

ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

Another Benitec Biopharma Hepatitis C patent allowed in China

Sydney, October 22, 2012: Benitec Biopharma Limited, a leading company developing genetic therapies for significant human diseases and conditions, is pleased to announce that the Company has received notification that its Chinese patent application no. 20058001397.5, “Multiple promoter expression cassettes for simultaneous delivery of RNAi agents” has been allowed.

The allowed claims protect a multiple promoter expression construct that encodes RNAi agents of three key sequences utilised by Benitec Biopharma’s newly acquired hepatitis C virus (HCV) gene silencing molecule, TT-034. Further sequences, will be the subject of separate (divisional) patent applications.

This allowance comes less than two weeks after the allowance of another patent application in China relating to the same molecule, as announced on October 8th.

HCV infection is a leading cause of liver disease worldwide and is the leading cause of cirrhosis, hepatocellular carcinoma, and liver transplantation. The World Health Organisation estimates around 170 million people are chronically infected, with 350,000 deaths from HCV-related liver disease each year. Prevalence rates are highest in China and other Asian countries.

As previously announced, Benitec Biopharma has agreed to acquire Tacere Therapeutics including its anti-HC V therapeutic molecule, TT-034 that has been developed to the stage of being Phase I/IIa ready in conjunction with Pfizer’s extensive investment. The collaboration focused on completing all necessary studies for submission of an investigational new drug application (IND) to the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA).

Benitec’s gene silencing technology is called DNA-directed RNA interference, or ddRNAi. It is capable of specifically turning off any gene, particularly those causing or progressing disease.

“The granting of this additional patent protecting our latest pipeline program addition in the field of HCV in the country where it has one of the highest reported prevalence rates further supports our decision to acquire Tacere,” said Benitec’s CEO, Dr Peter French. “Our patent position in China for TT-034 is very strong, and we intend to advance the entry of it into the clinic as soon as possible.”



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, also called expressed RNAi. Benitec Biopharma is developing treatments for chronic and life-threatening human conditions such as cancer-associated pain, Hepatitis B, drug resistant lung cancer and Oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy based on this technology. In addition, Benitec Biopharma has licensed ddRNAi technology to other biopharmaceutical companies for applications including HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C and retinitis pigmentosa. For more information on Benitec Biopharma refer to the Company's website at www.benitec.com.

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