

ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

Benitec Cancer Collaboration Wins UNSW Innovation Award

SYDNEY Australia, 13 September 2013: Benitec Biopharma Limited (ASX:BLT) is pleased to report that it was last night awarded the People's Choice Award at the University of NSW (UNSW) Innovation Awards for its lung cancer program being developed in collaboration with the Children's Cancer Institute Australia. The collaboration is developing a treatment for chemotherapy resistant lung cancer, using Benitec's proprietary gene silencing technology, DNA-directed RNA interference (ddRNAi).

Professor Maria Kavallaris who accepted the Award on behalf of the program said, "This Award is clear recognition of the importance of our program for millions around the world. We are working on finding a better way to treat the most common cancer worldwide, lung cancer, whose prognosis remains dire. With Benitec Biopharma we are developing a gene silencing treatment to overcome the resistance of the cancer to chemotherapy drugs, and our initial data has exceeded our most optimistic expectations. This is an Award for the team and for the program."

Benitec Biopharma's Managing Director, Dr Peter French, commented saying, "To be shortlisted for an Innovation Award was very pleasing as there are a number of outstanding innovation programs at UNSW. To win the People's Choice Award demonstrates the importance of this program for human health. We are committed to taking this program into clinical trials, and recently exercised an option to take an exclusive license from New South Innovation covering the use of our ddRNAi platform technology to silence β III tubulin, the target gene responsible for chemotherapy resistance."

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death worldwide. Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) is the most common form of lung cancer and constitutes over 80% of lung cancer cases.

Despite advances in treatment, the prognosis of NSCLC remains poor, with less than 15% of patients surviving more than five years from time of diagnosis.

Platinum based chemotherapy is the current standard of care for patients with advanced NSCLC. A poor toxicity profile and the emergence of acquired resistance or intrinsic resistance is a common occurrence which limits the therapeutic potential of these agents. Thus there remains an unmet clinical need for drugs with superior efficacy and improved tolerability.

In collaboration with Professor Kavallaris, Benitec Biopharma is developing a shRNA agent targeting the β III tubulin gene. The therapeutic, Tribetarna, has demonstrated a doubling of survival in mice with human lung tumours. Based on the strength of this pre-clinical data Benitec plans to move Tribetarna into clinical trials in late 2014.



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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.