HUMANIZED ANTIBODIES THAT RECOGNIZE BETA AMYLOID PEPTIDE

Related Applications

This application claims the benefit of prior-filed provisional patent application U.S. Serial No. 60/363,751 (filed March 12, 2002) entitled "Humanized Antibodies That Recognize Beta-Amyloid Peptide" (pending). The entire content of the above-referenced application is incorporated herein by reference.

Background of the Invention

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a progressive disease resulting in senile dementia. *See generally* Selkoe, *TINS* 16:403 (1993); Hardy *et al.*, WO 92/13069; Selkoe, *J. Neuropathol. Exp. Neurol.* 53:438 (1994); Duff *et al.*, *Nature* 373:476 (1995); Games *et al.*, *Nature* 373:523 (1995). Broadly speaking, the disease falls into two categories: late onset, which occurs in old age (65 + years) and early onset, which develops well before the senile period, *i.e.*, between 35 and 60 years. In both types of disease, the pathology is the same but the abnormalities tend to be more severe and widespread in cases beginning at an earlier age. The disease is characterized by at least two types of lesions in the brain, neurofibrillary tangles and senile plaques. Neurofibrillary tangles are intracellular deposits of microtubule associated tau protein consisting of two filaments twisted about each other in pairs. Senile plaques (*i.e.*, amyloid plaques) are areas of disorganized neuropil up to 150 μm across with extracellular amyloid deposits at the center which are visible by microscopic analysis of sections of brain tissue. The accumulation of amyloid plaques within the brain is also associated with Down's syndrome and other cognitive disorders.

The principal constituent of the plaques is a peptide termed Aβ or β-amyloid peptide. Aβ peptide is a 4-kDa internal fragment of 39-43 amino acids of a larger transmembrane glycoprotein named protein termed amyloid precursor protein (APP). As a result of proteolytic processing of APP by different secretase enzymes, Aβ is primarily found in both a short form, 40 amino acids in length, and a long form, ranging from 42-43 amino acids in length. Part of the hydrophobic transmembrane domain of APP is found at the carboxy end of Aβ, and may account for the ability of Aβ to aggregate into plaques, particularly in the case of the long form. Accumulation of

amyloid plaques in the brain eventually leads to neuronal cell death. The physical symptoms associated with this type of neural deterioration characterize Alzheimer's disease.

Several mutations within the APP protein have been correlated with the presence of Alzheimer's disease. See, *e.g.*, Goate *et al.*, *Nature* 349:704) (1991) (valine^{717} to isoleucine); Chartier Harlan *et al. Nature* 353:844 (1991)) (valine^{717} to glycine); Murrell *et al.*, *Science* 254:97 (1991) (valine^{717} to phenylalanine); Mullan *et al.*, *Nature Genet.* 1:345 (1992) (a double mutation changing lysine^{595}-methionine^{596} to asparagine^{595}-leucine^{596}). Such mutations are thought to cause Alzheimer's disease by increased or altered processing of APP to Aβ, particularly processing of APP to increased amounts of the long form of Aβ (*i.e.*, Aβ1-42 and Aβ1-43). Mutations in other genes, such as the presenilin genes, PS1 and PS2, are thought indirectly to affect processing of APP to generate increased amounts of long form Aβ (see Hardy, *TINS* 20: 154 (1997)).

Mouse models have been used successfully to determine the significance of amyloid plaques in Alzheimer's (Games *et al.*, *supra*, Johnson-Wood *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 94:1550 (1997)). In particular, when PDAPP transgenic mice, (which express a mutant form of human APP and develop Alzheimer's disease at a young age), are injected with the long form of Aβ, they display both a decrease in the progression of Alzheimer's and an increase in antibody titers to the Aβ peptide (Schenk *et al.*, *Nature* 400, 173 (1999)). The observations discussed above indicate that Aβ, particularly in its long form, is a causative element in Alzheimer's disease.

