

25. The implantable device of claim 23, wherein the nucleic acid is coated with at least twenty layers of the matrix.

26. The implantable device of claim 19, wherein the device is a particle and 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.

27. The implantable device of claim 26, wherein the nucleic acid is an expression vector encoding a wound healing therapeutic protein selected from the group consisting of TGF- β , FGF, PDGF, IGF, M-CGF, BMP, GH, and PTH.

28. The implantable device of claim 26, wherein the nucleic acid is an expression vector encoding an anti-restenotic protein selected from the group consisting of TPA, TGF- β , FGF, Rb, p21, and TK.

29. The implantable device of claim 26, 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.

30. The implantable device of claim 26, wherein the particle has a diameter no greater than about 900 micrometers.

31. The implantable device of claim 30, wherein the particle has a diameter no greater than about 1 micrometer.

32. The implantable device of claim 19, wherein the device is a bulk material and wherein the nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of an expression vector encoding an oncogene and an antisense oligonucleotide directed against an oncogene.

33. The implantable device of claim 32, wherein the nucleic acid is an expression vector encoding an oncogene selected from the group consisting of *abl*, *akt2*, *apc*, *bcl2 α* , *bcl2 β* , *bcl3*, *bcrl*, *brcal*, *brca2*, *cb1*, *ccnd1*, *cdk4*, *crk-II*, *csf1r/fms*, *dbl*, *dcc*, *dpc4/smad4*, *e-cad*, *e2f1/rbap*, *egfr/erb-b1*, *elk1*, *elk3*, *eph*, *erg*, *ets1*, *ets2*, *fer*, *fgr/src2*, *flil/erbb2*, *fos*, *fps/fes*, *fra1*, *fra2*, *fyn*, *hek*, *hek*, *her2/erb-b2/neu*, *her3/erb-b3*, *her4/erb-b4*, *hras1*, *hst2*, *hstf1*, *ink4a*, *ink4b*, *int2/fgf3*, *jun*, *junb*, *jund*, *kip2*, *kit*, *kras2a*, *kras2b*, *lck*, *lyn*, *mas*, *max*, *mcc*, *met*, *mlh1*, *mos*, *msh2*, *msh3*, *msh6*, *myb*, *myba*, *mybb*, *myc*, *mycl1*, *mycn*, *nf1*, *nf2*, *nras*, *p53*, *pdgfb*, *pim1*, *pms1*, *pms2*, *ptc*, *pten*, *raf1*, *rb1*, *rel*, *ret*, *ros1*, *ski*, *src1*, *tall1*, *tgfb2*, *thra1*, *thrb*, *tiam1*, *trk*, *vav*, *vhl*, *waf1*, *wnt1*, *wnt2*, *wt1*, and *yes1*.

34. A surface coated with the composition of claim 5, wherein the interior portion is interposed between the surface and the exterior portion.

35. An implantable device having a surface coated with the composition of claim 5, wherein the interior portion is interposed between the surface and the exterior portion.

36. A method of making a composition for delivery of a nucleic acid, the method comprising

providing a biodegradable matrix having an interior portion and an exterior portion, wherein the nucleic acid is suspended in the biodegradable matrix in a non-condensed form; and

contacting the exterior portion of the biodegradable matrix with a polycationic condensing agent, whereby at least most of the nucleic acid assumes a condensed form at the exterior portion of the biodegradable matrix.

37. A method of making a composition for delivery of a nucleic acid, the method comprising

providing a matrix which has an exterior portion and which comprises the nucleic acid at the exterior portion; and

contacting the exterior portion of the matrix with a polycationic condensing agent, whereby at least most of the nucleic acid assumes a condensed form at the exterior portion of the matrix.

38. A method of delivering a nucleic acid to an animal tissue, the method comprising placing in fluid communication with the animal tissue a composition comprising the nucleic acid and a matrix having an exterior portion, wherein at least most of the nucleic acid is in a condensed form at the exterior portion of the matrix.

39. A kit comprising a biocompatible matrix having an exterior portion and an instructional material which describes combining the matrix with a nucleic acid and condensing at least most of the nucleic acid at the exterior portion of the matrix.

40. A kit comprising a composition comprising a nucleic acid and a biocompatible 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, and an instructional material which describes administration of the composition to a tissue of an animal to effect delivery of the nucleic acid to the tissue.

41. A kit for coating an implantable device with a composition for delivery of a nucleic acid upon implantation of the device, the kit comprising a nucleic acid, a biocompatible polymeric matrix suspended in a solvent and a polycationic condensing agent, whereby at least most of the nucleic acid assumes a condensed form.

42. A kit for coating an implantable device with a composition for delivery of a nucleic acid upon implantation of the device, the kit comprising a nucleic acid, a suspension of monomers of a biocompatible polymeric matrix, a polymerization initiator, and a polycationic condensing agent, whereby at least most of the nucleic acid assumes a condensed form.

43. A method of storing a nucleic acid, the method comprising suspending the nucleic acid in a matrix and contacting the matrix with a polycationic condensing agent, whereby at least most of the nucleic acid in the matrix assumes a condensed form.

44. The composition of claim 1, wherein the matrix is selected from the group consisting of polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, polycaprolactone, a copolymer of polylactic acid and polyglycolic acid, a copolymer of polylactic acid and polycaprolactone, a copolymer of polyglycolic acid and polycaprolactone, a polyglycolide, a polyanhydride, a polyacrylate, a polyalkyl cyanoacrylate, n-butyl cyanoacrylate, isopropyl cyanoacrylate, a polyacrylamide, a polyorthoester, a polyphosphazene, a polypeptide, a polyurethane, a polystyrene, a polystyrene sulfonic acid, a polystyrene carboxylic acid, a polyalkylene oxide, a polyethylene, a polyvinyl chloride, a polyamide, a nylon, an polyester, a rayon, a polypropylene, a polyacrylonitrile, an acrylic, a polyisoprene, a polybutadiene, a polybutadiene-polyisoprene copolymer, a neoprene, a nitrile rubber, a polyisobutylene, an olefinic rubber, an ethylene-propylene rubber, an ethylene-propylene-diene monomer rubber, a polyurethane elastomer, a silicone rubber, a fluoroelelastomer, a fluorosilicone rubber, a vinyl acetate homopolymer, a vinyl acetate copolymer, an ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, an acrylates homopolymer, an acrylates copolymer, polymethylmethacrylate, polyethylmethacrylate, polymethacrylate, ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, ethylene dimethacrylate, hydroxymethyl methacrylate, a polyvinylpyrrolidone, a polyacrylonitrile butadiene, a polycarbonate, a polyamide, a fluoropolymer, polytetrafluoroethylene, polyvinyl fluoride, a polystyrene, a styrene acrylonitrile homopolymers, a styrene acrylonitrile copolymer, a cellulose acetate, an acrylonitrile butadiene styrene homopolymer, an acrylonitrile butadiene styrene copolymer, a polymethylpentene, a polysulfone, a polyester, a polyimide, a polyisobutylene, a polymethylstyrene, an alginate, an agarose, a dextrin, a dextran, a multiblock polymer, a biocompatible metal alloy, titanium, platinum, stainless steel, hydroxyapatite, tricalcium phosphate, and cocoa butter.