CLAIMS

1. A pharmaceutical composition for use in a method of preventing or treating a urinary tract infection (UTI), said composition comprising one or more oligomeric tannins, selected from proanthocyanidins and/or hydrolysable tannins, wherein said composition is administered intraurethrally, intravesically, intraureterally and/or intrarenally, and wherein the composition forms a web-like prophylactic network on the epithelial surface of the urogenital tract that agglutinates bacteria by entrapment, thereby promoting urothelial impermeability to bacterial adherence or bacterial invasion.

2. A pharmaceutical composition for use according to claim 1 wherein the UTI is a uropathogenic *Escherichia coli* infection.

3. A pharmaceutical composition for use in a method of preventing or treating chronic cystitis, overactive bladder, partial bladder obstruction or urethritis, said composition comprising one or more oligomeric tannins, selected from proanthocyanidins and/or hydrolysable tannins, wherein said composition is administered intraurethrally, intravesically, intraureterally and/or intrarenally, and wherein the composition forms a web-like prophylactic network on the epithelial surface of the urogenital tract that agglutinates bacteria by entrapment, thereby promoting urothelial impermeability to bacterial adherence or bacterial invasion.

4. A pharmaceutical composition for use according to claim 3 wherein the chronic cystitis is painful bladder syndrome (PBS), irradiation cystitis, ketamine cystitis, granulomatous cystitis, follicular cystitis, trigonitis, or abscess-associated cystitis.

5. A pharmaceutical composition for use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said one or more oligomeric tannins comprise one or more proanthocyanidins.

6. A pharmaceutical composition for use according to claim 5 wherein said one or more proanthocyanidins comprise one or more proanthocyanidins each with:
(a). at least one A-type interflavan linkage; and/or
(b). a flavanol/flavan degree of polymerisation of four or more.

7. A pharmaceutical composition for use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein

the composition is substantially free of monomeric tannin base units.

8. A pharmaceutical composition for use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the composition additionally comprises one or more additional agents from the group consisting of: an anti-infective agent, an anti-muscarinic agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, an anaesthetic, glycosaminoglycan, and an anti-cancer agent.

9. A pharmaceutical composition for use according to claim 8 wherein, for any additional agent, part or all of the tannins are bound to:
(a). part or all of the additional agent; and/or
(b). liposomes containing part or all of the additional agent.

10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a). one or more oligomeric tannins, selected from proanthocyanidins and/or hydrolysable tannins; and

(b). one or more additional agents selected from the group consisting of: an anti-infective agent, an anti-muscarinic agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, an anaesthetic, a glycosaminoglycan and/or an anti-cancer agent;

wherein said composition is suitable for intraurethral administration, intravesical administration, intraureteral administration and/or intrarenal administration, and wherein the composition forms a web-like prophylactic network on an epithelial surface.

11. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 wherein, for any additional agent, part or all of the tannins are bound to:
(a). part or all of the additional agent; and/or
(b). liposomes containing part or all of the additional agent.

12. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 or claim 11 wherein said one or more oligomeric tannins is as defined within claim 5 or claim 6 and/or wherein said composition is substantially free of monomeric tannin base units.

13. A pharmaceutical composition for use in a method of preventing or treating bladder cancer, wherein said composition is administered intravesically, said composition comprising one or more oligomeric tannins, selected from proanthocyanidins and/or hydrolysable tannins, wherein

said tannins are bound to an anti-cancer agent and/or liposomes containing an anti-cancer agent, and wherein the composition forms a web-like prophylactic network on an epithelial surface.

14. A pharmaceutical composition for use according to claim 13, wherein the anti-cancer agent comprises an Anthracycline, a Mitomycin, or Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) and / or

wherein the composition additionally comprises one or more additional agents from the group consisting of: an anti-infective agent, an anti-muscarinic agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, an anaesthetic and a glycosaminoglycan.

15. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11, wherein the additional agent is an anti-cancer agent, wherein said tannins are bound to the anti-cancer agent and/or liposomes containing the anti-cancer agent, and wherein said composition is suitable for intravesical administration;

wherein the anti-cancer agent comprises an Anthracycline, a Mitomycin, or Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG); and / or

wherein the composition additionally comprises one or more additional agents selected from the group consisting of: an anti-infective agent, an anti-muscarinic agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, an anaesthetic and/or a glycosaminoglycan.