CLAIMS

1. A composition comprising a population of culture expanded genetically unmodified stem cells in which the culture expanded cells express angiopoietin-1 (Ang1) and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) at a ratio [Ang1:VEGF] between 2:1 and 30:1, and in which the cells have been culture expanded in a cell culture media that contains L-ascorbic acid salt; is supplemented with less than 10% fetal calf serum (FCS); and is supplemented with non-fetal serum.

2. A composition according to Claim 1, in which the stem cells express Ang1:VEGF at a ratio between 5:1 and 20:1.

3. A composition comprising a population of culture expanded genetically unmodified stem cells in which the culture expanded cells express angiopoietin-1 (Ang1) and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), in which the culture expanded cells express VEGF in an amount of less than 0.05 $\mu g/10^6$ cells, and in which the cells have been culture expanded in a cell culture media that contains L-ascorbic acid salt; is supplemented with less than 10% fetal calf serum (FCS); and is supplemented with non-fetal serum.

4. A composition according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the stem cells are mesenchymal stem cells.

5. A composition according to any preceding claim, in which the stem cells are mesenchymal precursor cells.

6. A composition according to any preceding claim, further comprising an acceptable pharmaceutical carrier.

7. An *in vitro* method for culture expanding stem cells, the method comprising:

culturing a population of stem cells in a cell culture media, in which the cell culture media contains:

a L-ascorbic acid salt;

less than 10% fetal calf serum (FCS); and

non-fetal serum

in which the culture expanded cells express angiopoietin-1 (Ang1) and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) at a ratio [Ang1:VEGF] between 2:1 and 30:1, or

in which the culture expanded cells express Ang1 and VEGF, wherein the culture expanded cells express VEGF in an amount of less than 0.05 µg/106 cells.

8. A method according to Claim 7, in which the L-ascorbic acid salt is L-ascorbic acid sodium salt.

9. A method according to Claim 7 or 8, in which the cell culture media is supplemented with at least about 5% v/v FCS.

10. A method according to Claim 7, 8 or 9, in which the non-fetal serum is new born calf serum (NBCS).

11. A method according to Claim 10, in which the cell culture media contains NBCS at a level of at least 2% v/v.

12. A method according to Claim 10, in which the cell culture media contains NBCS at a level of at least 5% v/v.

13. A method according to Claim 10, 11 or 12, in which the cell culture media is supplemented with a mixture of NBCS and FCS.

14. A method according to Claim 13, in which the ratio of NBCS to FCS is about 1:1.

15. A method according to Claim 13, in which the media is supplemented with 5% v/v FCS and 5% v/v NBCS.