CLAIMS

We claim:

1. Use of a Tn3 scaffold in the manufacture of a medicament for treating lupus nephritis in a subject in need thereof, wherein the Tn3 scaffold comprises a CD40L-specific monomer subunit, wherein the CD40L-specific monomer subunit comprises seven beta strands designated A, B, C, D, E, F, and G, and six loop regions designated AB, BC, CD, DE, EF, and FG, wherein the AB loop comprises SEQ ID NO: 11, the BC loop comprises SEQ ID NO: 12, the CD loop comprises SEQ ID NO: 13, the DE loop comprises SEQ ID NO: 14, the EF loop comprises SEQ ID NO: 15, and the FG loop comprises SEQ ID NO: 16,

wherein the Tn3 scaffold comprising the CD40L-specific monomer subunit is to be administered at a dose of about 1500 mg, and

wherein the Tn3 scaffold is to be administered once about every 2 weeks for at least 2 doses and is to be administered about once a month thereafter.

2. The use of claim 1, wherein a corticosteroid is to be further administered.

3. The use of claim 2, wherein the corticosteroid is methylprednisolone, and wherein the methylprednisolone is to be administered before the Tn3 scaffold.

4. The use of claim 3, wherein the methylprednisolone is to be administered at 1000 mg per day for at least about 8 weeks before the Tn3 scaffold.

5. The use of claim 2, wherein the corticosteroid is prednisone.

6. The use of claim 1, wherein an immunosuppressive agent is to be further administered.

7. The use of claim 6, wherein the immunosuppressive agent is cyclophosphamide or mycophenolate mofetil (MMF).

8. The use of claim 7, wherein the immunosuppressive agent is MMF.

9. The use of claim 1, wherein the Tn3 scaffold comprises two CD40L-specific monomer subunits connected in tandem.

10. The use of claim 9, wherein the two CD40L-specific monomer subunits each comprise SEQ ID NO: 3.

11. The use of claim 9, wherein the CD40L-specific monomer subunits are connected by a linker.

12. The use of claim 9, wherein at least one CD40L-specific monomer subunit is connected to a polyethylene glycol (PEG) via a linker selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, and SEQ ID NO: 10.

13. The use of claim 9, wherein at least one CD40L-specific monomer subunit is connected to an albumin.

14. The use of claim 13, wherein the albumin is a variant human serum albumin (HSA) comprising SEQ ID NO: 4.

15. The use of claim 2, wherein the Tn3 scaffold comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

16. The use of claim 2, wherein the beta A strand comprises SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 23, or SEQ ID NO: 24, wherein the beta B strand comprises SEQ ID NO: 6, wherein the beta C strand comprises SEQ ID NO: 17, wherein the beta D strand comprises SEQ ID NO: 18, wherein the beta E strand comprises SEQ ID NO: 19, wherein the beta F strand comprises SEQ ID NO: 20, and wherein the beta G strand comprises SEQ ID NO: 21.

17. The use of claim 16, wherein the beta A strand comprises SEQ ID NO: 5.

18. The use of claim 16, wherein the beta A strand comprises SEQ ID NO: 23.

19. The use of claim 16, wherein the beta A strand comprises SEQ ID NO: 24.

20. Use of a Tn3 scaffold in the manufacture of a medicament for treating lupus nephritis in a subject in need thereof, wherein the Tn3 scaffold comprises a CD40L-specific monomer subunit,

wherein the CD40L-specific monomer subunit comprises seven beta strands designated A, B, C, D, E, F, and G, and six loop regions designated AB, BC, CD, DE, EF, and FG, wherein the AB loop comprises SEQ ID NO: 11, the BC loop comprises SEQ ID NO: 12, the CD loop comprises SEQ ID NO: 13, the DE loop comprises SEQ ID NO: 14, the EF loop comprises SEQ ID NO: 15, and the FG loop comprises SEQ ID NO: 16,

wherein the Tn3 scaffold comprising the CD40L-specific monomer subunit is to be administered at a dose of about 1500 mg, wherein the Tn3 scaffold is to be administered once about every 2 weeks for at least 2 doses and is to be administered about once a month thereafter, and

wherein the subject has Systemic Lupus Erythematosus.

21. The use of claim 20, wherein mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) and prednisone are to be further administered.

22. The use of claim 20, wherein the Tn3 scaffold comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.