CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising DGLA or a derivative thereof encapsulated in a capsule shell.

2. A pharmaceutical composition comprising DGLA or a derivative thereof encapsulated in a capsule shell comprising gelatin and glycerol.

3. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 wherein up to about 1 g of DGLA or a derivative thereof is encapsulated in the capsule shell.

4. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 wherein about 200 mg to about 1 g of DGLA or a derivative thereof is encapsulated in the capsule shell.

5. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 wherein the gelatin comprises lime bone gelatin and the capsule shell further comprises one or more of: glycerol, purified water, titanium dioxide, medium chain triglycerides and/or lecithin.

6. Use of a pharmaceutical composition comprising DGLA or a derivative thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a skin disease or disorder.

7. The use of claim 6 where the pharmaceutical composition comprises DGLA or a derivative thereof encapsulated in a capsule shell.

8. The use of claim 7 wherein the composition is administered to the subject in an amount sufficient to provide about 0.2 g to about 8 g of DGLA per day.

9. The use of claim 6 wherein the composition is administered in 1 to 8 capsules per day.

10. The use of claim 9 wherein each capsule comprises about 200 mg to about 1 g of DGLA.

11. Use of a pharmaceutical composition comprising DGLA or a derivative thereof encapsulated in a capsule shell comprising gelatin, d-sorbitol and 1,4-sorbitan sugar alcohols in the manufacture of a medicament for increasing skin DGLA levels or treating a skin disease.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising 200 mg to about 1 g of the a composition encapsulated in a capsule shell, wherein the composition comprises not less than 95% by weight DGLA, not more than 5% of any individual fatty acid selected from 20:2ω6, 20:3ω3, 20:4ω6, 20:4ω3 and 20:5ω3, and not more than 2% by weight unidentified related substances.

13. Use of a pharmaceutical composition comprising DGLA or a derivative thereof in the manufacture of a medicament fortreating a disease or disorder in a subject in need thereof, wherein the disease or disorder is selected from: skin disorders and diseases, including acne vulgaris, acne rosacea, atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, pruritus/itch, radiation protection, dry skin, smooth skin, healthy skin, anti-aging, and photoprotection; urinary disorders and diseases including bladder cancer, cystocele, hematuria, interstitial cystitis, neurogenic bladder, Peyronie's disease, prostate disease, incontinence, urinary tract infection and vasicoureteral reflux; renal disease and disorders including kidney failure, acute kidney injury, chronic kidney disease, and polycystic kidney disease; rheumatic disease including ankylosing spondylitis, fibromyalgia, gout, infectious arthritis, lupus, osteoarthritis, polymyalgia rheumatic, psoriatic arthritis, reactive arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, sclerodoma; respiratory disorders including inflammatory lung disease, respiratory tract infections, pleural cavity disease, pulmonary vascular disease, pneumonia, pulmonary embolism, and lung cancer; and cardiovascular disorders including acute cardiac ischemic events, acute myocardial infarction, angina, arrhythmia, atrial fibrulation, atherosclerosis, arterial fibrillation, cardiac insufficiency, cardiovascular disease, chronic heart failure, chronic stable angina, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, coronary heart disease, deep vein thrombosis, diabetes, diabetes mellitus, diabetic neuropathy, diastolic dysfunction in subjects with diabetes mellitus, edema, essential hypertension, eventual pulmonary embolism, fatty liver disease, heart disease,

(d) a ratio of total DGLA AUC_{0-24} fasted:fed of between 1:1 to 5:1; of about 1.5:1, of about 2:1 or of about 2.5:1.

19. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1, 2, 12, or 15-18, wherein the composition further comprises eicosatrienoic acid.

20. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1, 2, 12, or 15-18, wherein the composition further comprises eicosatrienoic acid, oleic acid, and/or linoleic acid.

21. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1, 2, 12, or 15-18, wherein the composition further comprises eicosatrienoic acid, oleic acid, and linoleic acid.

22. The use of any one of claims 6, 11, or 13 wherein the composition further comprises eicosatrienoic acid.

23. The use of any one of claims 6, 11, or 13, wherein the composition further comprises eicosatrienoic acid, oleic acid, and/or linoleic acid.

24. The use of any one of claims 6, 11 or 13, wherein the composition further comprises eicosatrienoic acid, oleic acid, and linoleic acid.