TREATMENT OF PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISEASE USING POSTPARTUM-DERIVED CELLS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims benefit to United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/754,366, filed December 28, 2005, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein, in their entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The invention relates to the field of cell based or regenerative therapy for peripheral vascular disease patients, especially those with peripheral ischemia. In particular, the invention provides cells derived from postpartum tissue having the capability to stimulate and support angiogenesis, to improve blood flow, to regenerate, repair, and improve skeletal muscle damaged by a peripheral ischemic event, and to protect skeletal muscle from ischemic damage.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Various publications, including patents, published applications, technical articles and scholarly articles are cited throughout the specification.

[0004] Peripheral vascular disease (PVD) can result from atherosclerotic occlusion of the blood vessels, particularly in limbs and areas distal from the heart, resulting in diminished blood flow and insufficient oxygen perfusion to tissues in the vicinity of and downstream from the occlusion. PVD is frequently manifest in the iliac blood vessels, femoral and popliteal blood vessels, and subclavian blood vessels, and its effects can be exacerbated by thrombi, emboli, or trauma. It is estimated that approximately 8-12 million individuals in the United States, especially among the elderly population and those with diabetes, are afflicted with PVD.

[0005] Common symptoms of PVD include cramping in the upper and lower limbs and extremities, numbness, weakness, muscle fatigue, pain in the limbs and extremities, hypothermia in the limbs and extremities, discoloration of the extremities, dry or scaly skin, and hypertension. The most common symptom is claudication, or feelings of pain, tightness, and fatigue in muscles

downstream of the occluded blood vessel that occur during some form of exercise such as walking, but self-resolve after a period of rest.

[0006] In terms of pathophysiology, the occluded blood vessels cause ischemia of tissues at the site of and distal to the obstruction. This ischemia is generally referred to as peripheral ischemia, meaning that it occurs in locations distal to the heart. The severity of the ischemia is a function of the size and number of obstructions, whether the obstruction is near a muscle or organ, and whether there is sufficient redundant vasculature. In more severe cases, the ischemia results in death of the affected tissues, and can result in amputation of affected limbs, or even death of the patient.

[0007] Current methods for treatment of more severe cases of PVD include chemotherapeutic regimens, angioplasty, insertion of stents, reconstructive surgery, bypass grafts, resection of affected tissues, or amputation. Unfortunately, for many patients, such interventions show only limited success, and many patients experience a worsening of the conditions or symptoms.

[0008] Presently, there is interest in using either stem cells, which can divide and differentiate, or muscles cells from other sources, including smooth and skeletal muscles cells, to assist the in the repair or reversal of tissue damage. Transplantation of stem cells can be utilized as a clinical tool for reconstituting a target tissue, thereby restoring physiologic and anatomic functionality. The application of stem cell technology is wide-ranging, including tissue engineering, gene therapy delivery, and cell therapeutics, *i.e.*, delivery of biotherapeutic agents to a target location *via* exogenously supplied living cells or cellular components that produce or contain those agents (For a review, see Tresco, P.A. *et al.*, (2000) *Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews* 42:2-37). The identification of stem cells has stimulated research aimed at the selective generation of specific cell types for regenerative medicine.

[0009] One obstacle to realization of the therapeutic potential of stem cell technology has been the difficulty of obtaining sufficient numbers of stem cells. Embryonic, or fetal tissue, is one source of stem cells. Embryonic stem and progenitor cells have been isolated from a number of mammalian species, including humans, and several such cell types have been shown capable of self-renewal and expansion, as well differentiation into a number of different cell lineages. But the derivation of stem cells from embryonic or fetal sources has raised many ethical and moral issues that are desirable to avoid by identifying other sources of multipotent or pluripotent cells.

[0010] Postpartum tissues, such as the umbilical cord and placenta, have generated interest as an alternative source of stem cells. For example, methods for recovery of stem cells

by perfusion of the placenta or collection from umbilical cord blood or tissue have been described. A limitation of stem cell procurement from these methods has been an inadequate volume of cord blood or quantity of cells obtained, as well as heterogeneity in, or lack of characterization of, the populations of cells obtained from those sources.

[0011] A reliable, well-characterized and plentiful supply of substantially homogeneous populations of such cells having the ability to differentiate into an array of skeletal muscle, pericyte, or vascular lineages would be an advantage in a variety of diagnostic and therapeutic applications for skeletal muscle repair, regeneration, and improvement, for the stimulation and/or support of angiogenesis, and for the improvement of blood flow subsequent to a peripheral ischemic event, particularly in PVD patients.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0012] One aspect of the invention features method of treating a patient having peripheral vascular disease, the method comprising administering to the patient postpartum-derived cells in an amount effective to treat the peripheral vascular disease, wherein the postpartum-derived cells are derived from human placental or umbilical cord tissue substantially free of blood, wherein the cells are capable of self-renewal and expansion in culture and have the potential to differentiate into cells of at least a skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, pericyte, or vascular endothelium phenotype; wherein the cells require L-valine for growth and can grow in at least about 5% oxygen; wherein the cells further comprise at least one of the following characteristics: (a) potential for at least about 40 doublings in culture; (b) attachment and expansion on a coated or uncoated tissue culture vessel, wherein the coated tissue culture vessel comprises a coating of gelatin, laminin, collagen, polyornithine, vitronectin, or fibronectin; (c) production of at least one of tissue factor, vimentin, and alpha-smooth muscle actin; (d) production of at least one of CD10, CD13, CD44, CD73, CD90, PDGFr-alpha, PD-L2 and HLA-A,B,C; (e) lack of production of at least one of CD31, CD34, CD45, CD80, CD86, CD117, CD141, CD178, B7-H2, HLA-G, and HLA-DR,DP,DQ, as detected by flow cytometry; (f) expression of a gene, which relative to a human cell that is a fibroblast, a mesenchymal stem cell, or an iliac crest bone marrow cell, is increased for at least one of a gene encoding: interleukin 8; reticulon 1; chemokine (C-X-C motif) ligand 1 (melonoma growth stimulating activity, alpha); chemokine (C-X-C motif) ligand 6 (granulocyte chemotactic protein 2); chemokine (C-X-C motif) ligand 3; tumor necrosis factor, alpha-induced protein 3; C-type lectin superfamily member 2; Wilms tumor 1; aldehyde dehydrogenase 1 family member A2; renin; oxidized low density lipoprotein receptor 1; Homo sapiens clone IMAGE:4179671; protein kinase C zeta; hypothetical protein DKFZp564F013; downregulated in ovarian cancer 1; and Homo sapiens

gene from clone DKFZp547k1113; (g) expression of a gene, which relative to a human cell that is a fibroblast, a mesenchymal stem cell, or an iliac crest bone marrow cell, is reduced for at least one of a gene encoding: short stature homeobox 2; heat shock 27 kDa protein 2; chemokine (C-X-C motif) ligand 12 (stromal cell-derived factor 1); elastin (supravalvular aortic stenosis, Williams-Beuren syndrome); Homo sapiens mRNA; cDNA DKFZp586M2022 (from clone DKFZp586M2022); mesenchyme homeo box 2 (growth arrest-specific homeo box); sine oculis homeobox homolog 1 (Drosophila); crystallin, alpha B; disheveled associated activator of morphogenesis 2; DKFZP586B2420 protein; similar to neuralin 1; tetranectin (plasminogen binding protein); src homology three (SH3) and cysteine rich domain; cholesterol 25-hydroxylase; runt-related transcription factor 3; interleukin 11 receptor, alpha; procollagen C-endopeptidase enhancer; frizzled homolog 7 (Drosophila); hypothetical gene BC008967; collagen, type VIII, alpha 1; tenascin C (hexabrachion); iroquois homeobox protein 5; hephaestin; integrin, beta 8; synaptic vesicle glycoprotein 2; neuroblastoma, suppression of tumorigenicity 1; insulin-like growth factor binding protein 2, 36kDa; Homo sapiens cDNA FLJ12280 fis, clone MAMMA1001744; cytokine receptor-like factor 1; potassium intermediate/small conductance calcium-activated channel, subfamily N, member 4; integrin, beta 7; transcriptional co-activator with PDZ-binding motif (TAZ); sine oculis homeobox homolog 2 (Drosophila); KIAA1034 protein; vesicle-associated membrane protein 5 (myobrevin); EGF-containing fibulin-like extracellular matrix protein 1; early growth response 3; distal-less homeo box 5; hypothetical protein FLJ20373; aldo-keto reductase family 1, member C3 (3-alpha hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase, type II); biglycan; transcriptional co-activator with PDZ-binding motif (TAZ); fibronectin 1; proenkephalin; integrin, beta-like 1 (with EGF-like repeat domains); Homo sapiens mRNA full length insert cDNA clone EUROIMAGE 1968422; EphA3; KIAA0367 protein; natriuretic peptide receptor C/guanylate cyclase C (atrionatriuretic peptide receptor C); hypothetical protein FLJ14054; Homo sapiens mRNA; cDNA DKFZp564B222 (from clone DKFZp564B222); BCL2/adenovirus E1B 19kDa interacting protein 3-like; AE binding protein 1; cytochrome c oxidase subunit VIIa polypeptide 1 (muscle); similar to neuralin 1; B cell translocation gene 1; hypothetical protein FLJ23191; and DKFZp586L151; (h) secretion of at least one of MCP-1, IL-6, IL-8, GCP-2, HGF, KGF, FGF, HB-EGF, BDNF, TPO, MIP1a, RANTES, and TIMP1; and (i) lack of secretion of at least one of TGF-beta2, ANG2, PDGFbb, MIP1b, I309, MDC, and VEGF, as detected by ELISA.

[0013] In a particular embodiment, the peripheral vascular disease is peripheral ischemia. In certain embodiments, the cells are induced *in vitro* to differentiate into a skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, pericyte, or vascular endothelium lineage cells prior to

administration. In other embodiments, the cells are genetically engineered to produce a gene product that promotes treatment of peripheral vascular disease.

[0014] In some embodiments of the method, cells are administered with at least one other cell type, which may include skeletal muscle cells, skeletal muscle progenitor cells, vascular smooth muscle cells, vascular smooth muscle progenitor cells, pericytes, vascular endothelial cells, vascular endothelium progenitor cells, or other multipotent or pluripotent stem cells. The other cell type can administered simultaneously with, or before, or after, the postpartum-derived cells.

[0015] In other embodiments, the cells are administered with at least one other agent, which may be an antithrombogenic agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, an immunosuppressive agent, an immunomodulatory agent, pro-angiogenic, or an antiapoptotic agent, for example. The other agent can be administered simultaneously with, or before, or after, the postpartum-derived cells.

[0016] The are preferably administered at or proximal to the sites of the peripheral ischemia, but can also be administered at sites distal to the peripheral ischemia. They can be administered by injection, infusion, a device implanted in the patient, or by implantation of a matrix or scaffold containing the cells. The cells may exert a trophic effect, such as proliferation, on the skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle or vascular endothelium of the patient. The cells may induce migration of skeletal muscle cells, vascular smooth muscle cells, vascular endothelial cells, skeletal muscle progenitor cells, pericytes, vascular smooth muscle progenitor cells, or vascular endothelium progenitor cells to the site or sites of peripheral vascular disease, such as peripheral ischemia.

[0017] Another aspect of the invention features pharmaceutical compositions and kits for treating a patient having a peripheral vascular disease, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and the postpartum-derived cells described above or preparations made from such postpartum-derived cells. In some preferred embodiments, the preparations comprise FGF and HGF. The pharmaceutical compositions and kits are designed and/or formulated for practicing the methods of the invention as outlined above.

[0018] According to another aspect of the invention, the above-described methods may be practiced using a preparation made from the postpartum-derived cells, wherein the preparation comprises a cell lysate of the postpartum-derived cells, an extracellular matrix of the postpartum-derived cells or a conditioned medium in which the postpartum-derived cells were grown. It is preferred that such preparations comprise FGF and HGF.

[0019] Other aspects of the invention feature pharmaceutical compositions and kits containing preparations comprising cell lysates, extracellular matrices or conditioned media of the postpartum-derived cells.

[0020] Other features and advantages of the invention will be understood by reference to the detailed description and examples that follow.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0021] Figure 1 shows the effect of hUTC lot#120304, MSCs, and fibroblasts on the proliferation of endothelial cells. Endothelial cells were seeded onto the bottom of a 24-well tissue culture dish at a density of 5000 cells/cm^2 (10,000 cells/well) and hUTC lot#120304, MSCs, or fibroblasts inside transwell inserts at a density of 5000 cells/cm^2 (1,650 cells/insert) in co-culture media (Hayflick 80% + EGM-2MV 20% or Hayflick 50% + EGM-2MV 50%). After 7 days of co-culture, cells were harvested and counted using a GUAVA® instrument. Endothelial cells were also maintained in EGM-2MV media as positive control. A, HUVECs. B, HCAECs. C, HIAECs.

[0022] Figure 2 shows the effect of hUTC lot#120304 and neutralizing antibodies on the proliferation of endothelial cells. HUVECs or HCAECs were seeded onto the bottom of a 24-well tissue culture dish at a density of 5000 cells/cm^2 (10,000 cells/well) and hUTC lot#120304 inside transwell inserts at a density of 5000 cells/cm^2 (1,650 cells/insert) in co-culture media (Hayflick 50% + EGM-2MV 50%). Neutralizing antibodies to FGF (7 μg/ml), HGF (1 μg/ml), or VEGF (1μg/ml) were also added at this time. After 7 days of co-culture, cells were harvested and counted using a GUAVA® instrument. Endothelial cells were also maintained in EGM-2MV media as positive control. Cells treated with growth factor alone and growth factor plus neutralizing antibodies are shown. A, HUVECs. B, HCAECs.

[0023] Figure 3 shows the effect of hUTC lot#120304 cell lysate and neutralizing antibodies on proliferation of HUVECs. HUVECs were seeded onto the bottom of a 24-well tissue culture dish at a density of 5000 cells/cm^2 (10,000 cells/well) in EGM-2MV media for 8h. Cells were then serum-starved by overnight incubation in 0.5 ml of EGM-2MV media containing 0.5% FBS and without growth factors. Afterwards, FBS, freshly prepared hUTC lot#120304 cell lysates, and neutralizing antibodies to FGF (7 μg/ml) or HGF (1 μg/ml) were added. After 4 days of culture, cells were harvested and counted using a GUAVA® instrument. Light grey bars, media controls. Medium grey bars, HUVECs incubated with lysate containing 62.5 μg of protein. Dark grey bars, HUVECs incubated with lysate containing 125 μg of protein.

[0024] Figure 4 shows the effect of hUTCs and MSCs on the migration of endothelial cells. HUVECs or HCAECs were seeded inside transwell inserts at a density of 5000 cells/cm^2

(23,000 cells/insert) and hUTC lot#120304 or MSCs onto the bottom of a 6-well tissue culture dish at a density of 5000 cells/cm^2 (48,000 cells/well) in co-culture media (Hayflick 50% + EGM-2MV 50%). After 7 days of co-culture, cells that were on the underside of the transwell insert were harvested and counted using a GUAVA® instrument. Endothelial cells were also maintained in EGM-2MV media as control. A, HUVECs. B, HCAECs.

[0025] Figure 5 shows the effect of hUTC lot#120304 and neutralizing antibodies on the migration of endothelial cells. HUVECs or HCAECs were seeded inside transwell inserts at a density of 5000 cells/cm^2 (23,000 cells/insert) and hUTC lot#120304 onto the bottom of a 6-well tissue culture dish at a density of 5000 cells/cm^2 (48,000 cells/well) in co-culture media (Hayflick 50% + EGM-2MV 50%). Neutralizing antibodies to FGF (7 μg/ml) or HGF (1 μg/ml) were added at this time. After 7 days of co-culture, cells that were on the underside of the transwell insert were harvested and counted using a GUAVA® instrument. Endothelial cells were also maintained in EGM-2MV media as control. A, HUVECs. B, HCAECs.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0026] Various terms are used throughout the specification and claims. Such terms are to be given their ordinary meaning in the art unless otherwise indicated. Other specifically defined terms are to be construed in a manner consistent with the definition provided herein.

