What is claimed is:

1. A method for generating a composition comprising non-pluripotent progenitors of surrogate pancreatic cells that are suitable for treating insulin-dependent diabetes, comprising:

a. harvesting human cells from viable human pancreatic tissue in culture conditions using only non-animal origin components;

b. culturing the primary human cells for a period of days that is fewer than about 9 days; then

c. delivering reprogramming genes into the primary human cells from (b) to reprogram the primary human cells such no reprogramming genes are integrated into the genome of the reprogrammed cells, wherein the reprogrammed cells have a stem cell morphology;

d. firstly selecting among the reprogrammed cells obtained in (c) for an ability to proliferate, without losing said stem cell morphology, in culture conditions using only non-animal origin components, whereby proliferating reprogrammed cells are obtained; and then

e. secondly selecting from among the proliferating reprogrammed cells for a cell population characterized by (i) an ability to survive and differentiate to the pancreatic lineage in the course of a protocol that employs only non-animal origin reagents, and (ii) a substantial inability of differentiate to the mesodermal lineage,

whereby said non-pluripotent progenitors are obtained.