What is claimed is:

1. A topical oil-in-water emulsion composition comprising
    a) a discontinuous oil phase;
    b) a continuous aqueous phase comprising water;
    c) a thickening agent;
    d) one or more of a monofatty acid ester of glycerin and/or one or more of a monofatty acid ester of glycol, or mixtures thereof; and
    e) at least one lamellar membrane structure comprising (i) a phospolipid; and (ii) a fatty alcohol;

wherein in use the composition has a water vapor transmission rate measured *in vitro* using the *mod*WVTR test methodology that is less than a composition not containing a monofatty acid ester of glycerin and/or a monofatty acid ester of glycol.

2. The composition according to claim 1 which is free from an anionic surfactant and/or a ceramide.

3. The composition according to claim 1 or 2 which is free from or substantially free from conventional surfactants.

4. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the phospholipid is hydrogenated phosphatidylcholine.

5. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the phospholipid is present in an amount from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

6. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the fatty alcohol is a $C_{12}$-$C_{36}$ fatty alcohol, or a $C_{20}$-$C_{26}$ fatty alcohol, or $C_{22}$ fatty alcohol.

7. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the fatty alcohol is present in an amount from about 2% to about 15% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

8. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 7 further comprising a fatty acid.

9. The composition according to claim 8, wherein the fatty acid is a $C_{12}$ to $C_{36}$ fatty acid, or a $C_{18}$ to $C_{36}$ fatty acid, or a $C_{20}$ to $C_{26}$ fatty acid, or a $C_{22}$ fatty acid.

10. The composition according to claim 8 or 9 wherein the fatty acid is present in an amount from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

11. The composition according to any of claims 1 to 10 further comprising an ester of a branched fatty acid and a branched fatty alcohol.

12. The composition according to claim 11, wherein the ester is isostearyl isostearate.

13. The composition according to claim 11 or 12 wherein the ester is present in an amount from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

14. The composition according to any of the preceding claims wherein the one or more of a monofatty acid ester of glycerin and/or one or more of a monofatty acid ester of glycol, or mixtures thereof is selected from behenoyl monoglyceride and/or ethyleneglyol monobehenate, or mixtures thereof.

15. The composition according to any of the preceding claims wherein the one or more of a monofatty acid ester of glycerin and/or one or more of a monofatty acid ester of glycol, or mixtures thereof is present in an amount from about 0.1 to about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

16. The composition according to claim 14 wherein the behenoyl monoglyceride is a mixture of monobehanate and glycerides of shorter fatty acyl chain lengths.

17. Use of a topical oil-in-water emulsion composition according to any of claims 1 to 16 in the manufacture of a medicament for moisturizing, and protecting, repairing, or restoring the skin lipid barrier of a mammal.

18. A topical oil-in-water emulsion composition according to any of claims 1 to 16 for use in moisturizing, and protecting, repairing, or restoring the skin lipid barrier of a mammal.