[0027] *Stem cells* are undifferentiated cells defined by the ability of a single cell both to self-renew, and to differentiate to produce progeny cells, including self-renewing progenitors, non-renewing progenitors, and terminally differentiated cells. Stem cells are also characterized by their ability to differentiate *in vitro* into functional cells of various cell lineages from multiple germ layers (endoderm, mesoderm and ectoderm), as well as to give rise to tissues of multiple germ layers following transplantation, and to contribute substantially to most, if not all, tissues following injection into blastocysts.

[0028] Stem cells are classified according to their developmental potential as: (1) *totipotent*; (2) *pluripotent*; (3) *multipotent*; (4) *oligopotent*; and (5) *unipotent*. *Totipotent* cells are able to give rise to all embryonic and extraembryonic cell types. *Pluripotent* cells are able to give rise to all embryonic cell types. *Multipotent* cells include those able to give rise to a subset of cell lineages, but all within a particular tissue, organ, or physiological system. For example, hematopoietic stem cells (HSC) can produce progeny that include HSC (self-renewal), blood cell-restricted oligopotent progenitors, and all cell types and elements (e.g., platelets) that are normal components of the blood. Cells that are *oligopotent* can give rise to a more restricted subset of cell lineages than multipotent stem cells. Cells that are *unipotent* are able to give rise to a single cell lineage (e.g., spermatogenic stem cells).

[0029] Stem cells are also categorized on the basis of the source from which they are obtained. An *adult stem cell* is generally a multipotent undifferentiated cell found in tissue comprising multiple differentiated cell types. The adult stem cell can renew itself. Under normal circumstances, it can also differentiate to yield the specialized cell types of the tissue from which it originated, and possibly other tissue types. An *embryonic stem cell* is a pluripotent cell from the inner cell mass of a blastocyst-stage embryo. A *fetal* stem cell is one that originates from fetal tissues or membranes. A *postpartum stem cell* is a multipotent or pluripotent cell that originates substantially from extraembryonic tissue available after birth, namely, the placenta and the umbilical cord. These cells have been found to possess features characteristic of pluripotent stem cells, including rapid proliferation and the potential for differentiation into many cell lineages. Postpartum stem cells may be blood-derived (e.g., as are those obtained from umbilical cord blood) or non-blood-derived (e.g., as obtained from the non-blood tissues of the umbilical cord and placenta).

[0030] *Embryonic tissue* is typically defined as tissue originating from the embryo (which in humans refers to the period from fertilization to about six weeks of development. *Fetal tissue* refers to tissue originating from the fetus, which in humans refers to the period from about six weeks of development to parturition. *Extraembryonic tissue* is tissue associated with, but not originating from, the embryo or fetus. Extraembryonic tissues include extraembryonic membranes (chorion, amnion, yolk sac and allantois), umbilical cord and placenta (which itself forms from the chorion and the maternal decidua basalis).

[0031] *Differentiation* is the process by which an unspecialized ("uncommitted") or less specialized cell acquires the features of a specialized cell, such as a nerve cell or a muscle cell, for example. A *differentiated* cell is one that has taken on a more specialized ("committed") position within the lineage of a cell. The term *committed*, when applied to the process of differentiation, refers to a cell that has proceeded in the differentiation pathway to a point where, under normal circumstances, it will continue to differentiate into a specific cell type or subset of cell types, and cannot, under normal circumstances, differentiate into a different cell type or revert to a less differentiated cell type. *De-differentiation* refers to the process by which a cell reverts to a less specialized (or committed) position within the lineage of a cell. As used herein, the *lineage* of a cell defines the heredity of the cell, i.e. which cells it came from and what cells it can give rise to. The lineage of a cell places the cell within a hereditary scheme of development and differentiation.

[0032] In a broad sense, a *progenitor cell* is a cell that has the capacity to create progeny that are more differentiated than itself, and yet retains the capacity to replenish the pool

of progenitors. By that definition, stem cells themselves are also progenitor cells, as are the more immediate precursors to terminally differentiated cells. When referring to the cells of the present invention, as described in greater detail below, this broad definition of *progenitor cell* may be used. In a narrower sense, a progenitor cell is often defined as a cell that is intermediate in the differentiation pathway, i.e., it arises from a stem cell and is intermediate in the production of a mature cell type or subset of cell types. This type of progenitor cell is generally not able to self-renew. Accordingly, if this type of cell is referred to herein, it will be referred to as a *non-renewing progenitor cell* or as an *intermediate progenitor or precursor cell.*

[0033] As used herein, the phrase *differentiates into a mesodermal, ectodermal or endodermal lineage* refers to a cell that becomes committed to a specific mesodermal, ectodermal or endodermal lineage, respectively. Examples of cells that differentiate into a mesodermal lineage or give rise to specific mesodermal cells include, but are not limited to, cells that are adipogenic, chondrogenic, cardiogenic, dermatogenic, hematopoietic, hemangiogenic, myogenic, nephrogenic, urogenitogenic, osteogenic, pericardiogenic, or stromal. Examples of cells that differentiate into ectodermal lineage include, but are not limited to epidermal cells, neurogenic cells, and neurogliagenic cells. Examples of cells that differentiate into endodermal lineage include, but are not limited to, pleurigenic cells, hepatogenic cells, cells that give rise to the lining of the intestine, and cells that give rise to pancreogenic and splanchogenic cells.

[0034] The cells used in the present invention are generally referred to as *postpartum cells or postpartum-derived cells (*PPDCs*)*. They also may sometimes be referred to more specifically as *umbilicus-derived cells* (UDCs) or *placenta-derived cells (*PDCs*)*. In addition, the cells may be described as being stem or progenitor cells, the latter term being used in the broad sense. The term *derived* is used to indicate that the cells have been obtained from their biological source and grown or otherwise manipulated *in vitro* (e.g., cultured in a Growth Medium to expand the population and/or to produce a cell line). The *in vitro* manipulations of umbilical stem cells and the unique features of the umbilicus-derived cells of the present invention are described in detail below.

[0035] *Pericytes*, also known in the art as Rouget cells or mural cells, refers to the cells typically found embedded within the vascular basement membrane of blood microvessels (Armulik A *et al.* (2005) *Circ. Res.* 97:512-23), that are believed to play a role in, among other things, communication/signalling with endothelial cells, vasoconstriction, vasodilation, the regulation of blood flow, blood vasculature formation and development, angiogenesis, and endothelial differentiation and growth arrest (Bergers G *et al.* (2005) *Neuro-Oncology* 7:452-64).

[0036] Various terms are used to describe cells in culture. *Cell culture* refers generally to cells taken from a living organism and grown under controlled condition ("in culture" or "cultured"). A *primary cell culture* is a culture of cells, tissues, or organs taken directly from an organism(s) before the first subculture. Cells are *expanded* in culture when they are placed in a Growth Medium under conditions that facilitate cell growth and/or division, resulting in a larger population of the cells. When cells are expanded in culture, the rate of cell proliferation is sometimes measured by the amount of time needed for the cells to double in number. This is referred to as *doubling time*.

[0037] A *cell line* is a population of cells formed by one or more subcultivations of a primary cell culture. Each round of subculturing is referred to as a *passage*. When cells are subcultured, they are referred to as having been *passaged*. A specific population of cells, or a cell line, is sometimes referred to or characterized by the number of times it has been passaged. For example, a cultured cell population that has been passaged ten times may be referred to as a *P10* culture. The primary culture, i.e., the first culture following the isolation of cells from tissue, is designated P0. Following the first subculture, the cells are described as a secondary culture (P1 or passage 1). After the second subculture, the cells become a tertiary culture (P2 or passage 2), and so on. It will be understood by those of skill in the art that there may be many population doublings during the period of passaging; therefore the number of population doublings of a culture is greater than the passage number. The expansion of cells (i.e., the number of population doublings) during the period between passaging depends on many factors, including but not limited to the seeding density, substrate, medium, growth conditions, and time between passaging.

[0038] A *conditioned medium* is a medium in which a specific cell or population of cells has been cultured, and then removed. When cells are cultured in a medium, they may secrete cellular factors that can provide trophic support to other cells. Such trophic factors include, but are not limited to hormones, cytokines, extracellular matrix (ECM), proteins, vesicles, antibodies, and granules. The medium containing the cellular factors is the conditioned medium.

[0039] Generally, a *trophic factor* is defined as a substance that promotes survival, growth, proliferation and/or maturation of a cell, or stimulates increased activity of a cell.

[0040] When referring to cultured vertebrate cells, the term *senescence* (also *replicative senescence* or *cellular senescence*) refers to a property attributable to finite cell cultures; namely, their inability to grow beyond a finite number of population doublings (sometimes referred to as *Hayflick's limit*). Although cellular senescence was first described using fibroblast-like cells,

most normal human cell types that can be grown successfully in culture undergo cellular senescence. The *in vitro* lifespan of different cell types varies, but the maximum lifespan is typically fewer than 100 population doublings (this is the number of doublings for all the cells in the culture to become senescent and thus render the culture unable to divide). Senescence does not depend on chronological time, but rather is measured by the number of cell divisions, or population doublings, the culture has undergone. Thus, cells made quiescent by removing essential growth factors are able to resume growth and division when the growth factors are re-introduced, and thereafter carry out the same number of doublings as equivalent cells grown continuously. Similarly, when cells are frozen in liquid nitrogen after various numbers of population doublings and then thawed and cultured, they undergo substantially the same number of doublings as cells maintained unfrozen in culture. Senescent cells are not dead or dying cells; they are actually resistant to programmed cell death (apoptosis), and have been maintained in their nondividing state for as long as three years. These cells are very much alive and metabolically active, but they do not divide. The nondividing state of senescent cells has not yet been found to be reversible by any biological, chemical, or viral agent.

[0041] As used herein, the term *growth medium* generally refers to a medium sufficient for the culturing of postpartum-derived cells. In particular, one presently preferred medium for the culturing of the cells of the invention in comprises Dulbecco's Modified Essential Media (DMEM). Particularly preferred is DMEM-low glucose (DMEM-LG) (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). The DMEM-LG is preferably supplemented with serum, most preferably fetal bovine serum or human serum. Typically, 15% (v/v) fetal bovine serum (e.g. defined fetal bovine serum, Hyclone, Logan UT) is added, along with antibiotics/antimycotics ((preferably 100 Unit/milliliter penicillin, 100 milligrams/milliliter streptomycin, and 0.25 microgram/milliliter amphotericin B; Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA)), and 0.001% (v/v) 2-mercaptoethanol (Sigma, St. Louis MO). In some cases different growth media are used, or different supplementations are provided, and these are normally indicated in the text as supplementations to Growth Medium. In certain chemically-defined media the cells may be grown without serum present at all. In such cases, the cells may require certain growth factors, which can be added to the medium to support and sustain the cells. Presently preferred factors to be added for growth on serum-free media include one or more of bFGF, EGF, IGF-I, and PDGF. In more preferred embodiments, two, three or all four of the factors are add to serum free or chemically defined media. In other embodiments, LIF is added to serum-free medium to support or improve growth of the cells.

[0042] Also relating to the present invention, the term *standard growth conditions*, as used herein refers to culturing of cells at 37°C, in a standard atmosphere comprising 5% CO_2,.

Relative humidity is maintained at about 100%. While the foregoing conditions are useful for culturing, it is to be understood that such conditions are capable of being varied by the skilled artisan who will appreciate the options available in the art for culturing cells.

[0043] The term *effective amount* refers to a concentration or amount of a compound, material, or composition, as described herein, that is effective to achieve a particular biological result. Such results include, but are not limited to, the regeneration, repair, or improvement of skeletal tissue, the improvement of blood flow, and/or the stimulation and/or support of angiogenesis in peripheral ischemia patients. Such effective activity may be achieved, for example, by administering the cells and/or compositions of the present invention to peripheral ischemia patients. With respect to PPDCs as administered to a patient *in vivo*, an effective amount may range from as few as several hundred or fewer to as many as several million or more. In specific embodiments, an effective amount may range from 10^3-10^{11}, more specifically at least about 10^4 cells. It will be appreciated that the number of cells to be administered will vary depending on the specifics of the disorder to be treated, including but not limited to size or total volume/surface area to be treated, and proximity of the site of administration to the location of the region to be treated, among other factors familiar to the medicinal biologist.

[0044] The terms *treat*, *treating* or *treatment* refer to any success or indicia of success in the attenuation or amelioration of an injury, pathology or condition, including any objective or subjective parameter such as abatement, remission, diminishing of symptoms or making the injury, pathology, or condition more tolerable to the patient, slowing in the rate of degeneration or decline, making the final point of degeneration less debilitating, improving a subject's physical or mental well-being, or prolonging the length of survival. The treatment or amelioration of symptoms can be based on objective or subjective parameters; including the results of a physical examination, neurological examination, and/or psychiatric evaluations.

[0045] The terms *effective period (or time)* and *effective conditions* refer to a period of time or other controllable conditions (*e.g.*, temperature, humidity for *in vitro* methods), necessary or preferred for an agent or pharmaceutical composition to achieve its intended result.

[0046] The terms *patient* or *subject* are used interchangeably herein, and refer to animals, preferably mammals, and more preferably humans, who are treated with the pharmaceutical or therapeutic compositions or in accordance with the methods described herein.

[0047] *Ischemia* refers to any decrease or stoppage in the blood supply to any bodily organ, tissue, or part caused by any constriction or obstruction of the vasculature. *Ischemic episode* or *ischemic event* are used interchangeably herein and refer to any transient or permanent period of ischemia. *Peripheral ischemia* refers to any decrease or stoppage in the blood supply

to any bodily organ, tissue, or part, excluding the heart, caused by any constriction or obstruction of the vasculature. *Peripheral vascular disease* refers to diseases of the blood vessels outside the heart and brain. It often involves a narrowing of the blood vessels carrying blood to the extremities, and results from two types of circulation disorders, namely, (1) functional peripheral vascular disease that involves short-term spasm that narrows the blood vessels; and (2) organic peripheral vascular disease that involves structural changes in the blood vessels, such as caused by inflammation or fatty blockages, for example.

[0048] The term *pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or medium*, which may be used interchangeably with the term *biologically compatible carrier or medium*, refers to reagents, cells, compounds, materials, compositions, and/or dosage forms that are not only compatible with the cells and other agents to be administered therapeutically, but also are, within the scope of sound medical judgment, suitable for use in contact with the tissues of human beings and animals without excessive toxicity, irritation, allergic response, or other complication commensurate with a reasonable benefit/risk ratio. As described in greater detail herein, pharmaceutically acceptable carriers suitable for use in the present invention include liquids, semi-solid (*e.g.*, gels) and solid materials (*e.g.*, cell scaffolds and matrices, tubes sheets and other such materials as known in the art and described in greater detail herein). These semi-solid and solid materials may be designed to resist degradation within the body (*non-biodegradable*) or they may be designed to degrade within the body (*biodegradable, bioerodable*). A biodegradable material may further be *bioresorbable or bioabsorbable*, *i.e.*, it may be dissolved and absorbed into bodily fluids (water-soluble implants are one example), or degraded and ultimately eliminated from the body, either by conversion into other materials or breakdown and elimination through natural pathways. The biodegradation rate can vary according to the desired release rate once implanted in the body. The matrix desirably also acts as a temporary scaffold until replaced by newly grown skeletal muscle, pericytes, vascular smooth muscle, or vascular endothelial tissue. Therefore, in one embodiment, the matrix provides for sustained release of the other agents used in conjunction with the postpartum-derived cells and may provide a structure for developing tissue growth in the patient. In other embodiments, the matrix simply provides a temporary scaffold for the developing tissue. The matrix can be in particulate form (macroparticles greater than 10 microns in diameter or microparticles less than 10 microns in diameter), or can be in the form of a structurally stable, three-dimensional implant (*e.g.*, a scaffold). The implant can be, for example, a cube, cylinder, tube, block, film, sheet, or an appropriate anatomical form.

[0049] Several terms are used herein with respect to cell or tissue transplantation. The terms *autologous transfer, autologous transplantation, autograft* and the like refer to transplantation wherein the transplant donor is also the transplant recipient. The terms *allogeneic transfer, allogeneic transplantation, allograft* and the like refer to transplantation wherein the transplant donor is of the same species as the transplant recipient, but is not the recipient. A cell transplant in which the donor cells have been histocompatibly matched with a recipient is sometimes referred to as a *syngeneic transfer*. The terms *xenogeneic transfer, xenogeneic transplantation, xenograft* and the like refer to transplantation wherein the transplant donor is of a different species than the transplant recipient.

