CLAIMS

1. A population of mesenchymal lineage precursor or stem cells (MLPSC)s, in which the cells are modified to increase expression of Phosphatase and Tensin Homolog deleted on chromosome 10 alpha (PTENα), in which the modified MLPSCs comprise a recombinant virus which comprises a polynucleotide encoding PTENα.

2. A population according to Claim 1, in which the increase in expression of PTENα is sufficient to:

- decrease the level of phosphorylated AKT in modified cells;
- enhance killing of tumour cells; and/or
- enhance migration to tumour cells.

3. A population according to Claim 1 or 2, in which between 20% and 80% of cells comprise the recombinant virus.

- the polynucleotide encoding PTENα is operatively linked to a tumour specific promoter or an inducible promoter, preferably in which the tumour specific promoter is a survivin promoter, COX-2 promoter, PSA promoter, CXCR4 promoter, STAT3 promoter, hTERT promoter, AFP promoter, CCKAR promoter, CEA promoter, erbB2 promoter, E2F1 promoter, HE4 promoter, LP promoter, MUC-1 promoter, TRP1 promoter, Tyr promoter; and/or,
- the recombinant virus comprises a capsid protein that binds a tumour-specific cell surface molecule, preferably in which the capsid protein is a fibre, a penton or hexon protein.

4. A population according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the recombinant virus is an oncolytic virus.

5. A population according to any preceding claim, in which the virus comprises a herpes simplex virus (HSV) backbone.

6. A population according to any preceding claim, in which the recombinant virus comprises a nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1.

7. A population according to any preceding claim, in which the recombinant virus is a HSV.

8. A population according to any of Claims 2 to 7, in which the tumour cells are breast cancer or brain cancer cells.

9. A population according to any preceding claim, in which the mesenchymal lineage precursor or stem cells are MSCs.

10. A population according to any preceding claim, in which the mesenchymal lineage precursor or stem cells:

- have been purified by immunoselection;
- express STRO-1;
- are derived from pluripotent cells;
- are induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells; and/or
- have been culture expanded.

11. A population according to any preceding claim for use in a method of increasing PTENα expression in a cell, the method comprising contacting the cell with a population according to any of Claims 2 to 10, preferably in which the cell is a cancer cell, more preferably in which the method is performed *in-vivo.*

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a population according to any of Claims 1 to 10.

13. A population according to any of Claims 1 to 10 or a pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 12 for use in treating cancer in a subject, preferably in which the cancer is breast cancer or brain cancer.

14. A population or composition according to Claim 13, in which the cancer is selected from the group consisting of lung cancer, pancreatic cancer, colorectal cancer, liver cancer, cervical cancer, prostate cancer, breast cancer, endometrial cancer, thyroid cancer, kidney cancer, brain cancer, glioblastoma, osteosarcoma and melanoma.

15. A population or composition according to Claim 13,, in which the population or composition is administered to the subject by intravenous, intra-arterial, intra-tumoral or intraperitoneal administration.

16. Use of a population according to any of Claims 1 to 10 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating cancer.

17. Use according to Claim 16, in which the cancer is breast cancer or brain cancer.

18. Use according to Claim 16, in which the cancer is selected from the group consisting of lung cancer, pancreatic cancer, colorectal cancer, liver cancer, cervical cancer, prostate cancer, endometrial cancer, thyroid cancer, kidney cancer, glioblastoma, osteosarcoma and melanoma.