CLAIMS

1. Use of microspheres containing a mucin-affecting protease loaded therein, in which the microspheres have a diameter of between 30 and 700 micrometres and are adapted to elute the mucin-affecting protease in a sustained manner following administration, in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a mucin-producing cancer, pseudomyxoma peritonei, cystic fibrosis or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

2. Use according to Claim 1, in which the microspheres comprise a hydrogel into which the mucin-affecting proteases are loaded.

3. Use according to Claim 1 or 2, in which the microspheres are adapted to elute the mucin-affecting protease over a period of time of between 5 hours to 120 hours.

4. Use according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the mucin-affecting protease is selected from one or more of the group consisting of plant derived proteases, fungal proteases and bacterial proteases.

5. Use according to Claim 4, in which the plant derived protease is selected from one or more of the group consisting of Bromelain, Papain, Ficain, Actinidain, Zingibain and Fastuosain.

6. Use according to any preceding claim, in which the microspheres containing mucin-affecting proteases loaded therein are to be administered to the patient intra-arterially, intralesionally, intra-abdominally or intracavitarily.

7. Use according to any preceding claim, in which a therapeutically effective amount of a further therapeutically effective agent is to be co-administered.

8. Use according to Claim 7, in which the further therapeutically effective agent is selected from one or more of the group consisting of a chemotherapeutic agent, a radiotherapeutic agent, a mucolytic agent and a contrasting agent.

9. Use according to Claim 7 or 8, in which the further therapeutically effective agent is to be co-administered within the same microspheres as those containing the mucin-affecting proteases.

10. Use according to Claim 7 or 8, in which the further therapeutically effective agent is to be co-administered separately from the microspheres containing the mucin-affecting proteases.

11. Use according to Claim 10, in which the further therapeutically effective agent is to be co-administered simultaneously or sequentially from the microspheres containing the mucin-affecting proteases and, when sequentially, either before or after the microspheres.

12. Use according to any preceding claim, in which the mucin-producing cancer is selected from the group consisting of liver cancer (primary or secondary), pancreatic cancer, lung cancer, thyroid cancer, stomach cancer, cancer of the appendix, peritoneal cancer, hepatocellular cancer, prostate cancer, breast cancer, colorectal cancers, ovarian cancers, mesothelioma, neuroblastoma, small bowel cancer, lymphoma and leukaemia.

13. Use of microspheres containing a mucin-affecting protease loaded therein, in which the microspheres have a diameter of between 30 and 700 micrometres and are adapted to elute the mucin-affecting protease in a sustained manner following administration, in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a mucin-producing cancer, in which the microspheres containing the mucin-affecting proteases are to be intra-arterially administered to a patient.

14. Use according to Claim 13, in which the mucin-producing cancer is primary or secondary liver cancer.

15. Use of microspheres containing a mucin-affecting protease loaded therein, in which the microspheres have a diameter of between 30 and 700 micrometres and are adapted to elute the mucin-affecting protease in a sustained manner following administration, in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of pseudomyxoma peritonei, in which the microspheres containing the mucin-affecting proteases are to be intracavitarily administered to a patient.