[0050] In its various embodiments described herein, the present invention features methods and pharmaceutical compositions for treatment of peripheral vascular disease that utilize progenitor cells and cell populations derived from postpartum tissues, umbilicus tissue in particular. These methods and pharmaceutical compositions are designed to stimulate and support angiogenesis, to improve blood flow, to regenerate, repair, and improve skeletal muscle damaged by a peripheral ischemic event, and/or to protect skeletal muscle from ischemic damage. The cells, cell populations and preparations comprising cell lysates, conditioned media and the like, used in the pharmaceutical preparations and methods of the present invention are described in detail in US Patent Publication Nos. 2005/0058631 and 2005/0054098, and also herein below.

[0051] According to the methods described herein, a mammalian placenta or umbilical cord are recovered upon or shortly after termination of either a full-term or pre-term pregnancy, for example, after expulsion of after birth. The postpartum tissue may be transported from the birth site to a laboratory in a sterile container such as a flask, beaker, culture dish, or bag. The container may have a solution or medium, including but not limited to a salt solution, such as Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM)(also known as Dulbecco's Minimal Essential Medium) or phosphate buffered saline (PBS), or any solution used for transportation of organs used for transplantation, such as University of Wisconsin solution or perfluorochemical solution. One or more antibiotic and/or antimycotic agents, such as but not limited to penicillin, streptomycin, amphotericin B, gentamicin, and nystatin, may be added to the medium or buffer. The postpartum tissue may be rinsed with an anticoagulant solution such as heparin-containing solution. It is preferable to keep the tissue at about 4-10°C prior to extraction of PPDCs. It is even more preferable that the tissue not be frozen prior to extraction of PPDCs.

[0052] Isolation of PPDCs preferably occurs in an aseptic environment. The umbilical cord may be separated from the placenta by means known in the art. Alternatively, the

umbilical cord and placenta are used without separation. Blood and debris are preferably removed from the postpartum tissue prior to isolation of PPDCs. For example, the postpartum tissue may be washed with buffer solution, including but not limited to phosphate buffered saline. The wash buffer also may comprise one or more antimycotic and/or antibiotic agents, including but not limited to penicillin, streptomycin, amphotericin B, gentamicin, and nystatin.

[0053] Postpartum tissue comprising a whole placenta or a fragment or section thereof is disaggregated by mechanical force (mincing or shear forces). In a presently preferred embodiment, the isolation procedure also utilizes an enzymatic digestion process. Many enzymes are known in the art to be useful for the isolation of individual cells from complex tissue matrices to facilitate growth in culture. Digestion enzymes range from weakly digestive (*e.g.* deoxyribonucleases and the neutral protease, dispase) to strongly digestive (*e.g.* papain and trypsin), and are available commercially. A nonexhaustive list of enzymes compatible herewith includes mucolytic enzyme activities, metalloproteases, neutral proteases, serine proteases (such as trypsin, chymotrypsin, or elastase), and deoxyribonucleases. Presently preferred are enzyme activities selected from metalloproteases, neutral proteases and mucolytic activities. For example, collagenases are known to be useful for isolating various cells from tissues. Deoxyribonucleases can digest single-stranded DNA and can minimize cell-clumping during isolation. Preferred methods involve enzymatic treatment with for example collagenase and dispase, or collagenase, dispase, and hyaluronidase. In certain embodiments, a mixture of collagenase and the neutral protease dispase are used in the dissociating step. More specific embodiments employ digestion in the presence of at least one collagenase from *Clostridium histolyticum*, and either of the protease activities, dispase and thermolysin. Still other embodiments employ digestion with both collagenase and dispase enzyme activities. Also utilized are methods that include digestion with a hyaluronidase activity in addition to collagenase and dispase activities. The skilled artisan will appreciate that many such enzyme treatments are known in the art for isolating cells from various tissue sources. For example, the enzyme blends for tissue disassociation sold under the trade name LIBERASE (Roche, Indianapolis, IN) are suitable for use in the instant methods. Other sources of enzymes are known, and the skilled artisan may also obtain such enzymes directly from their natural sources. The skilled artisan is also well-equipped to assess new, or additional enzymes or enzyme combinations for their utility in isolating the cells of the invention. Preferred enzyme treatments are 0.5, 1, 1.5, or 2 hours long or longer. In other preferred embodiments, the tissue is incubated at 37°C during the enzyme treatment of the dissociation step.

[0054] In some embodiments of the invention, postpartum tissue is separated into sections comprising various aspects of the tissue, such as neonatal, neonatal/maternal, and maternal aspects of the placenta, for instance. The separated sections then are dissociated by mechanical and/or enzymatic dissociation according to the methods described herein. Cells of neonatal or maternal lineage may be identified by any means known in the art, for example, by karyotype analysis or *in situ* hybridization for a Y chromosome.

[0055] Isolated cells or postpartum tissue from which PPDCs are derived may be used to initiate, or seed, cell cultures. Isolated cells are transferred to sterile tissue culture vessels either uncoated or coated with extracellular matrix or ligands such as laminin, collagen (native, denatured or crosslinked), gelatin, fibronectin, and other extracellular matrix proteins. PPDCs are cultured in any culture medium capable of sustaining growth of the cells such as, but not limited to, DMEM (high or low glucose), advanced DMEM, DMEM/MCDB 201, Eagle's basal medium, Ham's F10 medium (F10), Ham's F-12 medium (F12), Iscove's modified Dulbecco's medium, Mesenchymal Stem Cell Growth Medium (MSCGM), DMEM/F12, RPMI 1640, and serum/media free medium sold under the trade name CELL-GRO-FREE (Mediatch, Inc., Herndon, VA). The culture medium may be supplemented with one or more components including, for example, fetal bovine serum (FBS), preferably about 2-15% (v/v); equine serum (ES); human serum (HS); beta-mercaptoethanol (BME or 2-ME), preferably about 0.001% (v/v); one or more growth factors, for example, platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), epidermal growth factor (EGF), fibroblast growth factor (FGF), vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), insulin-like growth factor-1 (IGF-1), leukocyte inhibitory factor (LIF) and erythropoietin (EPO); amino acids, including L-valine; and one or more antibiotic and/or antimycotic agents to control microbial contamination, such as penicillin G, streptomycin sulfate, amphotericin B, gentamicin, and nystatin, either alone or in combination. The culture medium preferably comprises Growth Medium as defined in the Examples below.

[0056] The cells are seeded in culture vessels at a density to allow cell growth. In a preferred embodiment, the cells are cultured at about 0 to about 5 percent by volume CO_2 in air. In some preferred embodiments, the cells are cultured at about 2 to about 25 percent O_2 in air, preferably about 5 to about 20 percent O_2 in air. The cells preferably are cultured at a temperature of about 25 to about 40°C and more preferably are cultured at 37°C. The cells are preferably cultured in an incubator. The medium in the culture vessel can be static or agitated, for example, using a bioreactor. PPDCs preferably are grown under low oxidative stress (*e.g.*, with addition of glutathione, Vitamin C, Catalase, Vitamin E, N-Acetylcysteine). "Low oxidative

stress," as used herein, refers to conditions of no or minimal free radical damage to the cultured cells.

[0057] Methods for the selection of the most appropriate culture medium, medium preparation, and cell culture techniques are well known in the art and are described in a variety of sources, including Doyle *et al.*, (eds.), 1995, CELL & TISSUE CULTURE: LABORATORY PROCEDURES, John Wiley & Sons, Chichester; and Ho and Wang (eds.), 1991, ANIMAL CELL BIOREACTORS, Butterworth-Heinemann, Boston.

[0058] After culturing the isolated cells or tissue fragments for a sufficient period of time, PPDCs will have grown out, either as a result of migration from the postpartum tissue or cell division, or both. In some embodiments of the invention, PPDCs are passaged, or removed to a separate culture vessel containing fresh medium of the same or a different type as that used initially, where the population of cells can be mitotically expanded. The cells of the invention may be used at any point between passage 0 and senescence. The cells preferably are passaged between about 3 and about 25 times, more preferably are passaged about 4 to about 12 times, and preferably are passaged 10 or 11 times. Cloning and/or subcloning may be performed to confirm that a clonal population of cells has been isolated.

[0059] In some aspects of the invention, the different cell types present in postpartum tissue are fractionated into subpopulations from which the PPDCs can be isolated. Fractionation or selection may be accomplished using standard techniques for cell separation including, but not limited to, enzymatic treatment to dissociate postpartum tissue into its component cells, followed by cloning and selection of specific cell types, including but not limited to selection based on morphological and/or biochemical markers; selective growth of desired cells (positive selection), selective destruction of unwanted cells (negative selection); separation based upon differential cell agglutinability in the mixed population as, for example, with soybean agglutinin; freeze-thaw procedures; differential adherence properties of the cells in the mixed population; filtration; conventional and zonal centrifugation; centrifugal elutriation (counter-streaming centrifugation); unit gravity separation; countercurrent distribution; electrophoresis; and fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS). For a review of clonal selection and cell separation techniques, see Freshney, 1994, CULTURE OF ANIMAL CELLS: A MANUAL OF BASIC TECHNIQUES, 3rd Ed., Wiley-Liss, Inc., New York.

[0060] The culture medium is changed as necessary, for example, by carefully aspirating the medium from the dish, for example, with a pipette, and replenishing with fresh medium. Incubation is continued until a sufficient number or density of cells accumulate in the dish. The original explanted tissue sections may be removed and the remaining cells trypsinized

using standard techniques or using a cell scraper. After trypsinization, the cells are collected, removed to fresh medium and incubated as above. In some embodiments, the medium is changed at least once at approximately 24 hours post-trypsinization to remove any floating cells. The cells remaining in culture are considered to be PPDCs.

[0061] PPDCs may be cryopreserved. Accordingly, in a preferred embodiment described in greater detail below, PPDCs for autologous transfer (for either the mother or child) may be derived from appropriate postpartum tissues following the birth of a child, then cryopreserved so as to be available in the event they are later needed for transplantation.

[0062] PPDCs may be characterized, for example, by growth characteristics (*e.g.*, population doubling capability, doubling time, passages to senescence), karyotype analysis (*e.g.*, normal karyotype; maternal or neonatal lineage), flow cytometry (*e.g.*, FACS analysis), immunohistochemistry and/or immunocytochemistry (*e.g.*, for detection of epitopes), gene expression profiling (*e.g.*, gene chip arrays; polymerase chain reaction (for example, reverse transcriptase PCR, real time PCR, and conventional PCR)), protein arrays, protein secretion (*e.g.*, by plasma clotting assay or analysis of PDC-conditioned medium, for example, by Enzyme Linked ImmunoSorbent Assay (ELISA)), mixed lymphocyte reaction (*e.g.*, as measure of stimulation of PBMCs), and/or other methods known in the art.

[0063] Examples of PPDCs derived from placental tissue were deposited with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, Manassas, VA) and assigned ATCC Accession Numbers as follows: (1) strain designation PLA 071003 (P8) was deposited June 15, 2004 and assigned Accession No. PTA-6074; (2) strain designation PLA 071003 (P11) was deposited June 15 , 2004 and assigned Accession No. PTA-6075; and (3) strain designation PLA 071003 (P16) was deposited June 16, 2004 and assigned Accession No. PTA-6079. Examples of PPDCs derived from umbilicus tissue were deposited with the American Type Culture Collection on June 10, 2004, and assigned ATCC Accession Numbers as follows: (1) strain designation UMB 022803 (P7) was assigned Accession No. PTA-6067; and (2) strain designation UMB 022803 (P17) was assigned Accession No. PTA-6068.

[0064] In various embodiments, the PPDCs possess one or more of the following growth features (1) they require L-valine for growth in culture; (2) they are capable of growth in atmospheres containing oxygen from about 5% to at least about 20% (3) they have the potential for at least about 40 doublings in culture before reaching senescence; and (4) they attach and expand on a coated or uncoated tissue culture vessel, wherein the coated tissue culture vessel comprises a coating of gelatin, laminin, collagen, polyornithine, vitronectin or fibronectin.

[0065] In certain embodiments the PPDCs possess a normal karyotype, which is maintained as the cells are passaged. Karyotyping is particularly useful for identifying and distinguishing neonatal from maternal cells derived from placenta. Methods for karyotyping are available and known to those of skill in the art.

[0066] In other embodiments, the PPDCs may be characterized by production of certain proteins, including (1) production of at least one of tissue factor, vimentin, and alpha-smooth muscle actin; and (2) production of at least one of CD10, CD13, CD44, CD73, CD90, PDGFr-alpha, PD-L2 and HLA-A,B,C cell surface markers, as detected by flow cytometry. In other embodiments, the PPDCs may be characterized by lack of production of at least one of CD31, CD34, CD45, CD80, CD86, CD117, CD141, CD178, B7-H2, HLA-G, and HLA-DR,DP,DQ cell surface markers, as detected by flow cytometry. Particularly preferred are cells that produce at least two of tissue factor, vimentin, and alpha-smooth muscle actin. More preferred are those cells producing all three of the proteins tissue factor, vimentin, and alpha-smooth muscle actin.

[0067] In other embodiments, the PPDCs may be characterized by gene expression, which relative to a human cell that is a fibroblast, a mesenchymal stem cell, or an iliac crest bone marrow cell, is increased for a gene encoding at least one of interleukin 8; reticulon 1; chemokine (C-X-C motif) ligand 1 (melonoma growth stimulating activity, alpha); chemokine (C-X-C motif) ligand 6 (granulocyte chemotactic protein 2); chemokine (C-X-C motif) ligand 3; tumor necrosis factor, alpha-induced protein 3; C-type lectin superfamily member 2; Wilms tumor 1; aldehyde dehydrogenase 1 family member A2; renin; oxidized low density lipoprotein receptor 1; *Homo sapiens* clone IMAGE:4179671; protein kinase C zeta; hypothetical protein DKFZp564F013; downregulated in ovarian cancer 1; and *Homo sapiens* gene from clone DKFZp547k1113.

[0068] In yet other embodiments, the PPDCs may be characterized by gene expression, which relative to a human cell that is a fibroblast, a mesenchymal stem cell, or an iliac crest bone marrow cell, is reduced for a gene encoding at least one of: short stature homeobox 2; heat shock 27 kDa protein 2; chemokine (C-X-C motif) ligand 12 (stromal cell-derived factor 1); elastin (supravalvular aortic stenosis, Williams-Beuren syndrome); *Homo sapiens* mRNA; cDNA DKFZp586M2022 (from clone DKFZp586M2022); mesenchyme homeo box 2 (growth arrest-specific homeo box); sine oculis homeobox homolog 1 (*Drosophila*); crystallin, alpha B; disheveled associated activator of morphogenesis 2; DKFZP586B2420 protein; similar to neuralin 1; tetranectin (plasminogen binding protein); src homology three (SH3) and cysteine rich domain; cholesterol 25-hydroxylase; runt-related transcription factor 3; interleukin 11 receptor, alpha; procollagen C-endopeptidase enhancer; frizzled homolog 7 (*Drosophila*);

hypothetical gene BC008967; collagen, type VIII, alpha 1; tenascin C (hexabrachion); iroquois homeobox protein 5; hephaestin; integrin, beta 8; synaptic vesicle glycoprotein 2; neuroblastoma, suppression of tumorigenicity 1; insulin-like growth factor binding protein 2, 36kDa; *Homo sapiens* cDNA FLJ12280 fis, clone MAMMA1001744; cytokine receptor-like factor 1; potassium intermediate/small conductance calcium-activated channel, subfamily N, member 4; integrin, beta 7; transcriptional co-activator with PDZ-binding motif (TAZ); sine oculis homeobox homolog 2 (Drosophila); KIAA1034 protein; vesicle-associated membrane protein 5 (myobrevin); EGF-containing fibulin-like extracellular matrix protein 1; early growth response 3; distal-less homeo box 5; hypothetical protein FLJ20373; aldo-keto reductase family 1, member C3 (3-alpha hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase, type II); biglycan; transcriptional co-activator with PDZ-binding motif (TAZ); fibronectin 1; proenkephalin; integrin, beta-like 1 (with EGF-like repeat domains); *Homo sapiens* mRNA full length insert cDNA clone EUROIMAGE 1968422; EphA3; KIAA0367 protein; natriuretic peptide receptor C/guanylate cyclase C (atrionatriuretic peptide receptor C); hypothetical protein FLJ14054; Homo sapiens mRNA; cDNA DKFZp564B222 (from clone DKFZp564B222); BCL2/adenovirus E1B 19kDa interacting protein 3-like; AE binding protein 1; and cytochrome c oxidase subunit VIIa polypeptide 1 (muscle).

