CLAIMS

1. A modified release pharmaceutical composition comprising a plurality of pellets, wherein each pellet comprises:
   (a) an inert core comprising a sugar, starch or microcrystalline cellulose;
   (b) a drug layer comprising an agent that encapsulates the inert core; and
   (c) a modified release layer comprising
      (i) ethyl cellulose and hydroxypropyl cellulose or
      (ii) ethyl cellulose and poly (N-vinyl-2-pyrrolidinone), that encapsulates the drug layered inert core;

   wherein the agent is 2-((3-(4-cyanonaphthalen-1-yl)pyridine-4-yl)thio)-2-methylpropanoic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The modified release pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the inert core comprises microcrystalline cellulose.

3. The modified release pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 2, wherein the drug layer further comprises hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose.

4. The modified release pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein: the inert core comprises microcrystalline cellulose; the drug layer comprises hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose; and the modified release layer comprises ethyl cellulose and hydroxypropyl cellulose.

5. The modified release pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein: the inert core comprises microcrystalline cellulose; the drug layer comprises hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose; and the modified release layer comprises ethyl cellulose and poly (N-vinyl-2-pyrrolidinone).

6. The modified release pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein
   (a) the inert core is present in an amount ranging from 10% to 90 % (w/w) of the weight of the pellet;
   (b) the drug layer is present in an amount ranging from 5% to 80% (w/w) of the total weight of the pellet,

(c) the modified polymer comprises a mixture of ethylcellulose and hydroxypropyl cellulose in an amount ranging from 5% to 50% (w/w) of the total weight of the pellet, the weight ratio of ethylcellulose to hydroxypropyl cellulose ranging from 1:1 to 4:1.

7. The modified release pharmaceutical composition of claim 6, wherein the drug layer further comprises a binder, and wherein the weight ratio of the agent to the binder ranges from 4:1 to 19:1.

8. The modified release pharmaceutical composition of claim 7, wherein the binder is hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.

9. The modified release pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the agent is 2-((3-(4-cyanonaphthalen-1-yl)pyridine-4-yl)thio)-2-methylpropanoic acid.

10. The modified release pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 9 for use in treatment, wherein the composition is to be orally administered to the subject to provide a dose of the agent selected from a range of 0.5-20 mg, for example 0.5, 0.67, 0.75, 0.83, 1, 1.25, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.3, 4.5, 5, 6, 7.5, 9, 10, 12, 15 and 20 mg.

11. The modified release pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 10 for use in treating disorders of uric acid metabolism selected from polycythemia, myeloid metaplasia, gout, a recurrent gout attack, gouty arthritis, hyperuricaemia, hypertension, a cardiovascular disease, coronary heart disease, heart failure, Lesch-Nyhan syndrome, Kelley-Seegmiller syndrome, kidney disease, kidney stones, kidney failure, joint inflammation, arthritis, urolithiasis, plumbism, hyperparathyroidism, psoriasis and sarcoidosisin, in a warm blooded animal.

12. The modified release pharmaceutical composition of claim 11, wherein the warm blooded animal is a human.

13. The modified release pharmaceutical composition of claim 11 or 12, wherein the disorder of uric acid metabolism is gout.

14. The modified release pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 13, further comprising a xanthine oxidase inhibitor.

15. The modified release pharmaceutical composition of claim 14, wherein the xanthine oxidase inhibitor is febuxostat.

16. Use of the modified release pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 10 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating disorders of uric acid metabolism selected from polycythemia, myeloid metaplasia, gout, a recurrent gout attack, gouty arthritis, hyperuricaemia, hypertension, a cardiovascular disease, coronary heart disease, heart failure, Lesch-Nyhan syndrome, Kelley-Seegmiller syndrome, kidney disease, kidney stones, kidney failure, joint inflammation, arthritis, urolithiasis, plumbism, hyperparathyroidism, psoriasis and sarcoidosisin, in a warm blooded animal.

17. The use of 16, wherein the warm blooded animal is a human.

18. The use of claim 16 or 17, wherein the disorder of uric acid metabolism is gout.

19. The use of any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein the modified release pharmaceutical composition further comprising a xanthine oxidase inhibitor.

20. The use of claim 19, wherein the xanthine oxidase inhibitor is febuxostat.