What is claimed is:

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 95% EPA enclosed in a capsule shell, wherein the composition has a baseline peroxide value not greater than 5 meq/kg and upon storage of the composition at 25 °C and 60% RH for a period of 6 months, the composition has a second peroxide value not greater than 8 meq/kg.

2. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein the EPA is ethyl-EPA.

3. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein the ethyl-EPA contains less than about 1% of any individual fatty acid other than ethyl eicosapentaenoate.

4. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein the ethyl-EPA contains less than 0.5% of any individual fatty acid other than ethyl eicosapentaenoate.

5. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein the ethyl-EPA contains less than 0.3% DHA, if any.

6. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 5 wherein the ethyl-EPA contains no DHA.

7. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein the ethyl-EPA comprises 0.1% to 1%, by weight, of an antioxidant.

8. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 7 wherein the antioxidant is tocopherol.

9. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein upon storage of the composition at 25 °C and 60% RH for a period of 6 months, the ethyl-EPA has a second peroxide value not greater than 7 meq/kg.

10. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein upon storage of the composition at 25 °C and 60% RH for a period of 6 months, the ethyl-EPA has a second peroxide value not greater than 6 meq/kg.

11. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein upon storage of the composition at 30 °C and 65% RH for a period of 6 months, the ethyl-EPA has a second peroxide value not greater than 12 meq/kg.

12. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 11 wherein upon storage of the composition at 30 °C and 65% RH for a period of 6 months, the ethyl-EPA has a second peroxide value not greater than 10 meq/kg.

13. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein upon storage of the composition at 30 °C and 65% RH for a period of 6 months, the ethyl-EPA has a second peroxide value not greater than 10 meq/kg.

14. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 13 wherein upon storage of the composition at 30 °C and 65% RH for a period of 6 months, the ethyl-EPA has a second peroxide value not greater than 6 meq/kg.

15. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 or Claim 11 wherein the capsule shell comprises a film-forming material and at least one plasticizer.

16. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15 wherein the at least one plasticizer comprises a hygroscopic plasticizer.

17. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16 wherein the hygroscopic plasticizer comprises glycerol.

18. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 17 wherein the film-forming material comprises gelatin.

19. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 18 wherein the film-forming contains no chemically modified gelatin.

~~20. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the film-forming contains~~ no succinated gelatin.

21. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 18 wherein the capsule shell has a weight ratio of gelatin to glycerol of 2.5:1 to 10:1.

22. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 18 wherein the capsule shell has a weight ratio of gelatin to glycerol of 4:1 to 8:1.

23. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 18 wherein the capsule shell further comprises a non-hygroscopic plasticizer.

24. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 21 wherein the at least one plasticizer comprises a non-hygroscopic plasticizer, the non-hygroscopic plasticizer being selected from maltitol, lactitol, xylitol, hydrogenated starch hydrolysate and glucose syrup.

25. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 22 wherein the non-hygroscopic plasticizer comprises maltitol.

26. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 21 wherein the capsule shell has a hygroscopic plasticizer to non-hygroscopic plasticizer weight ratio of 1:1 to 8:1.

27. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 21 wherein the capsule shell has a hygroscopic plasticizer to non-hygroscopic plasticizer weight ratio of 3:1 to 5:1.

28. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 wherein the composition has a dissolution profile as measured by RDC including at least one : (1) at least 20% of the E-EPA is dissolved by 10 minutes; (2) at least 45% of the E-EPA is dissolved by 30 minutes; (3) at least 80% of the E-EPA is dissolved by 60 minutes; and/or (4) at least 95% of the E-EPA is dissolved by 100 minutes.

29. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 28 wherein the composition has a dissolution profile as measured by RDC wherein: (1) at least 20% of the E-EPA is

~~dissolved by 10 minutes; (2) at least 45% of the E-EPA is dissolved by 30 minutes; (3) at least~~ 80% of the E-EPA is dissolved by 60 minutes; and (4) at least 95% of the E-EPA is dissolved by 100 minutes.

30. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 wherein upon administration of said composition to a human subject, the subject achieves an EPA T_{max} within at least 5.8 hours of said administration.

31. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least about 95% ethyl-EPA enclosed in a capsule shell, wherein the ethyl-EPA has a baseline peroxide value not greater than 5 meq/kg and upon storage of the composition at 30 °C and 65% RH for a period of 6 months, the ethyl-EPA has a second peroxide value not greater than 5 meq/kg wherein the capsule shell contains no chemically modified gelatin.

32. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 31 wherein the capsule shell comprises gelatin, a hygroscopic plasticizer and a non-hygroscopic plasticizer.

33. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 32 wherein the hygroscopic plasticizer comprises glycerol.

34. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 32 wherein the capsule shell has a weight ratio of gelatin to glycerol of 2.5:1 to 10:1.

35. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 34 wherein the capsule shell has a weight ratio of gelatin to glycerol of 4:1 to 8:1.

36. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 34 wherein the non-hygroscopic plasticizer is selected from maltitol, lactitol, xylitol, hydrogenated starch hydrolysate, glucose syrup and mixtures thereof.

37. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 36 wherein the non-hygroscopic plasticizer comprises maltitol.

~~38. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 32 wherein the capsule shell has a~~ hygroscopic plasticizer to non-hygroscopic plasticizer weight ratio of 1:1 to 8:1.

39. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 38 wherein the capsule shell has a hygroscopic plasticizer to non-hygroscopic plasticizer weight ratio of 3:1 to 5:1.

40. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 95% ethyl-EPA encapsulated in a capsule shell comprising non-chemically modified gelatin, a hygroscopic plasticizer, and a non-hygroscopic plasticizer, wherein the capsule shell has a weight ratio of gelatin to hygroscopic plasticizer of 4:1 to 8:1 and a weight ratio of hygroscopic plasticizer to non-hygroscopic plasticizer of 3:1 to 5:1, wherein the composition has a baseline peroxide value no greater than 5 meq/kg and upon storage of the composition at 25°C and 60% RH for a period of 6 months, the composition has a second peroxide value not greater than 8 meq/kg.

41. The composition of claim 40 wherein the hygroscopic plasticizer comprises glycerol and sorbitol and the non-hygroscopic plasticizer comprises maltitol.

42. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 40 wherein the composition has a baseline peroxide value not greater than 5 meq/kg and upon storage of the composition at 25 °C and 60% RH for a period of 6 months, the composition has a second peroxide value not greater than 5 meq/kg.

43. Use of a compound of claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing a cardiovascular-related disease in a subject in need thereof, wherein the use comprises administration to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of said composition.

~~44. The use of claim 43 wherein cardiovascular-related disease is selected from acute~~ cardiac ischemic events, acute myocardial infarction, angina, angina pectoris, arrhythmia, atrial fibrulation, atherosclerosis, arterial fibrillation, cardiac insufficiency, cardiovascular disease, chronic heart failure, chronic stable angina, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, coronary heart disease, deep vein thrombosis, diabetes, diabetes

~~mellitus, diabetic neuropathy, diastolic dysfunction in subjects with diabetes mellitus, edema,~~ essential hypertension, eventual pulmonary embolism, fatty liver disease, heart disease, heart failure, homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HoFH), homozygous familial sitosterolemia, hypercholesterolemia, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, hypertriglyceridemia, ischemic complications in unstable angina and myocardial infarction, low blood pressure, metabolic syndrome, mixed dyslipidemia, moderate to mild heart failure, myocardial infarction, platelet aggregation, primary hypercholesterolemia, primary hyperlipidemia, pulmonary arterial hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, recurrent hemodynamically unstable ventricular tachycardia (VT), recurrent ventricular arrhythmias, recurrent ventricular fibrillation (VF), ruptured aneurysm, sitisterolemia, stroke, supraventricular tachycardia, symptomatic atrial fibrillation/flutter, tachycardia, type-II diabetes, vascular disease, venous thromboembolism, and ventricular arrhythmias.

