

using corticosteroids and immunosuppressive drugs. Unfortunately, these anti-inflammatory agents have had little to no clinical effect. Currently there are no effective treatments or therapeutics for fibrosis, but both animal studies and anecdotal human reports suggest that fibrotic tissue damage may be reversed (Tampe and Zeisberg, *Nat Rev Nephrol*, Vol 10:226-237, 2014).

The kidney has a limited capacity to recover from injury. Various renal pathologies result in local inflammation that causes scarring and fibrosis of renal tissue. The perpetuation of inflammatory stimuli drives tubulointerstitial inflammation and fibrosis and progressive renal functional impairment in chronic kidney disease. Its progression to end-stage renal failure is associated with significant morbidity and mortality. Since tubulointerstitial fibrosis is the common end point of multiple renal pathologies, it represents a key target for therapies aimed at preventing renal failure. Risk factors (e.g., proteinuria) independent of the primary renal disease contribute to the development of renal fibrosis and loss of renal excretory function by driving local inflammation, which in turn enhances disease progression.

In view of the role of fibrosis in many diseases and disorders, such as, for example, tubulointerstitial fibrosis leading to chronic kidney disease, there is a pressing need to develop therapeutically effective agents for treating diseases and conditions caused or exacerbated by fibrosis. In further view of the paucity of new and existing treatments targeting inflammatory pro-fibrotic pathways in renal disease, there is a need to develop therapeutically effective agents to treat, inhibit, prevent and/or reverse renal fibrosis and thereby prevent progressive chronic kidney disease.

SUMMARY

This summary is provided to introduce a selection of concepts in a simplified form that are further described below in the Detailed Description. This summary is not intended to identify key features of the claimed subject matter, nor is it intended to be used as an aid in determining the scope of the claimed subject matter.

In one example, the disclosure provides a method for treating, inhibiting, alleviating or preventing fibrosis in a mammalian subject suffering, or at risk of developing a disease or disorder caused or exacerbated by fibrosis and/or inflammation, comprising administering to the subject an amount of a MASP-2 inhibitory agent effective to inhibit fibrosis. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent is a MASP-2 antibody or

fragment thereof. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent is a MASP-2 monoclonal antibody, or fragment thereof that specifically binds to a portion of SEQ ID NO:6. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent selectively inhibits lectin pathway complement activation without substantially inhibiting C1q-dependent complement activation. In one example, the subject is suffering from a disease or disorder caused by or exacerbated by at least one of (i) fibrosis and/or inflammation associated with an ischemia reperfusion injury, (ii) renal fibrosis and/or renal inflammation (e.g., tubulointerstitial fibrosis, chronic kidney disease, chronic renal failure, glomerular disease (e.g., focal segmental glomerulosclerosis), an immune complex disorder (e.g., IgA nephropathy, membranous nephropathy), lupus nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, diabetic nephropathy, tubulointerstitial damage and glomerulonephritis (e.g., C3 glomerulopathy), (iii) pulmonary fibrosis and/or inflammation (e.g., chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis associated with scleroderma, bronchiectasis and pulmonary hypertension), (iv) hepatic fibrosis and/or inflammation (e.g., cirrhosis, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (steatohepatitis)), liver fibrosis secondary to alcohol abuse, liver fibrosis secondary to acute or chronic hepatitis, biliary disease and toxic liver injury (e.g., hepatotoxicity due to drug-induced liver damage induced by acetaminophen or other drug), (v) cardiac fibrosis and/or inflammation (e.g., cardiac fibrosis, myocardial infarction, valvular fibrosis, atrial fibrosis, endomyocardial fibrosis arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC), (vi) vascular fibrosis (e.g., vascular disease, an atherosclerotic vascular disease, vascular stenosis, restenosis, vasculitis, phlebitis, deep vein thrombosis and abdominal aortic aneurysm), (vii) fibrosis of the skin (e.g., excessive wound healing, scleroderma, systemic sclerosis, keloids, connective tissue diseases, scarring, and hypertrophic scars), (viii) fibrosis of the joints (e.g., arthrofibrosis), (ix) fibrosis of the central nervous system (e.g., stroke, traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury), (x) fibrosis of the digestive system (e.g., Crohn's disease, pancreatic fibrosis and ulcerative colitis), (xi) ocular fibrosis (e.g., anterior subcapsular cataract, posterior capsule opacification, macular degeneration, and retinal and vitreal retinopathy), (xii) fibrosis of musculoskeletal soft-tissue structures (e.g., adhesive capsulitis, Dupuytren's contracture and myelofibrosis), (xiii) fibrosis of the reproductive organs (e.g., endometriosis and Peyronie's disease), (xiv) a chronic infectious disease that causes fibrosis and/or inflammation (e.g., alpha virus, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, tuberculosis, HIV and influenza), (xv) an

