What is claimed is:

1. Use of a human embryonic kidney 293 (HEK 293) cell comprising a gene encoding a protein having intervertebral disc regenerating function in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or retarding degeneration of intervertebral disc at an intervertebral disc defect site of a human, wherein said medicament is to be injected into the intervertebral disc defect site, wherein said gene encodes TGF- β1.

2. Use of a human embryonic kidney 293 (HEK 293) cell comprising a gene encoding a protein having intervertebral disc regenerating function in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or retarding degeneration of intervertebral disc at an intervertebral disc defect site of a human, wherein said medicament is to be transplanted into the intervertebral disc defect site, wherein said gene encodes TGF- β1.

3. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 2, wherein the human embryonic kidney 293 (HEK 293) cell is allogeneic relative to the human.

4. Use of a first mammalian cell comprising a gene encoding a protein having intervertebral disc regenerating function in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or retarding degeneration of intervertebral disc at an intervertebral disc defect site of a human, wherein said medicament is to be transplanted into the intervertebral disc defect site with a second mammalian connective tissue cell, wherein the first mammalian cell is a human embryonic kidney 293 (HEK 293) cell, wherein the second mammalian connective tissue cell is an untransduced human chondrocyte and wherein said gene encodes TGF- β1.

5. The use according to claim 4, wherein the untransduced human chondrocyte is a non-disc chondrocyte or a juvenile chondrocyte.

6. The use according to any one of claims 4 or 5, wherein the untransduced human chondrocyte for the second mammalian connective tissue cell is a primed chondrocyte, and wherein the primed chondrocyte has been incubated with TGF- β1.

7. The use according to any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the first mammalian cell or second mammalian connective tissue cell is allogeneic relative to the human.

8. The use according to claim 1, wherein said medicament is to treat degenerated or injured intervertebral disc in a patient in need thereof.

9. The use according to claim 2, wherein said medicament is to treat degenerated or injured intervertebral disc in a patient in need thereof.

10. The use according to claim 4, wherein said medicament is to treat degenerated or injured intervertebral disc in a patient in need thereof.