~~WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:~~

1. A method for treating alveolar bone loss in a subject comprising administering to the subject an anti-sclerostin antibody in an amount effective to decrease the distance between the cement-enamel junction and the alveolar bone crest, at a dose from about 5 mg to about 1,000 mg per week.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the distance between the cement-enamel junction and the alveolar bone crest is decreased by at least 10% compared to the pre-treatment distance by six weeks after initiation of treatment.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the alveolar bone height is increased by at least 10% compared to the pre-treatment alveolar bone height by six weeks after initiation of treatment.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the alveolar bone height of the subject is increased by at least 1 mm compared to pre-treatment alveolar bone height by six weeks after initiation of treatment.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the alveolar bone density of the subject is increased by at least 10% compared to pre-treatment alveolar bone density by six weeks after initiation of treatment.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the alveolar bone volume fraction is increased by at least 10% compared to pre-treatment bone volume fraction by six weeks after initiation of treatment.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the antibody is administered in an amount from about 120-270 mg.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody is administered twice a week.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody is administered locally to diseased gingival area or diseased periodontal pocket of the subject.

10. The method of any one of claims 1-9, wherein the method comprises administering a standard of care therapeutic selected from the group consisting of Periostat® or chemically modified tetracycline-3 (CMT-3) prior to administering the anti-sclerostin antibody.

11. The method of any one of claims 1-10, further comprising administering a second bone-enhancing therapeutic selected from the group consisting of parathyroid hormone, teriparatide, a bisphosphonate, a RANKL antibody and a DKK-1 antibody.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the second bone-enhancing therapeutic is administered after the treatment period with the anti-sclerostin antibody has ended.

13. The method of claim 1, optionally comprising administering the anti-sclerostin antibody for a second period of time in an amount sufficient to maintain alveolar bone.

14. The method of any one of claims 1-13, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody is an immunoglobulin comprising a heavy chain and a light chain.

15. The method of any one of claims 1-13, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody is an antibody or fragment thereof that demonstrates a binding affinity for sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1 of less than or equal to 1×10^{-9} M.

16. The method of any one of claims 1-15, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody neutralizes human sclerostin in a MC3T3 cell-based mineralization assay when there is less than a six-fold excess of moles of sclerostin binding sites per well as compared to the number of moles of sclerostin per well.

17. The method of any one of claims 1-13, where the anti-sclerostin antibody cross-blocks the binding of at least one of antibodies Ab-A, Ab-B, Ab-C, Ab-D, Ab-1, Ab-2, Ab-3, Ab-4, Ab-5, Ab-6, Ab-7, Ab-8, Ab-9, Ab-10, Ab-11, Ab-12, Ab-13, Ab-14, Ab-15, Ab-16, Ab-17, Ab-18, Ab-19, Ab-20, Ab-21, Ab-22, Ab-23, and Ab-24 to sclerostin and/or is cross-blocked from binding to sclerostin by at least one of antibodies Ab-A, Ab-B, Ab-C, Ab-D, Ab-1, Ab-2, Ab-3, Ab-4, Ab-5, Ab-6, Ab-7, Ab-8, Ab-9, Ab-10, Ab-11, Ab-12, Ab-13, Ab-14, Ab-15, Ab-16, Ab-17, Ab-18, Ab-19, Ab-20, Ab-21, Ab-22, Ab-23, and Ab-24.

18. The method of any one of claims 1-13, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody comprises a CDR-H1 of SEQ ID NO:245, a CDR-H2 of SEQ ID NO:246, a CDR-H3 of SEQ ID NO:247, a CDR-L1 of SEQ ID NO:78, a CDR-L2 of SEQ ID NO:79, and a CDR-L3 of SEQ ID NO:80.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein anti-sclerostin antibody comprises heavy chains comprising SEQ ID NO: 378 and light chains comprising SEQ ID NO 376.

20. A dental implant comprising an anti-sclerostin antibody that binds to a sclerostin polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1,

wherein said anti-sclerostin antibody demonstrates a binding affinity for sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1 of less than or equal to 1 x 10^{-9} M.

21. A gel or matrix comprising an anti-sclerostin antibody that binds to a sclerostin polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said anti-sclerostin antibody demonstrates a binding affinity for sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1 of less than or equal to 1 x 10^{-9} M.

22. An anti-sclerostin antibody for use in a method of treating alveolar bone loss in a subject, the method comprising administering an anti-sclerostin antibody in an amount effective to decrease the distance between the cement-enamel junction and the alveolar bone crest, optionally at a dose from about 5 mg to about 1,000 mg per week.

23. The anti-sclerostin antibody according to claim 22, wherein the method of treating alveolar bone loss further comprises administering a second bone-enhancing therapeutic selected from the group consisting of parathyroid hormone, teriparatide, a bisphosphonate, a RANKL antibody and a DKK-1 antibody.

