

We Claim,

1. A lectin protein for use in the treatment or prevention of an inflammatory disease, wherein the lectin protein is recombinant lectin and is derived from *Sclerotium rolfsii*; wherein the lectin protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO. 2, SEQ ID NO. 3 and SEQ ID NO. 4.
2. The lectin protein for use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lectin protein is capable of a) inhibiting the secretion of inflammatory cytokines; and/or b) reducing C-reactive protein (CRP) levels in blood; and/or c) stimulating ACP activity and/or collagen levels.
3. The lectin protein for use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inflammatory disease is a chronic inflammatory disease.
4. The lectin protein for use as claimed in claim 3, wherein the chronic inflammatory disease is psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis (RA), hepatitis, asthma, inflammatory bowel disease, temporal arteritis, atopic dermatitis, systemic lupus, multiple sclerosis or sarcoidosis.
5. The lectin protein for use as claimed in claim 3, wherein the chronic inflammatory disease is rheumatoid arthritis (RA).
6. The lectin protein for use as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the inflammatory disease is an acute inflammation.
7. The lectin protein for use as claimed in claim 6, wherein the acute inflammation is caused by an allergic reaction, an infection or trauma.
8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a lectin protein and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or excipient for use in the treatment or prevention of inflammatory diseases in a subject; wherein the lectin protein is recombinant lectin and is derived from *Scelrotium rolfsii lectin*, wherein the lectin protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO. 2, SEQ ID NO. 3 or SEQ ID NO. 4.
9. The pharmaceutical composition for use as claimed in claim 8, wherein the inflammatory disease is a chronic inflammatory disease.
10. The pharmaceutical composition for use as claimed in claim 8, wherein the inflammatory disease is arthritis.
11. The pharmaceutical composition for use as claimed in one of claims 8 to 10, wherein the lectin protein is to be administered at a dose of 1 to 50 mg/kg.
12. The lectin protein for use as claimed in claim 4, wherein the inflammatory bowel disease is crohn's disease, colitis or irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).