WHAT IS CLAIMED IS :

1. A method for obtaining cells that have the ability to (1) preserve splenic mass in an injury, (2) increase splenocyte proliferation in the spleen, (3) increase T-regulatory cells; (4) increase one or more of IL-10 and IL-4, or (5) decrease IL-2 and IL-1β, the method comprising assaying cells for said ability by performing one or more of: (1) an assay of splenic mass in an injury, (2) an assay of splenocyte proliferation in the spleen, (3) an assay of T-regulatory cells (4) an assay of IL-10 and IL-4, and (5) an assay of IL-2 and IL-1β, wherein said cells that are assayed are non-embryonic non-germ cells that express one or more of oct4, telomerase rex-1 or rox-1 and/or can differentiate into cell types of at least two of the endodermal, ectodermal, and mesodermal germ layers.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the cells express telomerase.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the cells express oct4.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the cells express oct4 and telomerase.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the cells can differentiate into cell types of at least two of the endodermal, ectodermal, and mesodermal germ layers.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the cells can differentiate into cell types of endodermal, ectodermal, and mesodermal germ layers.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the cells express oct4 and telomerase and can differentiate into cell types of at least two of endodermal, ectodermal, and mesodermal germ layers.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the cells can differentiate into cell types of endodermal, ectodermal, and mesodermal germ layers and express telomerase and oct4.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the cells are human.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the cells are derived from bone marrow.