45. The use of claim 44 wherein the cardiovascular-related disease is hypertriglyceridemia.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising 95% to 99.9% ethyl-EPA enclosed in a capsule shell, wherein (a) the pharmaceutical composition has a baseline peroxide from 0 meq/kg to 5 meq/kg and upon storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C and 60% RH for a period of 6 months, the pharmaceutical composition has a second peroxide value from 0 meq/kg to 8 meq/kg, (b) the capsule shell is free of succinated gelatin and comprises a film-forming material, a hygroscopic plasticizer selected from glycerin, sorbitol and alkylene glycols, and a non-hygroscopic plasticizer selected from maltitol, lactitol, xylitol, hydrogenated starch hydrolysate and glucose syrup, wherein the hygroscopic plasticizer and the non-hygroscopic plasticizer are present in a weight ratio of 2:1 to 6:1, and (c) if the capsule shell comprises glycerin and the film-forming material comprises gelatin, the capsule shell has a gelatin:glycerin weight ratio greater than 5:1.

2. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein if the capsule shell comprises glycerin and the film-forming material comprises gelatin, the capsule shell has a gelatin:glycerin weight ratio of 5:1 to 8:1.

3. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutical composition contains less than 1% of any individual fatty acid other than ethyl eicosapentaenoate.

4. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutical composition contains less than 0.5% of any individual fatty acid other than ethyl eicosapentaenoate.

5. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutical composition contains less than 0.3% DHA, if any.

6. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 5 wherein the pharmaceutical composition contains no DHA.

7. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises 0.1% to 1%, by weight, of an antioxidant.

8. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 7 wherein the antioxidant is tocopherol.

9. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein upon storage of the composition at 25°C and 60% RH for a period of 6 months, the pharmaceutical composition has a second peroxide value from 0 meq/kg to 7 meq/kg.

10. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein upon storage of the composition at 25°C and 60% RH for a period of 6 months, the pharmaceutical composition has a second peroxide value from 0 meq/kg to 6 meq/kg.

11. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein the composition has a baseline peroxide value from 0 meq/kg to 5 meq/kg and wherein upon storage of the composition at 30°C and 65% RH for a period of 6 months, the pharmaceutical composition has a second peroxide value from 0 meq/kg to 12 meq/kg.

12. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 11 wherein upon storage of the composition at 30°C and 65% RH for a period of 6 months, the pharmaceutical composition has a second peroxide value from 0 meq/kg to 10 meq/kg.

13. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein upon storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 30°C and 65% RH for a period of 6 months, the pharmaceutical composition has a second peroxide value from 0 meq/kg to 10 meq/kg.

14. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 13 wherein upon storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 30°C and 65% RH for a period of 6 months, the pharmaceutical

composition has a second peroxide value from 0 meq/kg to 6 meq/kg.

15. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein the film-forming material contains no chemically modified gelatin.

16. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 15 wherein the film-forming material contains no succinated gelatin.

17. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein the capsule shell has a weight ratio of gelatin to glycerol of 2.5:1 to 10:1.

18. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein the capsule shell has a weight ratio of gelatin to glycerol of 4:1 to 8:1.

19. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein the non-hygroscopic plasticizer comprises maltitol.

20. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein the capsule shell has a hygroscopic plasticizer to non-hygroscopic plasticizer weight ratio of 3:1 to 5:1.

21. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 wherein the composition has a dissolution profile as measured by RDC including at least one of: (1) at least 20% of the ethyl-EPA is dissolved by 10 minutes; (2) at least 45% of the ethyl-EPA is dissolved by 30 minutes; (3) at least 80% of the ethyl-EPA is dissolved by 60 minutes; and (4) at least 95% of the ethyl-EPA is dissolved by 100 minutes.

22. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 21 wherein the composition has a dissolution profile as measured by RDC wherein: (1) at least 20% of the ethyl-EPA is dissolved by 10 minutes; (2) at least 45% of the ethyl-EPA is dissolved by 30 minutes; (3) at least 80% of the ethyl-EPA is dissolved by 60 minutes; and (4) at least 95% of the ethyl-EPA is dissolved by 100

minutes.

