CLAIMS

What is claimed is

1. Use of a recombinant adeno-associated virus 8 (rAAV8) expression vector encoding an anti-human vascular endothelial growth factor (hVEGF) antibody or antigen-binding fragment in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of neovascular age-related macular degeneration (nAMD) in a human subject, said expression vector is to be administered to the suprachoroidal space in the eye of said human subject.

2. The use of claim 1, wherein said expression vector is to be injected into the suprachoroidal space using a suprachoroidal drug delivery device.

3. The use of claim 2, wherein the suprachoroidal drug delivery device is a microinjector.

4. The use of any one of claims 1-3, wherein administration of the medicament delivers a therapeutically effective amount of the anti-hVEGF antibody or antigen-binding fragment to the retina of said human subject.

5. The use of claim 4, wherein the therapeutically effective amount of the anti-hVEGF antibody or antigen-binding fragment is produced by human retinal cells of said human subject.

6. The use of claim 5, wherein the therapeutically effective amount of the anti-hVEGF antibody or antigen-binding fragment is produced by human photoreceptor cells, horizontal cells, bipolar cells, amacrine cells, retina ganglion cells, and/or retinal pigment epithelial cells in the external limiting membrane of said human subject.

7. The use of claim 6, wherein the human photoreceptor cells are cone cells and/or rod cells.

8. The use of claim 7, wherein the retina ganglion cells are midget cells, parasol cells, bistratified cells, giant retina ganglion cells, photosensitive ganglion cells, and/or Müller glia.

9. The use of any one of claims 1-8, wherein the human subject has a Best-Corrected

Visual Acuity (BCVA) that is ≤20/20 and ≥20/400.

10. The use of any one of claims 1-8, wherein the human subject has a BCVA that is ≤20/63 and ≥20/400.

11. The use of claim 9 or 10, wherein the BCVA is the BCVA in the eye to be treated in the human subject.

12. The use of any one of claims 1-11, wherein the expression vector encodes an anti-hVEGF antigen-binding fragment.

13. The use of claim 12, in which the antigen-binding fragment is a Fab.

14. The use of claim 12, in which the antigen-binding fragment is a $F(ab')_2$.

15. The use of claim 12, in which the antigen-binding fragment is a single chain variable domain (scFv).

16. The use of any one of claims 1-15, in which the anti-hVEGF antibody or antigen-binding fragment comprises a heavy chain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2 or SEQ ID NO. 4, and a light chain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1, or SEQ ID NO. 3.

17. The use of any one of claims 1-16, wherein the anti-hVEGF antibody or antigen-binding fragment comprises light chain CDRs 1-3 of SEQ ID NOs: 14-16 and heavy chain CDRs 1-3 of SEQ ID NOs:17-19 or SEQ ID NOs: 20, 18, and 21.

18. The use of claim 17, wherein the second amino acid residue of the light chain CDR3 does not carry one or more of the following chemical modifications: oxidation, acetylation, deamidation, and pyroglutamation (pyro Glu).

19. The use of claim 18, wherein the second amino acid residue of the light chain CDR3 is not acetylated.

20. The use of claim 18 or 19, wherein the eighth and eleventh amino acid residues of the light chain CDR1 each carries one or more of the following chemical modifications: oxidation, acetylation, deamidation, and pyroglutamation (pyro Glu).

21. The use of any one of claims 17-20, wherein the anti-hVEGF antibody or antigen-binding fragment comprises a heavy chain CDR1 of SEQ ID NO. 20 and wherein the last amino

acid residue of the heavy chain CDR1 does not carry one or more of the following chemical modifications: oxidation, acetylation, deamidation, and pyroglutamation (pyro Glu).

22. The use of claim 21, wherein the last amino acid residue of the heavy chain CDR1 is not acetylated.

23. The use of claim 21 or 22, wherein the ninth amino acid residue of the heavy chain CDR1 carries one or more of the following chemical modifications: acetylation, deamidation, and pyroglutamation (pyro Glu), the third amino acid residue of the heavy chain CDR2 carries one or more of the following chemical modifications: acetylation, deamidation, and pyroglutamation (pyro Glu).

24. The use of any one of claims 1-23, wherein the expression vector comprises an expression cassette flanked by AAV2 inverted terminal repeats (ITRs), and wherein the expression cassette comprises:

(i) a CB7 promotor consisting of a chicken β-actin promoter and a CMV enhancer;

(ii) a chicken β-actin intron;

(iii) a nucleotide sequence encoding:

a heavy chain of the anti-hVEGF antigen-binding fragment comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

a self-cleaving furin (F)/F2A linker; and

a light chain of the anti-hVEGF antigen-binding fragment comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; and

(iv) a rabbit β-globin poly(A) signal.