WHAT IS CLAIMED IS :

1. A method for obtaining cells that have the ability to (1) preserve splenic mass in an injury, (2) increase splenocyte proliferation in the spleen, or (3) increase T-regulatory cells, the method comprising assaying cells for said ability by performing one or more of: (1) an assay of splenic mass in an injury, (2) an assay of splenocyte proliferation in the spleen, and (3) an assay of T-regulatory cells, wherein said cells that are assayed are non-embryonic non-germ cells that express one or more of oct4, telomerase rex-1 or rox-1 and/or can differentiate into cell types of at least two of the endodermal, ectodermal, and mesodermal germ layers.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the cells express telomerase.

3. The method of any one of claims 1-2 wherein the cells express oct4.

4. The method of any one of claims 1-3 wherein the cells express oct4 and telomerase.

5. The method of any one of claims 1-4 wherein the cells can differentiate into cell types of at least two of the endodermal, ectodermal, and mesodermal germ layers.

6. The method of any one of claims 1-5 wherein the cells can differentiate into cell types of endodermal, ectodermal, and mesodermal germ layers.

7. The method of any one of claims 1-6 wherein the cells express oct4 and telomerase and can differentiate into cell types of at least two of endodermal, ectodermal, and mesodermal germ layers.

8. The method of any one of claims 1-7 wherein the cells can differentiate into cell types of endodermal, ectodermal, and mesodermal germ layers and express telomerase and oct4.

9. The method of any one of claims 1-8 wherein the cells are human.

10. The method of any one of claims 1-9 wherein the cells are derived from human bone marrow.