

CLAIMS

1. A method for identifying modulators of extracellular matrix (ECM) movement towards a site requiring deposition of ECM, comprising
 - (a) contacting extracellular matrix of organ tissue obtained by biopsy from a mammalian subject with a label;
 - (b) contacting said labelled extracellular matrix of organ tissue with a compound of interest;
 - (c) determining whether said compound of interest modulates ECM movement towards said site requiring deposition of ECM in comparison to labelled extracellular matrix of organ tissue obtainable by biopsy from a mammalian subject which is not contacted with said compound of interest,wherein modulation of ECM movement towards said site requiring deposition of ECM is indicative for said compound of interest to be a modulator of said ECM movement.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein modulation is inhibition or promotion.
3. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said organ tissue comprises fascia matrix, serosa and/or adventitia.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein said fascia matrix, serosa and/or adventitia comprises macrophages, neutrophils, mesothelial cells and/or fibroblasts.
5. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the label is a dye or tag.
6. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the organ tissue is from skin, kidney, lung, heart, liver, bone, peritoneum, intestine, diaphragm or pleura.
7. A method for identifying a biomarker associated with extracellular matrix (ECM) movement towards a site requiring deposition of ECM, comprising:
 - (a) contacting extracellular matrix of organ tissue obtained by biopsy from a mammalian subject with a label;
 - (b) isolating proteins from said labelled ECM which move towards said site requiring deposition of ECM;
 - (c) determining at least a partial amino acid sequence of said proteins, thereby identifying said proteins as a biomarker associated with ECM movement.
8. A compound obtained by a method according to any one of claims 1 to 6 for use in a method for the modulation of extracellular matrix (ECM) movement towards a site requiring deposition of ECM, preferably in the treatment of a condition involving ECM deposition.

9. The compound for the use of claim 8, wherein ECM movement is mediated by fascia matrix.
10. The compound for the use of claim 8 or 9, wherein fascia matrix, serosa and/or adventitia comprises macrophages, neutrophils, mesothelial cells, and/or fibroblasts.
11. The compound for the use of any one of claims 8 to 10, wherein the site requiring deposition of ECM is a wound.
12. The compound for the use of any one of claims 8 to 11, wherein modulation is inhibition.
13. The compound for the use of any one of claims 8 to 12, wherein the condition involving ECM deposition is excessive deposition of ECM.
14. The compound for the use of any one of claims 8 to 11, wherein modulation is promotion.
15. The compound for the use of any one of claims 8 to 11 and 14, wherein the condition involving ECM deposition is insufficient deposition of ECM.
16. A compound for use in an in vivo method for identifying modulators of extracellular matrix (ECM) movement towards a site requiring deposition of ECM, comprising
 - (a) contacting extracellular matrix of an internal organ from a mammalian subject with a label;
 - (b) introducing to said organ an injury
 - (c) contacting said labelled extracellular matrix of organ tissue with the compound of interest;
 - (d) determining whether said compound of interest modulates ECM movement towards said site requiring deposition of ECM in comparison to labelled extracellular matrix of organ tissue from a mammalian subject which is not contacted with said compound of interest,wherein modulation of ECM movement towards said site requiring deposition of ECM is indicative for said compound of interest to be a modulator of said ECM movement.