CLAIMS

1. Use of a CD24 protein in the manufacture of a medicament for reducing low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol (LDL-C) levels in a human subject in need of reducing LDL-C levels, wherein the CD24 protein comprises (a) a mature human CD24 polypeptide comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 or 2; and, (b) a Fc region of a human IgG protein; wherein the Fc region is fused at the C-terminus of the CD24 protein.

2. The use according to claim 1, wherein the subject has a LDL-C level greater than or equal to 75 mg/dL.

3. The use according to claim1, wherein the subject has a LDL-C level of greater than or equal to 70 mg/dL or 190 mg/dL.

4. The use according to claim 1, wherein the subject has been previously treated with another LDL-C-lowering drug.

5. The use according to claim 4, wherein the other LDL-C-lowering drug is a statin.

6. The use according to claim 4, wherein the other LDL-C-lowering drug is an antagonist of PCSK9.

7. The use according to claim 1, wherein the CD24 protein is soluble.

8. The use according to claim 1, wherein the CD24 protein is glycosylated.

9. The use according to claim1, wherein the Fc region comprises the hinge region and CH2 and CH3 domains of the human IgG protein.

10. The use according to claim 9, wherein the IgG protein is selected from the group consisting of IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, and IgG4.

11. The use according to claim 10, wherein the CD24 protein comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6, 11, or 12.

12. The use according to claim 11, wherein the sequence of the CD24 protein consists of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6, 11 or 12.

13. Use of a CD24 protein in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing atherosclerosis in a human subject in need of treating or preventing atherosclerosis, wherein the CD24 protein comprises: (a) a mature human CD24 polypeptide comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 or 2; and, (b) a Fc region of a human IgG protein; wherein the Fc region is fused at the C-terminus of the CD24 protein.

14. Use of a CD24 protein in the manufacture of a medicament for lowering the risk of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease in a human subject in need of lowering the risk of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, wherein the CD24 protein comprises: (a) a mature

human CD24 polypeptide comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 or 2; and, (b) a Fc region of a human IgG protein; wherein the Fc region is fused at the C-terminus of the CD24 protein.

15. A method of monitoring the activity of a CD24 protein in a subject, comprising comparing the amount of LDL-C in a blood sample obtained from the subject at a time point after the CD24 protein is to be administered to the subject to an amount of LDL-C in a blood sample obtained from the subject before the time point, wherein a decrease in the amount of LDL-C over time is indicative of an increase in CD24 protein activity.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the amount of the CD24 protein subsequently to be administered to the subject is adjusted according to the amount of LDL-C in the sample obtained after administering the CD24 protein to the subject.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the amount of the CD24 protein to be subsequently administered is adjusted to maintain a specific activity or concentration level of the CD24 protein in the subject.