CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of preparing γδ T cells comprising

isolating γδ T cells from a blood sample of a human subject,

activating the isolated γδ T cells in the presence of a feeder cell and at least one cytokine optionally selected from the group consisting of interleukin (IL)-1, IL-2, IL-12, IL-15, IL-18, IL-21, interferon (IFN)-α, and IFN-β,

introducing a vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding a T cell receptor (TCR) or a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) into the activated γδ T cells, and

expanding the introduced γδ T cells.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the blood sample comprises leukapheresis product.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the blood sample comprises peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC).

4. The method of any one of claims 1-3, wherein the activating is further in the presence of an aminobisphosphonate, preferably wherein the aminobisphosphonate comprises pamidronic acid, alendronic acid, zoledronic acid, risedronic acid, ibandronic acid, incadronic acid, a salt thereof and/or a hydrate thereof.

5. The method of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the at least one cytokine comprises IL-2 and IL-15.

6. The method of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the isolating comprises contacting the blood sample with anti-α and anti-β T cell receptor (TCR) antibodies and depleting α- and/or β-TCR positive cells from the blood sample.

7. The method of any one of claims 1-6, wherein the feeder cell is a human cell, a non-human cell, preferably a K562 cell, a virus-infected cell, a non-virus infected cell, a cell extract, a particle, a bead, a filament, or a combination thereof.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the human cell is an engineered tumor cell comprising at least one recombinant protein, preferably wherein the at least one recombinant protein is

selected from the group consisting of CD86, 4-1BBL, IL-15, preferably membrane bound IL-15, and any combination thereof.

9. The method of any one of claims 1-8, wherein the expanding is in the absence of an aminobisphosphonate and in the presence of at least one cytokine.

10. The method of any one of claims 1-9, further comprising restimulating the expanded γδ T cells, preferably wherein the restimulating comprises contacting the expanded γδ T cells with a further feeder cell which can be the same or different from the feeder cell.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the further feeder cell is selected from the group consisting of monocytes, PBMCs, and combinations thereof.

12. The method of claim 10 or 11, wherein the further feeder cell is depleted of αβ T cells.

13. The method of any one of claims 10-12, wherein the further feeder cell is contacted with an aminobisphosphonate, preferably wherein the aminobisphosphonate comprises zoledronic acid.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the further feeder cell is a human cell, preferably a K562 cell, a non-human cell, a virus-infected cell, a non-virus infected cell, a cell extract, a particle, a bead, a filament, or a combination thereof.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the human cell is an engineered tumor cell comprising at least one recombinant protein, preferably wherein the at least one recombinant protein is selected from the group consisting of CD86, 4-1BBL, IL-15, preferably membrane bound IL-15, and any combination thereof.

16. An *in vitro* method of expanding γδ T cells comprising

isolating γδ T cells from a blood sample of a human subject,

activating the isolated γδ T cells in the presence of at least one cytokine optionally selected from the group consisting of interleukin (IL)-1, IL-2, IL-12, IL-15, IL-18, IL-21, interferon (IFN)-α, and IFN-β and one or more of an aminobisphosphonate or a feeder cell,

expanding the activated γδ T cells, and

restimulating the expanded γδ T cells.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the blood sample comprises leukapheresis product.

18. The method of claim 16 or 17, wherein the blood sample comprises peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC).

19. The method of any one of claims 16-18, wherein the aminobisphosphonate is present and comprises pamidronic acid, alendronic acid, zoledronic acid, risedronic acid, ibandronic acid, incadronic acid, a salt thereof and/or a hydrate thereof.

20. The method of any one of claims 16-19, wherein the at least one cytokine comprises IL-2 and IL-15.

21. The method of any one of claims 16-20, wherein the isolating comprises contacting the blood sample with anti-α and anti-β T cell receptor (TCR) antibodies and depleting α- and/or β-TCR positive cells from the blood sample.

22. The method of any one of claims 16-21, wherein the feeder cell is present and is a human cell, preferably a K562 cell, a non-human cell, a virus-infected cell, a non-virus infected cell, a cell extract, a particle, a bead, a filament, or a combination thereof.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the human cell is an engineered tumor cell comprising at least one recombinant protein, preferably wherein the at least one recombinant protein is selected from the group consisting of CD86, 4-1BBL, IL-15, preferably membrane bound IL-15, and any combination thereof.