23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising 95% to 99.9% ethyl-EPA enclosed in a capsule shell comprising a film-forming material free of chemically modified gelatin, a hygroscopic plasticizer selected from glycerin, sorbitol and alkylene glycols, and a non-hygroscopic plasticizer selected from maltitol, lactitol, xylitol, hydrogenated starch hydrolysate and glucose syrup, wherein the capsule shell has a weight ratio of hygroscopic plasticizer to non-hygroscopic plasticizer of 2:1 to 6:1, wherein if the capsule shell comprises glycerin and the film-forming material comprises gelatin, the capsule shell has a gelatin:glycerin weight ratio greater than 5:1, and wherein the pharmaceutical composition has a baseline peroxide value from 0 meq/kg to 5 meq/kg and upon storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 30°C and 65% RH for a period of 6 months, the pharmaceutical composition has a second peroxide value from 0 meq/kg to 5 meq/kg.

24. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23 wherein the hygroscopic plasticizer comprises glycerol.

25. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 23 wherein the capsule shell has a weight ratio of gelatin to glycerol of 5.2:1 to 10:1.

26. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23 wherein the non-hygroscopic plasticizer comprises maltitol.

27. A pharmaceutical composition comprising 95% to 99.9% ethyl-EPA encapsulated in a capsule shell comprising non-chemically modified gelatin, a hygroscopic plasticizer selected from glycerin, sorbitol and alkylene glycols, and a non-hygroscopic plasticizer selected from maltitol, lactitol, xylitol, hydrogenated starch hydrolysate and glucose syrup, wherein the capsule shell has a weight ratio of gelatin to total plasticizer of 1.75:1 to 5:1 and a weight ratio of hygroscopic plasticizer to non-hygroscopic plasticizer of 3:1 to 5:1, wherein the pharmaceutical composition has a baseline peroxide value of 0 meq/kg to 5 meq/kg and upon storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C and 60% RH for a period of 6 months, the pharmaceutical composition has a

second peroxide value of 0 meq/kg to 8 meq/kg, and wherein if the hygroscopic plasticizer comprises glycerin, the capsule shell has a gelatin:glycerin weight ratio greater than 5:1.

28. The composition of claim 27 wherein the hygroscopic plasticizer comprises glycerol and sorbitol and the non-hygroscopic plasticizer comprises maltitol.

29. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 27 wherein the pharmaceutical composition has a baseline peroxide value of 0 meq/kg to 5 meq/kg and upon storage of the pharmaceutical composition at 25°C and 60% RH for a period of 6 months, the pharmaceutical composition has a second peroxide value of 0 meq/kg to 5 meq/kg.

30. Use of a pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing a cardiovascular-related disease in a subject in need thereof, wherein 2 g per day to 4 g per day of said composition is to be administered to the subject.

31. The use of claim 30 wherein cardiovascular-related disease is selected from acute cardiac ischemic events, acute myocardial infarction, angina, angina pectoris, arrhythmia, atrial fibrulation, atherosclerosis, arterial fibrillation, cardiac insufficiency, cardiovascular disease, chronic heart failure, chronic stable angina, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, coronary heart disease, deep vein thrombosis, diabetes, diabetes mellitus, diabetic neuropathy, diastolic dysfunction in subjects with diabetes mellitus, edema, essential hypertension, eventual pulmonary embolism, fatty liver disease, heart disease, heart failure, homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HoFH), homozygous familial sitosterolemia, hypercholesterolemia, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, hypertriglyceridemia, ischemic complications in unstable angina and myocardial infarction, low blood pressure, metabolic syndrome, mixed dyslipidemia, moderate to mild heart failure, myocardial infarction, platelet aggregation, primary hypercholesterolemia, primary hyperlipidemia, pulmonary arterial hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, recurrent hemodynamically unstable ventricular tachycardia (VT), recurrent ventricular arrhythmias, recurrent ventricular fibrillation (VF), ruptured aneurysm, sitisterolemia, stroke, supraventricular tachycardia, symptomatic atrial fibrillation/flutter, tachycardia, type-II diabetes, vascular disease, venous thromboembolism, and ventricular arrhythmias.

32. The use of claim 31 wherein the cardiovascular-related disease is hypertriglyceridemia.