autoimmune disease that causes fibrosis and/or inflammation (e.g., scleroderma and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), (xvi) scarring associated with trauma (e.g., wherein the scarring associated with trauma is selected from the group consisting of surgical complications (e.g., surgical adhesions wherein scar tissue can form between
5 internal organs causing contracture, pain and can cause infertility), chemotherapeutic drug-induced fibrosis, radiation-induced fibrosis and scarring associated with burns), or (xvii) organ transplant, breast fibrosis, muscle fibrosis, retroperitoneal fibrosis, thyroid fibrosis, lymph node fibrosis, bladder fibrosis and pleural fibrosis.

In another example, the present disclosure provides a method for treating,
10 inhibiting, alleviating or preventing renal fibrosis in a mammalian subject suffering, or at risk of developing a disease or disorder caused or exacerbated by renal fibrosis and/or inflammation, comprising administering to the subject an amount of a MASP-2 inhibitory agent effective to inhibit renal fibrosis. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent is a MASP-2 antibody or fragment thereof. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent is a
15 MASP-2 monoclonal antibody, or fragment thereof that specifically binds to a portion of SEQ ID NO:6. In one example, the MASP-2 antibody or fragment thereof specifically binds to a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:6 with an affinity of at least 10 times greater than it binds to a different antigen in the complement system. In one example, the antibody or fragment thereof is selected from the group consisting of a recombinant
20 antibody, an antibody having reduced effector function, a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody and a human antibody. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent selectively inhibits lectin pathway complement activation without substantially inhibiting C1q-dependent complement activation. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent is administered subcutaneously, intraperitoneally, intra-muscularly, intra-arterially,
25 intravenously, or as an inhalant. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent is administered in an amount effective to inhibit tubulointerstitial fibrosis. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent is administered in an amount effective to reduce, delay or eliminate the need for dialysis in the subject. In one example, the subject is suffering from a renal disease or disorder selected from the group consisting of chronic kidney
30 disease, chronic renal failure, glomerular disease (e.g., focal segmental glomerulosclerosis), an immune complex disorder (e.g., IgA nephropathy, membranous nephropathy), lupus nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, diabetic nephropathy, tubulointerstitial damage and glomerulonephritis (e.g.,

C3 glomerulopathy). In one example, the subject is suffering from proteinuria and the MASP-2 inhibitory agent is administered in an amount effective to reduce proteinuria in the subject. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent is administered in an amount and for a time effective to achieve at least a 20 percent reduction (e.g., at least a 30 percent reduction, or at least a 40 percent reduction, or at least a 50 percent reduction) in 24-hour urine protein excretion as compared to baseline 24-hour urine protein excretion in the subject prior to treatment. In one example, the subject is suffering from a renal disease or disorder associated with proteinuria selected from the group consisting of nephrotic syndrome, pre-eclampsia, eclampsia, toxic lesions of kidneys, amyloidosis, collagen vascular diseases (e.g., systemic lupus erythematosus), dehydration, glomerular diseases (e.g. membranous glomerulonephritis, focal segmental glomerulonephritis, C3 glomerulopathy, minimal change disease, lipoid nephrosis), strenuous exercise, stress, benign orthostatis (postural) proteinuria, focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, IgA nephropathy (i.e., Berger's disease), IgM nephropathy, membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis, membranous nephropathy, minimal change disease, sarcoidosis, Alport's syndrome, diabetes mellitus (diabetic nephropathy), drug-induced toxicity (e.g., NSAIDS, nicotine, penicillamine, lithium carbonate, gold and other heavy metals, ACE inhibitors, antibiotics (e.g., adriamycin) or opiates (e.g. heroin) or other nephrotoxins); Fabry's disease, infections (e.g., HIV, syphilis, hepatitis A, B or C, poststreptococcal infection, urinary schistosomiasis); aminoaciduria, Fanconi syndrome, hypertensive nephrosclerosis, interstitial nephritis, sickle cell disease, hemoglobinuria, multiple myeloma, myoglobinuria, organ rejection (e.g., kidney transplant rejection), ebola hemorrhagic fever, Nail patella syndrome, familial mediterranean fever, HELLP syndrome, systemic lupus erythematosus, Wegener's granulomatosis, Rheumatoid arthritis, Glycogen storage disease type 1, Goodpasture's syndrome, Henoch-Schönlein purpura, urinary tract infection which has spread to the kidneys, Sjögren's syndrome and post-infections glomerulonephritis. In one example, the subject is suffering from IgA nephropathy. In one example, the subject is suffering from membranous nephropathy.

