CLAIMS:

1. Use of a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising a constitutively active form of transcription factor EB (TFEB) or the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prevention of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), Stargardt's macular retinal degeneration, neurodegenerative disease, or diabetic retinopathy acid in a subject in need thereof,

wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 with a substitution of serine at position 467 of SEQ ID NO: 1 with another amino acid.

2. The use of claim 1, wherein the AMD is atrophic AMD.

3. The use of claim 2, wherein the atrophic AMD includes geographic atrophy.

4. The use of claim 2 or 3, wherein the AMD is wet AMD.

5. The use of claim 1, wherein the neurodegenerative disease is Alzheimer's disease or Parkinson's disease.

6. The use of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the nucleic acid further comprises a hVMD2 promoter.

7. The use of any one of claims 1-6, wherein the nucleic acid is comprised in a vector.

8. The use of any one of claims 1-7, wherein the vector is an adeno-associated viral (AAV) vector.

9. The use of claim 8, wherein the AAV vector is AAV2.

10. The use of any one of claims 1-9, wherein the serine at position 467 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is substituted with an alanine.

11. The use of any one of claims 1-10, wherein the subject is a human.

12. The use of any one of claim 1-11, wherein the nucleic acid, the polypeptide, or a vector comprising the nucleic acid is to be administered by subretinal injection, intravitreal injection, or topical administration.

13. A polypeptide comprising a constitutively active form of transcription factor EB (TFEB), wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the serine at position 467 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is substituted with an alanine.

14. A nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide of claim 13.

15. A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 14.

16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising (a) a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier and (b) the polypeptide of claim 13, a nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide, or a vector comprising the nucleic acid.