We Claim:

1. Use of a complement inhibitor in the manufacture of a medicament for treating an ocular disease associated with complement activation in a subject, wherein the complement inhibitor is an antibody or an antibody-binding fragment thereof or a nucleic acid encoding the antibody or the antigen-binding fragment, wherein the antibody or the antigen-binding fragment specifically binds to Factor D.

2. The use of claim 1, wherein the antigen-binding fragment comprises a Fab, Fab', $F(ab')_2$, Fv, a single chain Fv, a diabody, or a single domain antibody.

3. The use of claim 1, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody, a chimeric antibody, a deimmunized antibody, a humanized antibody, a primatized antibody or a human antibody.

4. The use of claim 1, wherein the antibody or the antigen-binding fragment thereof is conjugated to a therapeutic moiety.

5. The use of claim 1, wherein the antibody is monoclonal antibody 166-32 produced from the hybridoma deposited with the ATCC and designated HB 12476.

6. The use of claim 1, wherein the antibody specifically binds to the same epitope as monoclonal antibody 166-32, and wherein the monoclonal antibody 166-32 is produced from the hybridoma deposited with the ATCC and designated HB 12476.

7. The use of claim 1, wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody derived from monoclonal antibody 166-32, and wherein the monoclonal antibody 166-32 is produced from the hybridoma deposited with the ATCC and designated HB 12476.

8. Use of a pharmaceutical composition comprising the complement inhibitor as defined in any one of claims 1-7 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in treating an ocular disease associated with complement activation in a subject, wherein the medicament further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

9. The use of claim 8, wherein the medicament is in an intraocular administration form, intravitreal administration form, subconjunctival administration form, parenteral administration form, intradermal administration form, intramuscular administration form, intraperitoneal administration form, intravenous administration form, subcutaneous administration form, intranasal administration

form, oral administration form, enteral administration oral, topical administration form, intrathecal administration form, intraventricular administration form, epidural form, inhalation form, a biocompatible or bioerodable sustained release implant, or an implanted infusion pump.

10. The use of claim 8, wherein the medicament is an eye wash solution or an eye drop solution.

11. The use of claim 8, wherein the medicament further comprises or wherein the medicament is for administration with an immunomodulatory, an immunosuppressive, an anti-inflammatory, or an anti-angiogenic compound.

12. The use of claim 8, wherein the medicament further comprises or wherein the medicament is for administration with a steroid.

13. The use of claim 8, wherein the complement inhibitor is in an amount between 0.1 mg/kg to 100 mg/kg of the body weight of the subject.

14. Use of a complement inhibitor in the manufacture of a medicament for treating an ocular disease associated with complement activation in a subject, wherein the complement inhibitor is

(i) monoclonal antibody 166-32 produced from the hybridoma deposited with the ATCC and designated HB 12476 or an antigen-binding fragment thereof, or

(ii) an antibody that specifically binds to the same epitope as monoclonal antibody 166-32 or an antigen-binding fragment thereof, or

(iii) a humanized antibody derived from monoclonal antibody 166-32 or an antigen-binding fragment thereof,

wherein the ocular disease is macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, or ocular angiogenesis.

15. The use of claim 1 or 8, wherein the ocular disease is macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, or ocular angiogenesis.

16. The use of claim 15, wherein the macular degeneration is the dry form of age-related macular degeneration.

17. The use of claim 15, wherein the macular degeneration is the wet form of age-related macular degeneration.

We Claim:

1. A method for preventing or ameliorating an ocular disease in a subject, comprising the step of administering a complement pathway inhibitor to a subject in need of such administration.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the complement pathway is the alternative complement pathway.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the ocular disease is selected from the group consisting of retinal degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and ocular angiogenesis.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the subject requires inhibition of ocular neovascularization that affects choroidal, retinal pigmented epithelium, or retinal tissue.

5. The method according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein the complement pathway inhibitor is an antibody, a protein, peptide, a peptidomimetic or a small molecule.

6. The method according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein the complement pathway inhibitor is Factor H or a functional peptide thereof.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the complement pathway inhibitor is an antibody or a binding fragment thereof.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the complement inhibitor is an antibody fragment comprising a Fab, Fab', $F(ab')_2$, Fv, or a single chain Fv.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the complement inhibitor is a single-domain antibody.

10. The method according to claim 7, wherein the complement inhibitor is a monoclonal antibody.

11. The method according to claim 7, wherein the complement inhibitor is a chimeric, deimmunized, humanized, primatized or human antibody.

12. The method according to claim 7, wherein the antibody specifically binds to a component of the alternative complement pathway.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the antibody specifically binds to Factor D, properdin, Factor B, Factor Ba, or Factor Bb.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the antibody specifically binds to Factor D.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the antibody is monoclonal antibody 166-32 produced from the hybridoma deposited with the ATCC and designated HB12476.

16. The method according to claim 14, wherein the antibody specifically binds to the same epitope as monoclonal antibody 166-32 produced from the hybridoma deposited with the ATCC and designated HB 12476.

17. The method according to claim 14, wherein the antibody is a humanized monoclonal antibody derived from 166-32 produced from the hybridoma deposited with the ATCC and designated HB 12476.

18. The method according to claim 7, wherein the antibody specifically binds to a component of the classical or lectin complement pathways.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the antibody specifically binds to C2, C2a, C3a, C5, C5a, C5b, C6, C7, C8, C9 or C5b-9.

20. The method according to claim 18, wherein the antibody specifically binds to complement component C5a.

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein the antibody is 137-26 produced from the hybridoma deposited with the ATCC and designated PTA-3650.

22. The method according to claim 20, wherein the antibody binds to the same epitope as 137-26 produced from the hybridoma deposited with the ATCC and designated PTA-3650.

23. The method according to any one of claims 1-22, wherein the complement pathway inhibitor is administered by (a) parenteral administration, oral administration, enteral administration or topical administration (b) biocompatible or bioerodable sustained release implant; (c) implantation of an infusion pump; or (d) local administration, such as intravitreal administration or subconjunctival administration.

24. The method according to claim 23, wherein the topical administration is an eye wash solution, an eye ointment, an eye shield or an eye drop solution.

25. The method according to claim 23, further comprising the step of administering an immunomodulatory or immunosuppressive compound to said subject.

26. A method of inhibiting alternative complement pathway activation in a subject having an ocular disease comprising administering an siNA specific for a complement pathway protein.

27. A method of inhibiting alternative complement pathway activation in a patient having an ocular disease comprising administering a nucleic acid encoding a complement pathway inhibitor.