24. The anti-sclerostin antibody according to claim 23, wherein the second bone-enhancing therapeutic is administered after the treatment period with the anti-sclerostin antibody has ended.

25. The anti-sclerostin antibody according to claim 22, wherein the method of treating alveolar bone loss optionally further comprises administering the anti-sclerostin antibody for a second period of time in an amount sufficient to maintain alveolar bone.

26. The anti-sclerostin antibody of any one of claims 22-25, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody is an immunoglobulin comprising a heavy chain and a light chain.

27. The anti-sclerostin antibody of any one of claims 22-26, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody is an antibody or fragment thereof that demonstrates a binding affinity for sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1 of less than or equal to 1 x 10-9 M.

28. The anti-sclerostin antibody of any one of claims 22-27, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody neutralizes human sclerostin in a MC3T3 cell-based mineralization assay when there is less than a six-fold excess of moles of sclerostin binding sites per well as compared to the number of moles of sclerostin per well.

29. The anti-sclerostin antibody of any one of claims 22-28, where the anti-sclerostin antibody cross-blocks the binding of at least one of antibodies Ab-A, Ab-B, Ab-C, Ab-D, Ab-1, Ab-2, Ab-3, Ab-4, Ab-5, Ab-6, Ab-7, Ab-8, Ab-9, Ab-10, Ab-11, Ab-12, Ab-

~~13, Ab-14, Ab-15, Ab-16, Ab-17, Ab-18, Ab-19, Ab-20, Ab-21, Ab-22, Ab-23, and Ab-24 to~~ sclerostin and/or is cross-blocked from binding to sclerostin by at least one of antibodies Ab-A, Ab-B, Ab-C, Ab-D, Ab-1, Ab-2, Ab-3, Ab-4, Ab-5, Ab-6, Ab-7, Ab-8, Ab-9, Ab-10, Ab-11, Ab-12, Ab-13, Ab-14, Ab-15, Ab-16, Ab-17, Ab-18, Ab-19, Ab-20, Ab-21, Ab-22, Ab-23, and Ab-24.

30. The anti-sclerostin antibody of any one of claims 22-29, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody comprises a CDR-H1 of SEQ ID NO:245, a CDR-H2 of SEQ ID NO:246, a CDR-H3 of SEQ ID NO:247, a CDR-L1 of SEQ ID NO:78, a CDR-L2 of SEQ ID NO:79, and a CDR-L3 of SEQ ID NO:80.

31. The anti-sclerostin antibody of claim 30, wherein anti-sclerostin antibody comprises heavy chains comprising SEQ ID NO: 378 and light chains comprising SEQ ID NO 376.

32. Use of an anti-sclerostin antibody in preparation of a medicament for treating alveolar bone loss in a subject in an amount effective to decrease the distance between the cement-enamel junction and the alveolar bone crest, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody is optionally at a dose from about 5 mg to about 1,000 mg per week.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Use of an anti-sclerostin antibody in the manufacture of a medicament for treating alveolar bone loss in a subject comprising the anti-sclerostin antibody to be administered in an amount effective to decrease the distance between the cement-enamel junction and the alveolar bone crest, at a dose from about 5 mg to about 1,000 mg per week, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody is anti-sclerostin antibody Ab-5.

2. The use of claim 1, wherein the distance between the cement-enamel junction and the alveolar bone crest is decreased by at least 10% compared to the pre-treatment distance by six weeks after initiation of treatment.

3. The use of claim 1, wherein the alveolar bone height is increased by at least 10% compared to the pre-treatment alveolar bone height by six weeks after initiation of treatment.

4. The use of claim 1, wherein the alveolar bone height of the subject is increased by at least 1 mm compared to pre-treatment alveolar bone height by six weeks after initiation of treatment.

5. The use of claim 1, wherein the alveolar bone density of the subject is increased by at least 10% compared to pre-treatment alveolar bone density by six weeks after initiation of treatment.

6. The use of claim 1, wherein the alveolar bone volume fraction is increased by at least 10% compared to pre-treatment bone volume fraction by six weeks after initiation of treatment.

7. The use of claim 1, wherein the antibody is to be administered in an amount from about 120-270 mg.

8. The use of claim 1, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody is to be administered twice a week.

9. The use of claim 1, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody is to be administered locally to diseased gingival area or diseased periodontal pocket of the subject.

10. The use of any one of claims 1-9, wherein the use comprises a standard of care therapeutic selected from the group consisting of Periostat® or chemically modified tetracycline-3 (CMT-3) to be administered prior to administration of the anti-sclerostin antibody.

