

## ASX/NASDAQ ANNOUNCEMENT

### Benitec to present OPMD data at the International Congress of the World Muscle Society and at the European Society of Gene and Cell Therapy Congress

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**Sydney, Australia, 4 October 2017:** Benitec Biopharma Limited (ASX:BLT; NASDAQ: BNTC; NASDAQ: BNTCW) is pleased to announce that data from its oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy (OPMD) program will be presented at both the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of the World Muscle Society and at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Congress of the European Society of Gene and Cell Therapy.

The presentations outline the supporting data in the development of a new single vector system which uses DNA directed RNA interference (ddRNAi) to silence expression of the mutant gene associated with OPMD, while simultaneously adding back a copy of the normal version of the same gene to restore gene function. This next generation single vector system, termed BB-301 by Benitec, represents the clinical candidate that Benitec intends to advance into human clinical trials in the second half of 2018.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of the World Muscle Society is being held October 3-7 at the Palais du Grand Large, Saint Malo, France. Details on the oral presentation are noted below.

- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October (Oral Presentation): **Gene therapy for oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy**
- Presenter: Alberto Malerba, PhD (Royal Holloway University of London, Benitec collaborator)

The 25<sup>th</sup> European Society of Gene and Cell Therapy meeting is being held October 17-20 at the Berlin Congress Center GmbH, Berlin Germany. Details on the oral presentation are noted below.

- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October (Oral Presentation): **'Silence and Replace': Development of a Single AAV Vector System for the Treatment OPMD**
- Presenter: Vanessa Strings-Ufombah, PhD (Benitec Biopharma Limited)

A copy of both presentations will be posted on the [Scientific Presentations and Publications](#) section of the Company's website.

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 (ASX: BLT; NASDAQ: BNTC; NASDAQ: BNTCW) is a biotechnology company developing innovative therapeutics based on its patented gene-silencing technology called ddRNAi or 'expressed RNAi'. Based in Sydney, Australia with laboratories in Hayward, California (USA), and collaborators and licensees around the world, the company is developing ddRNAi-based therapeutics for chronic and life-threatening human conditions including OPMD, head & neck squamous cell carcinoma, retinal based diseases such as wet age-related macular degeneration, and hepatitis B. Benitec has also licensed ddRNAi to other biopharmaceutical companies for applications including HIV/AIDS, Huntington's Disease, chronic neuropathic pain, cancer immunotherapy and retinitis pigmentosa.

***About OPMD:***

OPMD is a rare inherited myopathy characterized by dysphagia (difficulty in swallowing), the loss of muscle strength, and weakness in multiple parts of the body. Patients typically suffer from severe dysphagia, ptosis (eye lid drooping), tongue atrophy, proximal lower limb weakness, dysphonia (altered and weak voice), limitation in looking upward, as well as facial muscle and proximal upper limb weakness. Progressing throughout that patient's life, OPMD is not typically diagnosed until the individuals reach their 50's or 60's. As the dysphagia becomes more severe, patients become malnourished, lose significant weight, become dehydrated and suffer from repeated incidents of aspiration pneumonia. The last two symptoms are often the cause of death. No cure is currently available for OPMD. The cricopharyngeal myotomy is the only treatment available to improve swallowing in these patients, but because the root cause of the genetic disease has not been addressed, the pharyngeal musculature still undergoes progressive degradation leading to the previously mentioned complications.

***Safe Harbor Statement:***

This press release contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of section 27A of the US Securities Act of 1933 and section 21E of the US Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Any forward-looking statements that may be in the press release are subject to risks and uncertainties relating to the difficulties in Benitec's plans to develop and commercialise its product candidates, the timing of the initiation and completion of preclinical and clinical trials, the timing of patient enrolment and dosing in clinical trials, the timing of expected regulatory filings, the clinical utility and potential attributes and benefits of ddRNAi and Benitec's product candidates, potential future out-licenses and collaborations, the intellectual property position and the ability to procure additional sources of financing. Accordingly, you should not rely on those forward-looking statements as a prediction of actual future results.