24. The method of any one of claims 16-23, further comprising transducing the activated γδ T cells with a recombinant viral vector prior to the expanding.

25. The method of any one of claims 16-24, wherein the expanding is in the absence of an aminobisphosphonate and in the presence of at least one cytokine.

26. The method of any one of claims 16-25, wherein the restimulating comprises contacting the expanded γδ T cells with a further feeder cell which can be the same or different from the feeder cell.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the further feeder cell is selected from the group consisting of monocytes, PBMCs, and combinations thereof.

28. The method of claim 26 or 27, wherein the further feeder cell is depleted of αβ T cells.

29. The method of any one of claims 26-28, wherein the further feeder cell is contacted with an aminobisphosphonate, preferably wherein the aminobisphosphonate comprises zoledronic acid.

30. The method of claim 26, wherein the further feeder cell is a human cell, preferably a K562 cell, a non-human cell, a virus-infected cell, a non-virus infected cell, a cell extract, a particle, a bead, a filament, or a combination thereof.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the human cell is an engineered tumor cell comprising at least one recombinant protein, preferably wherein the at least one recombinant protein is selected from the group consisting of CD86, 4-1BBL, IL-15, preferably membrane bound IL-15, and any combination thereof.

32. A population of expanded γδ T cells prepared by the method of any one of claims 1-31, wherein the density of the expanded γδ T cells is at least about 1×10^5 cells/ml, at least about 1×10^6 cells/ml, at least about 1×10^7 cells/ml, at least about 1×10^8 cells/ml, or at least about 1×10^9 cells/ml.

33. Use of the expanded γδ T cells prepared by the method of any one of claims 1-31 or the population of expanded γδ T cells of claim 32 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer, wherein an effective amount of the medicament is to be administered to a patient in need thereof, preferably wherein the cancer is selected from the group consisting of acute lymphoblastic leukemia, acute myeloid leukemia, adrenocortical carcinoma, AIDS-related cancers, AIDS-related lymphoma, anal cancer, appendix cancer, astrocytomas, neuroblastoma, basal cell carcinoma, bile duct cancer, bladder cancer, bone cancers, brain tumors, such as cerebellar astrocytoma, cerebral astrocytoma/malignant glioma, ependymoma, medulloblastoma, supratentorial primitive neuroectodermal tumors, visual pathway and hypothalamic glioma, breast cancer, bronchial adenomas, Burkitt lymphoma, carcinoma of unknown primary origin, central nervous system lymphoma, cerebellar astrocytoma, cervical cancer, childhood cancers,

chronic lymphocytic leukemia, chronic myelogenous leukemia, chronic myeloproliferative disorders, colon cancer, cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, desmoplastic small round cell tumor, endometrial cancer, ependymoma, esophageal cancer, Ewing's sarcoma, germ cell tumors, gallbladder cancer, gastric cancer, gastrointestinal carcinoid tumor, gastrointestinal stromal tumor, gliomas, hairy cell leukemia, head and neck cancer, heart cancer, hepatocellular (liver) cancer, Hodgkin lymphoma, Hypopharyngeal cancer, intraocular melanoma, islet cell carcinoma, Kaposi sarcoma, kidney cancer, laryngeal cancer, lip and oral cavity cancer, liposarcoma, liver cancer, lung cancers, such as non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, lymphomas, leukemias, macroglobulinemia, malignant fibrous histiocytoma of bone/osteosarcoma, medulloblastoma, melanomas, mesothelioma, metastatic squamous neck cancer with occult primary, mouth cancer, multiple endocrine neoplasia syndrome, myelodysplastic syndromes, myeloid leukemia, nasal cavity and paranasal sinus cancer, nasopharyngeal carcinoma, neuroblastoma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, non-small cell lung cancer, oral cancer, oropharyngeal cancer, osteosarcoma/malignant fibrous histiocytoma of bone, ovarian cancer, ovarian epithelial cancer, ovarian germ cell tumor, pancreatic cancer, pancreatic cancer islet cell, paranasal sinus and nasal cavity cancer, parathyroid cancer, penile cancer, pharyngeal cancer, pheochromocytoma, pineal astrocytoma, pineal germinoma, pituitary adenoma, pleuropulmonary blastoma, plasma cell neoplasia, primary central nervous system lymphoma, prostate cancer, rectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma, renal pelvis and ureter transitional cell cancer, retinoblastoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, salivary gland cancer, sarcomas, skin cancers, Merkel cell skin carcinoma, small intestine cancer, soft tissue sarcoma, squamous cell carcinoma, stomach cancer, T-cell lymphoma, throat cancer, thymoma, thymic carcinoma, thyroid cancer, trophoblastic tumor (gestational), cancers of unknown primary site, urethral cancer, uterine sarcoma, vaginal cancer, vulvar cancer, Waldenstrom’s macroglobulinemia, and Wilms tumor.