Accordingly, there exists the need for new therapies and reagents for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, in particular, therapies and reagents capable of effecting a therapeutic benefit at physiologic (*e.g.*, non-toxic) doses.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention features new immunological reagents, in particular, therapeutic antibody reagents for the prevention and treatment of amyloidogenic disease (*e.g.*, Alzheimer's disease). The invention is based, at least in part, on the identification and characterization of a monoclonal antibody that specifically binds to Aβ peptide and

is effective at reducing plaque burden and/or reducing the neuritic dystrophy associated with amyloidogenic disorders. Structural and functional analysis of this antibody leads to the design of various humanized antibodies for prophylactic and/or therapeutic use. In particular, the invention features humanization of the variable regions of this antibody and, accordingly, provides for humanized immunoglobulin or antibody chains, intact humanized immunoglobulins or antibodies, and functional immunoglobulin or antibody fragments, in particular, antigen binding fragments, of the featured antibody.

Polypeptides comprising the complementarity determining regions of the featured monoclonal antibody are also disclosed, as are polynucleotide reagents, vectors and host cells suitable for encoding said polypeptides.

Methods of treatment of amyloidogenic diseases or disorders (*e.g.*, Alzheimer's disease) are disclosed, as are pharmaceutical compositions and kits for use in such applications.

Also featured are methods of identifying residues within the featured monoclonal antibodies which are important for proper immunologic function and for identifying residues which are amenable to substitution in the design of humanized antibodies having improved binding affinities and/or reduced immunogenicity, when used as therapeutic reagents.

Also featured are antibodies (*e.g.*, humanized antibodies) having altered effector functions, and therapeutic uses thereof.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1A-B depicts an alignment of the amino acid sequences of the light chain of mouse 12B4 (mature peptide, SEQ ID NO:2), humanized 12B4 (mature peptide, SEQ ID NO:6), Kabat ID 005036 (mature peptide, SEQ ID NO:32) and germline A19 (X63397, mature peptide, SEQ ID NO:30) antibodies. CDR regions are stippled and overlined. The single backmutation of a human → mouse residue is indicated by the asterisk. The importance of the shaded residues is shown in the legend. Numbered from the first methionine, not Kabat numbering.

Figure 2A-B depicts an alignment of the amino acid sequences of the heavy chain of mouse 12B4 (mature peptide, SEQ ID NO:4), humanized 12B4 (version 1) (mature peptide, SEQ ID NO:8), Kabat ID 000333 (mature peptide, SEQ ID NO:34), and germline VH4-39 and VH4-61 antibodies (mature peptides, SEQ ID NOs: 38 and

36, respectively). Annotation is the same as for Figure 1. Numbered from the first methionine, not Kabat numbering.

Figure 3A-D depicts the nucleotide and amino acid sequence for humanized 12B4VLv1 compared with chimeric 12B4VL (identical variable region sequences as murine 12B4VL, SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 2, respectively); germline A19 sequences (SEQ ID NOs: 29 and 30, respectively); and Kabid ID 005036 (SEQ ID NOs: 31 and 32, respectively).

Figure 4A-D depicts the nucleotide and amino acid sequence for humanized 12B4VHv1 compared with chimeric 12B4VH (identical variable region sequences as murine 12B4VH, SEQ ID NOs: 3 and 4, respectively); Kabat ID 000333 (SEQ ID NOs: 33 and 34, respectively); and germline VH4-61 (SEQ ID NOs: 35 and 36, respectively).

Figure 5 graphically depicts the ELISA results from two independent experiments measuring the binding of chimeric 12B4, 3D6, and chimeric 3D6 to Aβ (panels A and B, respectively).

Figure 6 graphically depicts competitive ELISA binding confirming functional activity of 12B4 and chimeric 12B4 as compared to 3D6, chimeric 3D6, and 10D5. Chimeric 12B4 (open triangles) competes with equal potency with its non biotinylated murine counterpart (open inverted triangles) for binding of biotinylated murine 12B4 to Aβ1-42 peptide.

Figure 7 graphically depicts an *ex vivo* phagocytosis assay testing the ability of chimeric 12B4, 3D6, and human IgG1 to mediate the uptake of Aβ by microglial cells on PDAPP brain sections.

Figure 8 graphically depicts the results from two independent *ex vivo* phagocytosis assays (panels A and B, respectively) testing the ability of chimeric 12B4, humanized 3D6, and human IgG1 to mediate the uptake of Aβ by microglial cells on AD brain sections.

Figure 9 is a schematic representation of the PCR-mediated assembly of humanized 12B4, version 1. *Figure 9A* depicts the assembly of the VL regions. *Figure 9B* depicts the assembly of the VH regions.

Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention features new immunological reagents and methods for preventing or treating Alzheimer's disease or other amyloidogenic diseases. The invention is based, at least in part, on the characterization of a monoclonal immunoglobulin, 12B4, effective at binding beta amyloid protein (Aβ) (*e.g.*, binding soluble and/or aggregated Aβ), mediating phagocytosis (*e.g.*, of aggregated Aβ), reducing plaque burden and/or reducing neuritic dystrophy (*e.g.*, in a patient). The invention is further based on the determination and structural characterization of the primary and secondary structure of the variable light and heavy chains of the 12B4 immunoglobulin and the identification of residues important for activity and immunogenicity.

Immunoglobulins are featured which include a variable light and/or variable heavy chain of the 12B4 monoclonal immunoglobulin described herein. Preferred immunoglobulins, *e.g.*, therapeutic immunoglobulins, are featured which include a humanized variable light and/or humanized variable heavy chain. Preferred variable light and/or variable heavy chains include a complementarity determining region (CDR) from the 12B4 immunoglobulin (*e.g.*, donor immunoglobulin) and variable framework regions substantially from a human acceptor immunoglobulin. The phrase "substantially from a human acceptor immunoglobulin" means that the majority or key framework residues are from the human acceptor sequence, allowing however, for substitution of residues at certain positions with residues selected to improve activity of the humanized immunoglobulin (*e.g.*, alter activity such that it more closely mimics the activity of the donor immunoglobulin) or selected to decrease the immunogenicity of the humanized immunoglobulin.

In one embodiment, the invention features a humanized immunoglobulin light or heavy chain that includes 12B4 variable region complementarity determining regions (CDRs) (*i.e.*, includes one, two or three CDRs from the light chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:2 or includes one, two or three CDRs from the heavy chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:4), and includes a variable framework region substantially from a human acceptor immunoglobulin light or heavy chain sequence, provided that at least one residue of the framework residue is backmutated to a corresponding murine residue, wherein said backmutation does not substantially affect the ability of the chain to direct Aβ binding.

In another embodiment, the invention features a humanized immunoglobulin light or heavy chain that includes 12B4 variable region complementarity determining regions (CDRs) (*e.g.*, includes one, two or three CDRs from the light chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:2 and/or includes one, two or three CDRs from the heavy chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:4), and includes a variable framework region substantially from a human acceptor immunoglobulin light or heavy chain sequence, provided that at least one framework residue is substituted with the corresponding amino acid residue from the mouse 12B4 light or heavy chain variable region sequence, where the framework residue is selected from the group consisting of (a) a residue that non-covalently binds antigen directly; (b) a residue adjacent to a CDR; (c) a CDR-interacting residue (*e.g.*, identified by modeling the light or heavy chain on the solved structure of a homologous known immunoglobulin chain); and (d) a residue participating in the VL-VH interface.

In another embodiment, the invention features a humanized immunoglobulin light or heavy chain that includes 12B4 variable region CDRs and variable framework regions from a human acceptor immunoglobulin light or heavy chain sequence, provided that at least one framework residue is substituted with the corresponding amino acid residue from the mouse 12B4 light or heavy chain variable region sequence, where the framework residue is a residue capable of affecting light chain variable region conformation or function as identified by analysis of a three-dimensional model of the variable region, for example a residue capable of interacting with antigen, a residue proximal to the antigen binding site, a residue capable of interacting with a CDR, a residue adjacent to a CDR, a residue within 6 Å of a CDR residue, a canonical residue, a vernier zone residue, an interchain packing residue, an unusual residue, or a glycoslyation site residue on the surface of the structural model.

In another embodiment, the invention features, in addition to the substitutions described above, a substitution of at least one rare human framework residue. For example, a rare residue can be substituted with an amino acid residue which is common for human variable chain sequences at that position. Alternatively, a rare residue can be substituted with a corresponding amino acid residue from a homologous germline variable chain sequence.

In another embodiment, the invention features a humanized immunoglobulin that includes a light chain and a heavy chain, as described above, or an antigen-binding fragment of said immunoglobulin. In an exemplary embodiment, the humanized immunoglobulin binds (*e.g.*, specifically binds) to beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) with a binding affinity of at least 10^7 M^{-1}, 10^8 M^{-1}, or 10^9 M^{-1}. In another embodiment, the immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment includes a heavy chain having isotype γ1. In another embodiment, the immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment binds (*e.g.*, specifically binds) to both soluble beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) and aggregated Aβ. In another embodiment, the immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment mediates phagocytosis (*e.g.*, induces phagocytosis) of beta amyloid peptide (Aβ). In yet another embodiment, the immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment crosses the blood-brain barrier in a subject. In yet another embodiment, the immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment reduces both beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) burden and neuritic dystrophy in a subject.