[0069] In other embodiments, the PPDCs may be characterized by secretion of at least one of MCP-1, IL-6, IL-8, GCP-2, HGF, KGF, FGF, HB-EGF, BDNF, TPO, MIP1a, RANTES, and TIMP1. In some embodiments, the PPDCs may be characterized by lack of secretion of at least one of TGF-beta2, ANG2, PDGFbb, MIP1b, I309, MDC, and VEGF, as detected by ELISA.

[0070] In some preferred embodiments, the PPDCs are derived from umbilical cord tissue substantially free of blood, are capable of self-renewal and expansion in culture, require L-valine for growth, can grow in at least about 5% oxygen, and comprise at least one of the following characteristics: potential for at least about 40 doublings in culture; attachment and expansion on a coated or uncoated tissue culture vessel that comprises a coating of gelatin, laminin, collagen, polyornithine, vitronectin, or fibronectin; production of vimentin and alpha-smooth muscle actin; production of CD10, CD13, CD44, CD73, and CD90; and, expression of a gene, which relative to a human cell that is a fibroblast, a mesenchymal stem cell, or an iliac crest bone marrow cell, is increased for a gene encoding interleukin 8 and reticulon 1. In some embodiments, such PPDCs do not produce CD45 and CD117. The PPDCs as described in this paragraph can be used in methods for treating a patient having peripheral vascular disease, can be used in pharmaceutical compositions for treating peripheral vascular disease, for example,

wherein such compositions comprise the cells having these characteristics and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and can be used in kits for making, using, and practicing such methods and pharmaceutical compositions as described and exemplified herein. In addition, the PPDCs as described in this paragraph can be used to generate conditioned cell culture media or to make preparations such as cell extracts and subcellular fractions that can be used for making, using, and practicing such methods and pharmaceutical compositions as described and exemplified herein.

[0071] In preferred embodiments, the cell comprises two or more of the above-listed growth, protein/surface marker production, gene expression or substance-secretion characteristics. More preferred are those cells comprising, three, four, five or more of the characteristics. Still more preferred are PPDCs comprising six, seven, eight or more of the characteristics. Still more preferred presently are those cells comprising all of above characteristics.

[0072] Among cells that are presently preferred for use with the invention in several of its aspects are postpartum cells having the characteristics described above and more particularly those wherein the cells have normal karyotypes and maintain normal karyotypes with passaging, and further wherein the cells express each of the markers CD10, CD13, CD44, CD73, CD90, PDGFr-alpha, and HLA-A,B,C, wherein the cells produce the immunologically-detectable proteins which correspond to the listed markers. Still more preferred are those cells which in addition to the foregoing do not produce proteins corresponding to any of the markers CD31, CD34, CD45, CD117, CD141, or HLA-DR,DP,DQ, as detected by flow cytometry.

[0073] Certain cells having the potential to differentiate along lines leading to various phenotypes are unstable and thus can spontaneously differentiate. Presently preferred for use with the invention are cells that do not spontaneously differentiate, for example along myoblast, skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, pericyte, hemangiogenic, angiogenic, vasculogenic, or vascular endothelial lines. Preferred cells, when grown in Growth Medium, are substantially stable with respect to the cell markers produced on their surface, and with respect to the expression pattern of various genes, for example as determined using a medical diagnostic test sold under the trade name GENECHIP (Affymetrix, Inc., Santa Clara, CA). The cells remain substantially constant, for example in their surface marker characteristics over passaging, through multiple population doublings.

[0074] Another aspect of the invention features use of populations of the PPDCs described above. In some embodiments, the cell population is heterogeneous. A heterogeneous cell population of the invention may comprise at least about 5%, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%,

60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, or 95% PPDCs of the invention. The heterogeneous cell populations of the invention may further comprise stem cells or other progenitor cells, such as myoblasts or other muscle progenitor cells, hemangioblasts, or blood vessel precursor cells, or it may further comprise fully differentiated skeletal muscle cells, smooth muscle cells, pericytes, or blood vessel endothelial cells. In some embodiments, the population is substantially homogeneous, *i.e.*, comprises substantially only PPDCs (preferably at least about 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more PPDCs). The homogeneous cell population of the invention may comprise umbilicus- or placenta-derived cells. Homogeneous populations of umbilicus-derived cells are preferably free of cells of maternal lineage. Homogeneous populations of placenta-derived cells may be of neonatal or maternal lineage. Homogeneity of a cell population may be achieved by any method known in the art, for example, by cell sorting (*e.g.*, flow cytometry) or by clonal expansion in accordance with known methods. Thus, preferred homogeneous PPDC populations may comprise a clonal cell line of postpartum-derived cells. Such populations are particularly useful when a cell clone with highly desirable functionality has been isolated.

[0075] Also provided herein is the use of populations of cells incubated in the presence of one or more factors, or under conditions, that stimulate stem cell differentiation along a vascular smooth muscle, vascular endothelial, pericyte, or skeletal muscle pathway. Such factors are known in the art and the skilled artisan will appreciate that determination of suitable conditions for differentiation can be accomplished with routine experimentation. Optimization of such conditions can be accomplished by statistical experimental design and analysis, for example response surface methodology allows simultaneous optimization of multiple variables, for example in a biological culture. Presently preferred factors include, but are not limited to growth or trophic factors, chemokines, cytokines, cellular products, demethylating agents, and other stimuli which are now known or later determined to stimulate differentiation, for example, of stem cells along angiogenic, hemangiogenic, vasculogenic, skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, pericyte, or vascular endothelial pathways or lineages.

[0076] PPDCs may also be genetically modified to produce therapeutically useful gene products, to produce angiogenic agents to facilitate or support additional blood vessel formation or growth, or to produce factors to recruit endothelial progenitor cells to the area of ischemic damage. Endothelial progenitor cells facilitate vasculogenesis and blood flow, particularly following an ischemic event (Urbich C and Dimmeler S (2004) *Circ. Res.* 95:343-53). Factors that play a role in endothelial cell recruitment include, but are not limited to VEGF, stromal derived factor-1 (SDF-1), erythropoietin (EPO), G-CSF, statins, strogen, PPARγ, CXCR4, FGF, and HGF. Genetic modification may be accomplished using any of a variety of vectors

including, but not limited to, integrating viral vectors, *e.g.*, retrovirus vector or adeno-associated viral vectors; non-integrating replicating vectors, *e.g.*, papilloma virus vectors, SV40 vectors, adenoviral vectors; or replication-defective viral vectors. Other methods of introducing DNA into cells include the use of liposomes, electroporation, a particle gun, or by direct DNA injection.

[0077] Hosts cells are preferably transformed or transfected with DNA controlled by or in operative association with, one or more appropriate expression control elements such as promoter or enhancer sequences, transcription terminators, polyadenylation sites, among others, and a selectable marker. Any promoter may be used to drive the expression of the inserted gene. For example, viral promoters include, but are not limited to, the CMV promoter/enhancer, SV 40, papillomavirus, Epstein-Barr virus or elastin gene promoter. In some embodiments, the control elements used to control expression of the gene of interest can allow for the regulated expression of the gene so that the product is synthesized only when needed *in vivo*. If transient expression is desired, constitutive promoters are preferably used in a non-integrating and/or replication-defective vector. Alternatively, inducible promoters could be used to drive the expression of the inserted gene when necessary. Inducible promoters include, but are not limited to, those associated with metallothionein and heat shock proteins.

[0078] Following the introduction of the foreign DNA, engineered cells may be allowed to grow in enriched media and then switched to selective media. The selectable marker in the foreign DNA confers resistance to the selection and allows cells to stably integrate the foreign DNA as, for example, on a plasmid, into their chromosomes and grow to form foci which, in turn, can be cloned and expanded into cell lines. This method can be advantageously used to engineer cell lines that express the gene product.

[0079] The cells of the invention may be genetically engineered to "knock out" or "knock down" expression of factors that promote inflammation or rejection at the implant site. Negative modulatory techniques for the reduction of target gene expression levels or target gene product activity levels are discussed below. "Negative modulation," as used herein, refers to a reduction in the level and/or activity of target gene product relative to the level and/or activity of the target gene product in the absence of the modulatory treatment. The expression of a gene native to a skeletal muscle cell, vascular smooth muscle cell, pericyte, vascular endothelial cell, or progenitor cells thereof can be reduced or knocked out using a number of techniques including, for example, inhibition of expression by inactivating the gene using the homologous recombination technique. Typically, an exon encoding an important region of the protein (or an exon 5' to that region) is interrupted by a positive selectable marker, *e.g.*, neo, preventing the

production of normal mRNA from the target gene and resulting in inactivation of the gene. A gene may also be inactivated by creating a deletion in part of a gene, or by deleting the entire gene. By using a construct with two regions of homology to the target gene that are far apart in the genome, the sequences intervening the two regions can be deleted (Mombaerts *et al.*, 1991, *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 88:3084-3087). Antisense, DNAzymes, ribozymes, small interfering RNA (siRNA) and other such molecules that inhibit expression of the target gene can also be used to reduce the level of target gene activity. For example, antisense RNA molecules that inhibit the expression of major histocompatibility gene complexes (HLA) have been shown to be most versatile with respect to immune responses. Still further, triple helix molecules can be utilized in reducing the level of target gene activity. These techniques are described in detail by L.G. Davis *et al.* (eds), 1994, BASIC METHODS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, 2nd ed., Appleton & Lange, Norwalk, CN.

[0080] In other aspects, the invention utilizes cell lysates and cell soluble fractions prepared from PPDCs, or heterogeneous or homogeneous cell populations comprising PPDCs, as well as PPDCs or populations thereof that have been genetically modified or that have been stimulated to differentiate along a skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, pericyte, or vascular endothelium pathway. Such lysates and fractions thereof have many utilities. Use of the PPDC lysate soluble fraction (*i.e.*, substantially free of membranes) *in vivo*, for example, allows the beneficial intracellular milieu to be used allogeneically in a patient without introducing an appreciable amount of the cell surface proteins most likely to trigger rejection, or other adverse immunological responses. Methods of lysing cells are well-known in the art and include various means of mechanical disruption, enzymatic disruption, or chemical disruption, or combinations thereof. Such cell lysates may be prepared from cells directly in their Growth Medium and thus containing secreted growth factors and the like, or may be prepared from cells washed free of medium in, for example, PBS or other solution. Washed cells may be resuspended at concentrations greater than the original population density if preferred.

[0081] In one embodiment, whole cell lysates are prepared, *e.g.*, by disrupting cells without subsequent separation of cell fractions. In another embodiment, a cell membrane fraction is separated from a soluble fraction of the cells by routine methods known in the art, *e.g.*, centrifugation, filtration, or similar methods.

[0082] Cell lysates or cell soluble fractions prepared from populations of postpartum-derived cells may be used as is, further concentrated, by for example, ultrafiltration or lyophilization, or even dried, partially purified, combined with pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers or diluents as are known in the art, or combined with other compounds such as

biologicals, for example pharmaceutically useful protein compositions. Cell lysates or fractions thereof may be used *in vitro* or *in vivo*, alone or for example, with autologous or syngeneic live cells. The lysates, if introduced *in vivo*, may be introduced locally at a site of treatment, or remotely to provide, for example needed cellular growth factors to a patient.

[0083] In a further embodiment, PPDCs can be cultured *in vitro* to produce biological products in high yield. PPDCs that either naturally produce a particular biological product of interest (*e.g.*, a trophic factor), or that have been genetically engineered to produce a biological product, can be clonally expanded using the culture techniques described herein. Alternatively, cells may be expanded in a medium that induces differentiation to a skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, pericyte, or vascular endothelial lineage. In each case, biological products produced by the cell and secreted into the medium can be readily isolated from the conditioned medium using standard separation techniques, *e.g.*, such as differential protein precipitation, ion-exchange chromatography, gel filtration chromatography, electrophoresis, and HPLC, to name a few. A "bioreactor" may be used to take advantage of the flow method for feeding, for example, a three-dimensional culture *in vitro*. Essentially, as fresh media is passed through the three-dimensional culture, the biological product is washed out of the culture and may then be isolated from the outflow, as above.

[0084] Alternatively, a biological product of interest may remain within the cell and, thus, its collection may require that the cells be lysed, as described above. The biological product may then be purified using any one or more of the above-listed techniques.

[0085] In other embodiments, the invention utilizes conditioned medium from cultured PPDCs for use *in vitro* and *in vivo* as described below. Use of the PPDC conditioned medium allows the beneficial trophic factors secreted by the PPDCs to be used allogeneically in a patient without introducing intact cells that could trigger rejection, or other adverse immunological responses. Conditioned medium is prepared by culturing cells in a culture medium, then removing the cells from the medium.

[0086] Conditioned medium prepared from populations of postpartum-derived cells may be used as is, further concentrated, for example, by ultrafiltration or lyophilization, or even dried, partially purified, combined with pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers or diluents as are known in the art, or combined with other compounds such as biologicals, for example pharmaceutically useful protein compositions. Conditioned medium may be used *in vitro* or *in vivo*, alone or combined with autologous or syngeneic live cells, for example. The conditioned medium, if introduced *in vivo*, may be introduced locally at a site of treatment, or remotely to provide needed cellular growth or trophic factors to a patient.

[0087] In another embodiment, an extracellular matrix (ECM) produced by culturing PPDCs on liquid, solid or semi-solid substrates is prepared, collected and utilized as an alternative to implanting live cells into a subject in need of tissue repair or replacement. PPDCs are cultured *in vitro*, on a three dimensional framework as described elsewhere herein, under conditions such that a desired amount of ECM is secreted onto the framework. The cells comprising the new tissue are removed, and the ECM processed for further use, for example, as an injectable preparation. To accomplish this, cells on the framework are killed and any cellular debris removed from the framework. This process may be carried out in a number of different ways. For example, the living tissue can be flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen without a cryopreservative, or the tissue can be immersed in sterile distilled water so that the cells burst in response to osmotic pressure.

[0088] Once the cells have been killed, the cellular membranes may be disrupted and cellular debris removed by treatment with a mild detergent rinse, such as EDTA, CHAPS or a zwitterionic detergent. Alternatively, the tissue can be enzymatically digested and/or extracted with reagents that break down cellular membranes and allow removal of cell contents. Example of such enzymes include, but are not limited to, hyaluronidase, dispase, proteases, and nucleases. Examples of detergents include non-ionic detergents such as, for example, alkylaryl polyether alcohol (TRITON X-100), octylphenoxy polyethoxy-ethanol (Rohm and Haas, Philadelphia, PA), BRIJ-35, a polyethoxyethanol lauryl ether (Atlas Chemical Co., San Diego, CA), polysorbate 20 (TWEEN 20), a polyethoxyethanol sorbitan monolaureate (Rohm and Haas, Philadelphia, PA), polyethylene lauryl ether (Rohm and Haas, Philadelphia, PA); and ionic detergents such as sodium dodecyl sulfate, sulfated higher aliphatic alcohols, sulfonated alkanes and sulfonated alkylarenes containing 7 to 22 carbon atoms in a branched or unbranched chain.

[0089] The collection of the ECM can be accomplished in a variety of ways, depending at least in part on whether the new tissue has been formed on a three-dimensional framework that is biodegradable or non-biodegradable, as in the case of metals. For example, if the framework is non-biodegradable, the ECM can be removed by subjecting the framework to sonication, high pressure water jets, mechanical scraping, or mild treatment with detergents or enzymes, or any combination of the above.

[0090] If the framework is biodegradable, the ECM can be collected, for example, by allowing the framework to degrade or dissolve in solution. Alternatively, if the biodegradable framework is composed of a material that can itself be injected along with the ECM, the framework and the ECM can be processed *in toto* for subsequent injection. Alternatively, the ECM can be removed from the biodegradable framework by any of the methods described above

for collection of ECM from a non-biodegradable framework. All collection processes are preferably designed so as not to denature the ECM.

