CLAIMS

Claim 1. A method for the enhancement and/or stabilisation of the proteolytic activity of one or more cysteine proteases, wherein the method comprises (i) contacting the one or more cysteine proteases with a reducing agent, wherein a cysteine residue of the one or more cysteine proteases is maintained in a reduced state, (ii) removing substantially all oxygen gas from the area surrounding the one or more cysteine proteases and (iii) combining the one or more cysteine proteases and a carbomer such that the one or more cysteine proteases are non-covalently bound to the carbomer.

Claim 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more cysteine protease is packaged in a substantially oxygen-free atmosphere.

Claim 3. A method for producing a composition comprising one or more cysteine proteases with proteolytic activity that has been enhanced and/or stabilised, wherein the method comprises contacting the one or more cysteine proteases with a reducing agent, wherein a cysteine residue of the one or more cysteine protease is maintained in a reduced state, (ii) removing substantially all oxygen gas from the area surrounding the one or more cysteine protease and (iii) combining the one or more cysteine protease and a carbomer such that the protease is non-covalently bound to the carbomer.

Claim 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the composition is packaged in a substantially oxygen-free atmosphere.

Claim 5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein oxygen gas is removed by degassing the preparation.

Claim 6. The method of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the reducing agent is a thiol reducing agent.

Claim 7. The method of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the reducing agent is cysteine.

Claim 8. A composition comprising one or more cysteine proteases with proteolytic activity that has been enhanced and/or stabilised, wherein the composition is obtained or obtainable by a method comprising (i) contacting the one or more cysteine proteases with a reducing agent, wherein a cysteine residue of the one or more cysteine proteases is maintained in a reduced state, (ii)

removing substantially all oxygen gas from the area surrounding the one or more cysteine proteases and (iii) combining the one or more cysteine proteases and a carbomer such that the one or more cysteine proteases are non-covalently bound to the carbomer.

Claim 9. A composition comprising one or more cysteine proteases, a reducing agent and a carbomer, wherein a cysteine residue of the one or more cysteine proteases is maintained in a reduced state, the composition is substantially oxygen-free and the one or more cysteine proteases are non-covalently bound to the carbomer.

Claim 10. A composition comprising one or more cysteine proteases, a cysteine and a carbomer, wherein a cysteine residue of the one or more cysteine proteases is maintained in a reduced state, the composition is substantially oxygen-free and the proteolytic activity of the one or more cysteine proteases have been enhanced and/or stabilised.

Claim 11. The composition of any one of claims 8 to 10, wherein oxygen gas is removed by degassing the composition.

Claim 12. The composition of any one of claims 8 or 11, wherein the composition is packaged in a substantially oxygen-free atmosphere.

Claim 13. The composition of any one of claims 8 to 12, wherein the reducing agent is a thiol reducing agent.

Claim 14. The composition of any one of claims 8 to 12, wherein the reducing agent is cysteine.

Claim 15. Use of the composition of any one of claims 8 to 14 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of diseases and disorders including wounds, for debridement, or for treating burns, ulcers or gangrene.

Claim 16. Use of the composition of any one of claims 8 to 14 in the manufacture of a formulation to be applied for treatment of pimples, acne, rosacea, or damaged skin.

Claim 17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the composition of any one of claims 8 to 14 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, excipient, surfactant and/or adjuvant.

Claim 18. A cosmetic composition comprising the composition of any one of claims 8 to 14 together with a cosmetically acceptable carrier, diluent, excipient, surfactant and/or adjuvant.

Claim 19. A composition according to any one of claims 8 to 14 or a pharmaceutical composition of claim 17, for use in the treatment of diseases and disorders including wounds, for debridement, or for treating burns, ulcers or gangrene.

Claim 20. The composition for use of claim 19, wherein the composition is to be applied topically.

Claim 21. A cosmetic method for lightening skin, exfoliation or for applying to wrinkles, skin blemishes, freckles, sun spots, scars or varicose veins, or for applying to dry, aged skin, wherein the method comprises topically applying to the affected area of an individual the composition of any one of claims 8 to 14 or the cosmetic composition of claim 18.

Claim 22. A composition according to any one of claims 8 to 14, for use in treating pimples, acne, rosacea, or damaged skin.