

ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

Benitec licensee Calimmune commences clinical trial in HIV/AIDS

Sydney, 10 July 2013: Benitec Biopharma Ltd (ASX: BLT) announced today that its licensee, US-based biotech company Calimmune, has treated the first patient in a Phase I/II trial of its HIV/AIDS gene medicine candidate, Cal-1. The Cal-1 therapy utilizes ddRNAi-based gene silencing technology along with additional proprietary technology to reduce the ability of HIV to enter cells. The trial is entitled "Safety Study of a Dual Anti-HIV Gene Transfer Construct to Treat HIV-1 Infection".

The trial is an assessment of the feasibility and the safety of Calimmune's innovative gene medicine approach that has been developed with core technology from the lab of Dr David Baltimore, a Nobel Laureate in the area of HIV/AIDS. Benitec Biopharma is delighted to be involved in this program through the provision of a license to Calimmune.

The primary outcomes are the feasibility and safety of the introduction of Cal-1 into blood stem cells and T cell populations, and the associated delivery procedures. It is planned to treat 12 HIV/AIDS patients in this initial trial, which is being conducted at two clinical sites in California.

Chief Executive Officer of Calimmune, Louis Breton, commented, "Calimmune is pleased that we have commenced the Cal-1 US trial for treating HIV/AIDS. This is the culmination of years of development and we are very excited to see the outcome of this trial."

Chief Executive Officer of Benitec Biopharma, Dr Peter French, commented, "This is the first Benitec Biopharma licensee to enter the clinic. We will be following closely behind with our ddRNAi-based therapy for hepatitis C, and so in 2013 we will have two clinical trials underway using Benitec Biopharma's potent gene silencing technology. It is pleasing to see our technology coming of age."

For more information please contact: Dr Peter French | Chief Executive Officer
Phone: +61 (02) 9555 6986 | pfrench@benitec.com | www.benitec.com

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.

About Calimmune: Calimmune is a clinical-stage HIV gene medicines company with offices and labs in the US and Australia, focused on developing innovative cell-based therapies for HIV/AIDS. The company's T cell and stem cell technology, which is designed to shield and strengthen the immune system of HIV-positive patients, was discovered in the labs of Nobel Laureate, Dr. David Baltimore (Caltech) and Dr. Irvin Chen (UCLA AIDS Institute).

After a decade of refinements to the early technology and breakthroughs in parallel fields of science, the first generation therapy of this platform technology is now entering the clinic for Phase I/II human trials.