CLAIMS:

1. A method for treating or preventing a rheumatic disease in a subject, the method comprising administering to the subject a population of cells enriched for STRO-1$^+$ cells and/or progeny thereof and/or soluble factors derived therefrom.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the rheumatic disease is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, Still's disease, ankylosing spondylitis, Reiter's disease, psoriatric arthritis, enteric arthritis, sacroiliitis, spondylitis and osteoarthritis.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the rheumatic disease is rheumatoid arthritis.

4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the subject is receiving treatment with methotrexate prior to administration of the population of cells enriched for STRO-1$^+$ cells and/or progeny thereof and/or soluble factors derived therefrom.

5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4 comprising administering a population of cells enriched for STRO-1^{bright} cells and/or progeny thereof and/or soluble factors derived therefrom.

6. The method of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the population enriched for STRO-1$^+$ cells and/or progeny thereof and/or soluble factors derived therefrom are administered systemically.

7. The method of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the STRO-1$^+$ cells and/or progeny thereof and/or soluble factors derived therefrom are administered in an amount sufficient to reduce the level of any one or more of IL-6, TNFα, IL-17 and/or CD14$^+$ cells in a joint of a subject.

8. The method of any one of claims 1 to 7, comprising administering between 0.1 x 10^6 to 5 x 10^6 STRO-1$^+$ cells and/or progeny thereof per kilogram.

9. The method of any one of claims 1 to 7, comprising administering between $0.3x10^6$ cells/kg to $2x10^6$ cells/kg, wherein the cells are STRO-1$^+$ cells and/or progeny thereof.

10. The method of any one of claims 1 to 9 comprising administering a low dose of STRO-1^+ cells and/or progeny thereof.

11. The method of claim 11, wherein the low dose of STRO-1^+ cells and/or progeny thereof comprises between 0.1 x 10^5 and 0.5 x 10^6 STRO-1^+ cells and/or progeny thereof per kilogram.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the low dose of STRO-1^+ cells and/or progeny thereof comprises about 0.3 x 10^6 STRO-1^+ cells and/or progeny thereof per kilogram.

13. The method of any one of claims 1 to 9 comprising administering a high dose of STRO-1^+ cells and/or progeny thereof.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the high dose of STRO-1^+ cells and/or progeny thereof comprises between about 1.5 x 10^5 to about 2 x 10^6 STRO-1^+ cells and/or progeny thereof per kilogram.

15. The method of claim any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the dose of STRO-1^+ cells and/or progeny thereof comprises a dose of between about 100 million cells to about 300 million cells.

16. The method of any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the population enriched for STRO-1^+ cells and/or progeny thereof and/or soluble factors derived therefrom are administered once weekly or less often.

17. The method of any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the population enriched for STRO-1^+ cells and/or progeny thereof and/or soluble factors derived therefrom are administered once every four weeks or less often.

18. The method of any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the population enriched for STRO-1^+ cells and/or progeny thereof and/or soluble factors derived therefrom are administered intra-arterially, into an aorta, into an atrium or ventricle of the heart or intravenously.

19. The method of any one of claims 1 to 18, wherein the population enriched for STRO-1$^+$ cells and/or progeny cells are autogeneic or allogeneic and/or the soluble factors can be derived from autogeneic or allogeneic cells.

20. The method of any one of claims 1 to 19, wherein the population enriched for STRO-1$^+$ cells and/or progeny cells have been culture expanded prior to administration and/or prior to obtaining the soluble factors.

21. The method of any one of claims 1 to 20, wherein the population enriched for STRO-1$^+$ cells are STRO-1^{bri}, and/or express tissue non-specific alkaline phosphatase (TNAP) and/or the progeny cells and/or soluble factors are derived from STRO-1$^+$ cells that are STRO-1^{bri} and/or express TNAP.

22. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 21, wherein the STRO-1$^+$ cells and/or progeny cells thereof and/or soluble factors derived therefrom are administered in the form of a composition comprising said STRO-1$^+$ cells and/or progeny cells thereof and/or soluble factors derived therefrom and a carrier and/or excipient.

23. A population of cells enriched for STRO-1$^+$ cells and/or progeny thereof and/or soluble factors derived therefrom for use in the treatment or prevention of a rheumatic disease in a subject.

24. Use of a population of cells enriched for STRO-1$^+$ cells and/or progeny thereof and/or soluble factors derived therefrom in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing a rheumatic disease in a subject.

CLAIMS

1. Use of a therapeutically effective amount of a population of cells enriched for STRO-1^+ multipotential cells in the manufacture of a medicament for systemic administration for treating or preventing a rheumatic disease in a subject.

2. Use according to Claim 1, in which the rheumatic disease is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, Still's disease, ankylosing spondylitis, Reiter's disease, psoriatric arthritis, enteric arthritis, sacroiliitis, spondylitis and osteoarthritis.

3. Use according to Claim 1, in which the rheumatic disease is rheumatoid arthritis.

4. Use according to Claim 1, in which the subject is receiving treatment with methotrexate prior to administration of the population of cells enriched for STRO-1^+ multipotential cells.

5. Use according to any preceding claim, in which the population of cells enriched for STRO-1^+ multipotential cells are enriched for STRO-1^{bright} multipotential cells.

6. Use according to any preceding claim, in which the medicament is suitable for administering between 0.1 x 10^6 to 5 x 10^6 STRO-1^+ multipotential cells per kilogram.

7. Use according to any preceding claim, in which the medicament is suitable for administering STRO-1^+ multipotential cells in an amount sufficient to reduce the level of any one or more of IL-6, TNFα, IL-17 and/or $CD14^+$ cells in a joint of a subject.

8. Use according to any preceding claim, in which the medicament is suitable for administering between 0.3x10^6 cells/kg to 2x10^6 cells/kg.

9. Use according to any of Claims 1 to 5, in which the medicament is suitable for administering between about 1.5 x 10^5 to about 2 x 10^6 STRO-1^+ multipotential cells per kilogram.

10. Use according to any of Claims 1 to 5, in which the medicament is suitable for administering a dose of between about 100 million cells to about 300 million cells.

11. Use according to any preceding claim, in which the medicament is suitable for administering once weekly or less often.

12. Use according to any preceding claim, in which the population enriched for STRO-1^{+} multipotential cells are administered once every four weeks or less often.

13. Use according to any preceding claim, in which the population enriched for STRO-1^{+} multipotential cells are suitable for administration intra-arterially, into an aorta, into an atrium or ventricle of the heart or intravenously.

14. Use according to any preceding claim, in which the population is enriched for STRO-1^{+} multipotential cells in which the population of cells enriched for STRO-1+ multipotential cells are autogenic or allogeneic.

15. Use according to any preceding claim, in which the population enriched for STRO-1^{+} multipotential cells have been culture expanded prior to administration.

16. Use according to any preceding claim, in which the population enriched for STRO-1^{+} multipotential cells are STRO-1^{bright}, and/or express tissue non-specific alkaline phosphatase (TNAP).

17. Use according to any preceding claim, in which the medicament comprises a population of cells enriched for STRO-1^{+} multipotential cells and a carrier and/or excipient.