Claims

1. Use of a CD89-activating molecule in the manufacture of a medicament for inducing apoptosis in neutrophils in a patient in need thereof.

~~2. The use of claim 1~~, wherein the CD89-activating molecule comprises Fc-alpha or a functional equivalent thereof.

~~3~~2. The use of claim 1~~2~~, wherein the CD89-activating molecule is immunoglobulin A (IgA).

~~4~~3. The use of claim ~~3~~2, wherein the IgA is derived from serum or plasma.

~~5~~4. The use of claim ~~3~~ 2 or claim ~~4~~3, wherein the IgA is dimeric.

~~6~~5. The use of claim ~~3~~ 2 or claim ~~4~~3, wherein the IgA is monomeric.

~~7~~6. The use of claim ~~5~~4, wherein the IgA dimer comprises a J-chain.

~~8~~7. The use of claim ~~7~~6, wherein the IgA dimer comprises a secretory component.

~~9~~8. The use of claim ~~3~~ 2 or claim ~~4~~3, wherein the IgA comprises monomeric and dimeric IgA.

~~10~~9. The use of any one of claims ~~3~~ 2 to ~~9~~8, wherein the IgA is polyclonal.

~~11~~10. The use of any one of claims ~~3~~ 2 or ~~5~~ 4 to ~~9~~8, wherein the IgA is monoclonal.

~~12~~11. The use of any one of claims ~~3~~ 2 to ~~11~~10, wherein the IgA is IgA1 or IgA2 or a mixture thereof.

~~13. The use of claim 1, wherein the CD89-activating molecule is an anti-CD89 antibody, preferably a monoclonal antibody.~~

~~14~~12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a CD89-activating molecule referred to in any one of claims 1 to 11~~13~~, wherein at least 50% of protein in the composition is the CD89-activating molecule.

~~15~~13. The use of any one of claims 1 to ~~13~~11, wherein the neutrophils are comprised in a patient with an autoimmune disorder or inflammatory condition.

~~16~~14. The use of claim ~~15~~13, wherein the autoimmune disorder or inflammatory condition is selected from sterile neutrophilic inflammation, infectious inflammation, neutrophil-induced inflammation, inflammatory bowel disease and NETosis.

~~17~~15. The use of claim ~~15~~14, wherein the autoimmune disorder is arthritis, in particular rheumatoid arthritis, spondyloarthritis, ankylosing spondylitis/Morbus Bechterew, or reactive arthritis.

~~18~~16. The use according to any one of claims 1 to ~~13~~11, wherein the medicament is formulated for local administration.

~~19~~17. The use according to ~~any of~~ claim~~s 1 to 13~~14, wherein the ~~neutrophils are~~NETosis occurs in a patient with cystic fibrosis.

~~20~~18. The use of any one of claims 1 to 11 or 13 to 17, wherein the neutrophils have been pre-activated by an inflammatory stimulus such as inflammatory cytokines or microbial components (e.g. LPS).