

## ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

**BENITEC BIOPHARMA (ASX: BLT; OTC: BTEBD)**

**3 July 2015**

### **BENITEC ENTERS NEXT PHASE OF COLLABORATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF OPMD THERAPEUTIC**

- **Benitec's OPMD program in collaboration with RHUL and IM to progress towards the clinic**
- **Gene therapy treatment combining silencing and replacement of mutant gene**
- **Positive pre-clinical proof of concept established *in vivo***

**Sydney, Australia:** Benitec Biopharma is pleased to announce the progression of the company's collaboration with the Royal Holloway University of London (RHUL) and the Institut de Myologie (IM) in Paris to continue the development of a ddRNAi based therapeutic for the treatment of oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy (OPMD). This follows successful pre-clinical proof of concept data that show using ddRNAi to silence the mutant gene responsible for the disease and replacement with the healthy gene can restore muscle strength to near normal levels *in vivo*.

The work to be undertaken in the collaboration with RHUL and IM will evaluate the efficacy and safety of a clinical construct in animal studies with the ultimate goal of generating sufficient data to advance the program to a clinical trial.

Professor George Dickson and Dr Capucine Trollet will lead the team at RHUL and IM, which is a national reference centre for muscle disorders in France. These teams are experts in the area of treatment development for this disease.

For further information regarding Benitec and its activities, please contact the persons below, or visit the Benitec website at [www.benitec.com](http://www.benitec.com).

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***About Benitec Biopharma Limited:***

Benitec Biopharma Limited is an ASX-listed biotechnology company (ASX: BLT; OTC: BTEBD), which has developed a patented gene-silencing technology called ddRNAi or ‘expressed RNAi’. Based in Sydney, Australia with labs in Hayward CA (USA) and collaborators and licensees around the world, the company is developing ddRNAi-based therapeutics for chronic and life-threatening human conditions including Hepatitis C and B, drug resistant lung cancer and wet Age-related Macular Degeneration. Benitec has also licensed ddRNAi to other biopharmaceutical companies for applications including HIV/AIDS, Huntington’s Disease, chronic neuropathic pain and retinitis pigmentosa. For more information visit [www.benitec.com](http://www.benitec.com)

***About OPMD:***

OPMD is an inherited muscle disease characterized by difficulty in swallowing due to the loss of esophageal muscle strength, as well as muscle weakness in multiple parts of the body, in particular the head. It is due to a mutation in the PABPN1 gene of the patient’s muscles. OPMD is a rare disease (1:100,000 in Europe), with a worldwide distribution; it is the most common form of dystrophy in Quebec (1:1,000) due to a founder effect. Benitec is not aware of any effective current medical treatment (apart from surgical intervention) or cure for OPMD.