WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A topical formulation comprising:

   (a) a therapeutically effective amount of tofacitinib;

   (b) at least one solvent; and

   (c) optionally one or more other pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

2. The topical formulation of claim 1, wherein the topical formulation is in the form selected from the group consisting of a solution, a suspension, a cream, an ointment, a lotion and a gel.

3. The topical formulation of claim 1, wherein the topical formulation is in the form selected from a solution and a gel.

4. The topical formulation of claim 1, wherein said tofacitinib is in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt selected from citrate salt, hydrochloride salt, hydrobromide salt, oxalate salt, nitrate salt, sulfate salt, phosphate salt, fumarate salt, succinate salt, maleate salt, besylate salt, tosylate salt, palmitate salt and tartrate salt.

5. The topical formulation of claim 4, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable salt is citrate salt.

6. The topical formulation of claim 1, wherein said solvent is selected from the group consisting of dimethyl sulfoxide, propylene glycol, glycerin, poly ethylene glycol, isopropyl alcohol, methanol, sodium pyrrolidone carboxylate, 2-hydroxypropyl-γ-

cyclodextrin, acetone, purified water, ethanol, 1-propanol, butanediol, 2-(2-ethoxyethoxy)ethanol (transcutol) and mixtures thereof

7. The topical formulation of claim 1, wherein said solvent is dimethyl sulfoxide.

8. The topical formulation of claim 1, wherein said solvent is a combination of dimethyl sulfoxide with at least one of propylene glycol, ethanol, and water.

9. The topical formulation of claim 1, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable excipient is selected from the group consisting of a thickening agent, a stabilizer, an antioxidant, a chelating agent, an oily material, an emulsifier, a penetration enhancer, a pH adjusting agent, a preservative, an antimicrobial agent, an opacifier, a fragrance, a colorant, a gelling agent, a moisturizer, a surfactant, and a combination thereof.

10. The topical formulation of claim 1, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable excipient is a thickening agent.

11. The topical formulation of claim 10, wherein said thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of a cellulose derivative, polyvinylpyrrolidone, a carbomer polymer, carbomer derivative, maltodextrin, polydextrose, dextrates, carboxypolymethylene, polyvinyl alcohol, poloxamers, polyethylene glycols and mixtures thereof.

12. The topical formulation of claim 1, wherein when the formulation is applied to the skin of a subject, the amount of tofacitinib retained in the skin is more than that penetrating through the skin into the blood or systemic circulation, for 4 hours after the application.

13. The topical formulation of claim 1, wherein when the formulation is applied to the skin of a subject, the amount of tofacitinib retained in the skin is at least about 4.7 times more than that penetrating through the skin into the blood or systemic circulation, for 8 hours after the application.

14. The topical formulation of claim 1, wherein less than 2% of total degradation products are observed after stored at room temperature for at least 1 month.

15. A topical formulation, comprising:

(a) a therapeutically effective amount of tofacitinib citrate;

(b) dimethyl sulfoxide;

(c) optionally, propylene glycol;

(d) optionally, a thickening agent;

(e) optionally, an antioxidant; and

(f) optionally, one or more other pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

16. The topical formulation of claim 15, comprising:

(a) about 0.1% w/w to about 5% w/w of tofacitinib citrate;

(b) about 1% w/w to about 80% w/w of dimethyl sulfoxide;

(c) optionally, about 10% w/w to about 60% w/w of propylene glycol;

(d) optionally, about 0.05% w/w to about 5% w/w of hydroxypropyl cellulose;

(e) optionally, about 0.05% w/w to about 5% w/w of butylated hydroxyanisole; and

(f) optionally, one or more other pharmaceutically acceptable excipients,

based on the total weight of the topical formulation.

17. The topical formulation of claim 1, for use in treatment and/or prevention of autoimmune diseases selected from vitiligo, atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, epidermolysis bullosa acquista, pemphigus vulgaris, IgA-mediated bullous dermatoses, systemic lupus erythematosus, alopecia areata, porphyria, scleroderma, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, and skin complication of Type I diabetes.

18. The topical formulation of claim 1, wherein tofacitinib is administered to the skin at a daily therapeutically effective dose of about 0.5 mg/cm^2 to about 60 mg/cm^2.

19. A method for treating and/or preventing autoimmune diseases in a subject, comprising administering the topical formulation as claimed in claims 1 to 18 to said subject.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said autoimmune disease is selected from vitiligo, atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, epidermolysis bullosa acquista, pemphigus vulgaris, IgA- mediated bullous dermatoses, systemic lupus erythematosus, alopecia areata, porphyria, scleroderma, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis and skin complication of Type I diabetes.