WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ophthalmic composition for use in the treatment of an ocular infection when the ophthalmic composition is administered to an eye of a patient, or the prophylaxis of an ocular infection when the ophthalmic composition is administered to an eye of a patient before or after the introduction of an inoculum of an ocular pathogen, said composition comprising an amount of ε-polylysine (εPL) effective for said treatment.

2. The composition for use of claim 1, wherein the ocular infection is bacterial conjunctivitis.

3. The composition for use of claim 1, wherein the ocular infection is bacterial keratitis.

4. [deleted]

5. The composition for use of claim 1, wherein the ocular infection is bacterial endophthalmitis.

6. The composition for use of claim 1, wherein the ocular infection is caused by a methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

7. The composition for use of any preceding claim, wherein the amount of εPL is between 0.001 and 2.0 percent by weight.

8. The composition for use of any preceding claim further comprising a viscosity-increasing agent.

9. The composition for use of any preceding claim further comprising a mucoadhesive agent.

10. The composition for use of any preceding claim further comprising an excipient that is a polyvinyl alcohol, polypropylene glycol, a carbomer, polycarbophil, a polyoxyethlene-polyoxypropylene block copolymer, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hyaluronic acid, dextran, chondroitin sulfate, gellan gum, xanthan gum, guar gum, trehalose, tamarind seed polysaccharide, or a cyclodextrin, or any combinations of any two or more of the foregoing excipients.

11. The composition for use of any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises no preservative agent in addition to the ε-polylysine (εPL).

12. The composition for use of any preceding claim, wherein the composition is formulated as a liquid for administering by one or more drops to the eye.

13. The composition for use of any one of claims 1-8, wherein the composition is formulated as a unit dose ocular insert for placement in the eye's cul de sac.

14. An eye drop dispensing bottle comprising in liquid form, the ophthalmic composition for use in the treatment of prophylaxis of an ocular infection of any one of claims 1, and 5-9.

15. A method for the treatment of an ocular infection of a patient, said method comprising topically administering of an ophthalmic composition comprising an effective amount of ε-polylysine (εPL) to the patient's eye, or a method for the prophylaxis of an ocular infection of a patient, said method comprising topically administering of an ophthalmic composition comprising an effective amount of ε-polylysine (εPL) to the patient's eye before or after the introduction of an inoculum of an ocular pathogen.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the patient is a human or a veterinary patient.

17. The method of claim 15 or 16, wherein the method is for the treatment of bacterial conjunctivitis.

18. The method of claim 15 or 16, wherein the method is for the treatment of bacterial keratitis.

19. The method of any one of claims 15-18, wherein the ocular infection is caused by MRSA.

20. The method of claim 15 or 16, wherein the ophthalmic composition is administered to the patient prior to cataract surgery for prophylaxis against bacterial endophthalmitis.

21. Use of an ophthalmic composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an effective amount of ε-polylysine (εPL) for the preparation of a medicament for topical administration to an eye of a patient for the treatment of an ocular infection or for

the prophylaxis of an ocular infection when the ophthalmic composition is administered to an eye of a patient before or after the introduction of an inoculum of an ocular pathogen.

22. The use of claim 21, wherein the ocular infection is caused by MRSA.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ophthalmic composition for use in the treatment of an ocular infection when the ophthalmic composition is administered to an eye of a patient, or the prophylaxis of an ocular infection when the ophthalmic composition is administered to an eye of a patient before or after the introduction of an inoculum of an ocular pathogen, said composition comprising an amount of ϵ-polylysine (ϵPL) effective for said treatment.

2. The composition for use of claim 1, wherein the ocular infection is bacterial conjunctivitis.

3. The composition for use of claim 1, wherein the ocular infection is bacterial keratitis.

4. The composition for use of claim 1, wherein the ocular infection is bacterial endophthalmitis.

5. The composition for use of claim 1, wherein the ocular infection is caused by a methicillin-resistant *Staphylococus aureus* (MRSA).

6. The composition for use of any preceding claim, wherein the amount of ϵPL is between 0.001 and 2.0 percent by weight.

7. The composition for use of any preceding claim further comprising a viscosity-increasing agent.

8. The composition for use of any preceding claim further comprising a mucoadhesive agent.

9. The composition for use of any preceding claim further comprising an excipient that is a polyvinyl alcohol, polypropylene glycol, a carbomer, polycarbophil, a polyoxyethlene-polyoxypropylene block copolymer, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hyaluronic acid, dextran, chondroitin sulfate, gellan gum, xanthan gum, guar gum, trehalose, tamarind seed polysaccharide, or a cyclodextrin, or any combinations of any two or more of the foregoing excipients.

10. The composition for use of any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises no preservative agent in addition to the ϵ-polylysine (ϵPL).

11. The composition for use of any preceding claim, wherein the composition is formulated as a liquid for administering by one or more drops to the eye.

12. The composition for use of any one of claims 1-7, wherein the composition is formulated as a unit dose ocular insert for placement in the eye's cul de sac.

13. An eye drop dispensing bottle comprising in liquid form, the ophthalmic composition for use in the treatment of prophylaxis of an ocular infection of any one of claims 1, and 4-8.

14. Use of an ophthalmic composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an effective amount of ϵ-polylysine (ϵPL) for the preparation of a medicament for

topical administration to an eye of a patient for the treatment of an ocular infection or for the prophylaxis of an ocular infection when the ophthalmic composition is administered to an eye of a patient before or after the introduction of an inoculum of an ocular pathogen.

15. The use of claim 14, wherein the ocular infection is caused by MRSA.