[0091] After it has been collected, the ECM may be processed further. For example, the ECM can be homogenized to fine particles using techniques well known in the art such as by sonication, so that it can pass through a surgical needle. The components of the ECM can also be crosslinked, if desired, by gamma irradiation. Preferably, the ECM can be irradiated between 0.25 to 2 mega rads to sterilize and crosslink the ECM. Chemical crosslinking using agents that are toxic, such as glutaraldehyde, is possible but not generally preferred.

[0092] The amounts and/or ratios of proteins, such as the various types of collagen present in the ECM, may be adjusted by mixing the ECM produced by the cells of the invention with ECM of one or more other cell types. In addition, biologically active substances such as proteins, growth factors and/or drugs, can be incorporated into the ECM. Exemplary biologically active substances include tissue growth factors, such as TGF-beta, and the like, which promote healing and tissue repair at the site of the injection. Such additional agents may be utilized in any of the embodiments described herein above, *e.g.*, with whole cell lysates, soluble cell fractions, or further purified components and products produced by the PPDCs.

[0093] In another aspect, the invention provides pharmaceutical compositions that utilize the PPDCs, PPDC populations, components and products of PPDCs in various methods for the treatment of injury or damage caused by a peripheral ischemic episode. Certain embodiments encompass pharmaceutical compositions comprising live cells (PPDCs alone or admixed with other cell types). Other embodiments encompass pharmaceutical compositions comprising PPDC cellular components (*e.g.*, cell lysates, soluble cell fractions, conditioned medium, ECM, or components of any of the foregoing) or products (*e.g.*, trophic and other biological factors produced naturally by PPDCs or through genetic modification, conditioned medium from PPDC culture). In either case, the pharmaceutical composition may further comprise other active agents, such as anti-inflammatory agents, anti-apoptotic agents, antioxidants, growth factors, myotrophic factors or myoregenerative or myoprotective drugs as known in the art.

[0094] Examples of other components that may be added to PPDC pharmaceutical compositions include, but are not limited to: (1) other myobeneficial or myoprotective drugs, or angiobeneficial or angioprotective drugs; (2) selected extracellular matrix components, such as one or more types of collagen known in the art, and/or growth factors, platelet-rich plasma, and drugs (alternatively, PPDCs may be genetically engineered to express and produce growth factors); (3) anti-apoptotic agents (*e.g.*, erythropoietin (EPO), EPO mimetibody, thrombopoietin,

insulin-like growth factor (IGF)-I, IGF-II, hepatocyte growth factor, caspase inhibitors); (4) anti-inflammatory compounds (*e.g.*, p38 MAP kinase inhibitors, TGF-beta inhibitors, statins, IL-6 and IL-1 inhibitors, Pemirolast, Tranilast, Remicade (Centocor, Inc., Malvern, PA), Sirolimus, and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS) (such as Tepoxalin, Tolmetin, and Suprafen); (5) immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory agents, such as calcineurin inhibitors, mTOR inhibitors, antiproliferatives, corticosteroids and various antibodies; (6) antioxidants such as probucol, vitamins C and E, coenzyme Q-10, glutathione, L-cysteine and N-acetylcysteine; (6) local anesthetics; (7) trophic factors such as Agrin, VEGF, VEGF-B, VEGF-C, VEGF-D, NEGF-1, NEGF-2, PDGF, GDF, IGF1, IGF2, EGF, and FGF; and, (8) factors that function in the recruitment and incorporation of endothelial progenitor cells into ischemic tissue, such as VEGF, SDF-1, EPO, G-CSF, statins, estrogen, PPARγ, and CXCR4, to name only a few.

[0095] Pharmaceutical compositions of the invention comprise PPDCs, components or products thereof, including preparations made from PPDCs, formulated with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or medium. Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carriers include water, salt solution (such as Ringer's solution), alcohols, oils, gelatins, polyvinyl pyrrolidine, carbohydrates such as lactose, amylose, or starch, fatty acid esters, and hydroxymethylcellulose. Such preparations can be sterilized, and if desired, mixed with auxiliary agents such as lubricants, preservatives, stabilizers, wetting agents, emulsifiers, salts for influencing osmotic pressure, buffers, and coloring agents. Pharmaceutical carriers suitable for use in the present invention are known in the art and are described, for example, in Pharmaceutical Sciences (17th Ed., Mack Pub. Co., Easton, PA) and WO 96/05309.

[0096] Typically, but not exclusively, pharmaceutical compositions comprising PPDC components or products, but not live cells, are formulated as liquids (or as solid tablets, capsules and the like, when oral delivery is appropriate). These may be formulated for administration by any acceptable route known in the art to achieve delivery of drugs and biological molecules to the target skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, pericyte, or vascular endothelial tissue, including, but not limited to, oral, nasal, ophthalmic and parenteral, including intravenous. Particular routes of parenteral administration include, but are not limited to, intramuscular, subcutaneous, intraperitoneal, intrathecal, intracisternal, or via syringes with needles or catheters with or without pump devices.

[0097] Pharmaceutical compositions comprising PPDC live cells are typically formulated as liquids, semisolids (*e.g.*, gels) or solids (*e.g.*, matrices, scaffolds and the like, as appropriate for vascular or skeletal muscle tissue engineering). Liquid compositions are formulated for administration by any acceptable route known in the art to achieve delivery of

live cells to the target vascular or skeletal muscle tissues. Typically, these include injection or infusion, either in a diffuse fashion, or targeted to the site of peripheral ischemic injury, damage, or distress, by a route of administration including, but not limited to, intramuscular, intravenous, or intra-arterial delivery via syringes with needles and/or catheters with or without pump devices.

[0098] Pharmaceutical compositions comprising live cells in a semi-solid or solid carrier are typically formulated for surgical implantation at the site of ischemic injury, damage, or distress. It will be appreciated that liquid compositions also may be administered by surgical procedures. In particular embodiments, semi-solid or solid pharmaceutical compositions may comprise semi-permeable gels, lattices, cellular scaffolds and the like, which may be non-biodegradable or biodegradable. For example, in certain embodiments, it may be desirable or appropriate to sequester the exogenous cells from their surroundings, yet enable the cells to secrete and deliver biological molecules (*e.g.* myotrophic factors, angiotrophic factors, or endothelial progenitor cell recruitment factors) to surrounding skeletal muscle or vascular cells. In these embodiments, cells may be formulated as autonomous implants comprising living PPDCs or cell population comprising PPDCs surrounded by a non-degradable, selectively permeable barrier that physically separates the transplanted cells from host tissue. Such implants are sometimes referred to as "immunoprotective," as they have the capacity to prevent immune cells and macromolecules from killing the transplanted cells in the absence of pharmacologically induced immunosuppression (for a review of such devices and methods, see, *e.g.*, P.A. Tresco *et al.*, (2000) *Adv. Drug Delivery Rev.* 42:3-27).

[0099] In other embodiments, different varieties of degradable gels and networks are utilized for the pharmaceutical compositions of the invention. For example, degradable materials particularly suitable for sustained release formulations include biocompatible polymers, such as poly(lactic acid), poly (lactic acid-co-glycolic acid), methylcellulose, hyaluronic acid, collagen, and the like. The structure, selection and use of degradable polymers in drug delivery vehicles have been reviewed in several publications, including, A. Domb *et al.*, 1992, *Polymers for Advanced Technologies* 3:279-292.

[0100] In other embodiments, it may be desirable or appropriate to deliver the cells on or in a biodegradable, preferably bioresorbable or bioabsorbable, scaffold or matrix. These typically three-dimensional biomaterials contain the living cells attached to the scaffold, dispersed within the scaffold, or incorporated in an extracellular matrix entrapped in the scaffold. Once implanted into the target region of the body, these implants become integrated with the host tissue, wherein the transplanted cells gradually become established (see, *e.g.*, Tresco, PA, *et al.* (2000) *supra*; see also Hutmacher, DW (2001) *J. Biomater. Sci. Polymer Edn.* 12:107-174).

[0101] The biocompatible matrix may be comprised of natural, modified natural or synthetic biodegradable polymers, including homopolymers, copolymers and block polymers, as well as combinations thereof. It is noted that a polymer is generally named based on the monomer from which it is synthesized.

[0102] Examples of suitable biodegradable polymers or polymer classes include fibrin, collagen, elastin, gelatin, vitronectin, fibronectin, laminin, thrombin, poly(aminoacid), oxidized cellulose, tropoelastin, silk, ribonucleic acids, deoxyribonucleic acids; proteins, polynucleotides, reconstituted basement membrane matrices, starches, dextrans, alginates, hyaluron, chitin, chitosan, agarose, polysaccharides, hyaluronic acid, poly(lactic acid), poly(glycolic acid), polyethylene glycol, decellularized tissue, self-assembling peptides, polypeptides, glycosaminoglycans, their derivatives and mixtures thereof. For both glycolic acid and lactic acid, an intermediate cyclic dimer is typically prepared and purified prior to polymerization. These intermediate dimers are called glycolide and lactide, respectively. Other useful biodegradable polymers or polymer classes include, without limitation, aliphatic polyesters, poly(alkylene oxalates), tyrosine derived polycarbonates, polyiminocarbonates, polyorthoesters, polyoxaesters, polyamidoesters, polyoxaesters containing amine groups, poly(propylene fumarate), polydioxanones, polycarbonates, polyoxalates, poly(alpha-hydoxyacids), poly(esters), polyurethane, poly(ester urethane), poly(ether urethane), polyanhydrides, polyacetates, polycaprolactones, poly(orthoesters), polyamino acids, polyamides and blends and copolymers thereof. Additional useful biodegradable polymers include, without limitation stereopolymers of L- and D-lactic acid, copolymers of bis(para-carboxyphenoxy) propane and sebacic acid, sebacic acid copolymers, copolymers of caprolactone, poly(lactic acid)/poly(glycolic acid)/polyethyleneglycol copolymers, copolymers of polyurethane and poly(lactic acid), copolymers of alpha-amino acids, copolymers of alpha-amino acids and caproic acid, copolymers of alpha-benzyl glutamate and polyethylene glycol, copolymers of succinate and poly(glycols), polyphosphazene, poly(hydroxyalkanoates) and mixtures thereof. Binary and ternary systems also are contemplated.

[0103] In general, a suitable biodegradable polymer for use as the matrix is desirably configured so that it has mechanical properties that are suitable for the intended application, remains sufficiently intact until tissue has in-grown and healed, does not invoke an inflammatory or toxic response, is metabolized in the body after fulfilling its purpose, is easily processed into the desired final product to be formed, demonstrates acceptable shelf-life, and is easily sterilized.

[0104] In one aspect of the invention, the biocompatible polymer used to form the matrix is in the form of a hydrogel. In general, hydrogels are cross-linked polymeric materials

that can absorb more than 20% of their weight in water while maintaining a distinct three-dimensional structure. This definition includes dry cross-linked polymers that will swell in aqueous environments, as well as water-swollen materials. A host of hydrophilic polymers can be cross-linked to produce hydrogels, whether the polymer is of biological origin, semi-synthetic, or wholly synthetic. The hydrogel may be produced from a synthetic polymeric material. Such synthetic polymers can be tailored to a range of properties and predictable lot-to-lot uniformity, and represent a reliable source of material that generally is free from concerns of immunogenicity. The matrices may include hydrogels formed from self assembling peptides, as those discussed in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,670,483 and 5,955,343, U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0160471, PCT Application No. WO02/062969.

[0105] Properties that make hydrogels valuable in drug delivery applications include the equilibrium swelling degree, sorption kinetics, solute permeability, and their *in vivo* performance characteristics. Permeability to compounds depends in part upon the swelling degree or water content and the rate of biodegradation. Since the mechanical strength of a gel declines in direct proportion to the swelling degree, it is also well within the contemplation of the present invention that the hydrogel can be attached to a substrate so that the composite system enhances mechanical strength. In some embodiments, the hydrogel can be impregnated within a porous substrate, so as to gain the mechanical strength of the substrate, along with the useful delivery properties of the hydrogel.

[0106] Non-limiting examples of scaffold or matrix (sometimes referred to collectively as "framework") that may be used in the present invention include textile structures such as weaves, knits, braids, meshes, non-wovens, and warped knits; porous foams, semi-porous foams, perforated films or sheets, microparticles, beads, and spheres and composite structures being a combination of the above structures. Nonwoven mats may, for example, be formed using fibers comprised of a synthetic absorbable copolymer of glycolic and lactic acids (PGA/PLA), sold under the tradename VICRYL sutures (Ethicon, Inc., Somerville, NJ). Foams, composed of, for example, poly(epsilon-caprolactone)/poly(glycolic acid) (PCL/PGA) copolymer, formed by processes such as freeze-drying, or lyophilized, as discussed in U.S. Patent No. 6,355,699, also may be utilized. Hydrogels such as self-assembling peptides (*e.g.*, RAD16) may also be used. *In situ*-forming degradable networks are also suitable for use in the invention (see, *e.g.*, Anseth, KS *et al.* (2002) *J. Controlled Release* 78:199-209; Wang, D. *et al.*, (2003) *Biomaterials* 24:3969-3980; U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0022676 to He *et al.*). These *in situ* forming materials are formulated as fluids suitable for injection, then may be induced to form a hydrogel by a variety of means such as change in temperature, pH, and exposure to light *in situ* or *in vivo*.

[0107] In another embodiment, the framework is a felt, which can be composed of a multifilament yarn made from a bioabsorbable material, *e.g.*, PGA, PLA, PCL copolymers or blends, or hyaluronic acid. The yarn is made into a felt using standard textile processing techniques consisting of crimping, cutting, carding and needling. In another embodiment, cells are seeded onto foam scaffolds that may be composite structures.

[0108] In many of the abovementioned embodiments, the framework may be molded into a useful shape, such as that of a blood vessel. Furthermore, it will be appreciated that PPDCs may be cultured on pre-formed, non-degradable surgical or implantable devices, *e.g.*, in a manner corresponding to that used for preparing fibroblast-containing GDC endovascular coils, for instance (Marx, WF *et al.*, (2001) *Am. J. Neuroradiol.* 22:323-333).

[0109] The matrix, scaffold or device may be treated prior to inoculation of cells in order to enhance cell attachment. For example, prior to inoculation, nylon matrices can be treated with 0.1 molar acetic acid and incubated in polylysine, PBS, and/or collagen to coat the nylon. Polystyrene can be similarly treated using sulfuric acid. The external surfaces of a framework may also be modified to improve the attachment or growth of cells and differentiation of tissue, such as by plasma coating the framework or addition of one or more proteins (*e.g.*, collagens, elastic fibers, reticular fibers), glycoproteins, glycosaminoglycans (*e.g.*, heparin sulfate, chondroitin-4-sulfate, chondroitin-6-sulfate, dermatan sulfate, keratin sulfate), genetic materials such as cytokines and growth factors, a cellular matrix, and/or other materials, including but not limited to, gelatin, alginates, agar, agarose, and plant gums, among other factors affecting cell survival and differentiation.

[0110] PPDC-containing frameworks are prepared according to methods known in the art. For example, cells can be grown freely in a culture vessel to sub-confluency or confluency, lifted from the culture and inoculated onto the framework. Growth factors may be added to the culture medium prior to, during, or subsequent to inoculation of the cells to trigger differentiation and tissue formation, if desired. Alternatively, the frameworks themselves may be modified so that the growth of cells thereon is enhanced, or so that the risk of rejection of the implant is reduced. Thus, one or more biologically active compounds, including, but not limited to, anti-inflammatory compounds, immunosuppressants or growth factors, may be added to the framework for local release.

[0111] PPDCs, parts of PPDCs, or cell populations comprising PPDCs, or components of or products produced by PPDCs, may be used in a variety of ways to support and facilitate the repair, regeneration, and improvement of skeletal muscle cells and tissues, to improve blood

flow, and to stimulate and/or support angiogenesis, especially in peripheral vascular disease patients. Such utilities encompass *in vitro*, *ex vivo* and *in vivo* methods.

