

non-condensed form. The object is then optionally dried, and then contacted with a solution or suspension containing a polycationic condensing agent such as  $Mg^{2+}$  or, preferably, a polycationic polymer such as polylysine. Following this treatment, the bioactive agent on the surface of the object is present in a condensed form, and an excess of the condensing agent may be present on the surface of the object, conferring a net positive charge thereto. If such an excess of condensing agent is present, then the stainless steel object having condensed bioactive agent on the surface thereof may once again be contacted with the solution containing the bioactive agent, whereby more of the bioactive agent binds to the surface of the object. The object may then be contacted again with the condensing agent-containing solution or suspension, and this cycle may be repeated as many times as desired. Optionally, the stainless steel object is dried between each contacting step.

When the stainless steel object is an intravascular stent, it is preferred that the polyanionic bioactive agent be a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of an expression vector encoding an anti-restenotic protein, and an anti-restenotic antisense oligonucleotide. Preferably, the anti-restenotic protein is selected from the group consisting of TPA, TGF- $\beta$ , FGF, Rb, p21, and TK. Also preferably, the anti-restenotic antisense oligonucleotide is selected from the group consisting of a c-myc antisense oligonucleotide, a c-myc antisense oligonucleotide, and a PCNA antisense oligonucleotide. These expression vectors and antisense oligonucleotides are either known in the art or can be routinely designed by the ordinarily skilled worker.

The disclosures of each and every patent, patent application, and publication cited herein are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

While this invention has been disclosed with reference to specific embodiments, it is apparent that other embodiments and variations of this invention may be devised by others skilled in the art without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention. The appended claims are intended to be construed to include all such embodiments and equivalent variations.

What is claimed is:

1. A composition for delivery of a nucleic acid, the composition comprising the nucleic acid and a matrix having an exterior portion, wherein at least most of the nucleic acid present at the exterior portion of the matrix is in a condensed form.
2. The composition of claim 1, wherein substantially all of the nucleic acid present at the exterior portion of the matrix is in a condensed form.
3. The composition of claim 1, wherein the exterior portion has an exterior surface and wherein the nucleic acid is present substantially only on the exterior surface of the exterior portion of the matrix.
4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the matrix comprises a plurality of the exterior portions.
5. The composition of claim 1, the matrix further comprising an interior portion having the nucleic acid suspended therein, wherein less than most of the nucleic acid in the interior portion of the matrix is not in a condensed form.
6. The composition of claim 5, wherein the matrix comprises a plurality of alternating the exterior portions and the interior portions.
7. The composition of claim 1, wherein the exterior portion comprises a polycationic condensing agent.
8. The composition of claim 7, wherein the polycationic condensing agent is selected from the group consisting of a polylysine, polyarginine, polyornithine, polyhistidine,

myelin basic protein, a low molecular weight glycopeptide, a cationic amphiphilic alpha-helical oligopeptide having a repeating sequence, a galactosylated histone,  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$ ,  $Co^{3+}$ ,  $La^{3+}$ ,  $Al^{3+}$ ,  $Ba^{2+}$ ,  $Cs^{+}$ , polybrene, spermine, spermidini, prolamine, polyethylenimine, putrescine, cadaverine, and hexamine.

9. The composition of claim 8, wherein the polycationic condensing agent is poly-L-lysine.

10. The composition of claim 7, wherein the nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, a linear DNA molecule, and a linear RNA molecule.

11. The composition of claim 10, wherein the nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of an expression vector encoding a wound healing therapeutic protein, an expression vector encoding an anti-restenotic protein, and an anti-restenotic antisense oligonucleotide.

12. The composition of claim 11, wherein the nucleic acid is an expression vector encoding a wound healing therapeutic protein selected from the group consisting of TGF- $\beta$ , FGF, PDGF, IGF, M-CGF, BMP, GH, and PTH.

13. The composition of claim 10, wherein the nucleic acid is an expression vector encoding an anti-restenotic protein selected from the group consisting of TPA, TGF- $\beta$ , FGF, Rb, p21, and TK.

14. The composition of claim 10, wherein the nucleic acid is an anti-restenotic antisense oligonucleotide selected from the group consisting of a c-myc antisense oligonucleotide, a c-myc antisense oligonucleotide, and a PCNA antisense oligonucleotide.

15. The composition of claim 1, wherein the matrix is selected from the group consisting of a charged biocompatible material, a biocompatible polymer, a biodegradable polymer, a biocompatible biodegradable polymer.

16. The composition of claim 15, wherein the biodegradable polymer is a polylactate/polyglycolate copolymer.

17. A surface coated with the composition of claim 1.

18. An implantable device having a surface coated with the composition of claim 1.

19. The implantable device of claim 18, wherein the device is selected from the group consisting of a wound dressing, a suture, a particle, a vascular stent, and a bulk material.

20. The implantable device of claim 19, wherein the device is a vascular stent, wherein the biodegradable matrix is a polylactate/polyglycolate copolymer, wherein the nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of an expression vector encoding an anti-restenotic protein and an anti-restenotic antisense oligonucleotide, and wherein the exterior portion further comprises polylysine.

21. The implantable device of claim 20, wherein the nucleic acid is an expression vector encoding an anti-restenotic protein selected from the group consisting of TPA, TGF- $\beta$ , FGF, Rb, p21, and TK.

22. The implantable device of claim 20, wherein the nucleic acid is an anti-restenotic antisense oligonucleotide selected from the group consisting of a c-myc antisense oligonucleotide, a c-myc antisense oligonucleotide, and a PCNA antisense oligonucleotide.

23. The implantable device of claim 19, wherein the device is a suture coated with a plurality of layers of the matrix, wherein the biodegradable matrix is a polylactate/polyglycolate copolymer, wherein the nucleic acid is an expression vector encoding a wound healing therapeutic protein.

24. The implantable device of claim 23, wherein the wound healing therapeutic protein is selected from the group consisting of TGF- $\beta$ , FGF, PDGF, IGF, M-CGF, BMP, GH, and PTH.