11. The use of any one of claims 1-10, further comprising a second bone-enhancing therapeutic to be administered, selected from the group consisting of parathyroid hormone, teriparatide, a bisphosphonate, a RANKL antibody and a DKK-1 antibody.

12. The use of claim 10, wherein the second bone-enhancing therapeutic is to be administered after the treatment period with the anti-sclerostin antibody has ended.

13. The use of claim 1, optionally comprising the anti-sclerostin antibody to be administered for a second period of time in an amount sufficient to maintain alveolar bone.

14. The use of any one of claims 1-13, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody is an immunoglobulin comprising a heavy chain and a light chain.

15. The use of any one of claims 1-13, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody is an antibody or fragment thereof that demonstrates a binding affinity for sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1 of less than or equal to 1×10^{-9} M.

16. The use of any one of claims 1-15, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody neutralizes human sclerostin in a MC3T3 cell-based mineralization assay when there is less than a six-fold excess of moles of sclerostin binding sites per well as compared to the number of moles of sclerostin per well.

17. The use of any one of claims 1-13, where the anti-sclerostin antibody cross-blocks the binding of antibody Ab-5 to sclerostin and/or is cross-blocked from binding to sclerostin by antibody Ab-5.

18. The use of any one of claims 1-13, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody comprises a CDR-H1 of SEQ ID NO:245, a CDR-H2 of SEQ ID NO:246, a CDR-H3 of SEQ ID NO:247, a CDR-L1 of SEQ ID NO:78, a CDR-L2 of SEQ ID NO:79, and a CDR-L3 of SEQ ID NO:80.

19. The use of claim 18, wherein anti-sclerostin antibody comprises heavy chains variable region comprising SEQ ID NO: 378 and light chains variable region comprising SEQ ID NO 376.

20. A dental implant comprising an anti-sclerostin antibody that binds to a sclerostin polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said anti-sclerostin antibody is anti-sclerostin antibody Ab-5 and demonstrates a binding affinity for sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1 of less than or equal to 1×10^{-9} M.

21. A gel or matrix comprising an anti-sclerostin antibody that binds to a sclerostin polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1,

wherein said anti-sclerostin antibody is anti-sclerostin antibody Ab-5 and demonstrates a binding affinity for sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1 of less than or equal to 1 x 10^{-9} M.

22. Use of an anti-sclerostin antibody in the manufacture of a medicament for treating alveolar bone loss in a subject, the use comprising the anti-sclerostin antibody to be administered in an amount effective to decrease the distance between the cement-enamel junction and the alveolar bone crest, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody is anti-sclerostin antibody Ab-5 and is optionally at a dose from about 5 mg to about 1,000 mg per week.

23. The use of the anti-sclerostin antibody according to claim 22, wherein the use further comprises a second bone-enhancing therapeutic to be administered, selected from the group consisting of parathyroid hormone, teriparatide, a bisphosphonate, a RANKL antibody and a DKK-1 antibody.

24. The use of the anti-sclerostin antibody according to claim 23, wherein the second bone-enhancing therapeutic is to be administered after the treatment period with the anti-sclerostin antibody has ended.

25. The use of the anti-sclerostin antibody according to claim 22, wherein the use optionally further comprises the anti-sclerostin antibody to be administered for a second period of time in an amount sufficient to maintain alveolar bone.

26. The use of the anti-sclerostin antibody of any one of claims 22-25, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody is an immunoglobulin comprising a heavy chain and a light chain.

27. The use of the anti-sclerostin antibody of any one of claims 22-26, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody is an antibody or fragment thereof that demonstrates a binding affinity for sclerostin of SEQ ID NO: 1 of less than or equal to 1 x 10^{-9} M.

28. The use of the anti-sclerostin antibody of any one of claims 22-27, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody neutralizes human sclerostin in a MC3T3 cell-based mineralization assay when there is less than a six-fold excess of moles of sclerostin binding sites per well as compared to the number of moles of sclerostin per well.

29. The use of the anti-sclerostin antibody of any one of claims 22-28, where the anti-sclerostin antibody cross-blocks the binding of antibody Ab-5 to sclerostin and/or is cross-blocked from binding to sclerostin by antibody Ab-5.

30. The use of the anti-sclerostin antibody of any one of claims 22-29, wherein the anti-sclerostin antibody comprises a CDR-H1 of SEQ ID NO:245, a CDR-H2 of SEQ ID

NO:246, a CDR-H3 of SEQ ID NO:247, a CDR-L1 of SEQ ID NO:78, a CDR-L2 of SEQ ID NO:79, and a CDR-L3 of SEQ ID NO:80.

31. The use of the anti-sclerostin antibody of claim 30, wherein anti-sclerostin antibody comprises heavy chains variable region comprising SEQ ID NO: 378 and light chains variable region comprising SEQ ID NO 376.