email: jlowe@buchanwe.com.au

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.