CLAIMS

1. A method for reducing the permeability of an endothelial layer of a blood vessel in a subject, the method comprising:
providing to the endothelial layer a substance that reduces the ratio of Angiopoietin-2 to Angiopoietin-1 at the site of increased permeability as a result of an infection.

2. The method according to claim 1, for reducing the gas diffusion distance between lung-alveoli and the vascular network surrounding alveoli in a human subject suffering from a respiratory infection.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the substance comprises an AQGV peptide, an LQGV peptide, or a functional analogue of either.

4. The method according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein the infection is a viral infection.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the viral infection is caused by a virus requiring a specific receptor and a more ubiquitous binding partner present on at least a percentage of lung alveolar cells.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the specific receptor is ACE-2.

7. The method according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the more ubiquitous binding partner is a glycoprotein comprising a sialic acid residue.

8. The method according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the virus is a coronavirus.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the coronavirus is COVID-19 or a mutant thereof.

10. The method according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the substance is administered intravenously, preferably at a rate of at least 75mg/kg/hr, or more preferably at least 90 mg/kg/hr.

11. The method according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the substance is administered intermittently.

12. The method according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the subject is monitored for haemodynamic stability.

13. The method according to any one of the previous claims, further comprising administering an antiviral agent to the subject.

14. A pharmaceutical formulation for use in the method according to any one of the previous claims.

15. A pharmaceutical formulation for use according to claim 14, comprising an AQGV peptide, or a functional analogue thereof and an excipient suitable for parenteral administration.