

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating viral-induced acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) comprising administering to a subject with viral-induced ARDS cells (I) in amounts sufficient, for a time sufficient, and by a route effective to treat the ARDS, wherein said cells (I) are non-embryonic stem, non-germ cells that have undergone at least 10-40 cell doublings in culture and wherein the cells (I) express telomerase and/or oct4, are not transformed, are not tumorigenic and have a normal karyotype.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the cells (I) express telomerase.
3. The method of either of claim 1 or 2, wherein the cells (I) can differentiate into at least two of the endodermal, ectodermal and mesodermal cell types.
4. The method of any of claims 1-3, wherein the cells (I) express oct4.
5. The method of any of claims 1-4, wherein the cells (I) are human.
6. The method of any of claims 1-5, wherein the cells (I) are derived from bone marrow.
7. The method of any of claims 1-6, wherein the cells (I) have undergone 40 cell doublings in culture.
8. The method of any of claims 1-7, wherein the cells (I) can undergo at least 40 cells doublings in culture.
9. The method of any of claims 1-8, wherein the cells (I) are allogeneic.

10. The method of any of claims 1-9, wherein the virus that induced the ARDS is *Betacoronavirus*.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the *Betacoronavirus* is selected from the group consisting of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Corona Virus or Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), or severe acute respiratory syndrome Corona Virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the virus is selected from a group consisting of influenza, coronavirus including (SARS-CoV, MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV2), herpes simplex virus, cytomegalovirus, rhinoviruses, respiratory syncytial virus, parainfluenza virus, human metapneumovirus, and adenovirus.

13. The method of any of claims 1-12, wherein the subject is human.

14. The method of any of claims 1-13, wherein the route of the administration is intravenous.