In another example, the present disclosure provides a method of preventing or reducing renal damage in a subject suffering from a disease or condition associated with proteinuria comprising administering an amount of a MASP-2 inhibitory agent effective to reduce or prevent proteinurea in the subject. In one example, the MASP-2

inhibitory agent is a MASP-2 antibody or fragment thereof. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent is a MASP-2 monoclonal antibody or fragment thereof that specifically binds to a portion of SEQ ID NO:6. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent selectively inhibits lectin pathway complement activation without substantially inhibiting C1q-dependent complement activation. In one example, the disease or condition associated with proteinuria is selected from the group consisting of nephrotic syndrome, pre-eclampsia, eclampsia, toxic lesions of kidneys, amyloidosis, collagen vascular diseases (e.g., systemic lupus erythematosus), dehydration, glomerular diseases (e.g. membranous glomerulonephritis, focal segmental glomerulonephritis, C3 glomerulopathy, minimal change disease, lipoid nephrosis), strenuous exercise, stress, benign orthostatis (postural) proteinuria, focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, IgA nephropathy (i.e., Berger's disease), IgM nephropathy, membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis, membranous nephropathy, minimal change disease, sarcoidosis, Alport's syndrome, diabetes mellitus (diabetic nephropathy), drug-induced toxicity (e.g., NSAIDS, nicotine, penicillamine, lithium carbonate, gold and other heavy metals, ACE inhibitors, antibiotics (e.g., adriamycin) or opiates (e.g. heroin)); Fabry's disease, infections (e.g., HIV, syphilis, hepatitis A, B or C, poststreptococcal infection, urinary schistosomiasis); aminoaciduria, Fanconi syndrome, hypertensive nephrosclerosis, interstitial nephritis, sickle cell disease, hemoglobinuria, multiple myeloma, myoglobinuria, organ rejection (e.g., kidney transplant rejection), ebola hemorrhagic fever, Nail patella syndrome, familial mediterranean fever, HELLP syndrome, systemic lupus erythematosus, Wegener's granulomatosis, Rheumatoid arthritis, Glycogen storage disease type 1, Goodpasture's syndrome, Henoch-Schönlein purpura, urinary tract infection which has spread to the kidneys, Sjögren's syndrome and post-infections glomerulonephritis. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent is administered in an amount and for a time effective to achieve at least a 20 percent reduction (e.g., at least a 30 percent reduction, or at least a 40 percent reduction, or at least a 50 percent reduction) in 24-hour urine protein excretion as compared to baseline 24-hour urine protein excretion in the subject prior to treatment.

In one aspect, the present disclosure refers to use of a MASP-2 inhibitory monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof in an amount effective to reduce or prevent proteinuria in a subject in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or reducing renal damage in a subject suffering from a disease or condition associated with proteinuria selected from the group consisting of nephrotic syndrome, pre-eclampsia, eclampsia, toxic lesions of kidneys, amyloidosis, systemic lupus erythematosus, dehydration, membranous glomerulonephritis, focal segmental glomerulonephritis, C3 glomerulopathy, minimal change disease, lipoid nephrosis, strenuous exercise, stress, benign orthostatic proteinuria, focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, IgM nephropathy, membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis, membranous nephropathy, minimal change disease, sarcoidosis, Alport's syndrome, diabetic nephropathy, drug-induced toxicity, Fabry's disease, infections; aminoaciduria, Fanconi syndrome, hypertensive nephrosclerosis, interstitial nephritis, sickle cell disease, hemoglobinuria, multiple myeloma, myoglobinuria, organ rejection, ebola hemorrhagic fever, Nail patella syndrome, familial mediterranean fever, HELLP syndrome, Wegener's granulomatosis, Rheumatoid arthritis, Glycogen storage disease type 1, Goodpasture's syndrome, Henoch-Schönlein purpura, urinary tract infection which has spread to the kidneys, Sjögren's syndrome and post-infections glomerulonephritis.