[0112] In one embodiment, as discussed above, PPDCs can be cultured *in vitro* to produce biological products that are either naturally produced by the cells, or produced by the cells when induced to differentiate into skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, pericyte, or vascular endothelial lineages, or produced by the cells *via* genetic modification. For instance, TIMP1, TPO, KGF, HGF, FGF, HBEGF, BDNF, MIP1b, MCP1, RANTES, I309, TARC, MDC, and IL-8 were found to be secreted from umbilicus-derived cells grown in Growth Medium. TIMP1, TPO, KGF, HGF, HBEGF, BDNF, MIP1a, MCP-1, RANTES, TARC, Eotaxin, and IL-8 were found to be secreted from placenta-derived PPDCs cultured in Growth Medium (see Examples). In addition, factors for endothelial progenitor cell recruitment such as VEGF, SDF-1, EPO, G-CSF, statins, estrogen, PPARγ, and CXCR4 may be produced by PPDCs and may be secreted into the growth medium. Other trophic factors, as yet undetected or unexamined, of use in skeletal muscle or vascular repair and regeneration, are likely to be produced by PPDCs and possibly secreted into the medium.

[0113] In this regard, another embodiment of the invention features use of PPDCs for production of conditioned medium, either from undifferentiated PPDCs or from PPDCs incubated under conditions that stimulate differentiation into a skeletal muscle or vascular lineage. Such conditioned media are contemplated for use in *in vitro* or *ex vivo* culture of skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, pericyte, or vascular endothelial precursor cells, or *in vivo* to support transplanted cells comprising homogeneous populations of PPDCs or heterogeneous populations comprising PPDCs and skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, pericyte, or vascular endothelial progenitors, or to recruit endothelial progenitor cells to the site of ischemic injury, for example.

[0114] Yet another embodiment comprises the use of PPDC cell lysates, soluble cell fractions or components thereof, or ECM or components thereof, for a variety of purposes. As mentioned above, some of these components may be used in pharmaceutical compositions. In other embodiments, a cell lysate or ECM is used to coat or otherwise treat substances or devices to be used surgically, or for implantation, or for *ex vivo* purposes, to promote healing or survival of cells or tissues contacted in the course of such treatments. In some preferred embodiments, such preparations made from PPDCs comprise FGF and HGF.

[0115] In another embodiment, PPDCs are used advantageously in co-cultures *in vitro* to provide trophic support to other cells, in particular, skeletal muscle cells, skeletal muscle progenitor cells, vascular smooth muscle cells, vascular smooth muscle progenitor cells,

pericytes, vascular endothelial cells, or vascular endothelium progenitor cells. In some preferred embodiments, the trophic support is proliferation of the cells. For co-culture, it may be desirable for the PPDCs and the desired other cells to be co-cultured under conditions in which the two cell types are in contact. This can be achieved, for example, by seeding the cells as a heterogeneous population of cells in culture medium or onto a suitable culture substrate. Alternatively, the PPDCs can first be grown to confluence, and then will serve as a substrate for the second desired cell type in culture. In this latter embodiment, the cells may further be physically separated, *e.g.*, by a membrane or similar device, such that the other cell type may be removed and used separately, following the co-culture period. Use of PPDCs in co-culture to promote expansion and differentiation of skeletal muscle or vascular cell types may find applicability in research and in clinical/therapeutic areas. For instance, PPDC co-culture may be utilized to facilitate growth and differentiation of skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, pericytes, or vascular endothelial cells in culture, for basic research purposes or for use in drug screening assays, for example. PPDC co-culture may also be utilized for *ex vivo* expansion of skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, pericyte, or vascular endothelium progenitors for later administration for therapeutic purposes. For example, skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, pericyte, or vascular endothelium progenitor cells may be harvested from an individual, expanded *ex vivo* in co-culture with PPDCs, then returned to that individual (autologous transfer) or another individual (syngeneic or allogeneic transfer). In these embodiments, it will be appreciated that, following *ex vivo* expansion, the mixed population of cells comprising the PPDCs and skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, pericyte, or vascular endothelium progenitors could be administered to a patient in need of treatment. Alternatively, in situations where autologous transfer is appropriate or desirable, the co-cultured cell populations may be physically separated in culture, enabling removal of the autologous skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, or vascular endothelium progenitors for administration to the patient.

[0116] As described in US Patent Publication Nos. 2005/0058631, 2005/0054098 and 2005/0058630, PPDCs have been shown to be effectively transplanted into the body, and to improve blood flow and reduce tissue necrosis in an accepted animal model. Those findings, along with the discoveries set forth in the present invention, support preferred embodiments of the invention, wherein PPDCs are used in cell therapy for treating ischemic injury or damage by repairing or regenerating skeletal muscle and/or vascular tissue in a peripheral vascular disease patient, or by improving blood flow or stimulating and/or supporting angiogenesis in a peripheral vascular disease patient. In one embodiment, the PPDCs are transplanted into a target location in the body, especially at or proximal to the location of the ischemic episode, where the PPDCs can

differentiate into one or more of skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, pericyte, or vascular endothelium phenotypes, the PPDCs can provide trophic support for skeletal muscle cell, vascular smooth muscle cell, pericyte, or vascular endothelial cell progenitors and/or skeletal muscle cells, vascular smooth muscle cells, pericytes, or vascular endothelial cells *in situ*, the PPDCs can produce factors to recruit endothelial progenitor cells to the site of the ischemic injury, or the PPDCs can exert a beneficial effect in two or more of those fashions, among others. PPDCs secrete trophic factors including, but not limited to GFGFm, IL-6, IL-8, HGF, IGF-1, TPO, and the like. PPDCs can aid in the recruitment of vascular progenitor cells such as angioblasts to stimulate new blood vessel formation.

[0117] PPDCs can exert trophic effects in the body of the patient to which they are administered. For example, PPDCs can exert trophic effects on skeletal muscle cells, vascular smooth muscle cells, vascular endothelial cells, pericytes, or progenitor cells thereof. In some preferred embodiments, the trophic effect is the proliferation of such cells. PPDCs can also induce migration of cells in the body of the patient to which they are administered. Such migration can facilitate the repair, regeneration, and treatment of peripheral vascular disease such as peripheral ischemia. For example, PPDCs administered at or near a site of peripheral vascular disease can induce migration of cells to the site of peripheral vascular disease in order to repair, regenerate, or otherwise treat the diseased tissue and its surroundings. PPDCs so administered can induce migration of skeletal muscle cells, vascular smooth muscle cells, vascular endothelial cells, pericytes, or progenitor cells thereof. In preferred embodiments, PPDCS induce migration of vascular endothelial cells and/or vascular endothelium progenitor cells to the site, or at least near to the site of the peripheral vascular disease. In some embodiments, migration is induced or supported by FGF and/or HGF, preferably FGF and HGF expressed by the PPDCs. Preparations made from PPDCs, including cell lysates, subcellular fractions, and the like, can also be used to treat peripheral vascular disease. Such preparations can be formulated with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers such as those described and exemplified herein, and administered to patients in amounts effective to treat peripheral vascular disease. In preferred embodiments, preparations made from PPDCs comprise FGF and HGF.

[0118] Specific embodiments of the invention are directed to the direct repair, regeneration, replacement of, or the support of the repair, regeneration, or replacement of blood vessels for the treatment of peripheral ischemic injury or damage.

[0119] PPDCs may be administered alone (*e.g.*, as substantially homogeneous populations) or as admixtures with other cells. As described above, PPDCs may be administered as formulated in a pharmaceutical preparation with a matrix or scaffold, or with conventional

pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. Where PPDCs are administered with other cells, they may be administered simultaneously or sequentially with the other cells (either before or after the other cells). Cells that may be administered in conjunction with PPDCs include, but are not limited to, myocytes, skeletal muscle cells, skeletal muscle progenitor cells, vascular smooth muscle cells, vascular smooth muscle progenitor cells, pericytes, vascular endothelial cells, or vascular endothelium progenitor cells, and/or other multipotent or pluripotent stem cells. The cells of different types may be admixed with the PPDCs immediately or shortly prior to administration, or they may be co-cultured together for a period of time prior to administration.

[0120] The PPDCs may be administered with other beneficial drugs or biological molecules, or other active agents, such as anti-inflammatory agents, anti-apoptotic agents, antioxidants, growth factors, angiogenic factors, or myoregenerative or myooprotective drugs as known in the art. When PPDCs are administered with other agents, they may be administered together in a single pharmaceutical composition, or in separate pharmaceutical compositions, simultaneously or sequentially with the other agents (either before or after administration of the other agents). The other agents may be a part of a treatment regimen that begins either before transplantation and continuing throughout the course of recovery, or may be initiated at the time of transplantation, or even after transplantation, as a physician of skill in the art deems appropriate.

[0121] Examples of other components that may be administered with PPDCs include, but are not limited to: (1) other angiogenic factors, angiogenic drugs, or myoregenerative or myooprotective factors or drugs; (2) selected extracellular matrix components, such as one or more types of collagen known in the art, and/or growth factors, platelet-rich plasma, and drugs (alternatively, PPDCs may be genetically engineered to express and produce growth factors); (3) anti-apoptotic agents (*e.g.*, erythropoietin (EPO), EPO mimetibody, thrombopoietin, insulin-like growth factor (IGF)-I, IGF-II, hepatocyte growth factor, caspase inhibitors); (4) anti-inflammatory compounds (*e.g.*, p38 MAP kinase inhibitors, TGF-beta inhibitors, statins, IL-6 and IL-1 inhibitors, Pemirolast, Tranilast, REMICADE (Centocor, Inc., Malvern, PA), Sirolimus, and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS) (such as Tepoxalin, Tolmetin, and Suprafen); (5) immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory agents, such as calcineurin inhibitors, mTOR inhibitors, antiproliferatives, corticosteroids and various antibodies; (6) antioxidants such as probucol, vitamins C and E, coenzyme Q-10, glutathione, L-cysteine and N-acetylcysteine; and (6) local anesthetics, to name a few.

[0122] In one embodiment, PPDCs are administered as undifferentiated cells, *i.e.*, as cultured in Growth Medium. Alternatively, PPDCs may be administered following exposure in

culture to conditions that stimulate differentiation toward a desired skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, pericyte, or vascular endothelium phenotype.

[0123] The cells of the invention may be surgically implanted, injected, delivered (*e.g.*, by way of a catheter, syringe, shunt, stent, microcatheter, or pump), or otherwise administered directly or indirectly to the site of ischemic injury, damage, or distress. Routes of administration of the cells of the invention or compositions thereof include, but are not limited to, intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, intranasal, intrathecal, intracisternal, or via syringes with needles or catheters with or without pump devices.

[0124] When cells are administered in semi-solid or solid devices, surgical implantation into a precise location in the body is typically a suitable means of administration. Liquid or fluid pharmaceutical compositions, however, may be administered through the blood, or directly into affected muscle tissue (*e.g.*, throughout a diffusely affected area, such as would be the case for diffuse ischemic injury). The migration of the PPDCs can be guided by chemical signals, growth factors, or calpains.

[0125] The postpartum-derived cells or compositions and/or matrices comprising the postpartum-derived cells may be delivered to the site via a micro catheter, intracatheterization, or via a mini-pump. The vehicle excipient or carrier can be any of those known to be pharmaceutically acceptable for administration to a patient, particularly locally at the site at which cellular differentiation is to be induced. Examples include liquid media, for example, Dulbeccos Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM), sterile saline, sterile phosphate buffered saline, Leibovitz's medium (L15, Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA), dextrose in sterile water, and any other physiologically acceptable liquid.

[0126] Other embodiments encompass methods of treating peripheral ischemic injury or damage by administering therapeutic compositions comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and PPDC cellular components (*e.g.*, cell lysates or components thereof) or products (*e.g.*, trophic and other biological factors produced naturally by PPDCs or through genetic modification, conditioned medium from PPDC culture), or PPDC growth medium or products purified from growth medium. In preferred embodiments, the biological factors are FGF and HGF. These methods may further comprise administering other active agents, such as growth factors, angiogenic factors or myoregenerative or myoprotective drugs as known in the art.

[0127] Dosage forms and regimes for administering PPDCs or any of the other therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions described herein are developed in accordance with good medical practice, taking into account the condition of the individual patient, *e.g.*, nature and extent of the injury or damage from the peripheral ischemic event, age, sex, body weight and

general medical condition, and other factors known to medical practitioners. Thus, the effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition to be administered to a patient is determined by these considerations as known in the art.

[0128] PPDCs have been shown not to stimulate allogeneic PBMCs in a mixed lymphocyte reaction. Accordingly, transplantation with allogeneic, or even xenogeneic, PPDCs may be tolerated in some instances. In some embodiments, the PPDCs themselves provide an immunosuppressant effect, thereby preventing host rejection of the transplanted PPDCs. In such instances, pharmacological immunosuppression during cell therapy may not be necessary.

[0129] However, in other instances it may be desirable or appropriate to pharmacologically immunosuppress a patient prior to initiating cell therapy. This may be accomplished through the use of systemic or local immunosuppressive agents, or it may be accomplished by delivering the cells in an encapsulated device, as described above. These and other means for reducing or eliminating an immune response to the transplanted cells are known in the art. As an alternative, PPDCs may be genetically modified to reduce their immunogenicity, as mentioned above.

[0130] Survival of transplanted PPDCs in a living patient can be determined through the use of a variety of scanning techniques, *e.g.*, computerized axial tomography (CAT or CT) scan, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or positron emission tomography (PET) scans. Determination of transplant survival can also be done *post mortem* by removing the skeletal muscle or vascular tissue, and examining it visually or through a microscope. Alternatively, cells can be treated with stains that are specific for skeletal muscle cells, vascular smooth muscle cells, pericytes, or vascular endothelial cells. Transplanted cells can also be identified by prior incorporation of tracer dyes such as rhodamine- or fluorescein-labeled microspheres, fast blue, ferric microparticles, bisbenzamide or genetically introduced reporter gene products, such as beta-galactosidase or beta-glucuronidase.

[0131] In another aspect, the invention provides kits that utilize the PPDCs, PPDC populations, components and products of PPDCs in various methods for stimulating and/or supporting angiogenesis, for improving blood flow, for regenerating, repairing, and improving skeletal muscle injured or damaged by a peripheral ischemic event, as described above. Where used for treatment of damage or injury caused by an ischemic event or other scheduled treatment, the kits may include one or more cell populations, including at least PPDCs and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier (liquid, semi-solid or solid). The kits also optionally may include a means of administering the cells, for example by injection. The kits further may include instructions for use of the cells. Kits prepared for field hospital use, such as for military

use, may include full-procedure supplies including tissue scaffolds, surgical sutures, and the like, where the cells are to be used in conjunction with repair of acute injuries. Kits for assays and *in vitro* methods as described herein may contain one or more of (1) PPDCs or components or products of PPDCs, (2) reagents for practicing the *in vitro* method, (3) other cells or cell populations, as appropriate, and (4) instructions for conducting the *in vitro* method.

[0132] The following example describes the invention in greater detail. This example is intended to further illustrate, not to limit, aspects of the invention described herein.

Example 1

Efficacy of Umbilicus-Derived Postpartum Cells in the Murine Hindlimb Peripheral Ischemia Model

Materials and Methods

[0133] Umbilical Cell Culture and Isolation. Umbilicus-derived cells (UDCs) were prepared as described in U.S. Patent Publications 2005/0058631 or 2005/0054098. Cells were cultured to passage 10 or 11 (approximately 20-25 population doublings) and then cryogenically preserved.

[0134] Ischemia Model Treatment Groups:

1. PBS, negative control
2. Expression plasmid for vascular endothelial growth factor(pVEGF), positive control
3. cell line #1 cells, $5x10^5$ cells total
4. cell line #1 cells, $1x10^6$ cells total
5. cell line #2 cells, $1x10^6$ cells total
6. cell line #1 cells, cultured, $1x10^6$ cells total

cell line 1: U120304 p10,

cell line 2: U072804A p11

[0135] Sample preparation for injection. Cells were thawed immediately before injection (groups 3-5), or were cultured for 24-30 hr (group 6). Cells were counted and viability was determined by trypan blue staining and counting on a hemocytometer. The entire dose of cells or plasmid (100 μg) was resuspended in 100 μl of PBS and loaded into a 300 μl tuberculin syringe with 27 guage needle for injection into the mice.

[0136] **Surgery.** On day 0, acute hindlimb ischemia was surgically induced in athymic, nude mice by unilateral ligation and excision of the left iliofemerol artery. Mice were partitioned into 6 groups of at least n = 8 for treatment with UDCs or controls. Mice were randomly assigned to treatment groups for groups 1-5. Because group 6 was added late in the study, randomization did not occur. In addition, scheduling conflicts precluded performing microCT/PET concurrently with the original study. This analysis was performed on a group of 8 additional animals (4 control and 4 cultured cell 1) enrolled after the completion of the 21 day study.

