Claims

1. Use of a soluble CD89-activating molecule in the manufacture of a medicament for inducing apoptosis in neutrophils in a patient ~~in need thereof~~suffering from an autoimmune disorder or inflammatory condition, wherein the CD89-activating molecule comprises Fc-alpha or a functional equivalent thereof.

2. The use of claim 1, wherein the CD89-activating molecule is immunoglobulin A (IgA).

3. The use of claim 2, wherein the IgA is derived from serum or plasma.

4. The use of claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the IgA is dimeric.

5. The use of claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the IgA is monomeric.

6. The use of claim 4, wherein the IgA dimer comprises a J-chain.

7. The use of claim 6, wherein the IgA dimer comprises a secretory component.

8. The use of claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the IgA comprises monomeric and dimeric IgA.

9. The use of any one of claims 2 to 8, wherein the IgA is polyclonal.

10. The use of any one of claims 2 or 4 to 8, wherein the IgA is monoclonal.

11. The use of any one of claims 2 to 10, wherein the IgA is IgA1 or IgA2 or a mixture thereof.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a CD89-activating molecule referred to in any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein at least 50% of protein in the composition is the CD89-activating molecule.

~~13. The use of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the neutrophils are comprised in a patient with an autoimmune disorder or inflammatory condition.~~

14~~3~~. The use of claim 1~~3~~, wherein the ~~autoimmune disorder or~~ inflammatory condition is selected from sterile neutrophilic inflammation, infectious inflammation, neutrophil-induced inflammation, inflammatory bowel disease and NETosis.

15~~4~~. The use of claim 14, wherein the autoimmune disorder is arthritis, in particular rheumatoid arthritis, spondyloarthritis, ankylosing spondylitis/Morbus Bechterew, or reactive arthritis.

16~~5~~. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the medicament is formulated for local administration.

17~~6~~. The use according to claim 14~~3~~, wherein the NETosis occurs in a patient with cystic fibrosis.

18~~7~~. The use of any one of claims 1 to 11 or 13 to 17~~6~~, wherein the neutrophils have been pre-activated by an inflammatory stimulus such as inflammatory cytokines or microbial components (e.g. LPS).