In another embodiment, the invention features chimeric immunoglobulins that include 12B4 variable regions (*e.g.*, the variable region sequences set forth as SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4). In yet another embodiment, the immunoglobulin, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, further includes constant regions from IgG1.

The immunoglobulins described herein are particularly suited for use in therapeutic methods aimed at preventing or treating amyloidogenic diseases. In one embodiment, the invention features a method of preventing or treating an amyloidogenic disease (*e.g.*, Alzheimer's disease) that involves administering to the patient an effective dosage of a humanized immunoglobulin as described herein. In another embodiment, the invention features pharmaceutical compositions that include a humanized immunoglobulin as described herein and a pharmaceutical carrier. Also featured are isolated nucleic acid molecules, vectors and host cells for producing the immunoglobulins or immunoglobulin fragments or chains described herein, as well as methods for producing said immunoglobulins, immunoglobulin fragments or immunoglobulin chains

The present invention further features a method for identifying 12B4 residues amenable to substitution when producing a humanized 12B4 immunoglobulin, respectively. For example, a method for identifying variable framework region residues

amenable to substitution involves modeling the three-dimensional structure of a 12B4 variable region on a solved homologous immunoglobulin structure and analyzing said model for residues capable of affecting 12B4 immunoglobulin variable region conformation or function, such that residues amenable to substitution are identified. The invention further features use of the variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, or any portion thereof, in producing a three-dimensional image of a 12B4 immunoglobulin, 12B4 immunoglobulin chain, or domain thereof.

The present invention further features immunoglobulins having altered effector function, such as the ability to bind effector molecules, for example, complement or a receptor on an effector cell. In particular, the immunoglobulin of the invention has an altered constant region, *e.g.*, Fc region, wherein at least one amino acid residue in the Fc region has been replaced with a different residue or side chain. In one embodiment, the modified immunoglobulin is of the IgG class, comprises at least one amino acid residue replacement in the Fc region such that the immunoglobulin has an altered effector function, *e.g.*, as compared with an unmodified immunoglobulin. In particular embodiments, the immunoglobulin of the invention has an altered effector function such that it is less immunogenic (*e.g.*, does not provoke undesired effector cell activity, lysis, or complement binding), has improved amyloid clearance properties, and/or has a desirable half-life.

Prior to describing the invention, it may be helpful to an understanding thereof to set forth definitions of certain terms to be used hereinafter.

The term "immunoglobulin" or "antibody" (used interchangeably herein) refers to a protein having a basic four-polypeptide chain structure consisting of two heavy and two light chains, said chains being stabilized, for example, by interchain disulfide bonds, which has the ability to specifically bind antigen. The term "single-chain immunoglobulin" or "single-chain antibody" (used interchangeably herein) refers to a protein having a two-polypeptide chain structure consisting of a heavy and a light chain, said chains being stabilized, for example, by interchain peptide linkers, which has the ability to specifically bind antigen. The term "domain" refers to a globular region of a heavy or light chain polypeptide comprising peptide loops (*e.g.*, comprising 3 to 4 peptide loops) stabilized, for example, by β-pleated sheet and/or intrachain disulfide bond. Domains are further referred to herein as "constant" or "variable", based on the relative lack of sequence variation within the domains of various class members in the

case of a "constant" domain, or the significant variation within the domains of various class members in the case of a "variable" domain. Antibody or polypeptide "domains" are often referred to interchangeably in the art as antibody or polypeptide "regions". The "constant" domains of an antibody light chain are referred to interchangeably as "light chain constant regions", "light chain constant domains", "CL" regions or "CL" domains. The "constant" domains of an antibody heavy chain are referred to interchangeably as "heavy chain constant regions", "heavy chain constant domains", "CH" regions or "CH" domains). The "variable" domains of an antibody light chain are referred to interchangeably as "light chain variable regions", "light chain variable domains", "VL" regions or "VL" domains). The "variable" domains of an antibody heavy chain are referred to interchangeably as "heavy chain constant regions", "heavy chain constant domains", "CH" regions or "CH" domains).