[0137] **Cell injections.** One day after surgery, mice were anesthetized for laser Doppler imaging analysis of the plantar region. While mice were still under anesthesia, cells were injected at 5 sites in the left (ischemic) limb: (1) 20 µl into the tibilias anterior; (2) 2x 20 µl into gastrocnemius; and (3) 2x 20 µl into rectus femoris of quadriceps bundle.

[0138] **Analyses.** Laser Doppler imaging was performed at days 1, 4, 8, 14 and 21. At 21 days, mice were sacrificed and tibilias anterior (TA), gastrocnemius and quadriceps muscles were excised and cryofixed for thin sectioning and immunhistochemical staining with CD31 antibody. MicroCT/PET analysis using fluoromethane gas to determine perfusion status of muscles was performed at 8 days. These mice were sacrificed immediately after and hindlimb muscles were processed for CD31 immunohistochemistry on cryofixed thin sections.

[0139] **Exclusion criteria.** Mice exhibiting severe toe necrosis at day 1 following surgery were excluded from the study before injections. Mice were also excluded at any time in the study due to severe necrosis (*e.g.*, total necrosis of the foot) or if they experienced severe weight loss or otherwise exhibited signs of extreme pain.

Results

[0140] The goal of these experiments was to determine if UDCs protect tissues from injury in a rodent hindlimb ischemia model. This model was performed by creating a injury in the femoral blood flow and injecting cells in the area approximately 24 hours after the injury. The results were evaluated by estimating perfusion of the limbs of these animals and comparing this to the contralateral limb that was not injured. The tissues were also collected from these animals at the end of the study to evaluate the vasculature and injury in the animals. This study was also performed with human cells in nude mice to avoid xenogenic rejection of the implanted cells.

[0141] Results presented in Figure 1 show that the UDCs conferred a benefit on the mice, as there was improved perfusion in the animals treated with the cultured cells at Day 4 and

8, while blood flow was also improved in the animals treated with the 120304 cells thawed immediately before injection at Day 8. The cells 072804A did not show a benefit at any time point, suggesting a difference between these two lots of cells. Generally the animals showed improvement over time indicating that this strain of animals has some degree of native repair capability. These animals were also relatively young which may be a factor in their innate regenerative capabilities.

[0142] The TA muscles were collected at the end of the study, and sections were probed with an anti CD31 antibody to detect vascular endothelial cells. Representative results are shown in Figure 2. The results show that the PBS control animals presented gross necrosis and limited vasculature in the ischemic limb, (for example mouse #26 & #43) whereas the UDC-treated limbs showed higher relative levels of CD31 staining and reduced levels of necrosis. The results also suggest that the animals treated with cultured UDCs showed improved vasculature as compared to controls – (PBS control and in some cases, the normal (uninjured) limb). Increased CD 31 staining was observed in the ischemic but treated limb as compared to the normal limb. The animals treated with VEGF plasmid and Umb072804A showed similar results as PBS control.

Summary

[0143] These results provide evidence that umbilical cord-derived cells can be effective to improve blood flow and to reduce tissue necrosis in a rodent hind limb ischemia model. The study included two different lots of umbilical cells that were thawed immediately before injection, and the results suggested differences might exist between the lots. The cells that appeared to have some activity were also cultured for approximately 48 hours before injection and included in another treatment group. These cells appeared to be the most effective and this suggests that culturing changes the activity profile of the cells. The histology results also provide evidence that treatment can provide protective effects. The results do not provide sufficient information with respect to the mechanism by which the UDCs exert their effects. Without intending to be bound to any particular theory or mechanism of action, it is believed that the cells may exert their effect by stimulating the growth of new blood vessels or protecting the muscle tissue from the progression of the damage, for example, by protection from apoptosis or recruitment of endogenous active agents. Additional studies are necessary to investigate the precise mechanism of action.

References

1) Rehman, J. *et al.* (2004) *Circulation* 109:1292-1298

Example 2

Endothelial Network Formation Assay

[0144] Angiogenesis, or the formation of new vasculature, is necessary for the growth of new tissue. Induction of angiogenesis is an important therapeutic goal in many pathological conditions. To identify potential angiogenic activity of the postpartum-derived cells in in vitro assays, a well-established method of seeding endothelial cells onto a culture plate coated with a biological cell culture substrate under the tradename MATRIGEL (BD Discovery Labware, Bedford, MA), a basement membrane extract (Nicosia and Ottinetti (1990) In Vitro Cell Dev. Biol. 26(2):119-28) was followed. Treating endothelial cells on MATRIGEL (BD Discovery Labware, Bedford, MA) with angiogenic factors will stimulate the cells to form a network that is similar to capillaries. This is a common *in vitro* assay for testing stimulators and inhibitors of blood vessel formation (Ito *et al.* (1996) *Int. J. Cancer* 67(1):148-52). The experiments made use of a co-culture system with the postpartum-derived cells seeded onto culture well inserts. These permeable inserts allow for the passive exchange of media components between the endothelial and the postpartum-derived cell culture media.

Methods & Materials

Cell Culture

[0145] **Postpartum tissue-derived cells.** Human umbilical cords and placenta were received and cells were isolated as previously described (Example 1). Cells were cultured in Growth medium (Dulbecco's Modified Essential Media (DMEM; Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA), 15% (v/v) fetal bovine serum (Hyclone, Logan UT)), 100 Units/milliliter penicillin, 100 microgram/milliliter streptomycin (Invitrogen), 0.001 % (v/v) 2-mercaptoethanol (Sigma, St. Louis, MO)) on gelatin-coated tissue culture plastic flasks. The cultures were incubated at 37°C with 5% CO_2. Cells used for experiments were between passages 4 and 12.

[0146] Actively growing postpartum cells were trypsinized, counted, and seeded onto COSTAR TRANSWELL 6.5 millimeter diameter tissue culture inserts (Corning, Corning, NY) at 15,000 cells per insert. Cells were cultured on the inserts for 48-72 hours in Growth medium at 37°C under standard growth conditions.

[0147] Human mesenchymal stem cells (hMSC). hMSCs were purchased from Cambrex (Walkersville, MD) and cultured in MSCGM (Cambrex). The cultures were incubated under standard growth conditions.

[0148] Actively growing MSCs were trypsinized and counted and seeded onto COSTAR TRANSWELL 6.5 millimeter diameter tissue culture inserts (Corning, Corning, NY) at 15,000 cells per insert. Cells were cultured on the inserts for 48-72 hours in Growth medium under standard growth conditions.

[0149] Human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVEC). HUVEC were obtained from Cambrex (Walkersville, MD). Cells were grown in separate cultures in either EBM or EGM endothelial cell media (Cambrex). Cells were grown on standard tissue-cultured plastic under standard growth conditions. Cells used in the assay were between passages 4 and 10.

[0150] Human coronary artery endothelial cells (HCAEC). HCAEC were purchased from Cambrex Incorporated (Walkersville, MD). These cells were also maintained in separate cultures in either the EBM or EGM media formulations. Cells were grown on standard tissue cultured plastic under standard growth conditions. Cells used for experiments were between passages 4 and 8.

[0151] Endothelial Network Formation (MATRIGEL) assays. Culture plates were coated with MATRIGEL (BD Discovery Labware, Bedford, MA) according to manufacturer's specifications. Briefly, MATRIGEL (BD Discovery Labware, Bedford, MA) was thawed at 4°C and approximately 250 microliters were aliquoted and distributed evenly onto each well of a chilled 24-well culture plate (Corning). The plate was then incubated at 37°C for 30 minutes to allow the material to solidify. Actively growing endothelial cell cultures were trypsinized and counted. Cells were washed twice in Growth medium with 2% FBS by centrifugation, resuspension, and aspiration of the supernatant. Cells were seeded onto the coated wells at 20,000 cells per well in approximately 0.5 milliliter Growth medium with 2% (v/v) FBS. Cells were then incubated for approximately 30 minutes to allow cells to settle.

[0152] Endothelial cell cultures were then treated with either 10 nanomolar human bFGF (Peprotech, Rocky Hill, NJ) or 10 nanomolar human VEGF (Peprotech, Rocky Hill, NJ) to serve as a positive control for endothelial cell response. Transwell inserts seeded with postpartum-derived cells were added to appropriate wells with Growth medium with 2% FBS in the insert chamber. Cultures were incubated at 37°C with 5% CO2 for approximately 24 hours. The well plate was removed from the incubator, and images of the endothelial cell cultures were collected with an Olympus® inverted microscope (Olympus, Melville, NY).

Results

[0153] In a co-culture system with placenta-derived cells or with umbilical cord-derived cells, HUVEC form cell networks (data not shown). HUVEC cells form limited cell networks in co-culture experiments with hMSCs and with 10 nanomolar bFGF (not shown). HUVEC cells without any treatment showed very little or no network formation (data not shown). These results suggest that the postpartum-derived cells release angiogenic factors that stimulate the HUVEC.

[0154] In a co-culture system with placenta-derived cells or with umbilical cord-derived cells, CAECs form cell networks (data not shown).

[0155] Table 2-1 shows levels of known angiogenic factors released by the postpartum-derived cells in Growth medium. Postpartum-derived cells were seeded onto inserts as described above. The cells were cultured at 37°C in atmospheric oxygen for 48 hours on the inserts and then switched to a 2% FBS media and returned at 37°C for 24 hours. Media was removed, immediately frozen and stored at –80°C, and analyzed by the SEARCHLIGHT multiplex ELISA assay (Pierce Chemical Company, Rockford, IL). Results shown are the averages of duplicate measurements. The results show that the postpartum-derived cells do not release detectable levels of platelet-derived growth factor-bb (PDGF-bb) or heparin-binding epidermal growth factor (HBEGF). The cells do release measurable quantities of tissue inhibitor of metallinoprotease-1 (TIMP-1), angiopoietin 2 (ANG2), thrombopoietin (TPO), keratinocyte growth factor (KGF), hepatocyte growth factor (HGF), fibroblast growth factor (FGF), and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF).

Table 2-1. Potential angiogenic factors released from postpartum-derived cells.

	TIMP1 (pg/ml)	ANG2 (pg/ml)	PDGFBB (pg/ml)	TPO (pg/ml)	KGF (pg/ml)	HGF (pg/ml)	FGF (pg/ml)	VEGF (pg/ml)	HBEGF (pg/ml)
Plac (P4)	91655.3	175.5	<2.0	275.5	3.0	58.3	7.5	644.6	<1.2
Plac (P11)	1592832.4	28.1	<2.0	1273.1	193.3	5960.3	34.8	12361.1	1.7
Umb cord (P4)	81831.7	<9.8	<2.0	365.9	14.1	200.2	5.8	<4.0	<1.2
Media alone	<9.8	25.1	<2.0	<6.4	<2.0	<3.2	<5.4	<4.0	<1.2

Postpartum-derived cells were cultured in 24 hours in media with 2% FBS in atmospheric oxygen.Media was removed and assayed by the SEARCHLIGHT multiplex ELISA assay (Pierce).

Results are the means of a duplicate analysis. Values are concentrations in the media reported in picograms per milliliter of culture media. Plac: placenta derived cells; Umb cord: umbilical cord derived cells.

[0156] Table 2-2 shows levels of known angiogenic factors released by the postpartum-derived cells. Postpartum-derived cells were seeded onto inserts as described above. The cells were cultured in Growth medium at 5% oxygen for 48 hours on the inserts and then switched to a 2% FBS medium and returned to 5% O_2 incubation for 24 hours. Media was removed, immediately frozen, and stored at –80°C, and analyzed by the SEARCHLIGHT multiplex ELISA assay (Pierce Chemical Company, Rockford, IL). Results shown are the averages of duplicate measurements. The results show that the postpartum-derived cells do not release detectable levels of platelet-derived growth factor-bb (PDGF-BB) or heparin-binding epidermal growth factor (HBEGF). The cells do release measurable quantities of tissue inhibitor of metallinoprotease-1 (TIMP-1), angiopoietin 2 (ANG2), thrombopoietin (TPO), keratinocyte growth factor (KGF), hepatocyte growth factor (HGF), fibroblast growth factor (FGF), and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF).

Table 2-2. Potential angiogenic factors released from postpartum-derived cells.

	TIMP1 (pg/ml)	ANG2 (pg/ml)	PDGF-BB (pg/ml)	TPO (pg/ml)	KGF (pg/ml)	HGF (pg/ml)	FGF (pg/ml)	VEGF (pg/ml)	HB-EGF (pg/ml)
Plac (P4)	72972.5	253.6	<2.0	743.1	2.5	30.2	15.1	1495.1	<1.2
Plac (P11)	458023.1	55.1	<2.0	2562.2	114.2	2138.0	295.1	7521.3	1.8
Umb cord (P4)	50244.7	<9.8	<2.0	403.3	10.7	156.8	5.7	<4.0	<1.2
Media alone	<9.8	25.1	<2.0	<6.4	<2.0	<3.2	<5.4	<4.0	<1.2

Postpartum-derived cells were cultured in 24 hours in media with 2% FBS in 5% oxygen. Media was removed and assayed by the SEARCHLIGHT multiplex ELISA assay (Pierce). Results are the means of a duplicate analysis. Values are concentrations in the media reported in picograms per milliliter of culture media. Plac: placenta derived cells; Umb cord: umbilical cord derived cells.

Summary.

[0157] The results show that postpartum-derived cells can stimulate both human umbilical vein and coronary artery endothelial cells to form networks in an in vitro MATRIGEL (BD Discovery Labware, Bedford, MA) assay. This effect is similar to that seen with known angiogenic factors in this assay system. These results suggest that the postpartum-derived cells are useful for stimulating angiogenesis *in vivo*.

Example 3

Effect if hUTCs on the in vitro proliferation and migration of endothelial cells

[0158] Studies were undertaken to determine the effects of human umbilical tissue-derived cells (hUTCs) on the proliferation and migration of endothelial cells *in vitro*. These effects were examined by co-culturing hUTCs and endothelial cells and by incubating cultures of human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) with hUTC lysates. The results presented here show that hUTCs induce increases in proliferation and migration of endothelial cells. Furthermore, the data suggest that these effects are mediated, in part, by fibroblast growth factor (FGF) and hepatocyte growth factor (HGF).

Materials and Methods

Cell culture

[0159] Cryopreserved human umbilical tissue-derived cells (hUTCs) lot#120304 were thawed at passage 8-9 and seeded onto gelatin-coated flasks and cultured in Hayflick growth media (DMEM – low glucose [Gibco, catalog number11885-084], 15% v/v fetal bovine serum [FBS, Hyclone, catalog number SH30070.03], 0.001% v/v beta-mercaptoethanol [Sigma, catalog number M7154], and 50 U/ml penicillin and 50 micrograms/ml streptomycin [Gibco, catalog number 3810-74-0]). For studies detailed here, cells used were at passage 10 or 11. Human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs, catalog number C2517A), human coronary artery endothelial cells (HCAECs, catalog number CC2585), and human iliac artery endothelial cells (HIAECs, catalog number CC2545) were obtained from Cambrex and were cultured in endothelial growth medium (EGM-2MV, catalog number 3202) according to manufacturer's recommendations. Human mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs, catalog number PT-2501) were also purchased from Cambrex and were maintained in mesenchymal stem cell growth medium (MSCGM, catalog number PT-3001) according to manufacturer's recommendations. Human

dermal fibroblasts (CCD9) were from ATCC and were maintained in DMEM/F12 media containing 10% FBS and 1U/ml penicillin-streptomycin.

[0160] For routine passage, cells were washed once with phosphate buffered saline (PBS, Invitrogen, catalog number 14190) and detached by trypsinization (0.25% trypsin-EDTA, Invitrogen, catalog number 25200-056). Cells were counted using a GUAVA® instrument (Guava Technologies, Hayward, CA) and seeded at a density of 5000 cells/cm^2. Cells were routinely passaged every 3-4 days.

Growth factors and antibodies

[0161] Recombinant human basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF, catalog number 100-18B) and recombinant human hepatocyte growth factor (HGF, catalog number 100-39) were from Peprotech and recombinant human vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF, catalog number 293-VE) was from R and D Systems. Antibodies to bFGF (catalog number ab11937), HGF (catalog number ab10678), and VEGF (catalog number ab9570) were purchased from Abcam (Cambridge, MA).

