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Modifications and variations of the present invention will be obvious to those skilled in the art from the foregoing detailed description. Such modifications and variations are intended to come within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A method for enhancing the delivery of cytotoxic genetically engineered cells, the improvement comprising adding to the cytotoxic genetically engineered cells an injectable polymeric composition which gels or solidifies at the time of or shortly after injection and has a consistency and density effective to displace the cells at a site where the genetically engineered cells are injected and effective to retain the genetically engineered cells at the site of injection.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the cells are genetically engineered to express a bioactive protein.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the genetically engineered cells comprise a plasmid or viral expression vector.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the polymeric composition is a polymer solution which is ionically crosslinkable under physiological conditions by addition of ions.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the polymeric composition is a polymer solution which is covalently crosslinkable under physiological conditions by addition of a crosslinking agent.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the viscosity of the polymeric composition is increased under physiological conditions of pH or temperature.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the polymeric composition is selected from the group consisting of proteins, polysaccharides, and synthetic polymers.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the polymeric composition is fibrinogen or cryoprecipitate.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(phosphazenes), poly(acrylic acids), poly(methacrylic acids), copolymers of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid, poly(vinyl acetate), and sulfonated polymers, and alginates.

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10. A composition for enhancing the delivery of cytotoxic genetically engineered cells, the improvement comprising an injectable polymeric vehicle which gels or solidifies at the time of or shortly after injection and has a consistency and density effective to displace the cells at a site where the genetically engineered cells are to be delivered and to retain the genetically engineered cells at the site of injection.

11. The composition of claim 10 wherein the cells are genetically engineered to express a bioactive protein.

12. The composition of claim 11 wherein the genetically engineered cells comprise a plasmid or viral expression vector.

13. The composition of claim 10 wherein the polymeric composition is a polymer solution which is ionically crosslinkable under physiological conditions by addition of ions.

14. The composition of claim 10 wherein the polymeric composition is a polymer solution which is covalently crosslinkable under physiological conditions by addition of a crosslinking agent.

15. The composition of claim 10 wherein the viscosity of the polymeric composition is increased under physiological conditions of pH or temperature.

16. The composition of claim 10 wherein the polymeric composition is selected from the group consisting of proteins, polysaccharides, and synthetic polymers.

17. The composition of claim 16 wherein the polymeric composition is fibrinogen or cryoprecipitate.

18. The composition of claim 16 wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(phosphazenes), poly(acrylic acids), poly(methacrylic acids), copolymers of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid, poly(vinyl acetate), and sulfonated polymers, and alginates.

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