CLAIMS

1. Use of a an intact bacterial minicell and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier in the preparation of a composition for treating a disease in a subject, comprising delivering a nucleic acid adjuvant molecule or an agonist of a nucleic acid sensor to a target cell, wherein:

(a) the intact bacterial minicell comprises:

(i) at least one nucleic acid adjuvant molecule,

(ii) at least one a plasmid comprising a segment that encodes at least one nucleic acid adjuvant molecule, or

(iii) at least one an agonist of a nucleic acid sensor,

wherein the nucleic acid adjuvant molecule or agonist of a nucleic acid sensor produces an immune response from a target cell; and

(b) contacting the target cell with the intact minicell, wherein the target cell engulfs the minicell.

2. The use of claim 1, wherein the target cell is a:

(a) mammalian cell; or

(b) human cell; or

(c) human immune cell; or

(d) human immune cell which is a monocytic cell, a macrophage, a T cell, or a dendritic cell.

3. The use of claim 1 or 2, wherein:

(a) the at least one nucleic acid adjuvant binds a receptor on the target cell; and/or

(b) the at least one nucleic acid adjuvant comprises a nucleic acid that binds to at least one of TLR3, TLR7, TLR8, TLR9, RIG-I, MDA5, AIM2, cGAS, or IFI16.

4. The use of any one of claims 1-3, wherein:

(a) the intact minicell comprises at least two nucleic acid adjuvant molecules; and/or

(b) the intact minicell comprises a nucleic acid adjuvant molecule and an agonist of a nucleic acid sensor.

5. The use of any one of claims 1-4, wherein:

(a) the at least one nucleic acid adjuvant molecule comprises a sequence of at least 40 nucleotides;

(b) the at least one nucleic acid adjuvant molecule is a 40-mer; or

(c) the at least one nucleic acid adjuvant molecule is a 50-mer.

6. The use of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the at least one agonist of a nucleic acid sensor comprises a polynucleotide product of PNPase1, poly(I:C), poly-ICLC, imiquimod, imidazoquioline resquimod, or CpG-ODNs.

7. The use of any one of claims 2-6, wherein:

(a) contact between the minicell and the mammalian cell occurs *in vitro*; or

(b) contact between the minicell and the mammalian cell occurs *in vivo*.

8. The use of any one of claims 1-7, wherein:

(a) the plasmid comprises a regulatory element operably linked to the segment that encodes at least one nucleic acid adjuvant molecule; and/or

(b) the plasmid encodes multiple nucleic acid adjuvant molecules.

9. The use of any one of claims 1-8, further comprising a bispecific ligand.

10. The use of claim 9, wherein:

(a) the bispecific ligand comprises a first arm that carries specificity for a minicell surface structure and a second arm that carries specificity for a non-phagocytic mammalian cell surface receptor; and/or

(b) the bispecific ligand comprises a first arm that carries specificity for a minicell surface structure and a second arm that carries specificity for a non-phagocytic mammalian cell surface receptor, wherein the minicell surface structure is an O-polysaccharide component of a lipopolysaccharide on the minicell surface; and/or

(c) the bispecific ligand comprises a first arm that carries specificity for a minicell surface structure and a second arm that carries specificity for a non-phagocytic mammalian cell surface receptor, wherein the mammalian cell surface receptor is capable of activating

receptor-mediated endocytosis of the minicell; and/or

(d) the bispecific ligand comprises an antibody or antibody fragment.

11. The use of any one of claims 1-10, wherein the target cell is phagocytosis- or endocytosis-competent.

12. The use of any one of claims 1-11, wherein:

(a) the immune response from the target cell comprises the production of Type I interferon; and/or

(b) the immune response from the target cell comprises the production of Type I interferon, wherein Type I interferon comprises interferon-α or interferon-β.

13. The use of any one of claims 1-12, wherein the disease is cancer.

14. The use of any one of claims 1-12, wherein the disease is an infection.

15. The use of any one of claims 1-14, further comprising:

(a) drug for the treatment of the disease to be administered to the subject; and/or

(b) a drug for the treatment of the disease to be administered to the subject, wherein the drug is a chemotherapeutic; and/or

(c) drug for the treatment of the disease to be administered to the subject, wherein the drug is an anti-viral; and/or

(d) a drug for the treatment of the disease to be administered to the subject, wherein the drug is packaged in an intact minicell.

16. The use of any one of claims 1-15, wherein:

(a) the composition comprises fewer than about 1 contaminating parent bacterial cell per 10^7 minicells; or

(b) the composition comprises fewer than about 1 contaminating parent bacterial cell per 10^8 minicells; or

(c) the composition comprises fewer than about 1 contaminating parent bacterial cell per 10^9 minicells; or

(d) the composition comprises fewer than about 1 contaminating parent bacterial cell per 10^{10} minicells; or

(e) the composition comprises fewer than about 1 contaminating parent bacterial cell per 10^{11} minicells.

17. A composition for use in a method of treating a disease in a subject, wherein the method comprises delivering a nucleic acid adjuvant molecule or an agonist of a nucleic acid sensor to a target cell, wherein:

(a) the composition comprises an intact bacterial minicell and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefore, wherein the minicell comprises:

(i) at least one nucleic acid adjuvant molecule,

(ii) at least one a plasmid comprising a segment that encodes at least one nucleic acid adjuvant molecule, or

(iii) at least one an agonist of a nucleic acid sensor,

wherein the nucleic acid adjuvant molecule or agonist of a nucleic acid sensor produces an immune response from a target cell; and

(b) the method comprises contacting the target cell with the intact minicell, wherein the target cell engulfs the minicell.

18. The composition of claim 17, wherein the target cell is a:

(a) mammalian cell; or

(b) human cell; or

(c) human immune cell; or

(d) human immune cell which is a monocytic cell, a macrophage, a T cell, or a dendritic cell.

19. The composition of claim 17 or 18, wherein:

(a) the at least one nucleic acid adjuvant binds a receptor on the target cell; and/or

(b) the at least one nucleic acid adjuvant comprises a nucleic acid that binds to at least one of TLR3, TLR7, TLR8, TLR9, RIG-I, MDA5, AIM2, cGAS, or IFI16.

20. The composition of any one of claims 17-19, wherein the disease is cancer or an infection.