WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated antibody that specifically binds to a cyclic peptide derived from Aβ, wherein the cyclic peptide comprises a conformational epitope having an amino acid sequence of at least SNK~~, corresponding to a solvent-exposed, antibody accessible knuckle region of oligomeric Aβ, wherein the K (Lysine) is solvent-accessible~~.

2. An isolated antibody that specifically binds to a cyclic peptide derived from Aβ, wherein the cyclic peptide ~~comprises a conformational epitope having~~ consists of ~~an~~ amino acid sequence ~~corresponding to~~ GSNKG (SEQ ID NO: 1) or CGSNKGC. ~~corresponding to a solvent-exposed, antibody accessible knuckle region of oligomeric Aβ.~~

3. The isolated antibody of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the antibody specifically binds with greater affinity to an oligomeric form of Aβ than to a non-oligomeric form of Aβ.

4. The isolated antibody of any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the antibody is monoclonal.

5. The isolated antibody of any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the antibody is humanized.

6. An antigenic cyclic peptide which derives from Aβ and which comprises a conformational epitope having an amino acid sequence of at least SNK, wherein the K (lysine) is solvent-accessible. ~~comprising an epitope having a constrained cyclic configuration, wherein the epitope having an amino acid sequence of at least SNK corresponding to a solvent-exposed, antibody accessible knuckle region of oligomeric Aβ.~~

7. An antigenic peptide of claim 6, which consists of amino acid sequence GSNKG (SEQ ID NO: 1) or CGSNKGC. ~~comprising an epitope having a constrained cyclic configuration, wherein the epitope having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 1 corresponding to a solvent-exposed, antibody accessible knuckle region of oligomeric Aβ.~~

8. The antigenic peptide of claim 6 or claim 7, wherein the epitope having an amino acid sequence of at least SNK corresponds to a solvent-exposed, antibody accessible knuckle region of oligomeric Aβ; and wherein the solvent-exposed, antibody accessible knuckle region of oligomeric Aβ corresponds to residues 25 to 29 of oligomeric Aβ(1-40) or oligomeric Aβ (1-42).

9. An immunoconjugate comprising an antibody of any one of claims 1 to 5 conjugated with a detectable label.

10. A composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the isolated antibody of any of claims 1 to 5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

11. An anti-oligomeric vaccine composition comprising the antigenic peptide of any of claims 6 ~~to~~ or 7~~8~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

12. The isolated antibody of any of claims 1 to 5, the immunoconjugate of claim 9, the composition of claim 10, or the vaccine composition of claim 11, for use in treating or preventing Alzheimer's Disease in a patient.

~~12.~~13. ~~A~~An in vitro method of diagnosing Alzheimer's Disease in a patient suspected of having Alzheimer's Disease comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) contacting a biological sample isolated from the patient with the isolated antibody of any of claims 1 to 5 or the immunoconjugate of claim 9; ~~for a time and under conditions sufficient to allow for formation of antigen/antibody complexes in the sample;~~ and

b) detecting the presence of the antigen/antibody complexes in the sample, wherein presence of the complexes indicates a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease in the patient.

~~13.~~ 14. A kit ~~for~~ comprising:

the isolated antibody of any of claims 1 to 5; and one or more detection agents.

~~a conjugate comprising an antigen attached to a signal-generating compound.~~

~~14. The kit of claim 13 comprising one or more detection agents.~~

~~15. A commercial package comprising:~~

~~the isolated antibody of any of claims 1 to 5;~~

~~a conjugate comprising an antigen attached to a signal-generating compound; and~~

~~instructions for use in diagnosing Alzheimer's Disease.~~

~~16.~~15. Use of an antibody of any one of claims 1 to 5, ~~or~~ the immunoconjugate of claim 9, the composition of claim 10 or the vaccine composition of claim 11 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of Alzheimer's disease.

~~17.Use of a vaccine according to claim 11 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of Alzheimer's disease.~~

~~18.~~ 16. A nucleic acid encoding the isolated antibody of any one of claims 1 to 5.