We claim:

1. Surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles comprising at least one biodegradable polymer and a surfactant:

(i) that have a solid core with less than 10% porosity by ratio of void space to total volume;

(ii) that include a therapeutic agent encapsulated in the biodegradable polymer;

(iii) wherein the surfactant-containing microparticles have been surface-modified to contain less surfactant on the surface than a microparticle prior to surface modification and wherein the surface has been modified at a temperature less than about 18 ^{o}C;

(iv) that have a mean diameter between 10 μM and 60 μM; and

(v) that aggregate *in vivo* to form at least one pellet of at least 500 μm *in vivo* which provides sustained drug delivery *in vivo* for at least one month.

2. The surface modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1 suitable for injection.

3. The surface modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1 suitable for an ocular delivery route selected from the group consisting of intravitreal, intrastromal, intracameral, subtenon, sub-retinal, retrobulbar, peribulbar, suprachoroidal, conjunctival, subconjunctival, episcleral, posterior juxtascleral, circumcorneal, and tear duct injections.

4. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, wherein at least one pellet provides sustained drug delivery for at least two months.

5. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, wherein at least one pellet provides sustained drug delivery for at least four months.

6. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, wherein at least one pellet provides sustained drug delivery for at least six months.

7. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, wherein the surface modification is carried out at a pH between about 12 and about 10.

8. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, wherein the surface modification is carried out at a pH between about 10 and about 8.

9. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, wherein the surface modification is carried out at a pH between about 6 and about 8.

10. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, wherein the surface modification is carried out at a pH between about 6.5 and about 7.5.

11. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, wherein the surface modification is carried out at a pH range of not less than 6.

12. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, wherein the surface modification is carried out at a temperature of less than 10 ^{o}C.

13. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, wherein the surface modification is carried out at a temperature of less than 15 ^{o}C.

14. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, wherein the surface modification is carried out at a temperature of less than 8 ^{o}C.

15. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, wherein the surface modification is carried out at a temperature of less than 5 ^{o}C.

16. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, wherein the microparticles have a mean diameter between 20 and 30 μm.

17. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, wherein the microparticles have a mean diameter between 20 and 50 μm.

18. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, wherein at least one pellet when administered *in vivo* has a diameter of at least 700 μM.

19. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, wherein at least one pellet when administered *in vivo* has a diameter of at least 1 mm.

20. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, where at least one pellet when administered *in vivo* has a diameter of at least 5 mm.

21. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, wherein the microparticles include a therapeutic agent of 5-15 percent by weight.

22. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 1, wherein the microparticles include a therapeutic agent of 0.1-5 percent by weight.

23. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of any one of claims 1-22, wherein the therapeutic agent is a pharmaceutical drug.

24. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of any one of claims 1-22, wherein the therapeutic agent comprises a tyrosine kinase inhibitor.

25. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of any one of claims 1-22, wherein the therapeutic agent comprises sunitinib or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

26. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of any one of claims 1-22, wherein the therapeutic agent is sunitinib malate.

27. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of any one of claims 1-26, wherein the microparticles comprise poly(lactide-co-glycolide).

28. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of any one of claims 1-26, wherein the microparticles comprise poly(lactide-co-glycolide) and poly(lactide-co-glycolide) covalently linked to polyethylene glycol.

29. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of any one of claims 1-26, wherein the microparticles comprise poly(lactic acid).

30. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of any one of claims 1-26, wherein the microparticles comprise poly(lactic acid) and poly(lactide-co-glycolide) covalently linked to polyethylene glycol.

31. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of any one of claims 1-26, wherein the microparticles comprise poly(lactide-co-glycolide), poly(lactic acid), and poly(lactide-co-glycolide) covalently linked to polyethylene glycol.

32. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of any one of claims 1-31, wherein the surfactant comprises polyvinyl alcohol.

33. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of any one of claims 1-31, wherein the surfactant comprises polyvinyl acetate, polyoxyethylene glycol, polyoxypropylene glycol, decyl glucoside, lauryl glucoside, or octyl glucoside.

34. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticle of claim 1, wherein the surface modification is carried out with approximately 0.0075M NaOH/ethanol to 0.75M NaOH/ethanol.

35. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticle of claim 34, wherein the surface modification is carried out with approximately 0.75M NaOH/ethanol.

36. Surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles comprising a surfactant, poly(lactide-co-glycolide) and poly(lactide-co-glycolide) covalently linked to polyethylene glycol:

(i) that have a solid core with less than 10% porosity by ratio of void space to total volume;

(ii) that include sunitinib or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof encapsulated in biodegradable polymers;

(iii) wherein the surfactant-containing microparticles have been surface-modified to contain less surfactant on the surface than a

microparticle prior to surface modification and wherein the surface has been modified at a temperature less than about 18 ^{o}C;

(iv) that have a mean diameter between 20 μM and 30 μM; and

(v) that aggregate *in vivo* to form at least one pellet of at least 500 μm *in vivo* which provides sustained drug delivery *in vivo* for at least one month.

37. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 36, wherein the surfactant comprises polyvinyl alcohol.

38. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 36, comprising sunitinib malate.

39. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of claim 36, further comprising poly(lactic acid).

40. An injectable material that comprises the microparticles of any of claims 1-39 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for administration *in vivo*.

41. The injectable material of claim 40 further comprising a compound that inhibits aggregation of microparticles prior to injection.

42. The injectable material of claim 40 further comprising a viscosity enhancer.

43. The injectable material of claim 42, wherein the viscosity enhancer comprises hyaluronic acid or sodium hyaluronate.

44. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of any one of claims 1-39 optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

45. Use of the surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of any one of claims 1-39 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of an ocular disorder in a host in need thereof, wherein the medicament is to be injected into the eye such that the surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles aggregate in vivo to form at least one pellet of at least 500 μm that provides sustained drug delivery for at least one month in such a

manner that the pellet stays substantially outside the visual axis as not to significantly impair vision.

46. The use of claim 45, wherein the medicament is to be injected in an injectable material comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

47. The use of claim 45, wherein the ocular disorder is wet or dry age-related macular degeneration.

48. The use of claim 45, wherein the ocular disorder is wet age-related macular degeneration.

49. The use of claim 45, wherein the ocular disorder is glaucoma.

50. The use of claim 45, wherein the ocular disorder is selected from choroidal neovascularization, acute macular neuroretinopathy, macular edema, diabetic retinopathy, and proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

51. The use of claim 45, wherein the therapeutic agent is sunitinib or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

52. The use of claim 45, wherein the therapeutic agent is sunitinib malate.

53. The use of claim 45, wherein the medicament is to be injected via an ocular delivery route selected from the group consisting of intravitreal, intrastromal, intracameral, subtenon, sub-retinal, retrobulbar, peribulbar, suprachoroidal, conjunctival, subconjunctival, episcleral, posterior juxtascleral, circumcorneal, and tear duct injections.

54. The use of claim 53, wherein the medicament is to be injected via intravitreal injection.

55. The use of any one of claims 45-54, wherein the host is a human.

56. The surface-modified solid aggregating microparticles of any one of claims 1-39 for use in therapy.