CLAIMS

1. A product comprising a synergistically effective amount of an antibiotic agent and cysteamine and wherein the antibiotic agent: a) is a peptide antibiotic derived from a bacterial source or b) a non-peptide antibiotic.

~~2. The product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the antibiotic agent is a peptide antibiotic.~~

2~~3~~. The product as claimed in claim 1~~2~~, wherein the peptide antibiotic is colistin, bacitracin or polymyxin B.

~~4. The product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the antibiotic agent is a non-peptide antibiotic.~~

3~~5~~. The product as claimed in claim 1~~4~~, wherein the non-peptide antibiotic is of the group consisting of aminoglycosides, ansamycins, carbacephem, carbapenems cephalosporins, lincosamides, macrolides, monobactams, nitrofurans, quinolones, penicillin, sulfonamides and tetracyclin.

4~~6~~. The product as claimed in any of claims 1-3~~5~~ for use as a medicament.

5~~7~~. A substrate to which the product as claimed in any of claims 1-4~~6~~ is applied or attached.

6~~8~~. The substrate as claimed in claim 5~~7~~, wherein the substrate is selected from the group consisting of dressings, medical devices and indwelling devices.

7~~9~~. The substrate as claimed in claim 6~~8~~, wherein the indwelling device is selected from the group consisting of stents, catheters, peritoneal dialysis tubing, draining devices, joint prostheses and dental implants.

8~~10~~. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the product as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4~~6~~ and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable diluents, excipients and/or carriers.

9~~11~~. Use of the product as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4~~6~~ in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of a microbial infection or disease.

10~~2~~. The use as claimed in claim 9~~11~~, wherein the microbial infection or disease is selected from the group consisting of skin and wound infections, middle-ear infections, gastrointestinal tract infections, peritoneal membrane infections, urogenital tract infections, oral soft tissue infections, eye infections, endocarditis, infections in cystic fibrosis, and infections of indwelling medical devices.

11~~3~~. The use as claimed in claim 9~~11~~ or 10~~2~~, wherein the infection is of a mucolytic environment.

12~~4~~. The use as claimed in claim 11~~3~~, wherein the infection is a bacterial infection in ~~associated with~~ cystic fibrosis.

13~~5~~. The use as claimed in any one of claims 9~~11~~ to 12~~4~~, wherein the infection is caused by a bacterium selected from the group consisting of *Pseudomonas* spp., *Staphylococcus* spp., *Haemophilus* spp., *Burkholderia* spp., *Streptococcus* spp. and *Propionibacterium* spp.

14~~6~~. The use as claimed in claim 13~~5~~, wherein the bacterium is *Pseudomonas* spp.

15~~7~~. The use as claimed in claim 13~~5~~, wherein the bacterium is *Burkholderia* spp.

16~~8~~. The use as claimed in claim 13~~5~~, wherein the bacterium is *Staphylococcus* spp.

17~~9~~. The use as claimed in claims 9~~12~~-16~~9~~, wherein the treatment is to be administered separately, sequentially or in combination in a therapeutically effective amount of:

- the antibiotic agent; and
- cysteamine.

18~~20~~. The use as claimed in claim 9~~11~~, wherein the microbial infection is a topical infection or a systemic infection.

19~~21~~. The use as claimed in claim 18~~20~~, wherein the systemic infection is a mucosal infection.

20~~2~~. The use as claimed in claim ~~2~~19, wherein the mucosal infection is a gastrointestinal, urogenital or respiratory infection.

21~~3~~. The use as claimed in claim 19~~21~~ or 20~~2~~, wherein the mucosa infection is cystic fibrosis or ~~is associated with~~ chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).