Preparation of cell lysate

[0162] Cell lysates were prepared from frozen hUTC lot#120304 cell pellets from previous grow-ups. Briefly, hUTC lot#120304 were cultured for 4 days, harvested by trypsinization, and pelleted by centrifugation. Cells were then washed with PBS 3 times and resuspended in PBS at 1 x 10^7 cells/ml. Aliquots of 1 ml suspensions were placed into 1.5 ml sterile siliconized microcentrifuge tubes and centrifuged at 300 rcf for 5 min. PBS was aspirated and cell pellets stored at –80°C until use.

[0163] To prepare cell lysates, tubes containing cell pellets were immersed in liquid nitrogen (LN2) for 60 sec and then immediately immersed in a 37°C water bath for 60 sec or until thawed but not longer than 3 min. This step was repeated 3 times. Following this step, the freeze-thawed samples were centrifuged at 13000 rcf at 4°C for 10 min and then placed on ice. The supernatant was carefully removed and transferred to a fresh sterile siliconized 1.5 ml tube. The centrifugation step was repeated 3 times and the resulting supernatant pooled. Protein concentration was determined using the microassay protocol of the QUICK START™ Bradford protein assay kit (Bio-Rad, catalog number 500-0201). For studying the effect of cell lysate on the proliferation of HUVECs,

Measurement of Cell Proliferation

[0164] Cells were harvested and plated directly into the indicated media formulation at a concentration of 5000 cells/cm^2. For co-culture experiments, 24-well transwells (Corning catalog number 3413) were used with endothelial cells plated on the bottom of the well (10,000 cells/well) and hUTCs, MSCs, or fibroblasts plated inside the transwell inserts (1650 cells/transwell inserts). At the indicated time periods, inserts containing hUTCS, MSCs, or fibroblasts were removed and discarded. Endothelial cells were harvested by adding 90 µl of trypsin to each well. Cells were released by pipetting up and down and then transferred to a clean 96-well plate. Trypsin was inhibited by the addition of 90 µl of media. Cells were stained by addition of 20 µl of staining solution (18 µl of media + 1 µl GUAVA VIACOUNT® Flex Reagent + 1 µl of DMSO) and quantitated using a GUAVA® instrument (Guava Technologies, Hayward, CA).

[0165] For studies on the effect of hUTC lot#120304 cell lysate on the proliferation of HUVECs, HUVECs were seeded onto 24-well tissue culture dishes at a density of 10,000 cells/well in EGM-2MV media for 8h. Cells were then serum-starved by overnight incubation in 0.5 ml of EGM-2MV media containing 0.5% FBS and without growth factors. Afterwards, FBS, freshly prepared hUTC lot#120304 cell lysate containing 62.5 µg or 125 µg of protein, and neutralizing antibodies to FGF (7 µg/ml) or HGF (1 µg/ml) were added. After 4 days of culture, cells were harvested and counted using a GUAVA® instrument.

[0166] For studies on the effect of hUTC lot#120304 cell lysate on the proliferation of HUVECs, HUVECs were seeded onto 24-well tissue culture dishes at a density of 10,000 cells/well in EGM-2MV media for 8h. Cells were then serum-starved by overnight incubation in 0.5 ml of EGM-2MV media containing 0.5% FBS and without growth factors. Afterwards, FBS, freshly prepared hUTC lot#120304 cell lysate containing 62.5 µg or 125 µg of protein, and neutralizing antibodies to FGF (7 µg/ml) or HGF (1 µg/ml) were added. After 4 days of culture, cells were harvested and counted using a GUAVA® instrument.

Assessment of cell migration

[0167] For measurement of cell migration, a 6-well transwell (Corning catalog number 3428) set-up was used. Cells were seeded directly into the indicated media formulation at a density of 5000 cells/cm^2. Endothelial cells were seeded inside the transwell inserts (23,000 cells/transwell insert) and hUTC lot#120304 or MSCs plated onto the bottom of the well (48,000 cells/well). Migration was assessed after 7 days of co-culture by counting the number of cells on the underside of the transwell. Briefly, transwells were transferred to a clean well and washed once with PBS. Cells from the underside of the well were harvested by adding trypsin to the bottom of the well. Trypsin was inhibited by the addition of complete growth media and cells collected by centrifugation. Cells were then resuspended in 25 µl of media and 20 µl of this used to obtain cell counts using a GUAVA® instrument.

[0168] For studies on the potential mechanisms of hUTC-mediated increase in endothelial cell migration, neutralizing antibodies to FGF (7 μg/ml) and HGF (1 μg/ml) were included in co-cultures of HUVECs and HCAECs with hUTC lot#120304. The antibodies were added to the cell culture media when the cells were initially plated. After 7 days of co-culture, cells that were on the underside of the transwell insert were harvested and counted using a GUAVA® instrument.

Results

Effect of hUTCs on proliferation of endothelial cells

[0169] A co-culture system was utilized to study the effects of hUTCs on the proliferation of endothelial cells. This was performed using a transwell set-up with endothelial cells plated on the bottom of a 24-well tissue culture dish and hUTCs plated inside the transwell inserts. In these experiments, two different media formulations were used (media composition detailed in Materials and Methods): Hayflick 80% + EGM-2MV 20% (H80) or Hayflick 50% + EGM-2MV 50% (H50). After 6 or 7 days of co-culture, the transwell inserts were removed, endothelial cells harvested by trypsinization, and counted using the GUAVA® instrument.

[0170] The effect of hUTC lot#120304 on the proliferation of endothelial cells cultured in H80 compared with H50 is shown in Figure 1. The proliferation of HUVECs maintained in H50 was higher than those kept in H80 (Figure 1A) while HCAECs and HIAECs exhibited similar growth in these co-culture media formulations (Figure 1B and Figure 1C). In both media formulations, co-culture of endothelial cells with hUTC lot#120304 resulted in significant increases in cell number after 7 days. All subsequent co-culture studies of hUTCs and endothelial cells were performed in the Hayflick 50% + EGM-2MV 50% (H50) media formulation.

[0171] MSCs and fibroblasts were also tested in co-cultures with endothelial cells to determine whether other cell types have the ability to influence the proliferation of endothelial cells. As shown in Figure 1A, there was no difference in the proliferation of HUVECs in co-culture media (H50 or H80) and those that were co-cultured with MSCs or with fibroblasts. The same was true of HCAECs (Figure 1B) and HIAECs (Figure 1C) where co-culture with hUTC lot#120304 resulted in increased cell proliferation while no differences can be observed between cells in co-culture media (H50 or H80) and those that were co-cultured with MSCs.

[0172] To investigate the potential mechanisms of hUTC-mediated increase in endothelial cell proliferation, neutralizing antibodies to FGF (7 μg/ml), HGF (1 μg/ml), and VEGF (1μg/ml) were included in co-cultures of HUVECs and HCAECs with hUTCs. Results in

Figure 2A and 2B show that in both HUVECs and HCAECs, the addition of neutralizing antibodies to FGF and HGF reduced the increase in cell number induced by hUTC lot#120304. At the concentrations that were used for these studies, these neutralizing antibodies blocked proliferation of HUVECs induced by the growth factors (Figure 2A). It is interesting to note that a neutralizing antibody to VEGF did not have a significant effect on the cell proliferation induced by co-culture of both HUVECs (Figure 2A) and HCAECs (Figure 2B) with hUTC lot#120304. In separate studies, the proliferation of hUTC lot#120304 was not affected by the addition of neutralizing antibodies to FGF and VEGF to the culture media (data not shown).

Effect of hUTC lot#120304 cell lysate on proliferation of HUVECs

[0173] A co-culture system was utilized to study the effects of hUTCs on the proliferation of endothelial cells. This was performed using a transwell set-up with endothelial cells plated on the bottom of a 24-well tissue culture dish and hUTCs plated inside the transwell inserts. In these experiments, two different media formulations were used (media composition detailed in Materials and Methods): Hayflick 80% + EGM-2MV 20% (H80) or Hayflick 50% + EGM-2MV 50% (H50). After 6 or 7 days of co-culture, the transwell inserts were removed, endothelial cells harvested by trypsinization, and counted using the GUAVA® instrument.

[0174] Figure 3 shows that the addition of cell lysates led to an increase in HUVECs cell number compared to cells kept in low serum (0.5% FBS) and the increase in cell number was proportional to the amount of added cell lysate. The lower concentration of cell lysate used (62.5 μg/ml) resulted in a cell number comparable to cells incubated in optimal media condition (10% FBS). Furthermore, the addition of a neutralizing antibody to either FGF or HGF moderated the increase in cell number induced by the 2 different concentrations of cell lysate. These results are consistent with the results obtained in co-cultures of HUVECs with hUTC lot#120304.

Effect of hUTCs on migration of endothelial cells

[0175] The migration of endothelial cells was assessed by determining the number of cells that have moved through a transwell membrane (pore size = 8 microns). The responder cells, endothelial cells, were seeded onto 6-well transwell inserts and hUTCs were plated on the bottom of the well. After a period of co-culture, cells that were on the underside of the transwell were harvested and counted. Figure 4A shows the migration of HUVECs that were co-cultured with hUTCs and MSCs. hUTC lot#120304 induced the movement of HUVECs to the underside

of the transwell while MSCs did not (Figure 4A). The same result was observed with HCAECs where co-culture with hUTC lot#120304 resulted in more cells migrating through the transwell relative to media control (Figure 4B).

[0176] The effect of hUTC lot#120304 on the migratory behavior of HUVECs and HCAECs was further tested with the use of neutralizing antibodies to FGF and HGF. As shown in Figure 5A, these antibodies reduced the migration of HUVECs induced by hUTC lot#120304. In co-cultures of HCAECs with hUTC lot#120304, a neutralizing antibody to HGF blocked hUTC lot#120304-mediated increase in cell migration while a neutralizing antibody to FGF did not (Figure 5B).

Summary

[0177] The results outlined here describe the effects of hUTCs on the proliferative and migratory behavior of endothelial cells *in vitro*. The studies were performed using co-cultures of hUTC lot#120304 and endothelial cells or direct incubation of endothelial cells with cell lysate prepared from hUTC lot#120304.

[0178] For studies of proliferation, the effects of hUTC lot#120304 were tested and three endothelial cell types from different vascular beds were used as responder cells. Co-culture with hUTCs resulted in enhanced proliferation of endothelial cells. Co-culture with MSCs or fibroblasts resulted in cell numbers comparable to media controls. The proliferative response of HUVECs to hUTC lot#120304 was dampened by the addition of neutralizing antibodies to FGF and HGF, but not by neutralizing antibody to VEGF. This implies that the induction of proliferation by hUTC lot#120304 is mediated by FGF and HGF. It is worth noting that incubation of HUVECs with hUTC lot#120304 lysate mirrored the effect observed with co-cultures.

[0179] Migration was quantitated by counting the number of cells that were on the underside of a transwell and both HUVECs and HCAECs were used as responder cells. Unlike the studies with proliferation, the migratory responses of these cells are slightly different. HUTC lot#120304 induced the migration of both HUVECs and HCAECs. MSCs did not induce the migration of HUVECs suggesting specificity of this response to hUTCs. Antibodies to FGF and HGF negated the effect of hUTC lot#120304 on the migration of HUVECs while only antibody to HGF affected the migration of HCAECs suggesting differences between the two endothelial cell types.

[0180] In summary, the data show that hUTCs induce proliferation and migration of endothelial cells *in vitro*. The use of neutralizing antibodies implicates both FGF and HGF in

these observed effects. However, other factors may also be involved in the proliferative and migratory behavior of endothelial cells.

[0181] The present invention is not limited to the embodiments described and exemplified above. It is capable of variation and modification within the scope of the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. Use of a homogeneous population of umbilical cord tissue-derived cells derived from human umbilical cord tissue substantially free of blood, in the manufacture of a medicament for increasing proliferation and migration of endothelial cells in a patient having peripheral ischemia, wherein the population of cells is capable of self-renewal and expansion in culture and has the potential to differentiate into cells of at least a skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, pericyte, or vascular endothelium phenotype; wherein the population of cells comprises the following characteristics:

a) potential for at least 40 doublings in culture;

b) production of CD10, CD13, CD44, CD73, CD90, PDGFr-alpha, PD-L2 and HLA-A,B,C; and

c) lack of production of CD31, CD34, CD45, CD80, CD86, CD117, CD141, CD178, B7-H2, HLA-G, and HLA-DR,DP,DQ, as detected by flow cytometry

2. The use of claim 1, wherein the population of cells is genetically engineered to produce a gene product that promotes treatment of peripheral vascular disease.

3. The use of claim 1, wherein the treatment comprises administering the population of cells with at least one other cell type.

4. The use of claim 3, wherein the other cell type is a skeletal muscle cell, skeletal muscle progenitor cell, vascular smooth muscle cell, vascular smooth muscle progenitor cell, pericyte, vascular endothelial cell, vascular endothelium progenitor cell, or other multipotent or pluripotent stein cell.

5. The use of claim 3, wherein the at least one other cell type is administered simultaneously with, or before, or after, the umbilical cord tissue-derived cells.

6. The use of claim 1, wherein the treatment comprises administering the population of cells with at least one other agent.

7. The use of claim 6, wherein the agent is an antithrombogenic agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, an immunosuppressive agent, an immunomodulatory agent, pro-angiogenic, or an antiapoptotic agent.

8. The use of claim 6, wherein the agent is administered simultaneously with, or before, or after, the population of cells.

9. The use of claim 1, wherein the treatment comprises administering the population of cells at the sites of the peripheral ischemia.

10. The use of claim 1, wherein the treatment comprises administering the population of cells by injection, infusion, a device implanted in the patient, or by implantation of a matrix or scaffold containing the cells.

11. Use of a pharmaceutical composition in the manufacture of a medicament for increasing proliferation and migration of endothelial cells in a patient having peripheral ischemia, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and the homogeneous population of umbilical cord tissue-derived cells according to any one of claims 1 to 10.

12. The use of claim 11, comprising at least one other cell type.

13. The use of claim 12, wherein the other cell type is a skeletal muscle cell, skeletal muscle progenitor cell, vascular smooth muscle ceil, vascular smooth muscle progenitor cell, pericyte, vascular endothelial cell, vascular endothelium progenitor cell, or other multipotent or pluripotent stem cell.

14. The use of claim 11, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises at least one other agent.

15. The use of claim 14, wherein the agent is an antithrombogenic agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, an immunosuppressive agent, an immunomodulatory agent, or an antiapoptotic agent.

16. The use of claim 11, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is formulated for administration by injection or infusion.

17. The use of claim 11, wherein the population of cells is encapsulated within an implantable device.

18. The use of claim 11, wherein the population of cells is contained within a matrix or scaffold.

19. A kit for increasing proliferation and migration of endothelial cells in a patient having peripheral ischemia, the kit comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, a homogeneous population of umbilical cord tissue-derived cells derived from human umbilical cord tissue substantially free of blood, wherein the population of cells is capable of self-renewal and expansion in culture, has the potential to differentiate into cells of at least a skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, pericyte, or vascular endothelium phenotype, and comprises the following characteristics:

a) potential for at least 40 doublings in culture;

b) production of CD10, CD13, CD44, CD73, CD90, PDGFr-alpha, PD-L2 and HLA A,B,C; and

c) lack of production of CD31, CD34, CD45, CD80, CD86, CD117, CD141, CD178, B7-H2, HLA-G, and HLA-DR,DP,DQ, as detected by flow cytometry; and instructions for using the kit in a method of treating the patient.

20. The kit of claim 19, which further comprises at least one reagent and instructions for culturing the population of cells.

21. The kit of claim 19, which further comprises a population of at least one other cell type.

22. The kit of claim 19, which further comprises at least one other agent for treating peripheral vascular disease.

23. The kit of claim 19, wherein the population of cells induces migration of vascular endothelium progenitor cells to the sites of the peripheral vascular disease.

24. The use of any one of claims 1 and 18, wherein the population of cells further has the following characteristics:

e) secretion of MCP-1, IL-6, IL-8, GCP-2, HGF, KGF, FGF, HB-EGF, BDNF, TPO, MIPlb, RANTES, and TIMP1; and

f) lack of secretion of TGF-beta2, ANG2, PDGFbb and VEGF, as detected by ELISA.