CLAIMS

1. Use of a CD24 fusion protein in the manufacture of a medicament for treating lupus nephritis in a subject, wherein the CD24 fusion protein comprises a mature human CD24 polypeptide comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 or 2, and a Fc region of a mammalian Ig protein, wherein the Fc region is fused to the C-terminus of the mature human CD24 polypeptide.

2. The use of claim 1, wherein the medicament is intended for use in a subject who has been previously treated with another drug.

3. The use of any one of claims 1-2, wherein the Ig protein is a human Ig protein.

4. The use of claim 3, wherein the Fc region comprises a hinge region and CH2 and CH3 domains of the human Ig protein, and wherein the Ig protein is selected from the group consisting of IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4, and IgA.

5. The use of claim 3, wherein the Fc region comprises a hinge region and CH2, CH3 and CH4 domains of IgM.

6. The use of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the sequence of the CD24 fusion protein comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6, 11, or 12.

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

8. The use of any one of claims 1-7, wherein the CD24 fusion protein is produced using a eukaryotic protein expression system.

9. The use of claim 8, wherein the expression system comprises a vector contained in a Chinese Hamster Ovary cell line or a replication-defective retroviral vector.

10. The use of claim 9, wherein the replication-defective retroviral vector is stably integrated into the genome of a eukaryotic cell.

11. The use of any one of claims 1-10, wherein the CD24 fusion protein is soluble.

12. The use of any one of claims 1-11, wherein the CD24 fusion protein is glycosylated.