CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A suspension or dispersion of nanoparticles comprising a population of particles, wherein ~~the majority~~50% or more of particles have diameters between approximately 10 and approximately 300 nanometers, wherein the particles have an average particle size ranging between approximately 50 nanometers and approximately 250 nanometers, wherein said nanoparticles comprises at least one unmodified peptide of length between 2 and 30 amino acids that has biological activity in the skin, subcutaneous tissue or contiguous muscles, and wherein said nanoparticles comprise an unmodified peptide whose amino acid sequence comprises TTK, EEMQRR, VGVAPG, YYRADA, GHK, or any combination thereof.

2. The suspension or dispersion of claim 1, wherein the majority of particles have a range of diameters between approximately 10 and approximately 250 nanometers.

3. The suspension or dispersion of claim 1, wherein the majority of particles have a range of diameters between approximately 10 and approximately 200 nanometers.

4. The suspension or dispersion of claim 1, wherein the majority of particles have a range of diameters between approximately 10 and approximately 150 nanometers.

5. The suspension or dispersion of claim 1, wherein the majority of particles have a range of diameters between approximately 10 and approximately 120 nanometers.

6. The suspension or dispersion of claim 1, wherein the majority of particles have a range of diameters between approximately 10 and approximately 100 nanometers.

7. The suspension or dispersion of claim 1, wherein the majority of particles have a range of diameters between approximately 10 and approximately 50 nanometers.

8. The suspension or dispersion of nanoparticles of any one of claims 1-7 wherein the unmodified peptide comprises VIEYKTTK, KTTK, TTKS or combination thereof.

22. The suspension or dispersion of any one of claims 10 – 18, wherein the ratio of surfactant to oil is approximately 1 : 1 by weight.

23. The suspension or dispersion of any one of claims 10 – 18, wherein the ratio of surfactant to oil is approximately 2 : 1 by weight.

24. The suspension or dispersion of any one of claims 10 – 18, wherein the ratio of surfactant to oil is approximately 3 : 1 by weight.

25. The suspension or dispersion of any one of claims 1 – 8, wherein the nanoparticle is a nanomicelle.

26. The suspension or dispersion of any one of claims 1 – 25, further comprising at least one additional component that, together with the suspension or dispersion, creates a cream, oil, ointment, gel, spray, lipstick, or sunscreen.

27. Use of a suspension or dispersion of any one of claims 1 – 26 for the preparation of a medicament to attain a cosmetic or therapeutic benefit.

28. Use of a suspension or dispersion of any one of claims 1 – 26 in the manufacture of a medicament for ~~to~~ thickening a subject's skin or subcutaneous tissue.

29. Use of a suspension or dispersion of any one of claims 1 – 26 for the preparation of a medicament to treat, alleviate, ameliorate, relieve, delay onset of, inhibit progression of, reduce severity of, or reduce incidence of the fine skin lines.

30. Use of a suspension or dispersion of any one of claims 1 – 26 for the preparation of a medicament to treat, alleviate, ameliorate, relieve, delay onset of, inhibit progression of, reduce severity of, or reduce incidence of facial wrinkles.

31. Use of a suspension or dispersion of any one of claims 1 – 26 for the preparation of a medicament to improve the appearance of a subject's skin.

32. Use of a suspension or dispersion of any one of claims 1 – 26 ~~to the subject's skin effective~~ for the preparation of a medicament to maintain the appearance of the subject's skin.

33. Use of a suspension or dispersion of any one of claims 1 – 26 ~~to the subject's skin effective~~ for the preparation of a medicament to treat, alleviate, ameliorate, relieve, inhibit progression of, or reduce severity of the wound.

34. Use of a suspension or dispersion of any one of claims 1 – 26 ~~to the subject's skin effective~~ for the preparation of a medicament to treat, alleviate, ameliorate, relieve, delay onset of, inhibit progression of, reduce severity of, or reduce incidence of the at least one symptom associated with hypertrophic scarring, keloids, localized sclerosis, systemic sclerosis, or other condition characterized by excess accumulation of the extracellular matrix.

35. The use of any one of claims 27 – 34, wherein the medicament is prepared to be administered by hand.

36. The use of any one of claims 27 – 34, wherein the medicament is prepared to be administered with a gloved finger.

37. The use of any one of claims 27 – 34, wherein the medicament is prepared to be administered with an unprotected finger.

38. The use of any one of claims 27 – 34, wherein the medicament is prepared to be administered by a device.

39. The use of any one of claims 27 – 34, wherein the medicament is prepared to be administered with an adhesive patch.

40. The use of any one of claims 27 – 34, wherein the medicament is prepared to be administered with a spatula.

41. The use of any one of claims 27 – 34, wherein the medicament is prepared to be administered with a swab.