34. Use of the expanded γδ T cells prepared by the method of any one of claims 1-31 or the population of expanded γδ T cells of claim 32 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of an infectious disease, wherein an effective amount of the medicament is to be administered to a patient in need thereof, preferably wherein the infectious disease is selected from the group consisting of dengue fever, Ebola, Marburg virus, tuberculosis (TB), meningitis, and syphilis.

35. Use of the expanded γδ T cells prepared by the method of any one of claims 1-31 or the population of expanded γδ T cells of claim 32 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of an autoimmune disease, wherein an effective amount of the medicament is to be administered to a patient in need thereof, preferably wherein the autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of Arthritis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Ankylosing Spondylitis, Crohn's Disease (one of two types of idiopathic inflammatory bowel disease "IBD"), Dermatomyositis, Diabetes mellitus type 1, Endometriosis, Goodpasture's syndrome, Graves' disease, Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS), Hashimoto's disease, Hidradenitis suppurativa, Kawasaki disease, IgA nephropathy, Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, Interstitial cystitis, Lupus erythematosus, Mixed Connective Tissue Disease, Morphea, Myasthenia gravis, Narcolepsy, Neuromyotonia, Pemphigus vulgaris, Pernicious anaemia, Psoriasis, Psoriatic Arthritis, Polymyositis, Primary biliary cirrhosis ,Relapsing polychondritis, Rheumatoid arthritis, Schizophrenia, Scleroderma, Sjogren's syndrome, Stiff person syndrome, Temporal arteritis (also known as "giant cell arteritis"), Ulcerative Colitis (one of two types of idiopathic inflammatory bowel disease "IBD"), Vasculitis, Vitiligo, and Wegener's granulomatosis.

36. A method of preparing γδ T cells comprising

isolating γδ T cells from a blood sample of a human subject,

activating the isolated γδ T cells in the absence of a feeder cell,

introducing a vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding a T cell receptor (TCR) or a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) into the activated γδ T cells, and

expanding the transduced γδ T cells in the presence of a feeder cell.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the activating, the transducing, and/or the expanding is performed in the presence of at least one cytokine selected from the group consisting of interleukin (IL)-1, IL-2, IL-12, IL-15, IL-18, IL-21, interferon (IFN)-α, and IFN-β.

38. The method of claim 36 or 37, wherein the feeder cell is a human cell, a non-human cell, a virus-infected cell, a non-virus infected cell, a cell extract, a particle, a bead, a filament, or a combination thereof.

39. The method of any one of claims 36-38, wherein the feeder cell comprises peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and/or lymphoblastoid cells (LCLs).

40. The method of any one of claims 36-39, wherein the activating, the transducing, and/or the expanding is performed in the presence of OKT3.

41. The method of any one of claims 1-31, wherein the expanded γδ T cells comprise δ1 and/or δ2 T cells.

42. The method of any one of claims 1-31 and 36 -41, wherein the vector comprises a nucleic acid encoding a TCR and a nucleic acid encoding CD8αβ or CD8α.

43. The expanded γδ T cells prepared by the method of any one of claims 1-31 or the population of expanded γδ T cells of claim 32 for use in therapy.