What is claimed is:

1. Use of a hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) or a fibroblast growth factor (FGF) in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing neurotrophic keratitis in a subject in need thereof.

2. The use of claim 1, wherein the HGF or FGF is purified.

3. The use of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the medicament is to be administered in combination with a corneal stroma permeating excipient.

4. The use of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the medicament is formulated in a liquid pharmaceutical composition.

5. The use of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the medicament is to be administered to the eye.

6. The use of claim 5, wherein the medicament is to be topically administered to the eye.

7. The use of claim 5, wherein the medicament is to be administered to the eye by injection.

8. The use of claim 7, wherein the medicament is to be administered subconjunctivally.

9. The use of claim 7, wherein the medicament is to be administered intracamerally.

10. The use of claim 4, wherein the liquid pharmaceutical composition comprises HGF or FGF in a concentration of about 0.01% (w/v) to about 1.0% (w/v).

11. The use of claim 10, wherein the liquid pharmaceutical composition comprises HGF or FGF in a concentration of about 0.08% (w/v) to about 0.25% (w/v).

12. The use of claim 10, wherein the liquid pharmaceutical composition comprises HGF or FGF in a concentration of about 0.1% (w/v).

13. The use of claim 10, wherein the liquid pharmaceutical composition comprises HGF or FGF in a concentration of about 0.2% (w/v).

14. The use of any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the medicament is to be administered in combination with a further therapeutic agent.

15. The use of claim 14, wherein the further therapeutic agent is a further growth factor.

16. The use of any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the HGF comprises a polypeptide sequence having any one of SEQ ID NOS: 1-27.

17. The use of any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the HGF comprises a polypeptide sequence which has 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 1.

18. The use of any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the HGF comprises of a polypeptide sequence having SEQ ID NO: 1.

19. The use of any one of the foregoing claims, wherein the HGF is activated HGF.

20. The use of claim 19, wherein the activated HGF is activated dHGF.

21. The use of any one of the foregoing claims, wherein the HGF comprises:

(a) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 2; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 2, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 2; or

(b) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 7; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 7, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 7; or

(c) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 8; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 8, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 8; or

(d) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 9; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 9, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 9; or

(e) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 10; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 10, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 10; or

(g) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 11; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 11, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 11; or

(h) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 12; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 12, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 12; or

(i) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 13; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 13, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 13; or

(j) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 14; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 14, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 14; or

(k) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 15; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 15, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 15; or

(l) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 16; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 16, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 16; or

(m) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 17; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 17, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 17; or

(n) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 18; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 18, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 18; or

(o) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 19; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 19, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 19; or

(p) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 20; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 20, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 20; or

(q) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 21; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 21, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 21; or

(r) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 22; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 22, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 22; or

(s) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 23; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 23, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 23; or

(t) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 24; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 24, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 24; or

(u) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 25; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 25, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 25; or

(v) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 26; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 26, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 26; or

(w) a first polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 27; and a second polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80%, preferably 90% identity to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 27, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 27.

22. The use of any one of the foregoing claims, wherein the HGF comprises:

(a) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 2; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 2, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 2; or

(b) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 7; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 7, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 7; or

(c) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 8; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 8, optionally

wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 8; or

(d) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 9; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 9, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 9; or

(e) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 10; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 10, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 10; or

(g) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 11; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 11, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 11; or

(h) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 12; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 12, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 12; or

(i) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 13; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 13, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 13; or

(j) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 14; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 14, optionally

wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 14; or

(k) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 15; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 15, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 15; or

(l) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 16; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 16, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 16; or

(m) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 17; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 17, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 17; or

(n) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 18; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 18, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 18; or

(o) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 19; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 19, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 19; or

(p) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 20; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 20, optionally

wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 20; or

(q) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 21; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 21, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 21; or

(r) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 22; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 22, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 22; or

(s) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 23; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 23, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 23; or

(t) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 24; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 24, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 24; or

(u) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 25; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 25, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 25; or

(v) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 26; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 26, optionally

wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 26; or

(w) a first polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 32–494 of SEQ ID NO: 27; and a second polypeptide comprising or consisting of an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 495–728 of SEQ ID NO: 27, optionally wherein the first polypeptide comprises a deletion of the amino acids corresponding to amino acids 161–165 of SEQ ID NO: 27.

23. The use of claim 20, wherein the first polypeptide comprises or consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 36 and the second polypeptide comprises or consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 37.

24. The use of claim 20 or claim 21, wherein the N-terminal amino acid of the first polypeptide is pyrrolidone carboxylic acid.

25. The use of any one of claims 19 to 22, wherein the first polypeptide and second polypeptide are linked by one or more disulfide bonds.

26. The use of any one of claims 19 to 23, wherein the HGF is capable of binding to c-MET and/or activating the MAPK pathway in epithelial cells.