The term "region" can also refer to a part or portion of an antibody chain or antibody chain domain (*e.g.*, a part or portion of a heavy or light chain or a part or portion of a constant or variable domain, as defined herein), as well as more discrete parts or portions of said chains or domains. For example, light and heavy chains or light and heavy chain variable domains include "complementarity determining regions" or "CDRs" interspersed among "framework regions" or "FRs", as defined herein.

Immunoglobulins or antibodies can exist in monomeric or polymeric form, for example, IgM antibodies which exist in pentameric form and/or IgA antibodies which exist in monomeric, dimeric or multimeric form. The term "fragment" refers to a part or portion of an antibody or antibody chain comprising fewer amino acid residues than an intact or complete antibody or antibody chain. Fragments can be obtained *via* chemical or enzymatic treatment of an intact or complete antibody or antibody chain. Fragments can also be obtained by recombinant means. Exemplary fragments include Fab, Fab', F(ab')2, Fabc and/or Fv fragments. The term "antigen-binding fragment" refers to a polypeptide fragment of an immunoglobulin or antibody that binds antigen or competes with intact antibody (*i.e.*, with the intact antibody from which they were derived) for antigen binding (*i.e.*, specific binding).

The term "conformation" refers to the tertiary structure of a protein or polypeptide (*e.g.*, an antibody, antibody chain, domain or region thereof). For example, the phrase "light (or heavy) chain conformation" refers to the tertiary structure of a light (or heavy) chain variable region, and the phrase "antibody conformation" or "antibody

fragment conformation" refers to the tertiary structure of an antibody or fragment thereof.

"Specific binding" of an antibody mean that the antibody exhibits appreciable affinity for antigen or a preferred epitope and, preferably, does not exhibit significant crossreactivity. "Appreciable" or preferred binding include binding with an affinity of at least 10^6, 10^7, 10^8, 10^9 M^{-1}, or 10^{10} M^{-1}. Affinities greater than 10^7 M^{-1}, preferably greater than 10^8 M^{-1} are more preferred. Values intermediate of those set forth herein are also intended to be within the scope of the present invention and a preferred binding affinity can be indicated as a range of affinities, for example, 10^6 to 10^{10} M^{-1}, preferably 10^7 to 10^{10} M^{-1}, more preferably 10^8 to 10^{10} M^{-1}. An antibody that "does not exhibit significant crossreactivity" is one that will not appreciably bind to an undesirable entity (*e.g.*, an undesirable proteinaceous entity). For example, an antibody that specifically binds to Aβ will appreciably bind Aβ but will not significantly react with non-Aβ proteins or peptides (*e.g.*, non-Aβ proteins or peptides included in plaques). An antibody specific for a preferred epitope will, for example, not significantly crossreact with remote epitopes on the same protein or peptide. Specific binding can be determined according to any art-recognized means for determining such binding. Preferably, specific binding is determined according to Scatchard analysis and/or competitive binding assays.

Binding fragments are produced by recombinant DNA techniques, or by enzymatic or chemical cleavage of intact immunoglobulins. Binding fragments include Fab, Fab', $F(ab')_2$, Fabc, Fv, single chains, and single-chain antibodies. Other than "bispecific" or "bifunctional" immunoglobulins or antibodies, an immunoglobulin or antibody is understood to have each of its binding sites identical. A "bispecific" or "bifunctional antibody" is an artificial hybrid antibody having two different heavy/light chain pairs and two different binding sites. Bispecific antibodies can be produced by a variety of methods including fusion of hybridomas or linking of Fab' fragments. See, *e.g.*, Songsivilai & Lachmann, *Clin. Exp. Immunol.* 79:315-321 (1990); Kostelny *et al.*, *J. Immunol.* 148, 1547-1553 (1992).

