CLAIMS:

1. A device for performing plasmapheresis, comprising:

a first conduit for the pumped travel therethrough of blood drawn from a mammalian patient;

a separator in fluid connection with said first conduit, said separator for separating cellular components of said blood from plasma;

a column device in fluid communication with said separator and for the flow therethrough of said plasma, wherein said column device is configured to selectively remove galectin-3 (gal-3) from said plasma to provide treated plasma;

a second conduit in fluid communication with said column device and configure to receive said treated plasma and combine it with blood cells separated in said separator prior to return to said patient;

wherein said first and second conduits provide for substantially continuous flow of said blood and plasma from said patient and return to said mammalian patient; and characterized in that said device comprises at least one additional column device, configured for removal of a plasma component other than galectin-3.

2. The device of Claim 1, wherein said device comprises at least one port through which a therapeutic agent can be added to said treated plasma, separated blood, or both prior to return to said patient.

3. The device of Claim 1, wherein said device further comprises a monitoring station to permit monitoring and control over said plasmapheresis.

4. The device of Claim 3, wherein said monitoring station provides for automated control over said separator and said column device, and further provides for monitoring patient indicators selected from the group consisting of pulse rate, oxygen saturation, ECG rhythm and blood pressure.

5. The device of Claim 1, wherein said separator comprises a centrifuge separator.

6. The device of Claim 5, wherein said centrifuge separator is a continuous flow centrifuge separator.

7. The device of Claim 6, wherein said separator is a discontinuous flow separator.

8. The device of Claim 1, wherein said separator is a membrane plasma separator.

9. The device of Claim 1, wherein said device further comprises at least one pump to advance said cellular components through said conduit.

10. The device of claim 1, further comprising at least one port through which a blood component selected from the group consisting of B cells, T cells, platelets, stem cells and mixtures thereof may be harvested for modification and then returned to said patient via a conduit.

11. The device of Claim 1, wherein said column device comprises a tube provided with

an interior, wherein aid interior bears a composition which supports an agent which will bind galectin-3, and wherein said agent is found on an area of said tube through which area said plasma will pass during use of the device.

12. The device of Claim 11, wherein said agent comprises a ligand for binding galectin-3.

13. The device of Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a column device which removes tumor necrosis factor α and a column device which removes transforming growth factor β.

14. The device of Claim 9, wherein said device comprises a port upstream of said separator for the addition of an anti-coagulant.