In another example, the present disclosure provides a method of inhibiting the progression of chronic kidney disease, comprising administering an amount of a MASP-2 inhibitory agent effective to reduce or prevent renal fibrosis, e.g., tubulointerstitial fibrosis, in a subject in need thereof. In one example, the

MASP-2 inhibitory agent is a MASP-2 antibody or fragment thereof. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent is a MASP-2 monoclonal antibody, or fragment thereof that specifically binds to a portion of SEQ ID NO:6. In one example, the MASP-2
5 inhibitory agent selectively inhibits lectin pathway complement activation without substantially inhibiting C1q-dependent complement activation. In one example, the subject in need thereof exhibits proteinuria prior to administration of the MASP-2 inhibitory agent and administration of the MASP-2 inhibitory agent decreases proteinuria in the subject. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent is
10 administered in an amount and for a time effective to achieve at least a 20 percent reduction (e.g., at least a 30 percent reduction, or at least a 40 percent reduction, or at least a 50 percent reduction) in 24-hour urine protein excretion as compared to baseline 24-hour urine protein excretion in the subject prior to treatment. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent is administered in an amount effective to
15 reduce, delay or eliminate the need for dialysis in the subject.

In another example, the disclosure provides a method of protecting a kidney from renal injury in a subject that has undergone, is undergoing, or will undergo treatment with one or more nephrotoxic agents, comprising administering an amount of a MASP-2 inhibitory agent effective to prevent or ameliorate drug-
20 induced nephropathy. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent is a MASP-2 antibody or fragment thereof. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent is a MASP-2 monoclonal antibody or fragment thereof that specifically binds to a portion of SEQ ID NO:6. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory agent selectively inhibits lectin pathway complement activation without substantially inhibiting C1q-
25 dependent complement activation.

In another example, the disclosure provides a method of treating a human subject suffering from Immunoglobulin A Nephropathy (IgAN) comprising administering to the subject a composition comprising an amount of a MASP-2 inhibitory antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, effective to inhibit MASP-
30 2-dependent complement activation. In one example, the subject is suffering from steroid-dependent IgAN. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory antibody is a monoclonal antibody, or fragment thereof that specifically binds to human MASP-2. In one example, the antibody or fragment thereof is selected from the

35

group consisting of a recombinant antibody, an antibody having reduced effector function, a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody, and a human antibody. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory antibody does not substantially inhibit the classical pathway. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory antibody inhibits C3b deposition in 90% human serum with an IC₅₀ of 30 nM or less. In one example, the method further comprises identifying a human subject having steroid-dependent IgAN prior to the step of administering to the subject a composition comprising an amount of a MASP-2 inhibitory antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, effective to improve renal function. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered in an amount effective to improve renal function. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered in an amount effective and for a time sufficient to achieve at least a 20 percent reduction in 24-hour urine protein excretion as compared to baseline 24-hour urine protein excretion in the subject prior to treatment. In one example, the composition is administered in an amount sufficient to improve renal function and decrease the corticosteroid dosage in said subject. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain variable region comprising CDR-H1, CDR-H2 and CDR-H3 of the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:67 and a light chain variable region comprising CDR-L1, CDR-L2 and CDR-L3 of the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:70.

In another example, the disclosure provides a method of treating a human subject suffering from membranous nephropathy (MN) comprising administering to the subject a composition comprising an amount of a MASP-2 inhibitory antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, effective to inhibit MASP-2-dependent complement activation. In one example, the subject is suffering from steroid-dependent MN. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory antibody is a monoclonal antibody, or fragment thereof that specifically binds to human MASP-2. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered in an amount effective to improve renal function. In one example, the MASP-2 inhibitory antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered in an amount effective and for a time sufficient to achieve at least a 20

percent reduction in 24-hour urine protein excretion as compared to baseline 24-hour urine protein excretion in the subject prior to treatment. In one example, the composition is administered in an amount sufficient to improve renal function and decrease the corticosteroid dosage in said subject. In one example, the MASP-2
5 inhibitory antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain variable region comprising CDR-H1, CDR-H2 and CDR-H3 of the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:67 and a light chain variable region comprising CDR-L1, CDR-L2 and CDR-L3 of the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:70.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 The foregoing aspects and many of the attendant advantages of this invention will become more readily appreciated as the same become better understood by reference to the following detailed description, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a diagram illustrating the genomic structure of human MASP-2;