The term "humanized immunoglobulin" or "humanized antibody" refers to an immunoglobulin or antibody that includes at least one humanized immunoglobulin or antibody chain (*i.e.*, at least one humanized light or heavy chain). The term "humanized immunoglobulin chain" or "humanized antibody chain" (*i.e.*, a "humanized

immunoglobulin light chain" or "humanized immunoglobulin heavy chain") refers to an immunoglobulin or antibody chain (*i.e.*, a light or heavy chain, respectively) having a variable region that includes a variable framework region substantially from a human immunoglobulin or antibody and complementarity determining regions (CDRs) (*e.g.*, at least one CDR, preferably two CDRs, more preferably three CDRs) substantially from a non-human immunoglobulin or antibody, and further includes constant regions (*e.g.*, at least one constant region or portion thereof, in the case of a light chain, and preferably three constant regions in the case of a heavy chain). The term "humanized variable region" (*e.g.*, "humanized light chain variable region" or "humanized heavy chain variable region") refers to a variable region that includes a variable framework region substantially from a human immunoglobulin or antibody and complementarity determining regions (CDRs) substantially from a non-human immunoglobulin or antibody.

The phrase "substantially from a human immunoglobulin or antibody" or "substantially human" means that, when aligned to a human immunoglobulin or antibody amino sequence for comparison purposes, the region shares at least 80-90%, preferably at least 90-95%, more preferably at least 95-99% identity (*i.e.*, local sequence identity) with the human framework or constant region sequence, allowing, for example, for conservative substitutions, consensus sequence substitutions, germline substitutions, backmutations, and the like. The introduction of conservative substitutions, consensus sequence substitutions, germline substitutions, backmutations, and the like, is often referred to as "optimization" of a humanized antibody or chain. The phrase "substantially from a non-human immunoglobulin or antibody" or "substantially non-human" means having an immunoglobulin or antibody sequence at least 80-95%, preferably at least 90-95%, more preferably, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% identical to that of a non-human organism, *e.g.*, a non-human mammal.

Accordingly, all regions or residues of a humanized immunoglobulin or antibody, or of a humanized immunoglobulin or antibody chain, except possibly the CDRs, are substantially identical to the corresponding regions or residues of one or more native human immunoglobulin sequences. The term "corresponding region" or "corresponding residue" refers to a region or residue on a second amino acid or nucleotide sequence which occupies the same (*i.e.*, equivalent) position as a region or

residue on a first amino acid or nucleotide sequence, when the first and second sequences are optimally aligned for comparison purposes.

The term "significant identity" means that two polypeptide sequences, when optimally aligned, such as by the programs GAP or BESTFIT using default gap weights, share at least 50-60% sequence identity, preferably at least 60-70% sequence identity, more preferably at least 70-80% sequence identity, more preferably at least 80-90% identity, even more preferably at least 90-95% identity, and even more preferably at least 95% sequence identity or more (*e.g.*, 99% sequence identity or more). The term "substantial identity" means that two polypeptide sequences, when optimally aligned, such as by the programs GAP or BESTFIT using default gap weights, share at least 80-90% sequence identity, preferably at least 90-95% sequence identity, and more preferably at least 95% sequence identity or more (*e.g.*, 99% sequence identity or more). For sequence comparison, typically one sequence acts as a reference sequence, to which test sequences are compared. When using a sequence comparison algorithm, test and reference sequences are input into a computer, subsequence coordinates are designated, if necessary, and sequence algorithm program parameters are designated. The sequence comparison algorithm then calculates the percent sequence identity for the test sequence(s) relative to the reference sequence, based on the designated program parameters.

Optimal alignment of sequences for comparison can be conducted, *e.g.*, by the local homology algorithm of Smith & Waterman, *Adv. Appl. Math.* 2:482 (1981), by the homology alignment algorithm of Needleman & Wunsch, *J. Mol. Biol.* 48:443 (1970), by the search for similarity method of Pearson & Lipman, *Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. USA* 85:2444 (1988), by computerized implementations of these algorithms (GAP, BESTFIT, FASTA, and TFASTA in the Wisconsin Genetics Software Package, Genetics Computer Group, 575 Science Dr., Madison, WI), or by visual inspection (*see generally* Ausubel *et al.*, Current Protocols in Molecular Biology). One example of algorithm that is suitable for determining percent sequence identity and sequence similarity is the BLAST algorithm, which is described in Altschul *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 215:403 (1990). Software for performing BLAST analyses is publicly available through the National Center for Biotechnology Information (publicly accessible through the National Institutes of Health NCBI internet server). Typically, default program parameters can be used to perform the sequence comparison, although customized

parameters can also be used. For amino acid sequences, the BLASTP program uses as defaults a wordlength (W) of 3, an expectation (E) of 10, and the BLOSUM62 scoring matrix (*see* Henikoff & Henikoff, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 89:10915 (1989)).

