CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A pharmaceutical composition for use in the treatment of an ocular condition, comprising:

A) a biodegradable polymer matrix; and

B) at least one corticosteroid homogenously dispersed within the polymer matrix; and

wherein the pharmaceutical composition is formulated for intravitreal administration to a subject's eye; and

wherein the pharmaceutical composition is formulated to release the corticosteroid for at least about 4 months.

2. Use of a biodegradable polymer matrix and at least one corticosteroid homogeneously dispersed within the polymer matrix, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of an ocular condition, wherein the medicament is formulated for intravitreal administration to a subject's eye; and wherein the medicament is formulated to release the corticosteroid for at least about 4 months.

3. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, or the use according to claim 2, wherein the corticosteroid is selected from the group consisting of: dexamethasone, fluocinolone acetonide, and a combination thereof.

4. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, or the use according to claim 2, wherein the at least one corticosteroid is fluocinolone acetonide.

5. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, or the use according to claim 2, wherein the at least one corticosteroid is dexamethasone.

6. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, or the use according to claim 2, wherein the corticosteroid comprises about 35 weight percent to about 45 weight percent of the pharmaceutical composition.

7. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, or the use according to claim 2, wherein the biodegradable polymer matrix comprises a biodegradable poly(D,L-lactide) homopolymer, a biodegradable poly(D,L-lactide-co-glycolide) copolymer, or a mixture thereof.

8. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, or the use according to claim 2, wherein the biodegradable polymer matrix comprises a mixture of two or more polymers, wherein one of said polymers is a biodegradable poly(D,L-lactide) homopolymer and one of said polymers is a biodegradable poly(D,L-lactide-co-glycolide) copolymer, wherein the biodegradable polymer matrix comprises about 55-65 weight percent of the pharmaceutical composition, and wherein the at least one corticosteroid comprises about 35-45 weight percent of the pharmaceutical composition.

9. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, or the use according to claim 2, wherein the biodegradable polymer matrix comprises a biodegradable poly(D,L-lactide) homopolymer having an inherent viscosity of 0.25 to 0.75 dL/g measured at 0.1% w/v in $CHCl_3$ at 25 °C with a Ubbelhode size 0c glass capillary viscometer and a biodegradable poly(D,L-lactide-co-glycolide) copolymer having an inherent viscosity of 0.05 to 0.60 dL/g measured at 0.1% w/v in $CHCl_3$ at 25 °C with a Ubbelhode size 0c glass capillary viscometer.

10. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, or the use according to claim 2, wherein the biodegradable polymer matrix comprises:

i) 60 ± 5 wt % of a biodegradable poly(D,L-lactide) homopolymer having an inherent viscosity of 0.25 to 0.35 dL/g measured at 0.1% w/v in $CHCl_3$ at 25 °C with a Ubbelhode size 0c glass capillary viscometer; and

ii) 40 ± 5 wt % of a biodegradable poly(D,L-lactide-co-glycolide) copolymer having an inherent viscosity of 0.32 to 0.44 dL/g measured at 0.1% w/v in $CHCl_3$ at 25 °C with a Ubbelhode size 0c glass capillary viscometer.

11. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, or the use according to claim 2, wherein the biodegradable polymer matrix comprises:

i) 25-75 ± 5 wt % of a biodegradable poly(D,L-lactide) homopolymer having an inherent viscosity of 0.25 to 0.35 dL/g measured at 0.1% w/v in $CHCl_3$ at 25 °C with a Ubbelhode size 0c glass capillary viscometer; and

ii) 25-75 ± 5% wt of a biodegradable poly(D,L-lactide-co-glycolide) copolymer having an inherent viscosity of 0.45 to 0.60 dL/g measured at 0.1% w/v in $CHCl_3$ at 25 °C with a Ubbelhode size 0c glass capillary viscometer.

12. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, or the use according to claim 2, wherein the biodegradable polymer matrix comprises:

i) 25-75 ± 5 wt % of a biodegradable poly(D,L-lactide) homopolymer having an inherent viscosity of 0.25 to 0.35 dL/g measured at 0.1% w/v in $CHCl_3$ at 25 °C with a Ubbelhode size 0c glass capillary viscometer; and

ii) 25-75 ± 5 wt % of a biodegradable poly(D,L-lactide-co-glycolide) copolymer having an inherent viscosity of 0.32 to 0.44 dL/g measured at 0.1% w/v in $CHCl_3$ at 25 °C with a Ubbelhode size 0c glass capillary viscometer.

13. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, or the use according to claim 2, wherein the biodegradable polymer matrix comprises: 85 ± 5 wt % of a biodegradable poly(D,L-lactide-co-glycolide) copolymer having an inherent viscosity of 0.45 to 0.60 dL/g measured at 0.1% w/v in $CHCl_3$ at 25 °C with a Ubbelhode size 0c glass capillary viscometer.

14. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, or the use according to claim 2, wherein the biodegradable polymer matrix comprises: 85 ± 5 wt % of a biodegradable poly(D,L-lactide-co-glycolide) copolymer having an inherent

viscosity of 0.32-0.44 dL/g measured at 0.1% w/v in $CHCl_3$ at 25 °C with a Ubbelhode size 0c glass capillary viscometer.

15. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, or the use according to claim 2, wherein the biodegradable polymer matrix comprises: 85 ± 5 wt % of a biodegradable poly(D,L-lactide) homopolymer having an inherent viscosity of 0.25 to 0.35 dL/g measured at 0.1% w/v in $CHCl_3$ at 25 °C with a Ubbelhode size 0c glass capillary viscometer.

16. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, or the use according to claim 2, wherein the biodegradable polymer matrix comprises:t 85 ± 5 wt % of a biodegradable poly(D,L-lactide) homopolymer having an inherent viscosity of 0.16-0.24 dL/g measured at 0.1% w/v in $CHCl_3$ at 25 °C with a Ubbelhode size 0c glass capillary viscometer.

17. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, or the use according to claim 2, wherein the biodegradable polymer matrix comprises:

i) 15 ± 5 wt % of a biodegradable poly(D,L-lactide) homopolymer having an inherent viscosity of 0.25 to 0.35 dL/g measured at 0.1% w/v in $CHCl_3$ at 25 °C with a Ubbelhode size 0c glass capillary viscometer; and

ii) 85 ± 5 wt % of a biodegradable poly(D,L-lactide-co-glycolide) copolymer having an inherent viscosity of 0.32 to 0.44 dL/g measured at 0.1% w/v in $CHCl_3$ at 25 °C with a Ubbelhode size 0c glass capillary viscometer.

18. An intravitreal implant for use in the treatment of an ocular condition, comprising the pharmaceutical composition of claim 1.

19. The intravitreal implant according to claim 18, wherein the intravitreal implant is to be administered to the vitreous humor of an eye of the human.

20. The intravitreal implant according to claim 18, wherein the ocular condition is macular edema, retinal vein occlusion, or uveitis.

21. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, or the use according to claim 2, wherein the biodegradable polymer matrix comprises a first polymer, a second polymer, and a third polymer, wherein the first polymer is a PLA or PLGA polymer, the second polymer is a PLA or PLGA polymer, and the third polymer is a PLA or PLGA polymer.