15 FIGURE 2A is a schematic diagram illustrating the domain structure of human MASP-2 protein;

FIGURE 2B is a schematic diagram illustrating the domain structure of human MASP-2 protein;

FIGURE 3 is a diagram illustrating the murine MASP-2 knockout strategy;

20 FIGURE 4 is a diagram illustrating the human MASP-2 minigene construct;

FIGURE 5A presents results demonstrating that MASP-2-deficiency leads to the loss of lectin-pathway-mediated C4 activation as measured by lack of C4b deposition on mannan, as described in Example 2;

25 FIGURE 5B presents results demonstrating that MASP-2-deficiency leads to the loss of lectin-pathway-mediated C4 activation as measured by lack of C4b deposition on zymosan, as described in Example 2;

FIGURE 5C presents results demonstrating the relative C4 activation levels of serum samples obtained from MASP-2^{+/+}; MASP-2^{-/-} and wild-type strains as measured by C4b deposition on mannan and on zymosan, as described in Example 2;

30 FIGURE 6 presents results demonstrating that the addition of murine recombinant MASP-2 to MASP-2^{-/-} serum samples recovers lectin-pathway-mediated C4 activation in

CLAIMS

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. Use of a MASP-2 inhibitory monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment
5 thereof in an amount effective to reduce or prevent proteinurea in a subject in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or reducing renal damage in a subject suffering from a disease or condition associated with proteinuria selected from the group consisting of nephrotic syndrome, pre-eclampsia, eclampsia, toxic lesions of kidneys, amyloidosis, systemic lupus erythematosus, dehydration, membranous
10 glomerulonephritis, focal segmental glomerulonephritis, C3 glomerulopathy, minimal change disease, lipoid nephrosis, strenuous exercise, stress, benign orthostatis proteinuria, focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, IgM nephropathy, membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis, membranous nephropathy, minimal change disease, sarcoidosis, Alport's syndrome, diabetic nephropathy, drug-induced toxicity, Fabry's disease,
15 infections; aminoaciduria, Fanconi syndrome, hypertensive nephrosclerosis, interstitial nephritis, sickle cell disease, hemoglobinuria, multiple myeloma, myoglobinuria, organ rejection, ebola hemorrhagic fever, Nail patella syndrome, familial mediterranean fever, HELLP syndrome, Wegener's granulomatosis, Rheumatoid arthritis, Glycogen storage disease type 1, Goodpasture's syndrome, Henoch-Schönlein purpura, urinary tract
20 infection which has spread to the kidneys, Sjögren's syndrome and post-infections glomerulonephritis.
2. The use of claim 1, wherein the medicament is adapted for administration in an amount and for a time effective to achieve at least a 20 percent reduction in 24-hour urine protein excretion as compared to baseline 24-hour urine protein excretion prior to
25 treatment.
3. The use of claim 1 or 2, wherein the disease or condition associated with proteinuria is membranous nephropathy (MN).
4. The use of claim 3, wherein the subject is suffering from steroid-dependent MN.

5. The use of claim 1, wherein the antibody or fragment thereof is selected from the group consisting of a recombinant antibody, an antibody having reduced effector function, a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody, and a human antibody.
6. The use of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the MASP-2 inhibitory antibody does not substantially inhibit the classical pathway.
7. The use of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the MASP-2 inhibitory antibody inhibits C3b deposition in 90% human serum with an IC₅₀ of 30 nM or less.
8. The use of claim 1, wherein the medicament comprises the MASP-2 inhibitory antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof in an amount effective to improve renal function.
9. The use of claim 4, wherein the medicament is adapted for administration in an amount sufficient to improve renal function and decrease the corticosteroid dosage in said subject.
10. The use of claim 4, wherein a human subject having steroid-dependent MN is identified prior to the administration to the subject a composition comprising an amount of a MASP-2 inhibitory antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, effective to improve renal function.
11. The use of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the MASP-2 inhibitory antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain variable region comprising CDR-H1, CDR-H2 and CDR-H3 of the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:67 and a light chain variable region comprising CDR-L1, CDR-L2 and CDR-L3 of the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:70.
12. The use of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the medicament is adapted for administration subcutaneously, intraperitoneally, intra-muscularly, intra-arterially, intravenously, or as an inhalant.