I claim:

1. A composition comprising substantially homogeneous particles including:

about 75% to about 98% microcrystalline cellulose;

about 1% to about 10% at least one binder; and

about 1% to about 15% at least one disintegrant,

wherein the microcrystalline cellulose, binder and disintegrant are indistinguishable when viewed with a SEM, thereby forming substantially homogeneous, substantially spherical particles,

wherein the binder includes hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and the disintegrant includes cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone, and

wherein the composition is formed by spraying an aqueous slurry comprised of the microcrystalline cellulose, binder and disintegrant.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition includes:

about 80% to about 90% microcrystalline cellulose;

about 2% to about 8% at least one binder; and

about 3% to about 12% at least one disintegrant.

3. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the composition includes:

about 85% to about 93% microcrystalline cellulose;

about 2% to about 5% at least one binder; and

about 10% at least one disintegrant.

~~4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the binder includes hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and the disintegrant includes cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone.~~

~~5. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the excipient is formed by spraying an aqueous slurry comprised of the microcrystalline cellulose, binder and disintegrant.~~

~~6~~4. A method of making ~~an~~ a directly compressible, complete, and universal excipient comprising:

mixing about 75% to about 98% by weight microcrystalline cellulose, at least about 1% to about 10% by weight one binder and at least about 1% to about 15% by weight one disintegrant in the presence of water to form a homogeneous slurry; and

spray dry granulating the homogenous slurry with a rotary nozzle to form substantially homogenous particles of excipient, wherein said disintegrant has a Carr's compressibility index of less than 21% and a Hausner ratio of 1.25 or below.

~~7. The method of claim 6 wherein:~~

~~about 75% to about 98% microcrystalline cellulose;~~

~~about 1% to about 10% at least one binder; and~~

~~about 1% to about 15% at least one disintegrant.~~

~~8~~5. The method of claim ~~6~~ 4 comprising:

about 80% to about 90% microcrystalline cellulose;

about 2% to about 8% at least one binder; and

about 3% to about 12% at least one disintegrant.

~~9~~6. The method of Claim ~~6~~ 4 comprising:

about 85% to about 93% microcrystalline cellulose;

about 2% to about 5% at least one binder; and

about 10% at least one disintegrant.

~~10~~7. The method of claim ~~6~~ 4 wherein the binder includes hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and the disintregrant includes cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone.

~~11~~8. A method of making ~~an~~ a directly compressible, complete, and universal excipient comprising:

mixing about 75% to about 98% by weight ~~hydroxypropyl methylcellulose,~~ microcrystalline cellulose, at least about 1% to about 10% by weight hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and at least about 1% to about 15% by weight ~~and~~ cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone in the presence of water to form a homogenized slurry; and

spray dry granulating the ~~homogenized~~ homogeneous slurry with a rotary nozzle to form substantially homogeneous particles of excipient, wherein said disintegrant has a Carr's compressibility index of less than 21% and a Hausner ratio of 1.25 or below.

~~12. The method of claim 11 comprising:~~

~~about 75% to about 98% microcrystalline cellulose;~~

~~about 1% to about 10% at least one binder; and~~

~~about 1% to about 15% at least one disintegrant.~~

~~13~~9. The method of claim ~~11~~ 8 comprising:

about 80% to about 90% microcrystalline cellulose;

about 2% to about 8% ~~at least one binder~~ hydroxypropyl methylcellulose; and

about 3% to about 12% ~~at least one disintegrant~~ cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone.

~~14~~10. The method of Claim ~~11~~ 5 comprising:

about 85% to about 93% microcrystalline cellulose;

about 2% to about 5% ~~at least one binder~~ hydroxypropyl methylcellulose; and
about 10% ~~at least one disintegrant~~ cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone.

~~15~~11. A pharmaceutical tablet comprising:
at least one active pharmaceutical ingredient; and
an excipient of substantially homogeneous particles including:
about 75% to about 98% microcrystalline cellulose;
about 1% to about 10% at least one binder; and
about 1% to about 15% at least one disintegrant,
wherein the microcrystalline cellulose, binder and disintegrant are indistinguishable when viewed with a SEM, thereby forming substantially homogeneous, substantially spherical particles,
wherein the binder includes hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and the disintegrant includes cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone, and
wherein the composition is formed by spraying an aqueous slurry comprised of the microcrystalline cellulose, binder and disintegrant.
~~a) microcrystalline cellulose;~~
~~b) at least one binder; and~~
~~c) at least one disintegrant.~~

~~16. The tablet of claim 15 wherein the excipient includes:~~
~~about 75% to about 98% microcrystalline cellulose;~~
~~about 1% to about 10% at least one binder; and~~
~~about 1% to about 15% at least one disintegrant.~~

~~17~~12. The tablet of claim ~~15~~ 11 wherein the excipient includes:
about 80% to about 90% microcrystalline cellulose;
about 2% to about 8% at least one binder; and
about 3% to about 12% at least one disintegrant.

~~18~~13. The tablet of Claim ~~15~~ 11 wherein the excipient includes:
about 85% to about 93% microcrystalline cellulose;
about 2% to about 5% at least one binder; and
about 10% at least one disintegrant.

~~19. The table of claim 15 wherein the binder includes hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and the disintegrant includes cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone.~~

~~20~~14. A method of making a pharmaceutical tablet comprising:

mixing at least one active pharmaceutical ingredient with an excipient of substantially homogeneous particles according to Claim 1; and

compressing the mixture to form a tablet.

~~21~~15. The tablet of Claim ~~15~~ 11 wherein the active pharmaceutical ingredient includes ibuprofen.

~~22~~16. The tablet of Claim ~~15~~ 11 wherein the at least one active pharmaceutical ingredient comprises about 5% to about 50% of the tablet.