Preferably, residue positions which are not identical differ by conservative amino acid substitutions. For purposes of classifying amino acids substitutions as conservative or nonconservative, amino acids are grouped as follows: Group I (hydrophobic sidechains): leu, met, ala, val, leu, ile; Group II (neutral hydrophilic side chains): cys, ser, thr; Group III (acidic side chains): asp, glu; Group IV (basic side chains): asn, gln, his, lys, arg; Group V (residues influencing chain orientation): gly, pro; and Group VI (aromatic side chains): trp, tyr, phe. Conservative substitutions involve substitutions between amino acids in the same class. Non-conservative substitutions constitute exchanging a member of one of these classes for a member of another.

Preferably, humanized immunoglobulins or antibodies bind antigen with an affinity that is within a factor of three, four, or five of that of the corresponding non-humanized antibody. For example, if the nonhumanized antibody has a binding affinity of 10^9 M^{-1}, humanized antibodies will have a binding affinity of at least 3 x 10^9 M^{-1}, 4 x 10^9 M^{-1} or 10^9 M^{-1}. When describing the binding properties of an immunoglobulin or antibody chain, the chain can be described based on its ability to "direct antigen (*e.g.*, Aβ) binding". A chain is said to "direct antigen binding" when it confers upon an intact immunoglobulin or antibody (or antigen binding fragment thereof) a specific binding property or binding affinity. A mutation (*e.g.*, a backmutation) is said to substantially affect the ability of a heavy or light chain to direct antigen binding if it affects (*e.g.*, decreases) the binding affinity of an intact immunoglobulin or antibody (or antigen binding fragment thereof) comprising said chain by at least an order of magnitude compared to that of the antibody (or antigen binding fragment thereof) comprising an equivalent chain lacking said mutation. A mutation "does not substantially affect (*e.g.*, decrease) the ability of a chain to direct antigen binding" if it affects (*e.g.*, decreases) the binding affinity of an intact immunoglobulin or antibody (or antigen binding fragment thereof) comprising said chain by only a factor of two, three, or four of that of the antibody (or antigen binding fragment thereof) comprising an equivalent chain lacking said mutation.

The term "chimeric immunoglobulin" or antibody refers to an immunoglobulin or antibody whose variable regions derive from a first species and whose constant regions derive from a second species. Chimeric immunoglobulins or antibodies can be constructed, for example by genetic engineering, from immunoglobulin gene segments belonging to different species. The terms "humanized immunoglobulin" or "humanized antibody" are not intended to encompass chimeric immunoglobulins or antibodies, as defined *infra*. Although humanized immunoglobulins or antibodies are chimeric in their construction (*i.e.*, comprise regions from more than one species of protein), they include additional features (*i.e.*, variable regions comprising donor CDR residues and acceptor framework residues) not found in chimeric immunoglobulins or antibodies, as defined herein.

An "antigen" is an entity (*e.g.*, a proteinaceous entity or peptide) to which an antibody specifically binds.

The term "epitope" or "antigenic determinant" refers to a site on an antigen to which an immunoglobulin or antibody (or antigen binding fragment thereof) specifically binds. Epitopes can be formed both from contiguous amino acids or noncontiguous amino acids juxtaposed by tertiary folding of a protein. Epitopes formed from contiguous amino acids are typically retained on exposure to denaturing solvents, whereas epitopes formed by tertiary folding are typically lost on treatment with denaturing solvents. An epitope typically includes at least 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 or 15 amino acids in a unique spatial conformation. Methods of determining spatial conformation of epitopes include, for example, x-ray crystallography and 2-dimensional nuclear magnetic resonance. See, *e.g.*, *Epitope Mapping Protocols in Methods in Molecular Biology*, Vol. 66, G. E. Morris, Ed. (1996).

Antibodies that recognize the same epitope can be identified in a simple immunoassay showing the ability of one antibody to block the binding of another antibody to a target antigen, *i.e.*, a competitive binding assay. Competitive binding is determined in an assay in which the immunoglobulin under test inhibits specific binding of a reference antibody to a common antigen, such as Aβ. Numerous types of competitive binding assays are known, for example: solid phase direct or indirect radioimmunoassay (RIA), solid phase direct or indirect enzyme immunoassay (EIA), sandwich competition assay (see Stahli *et al.*, *Methods in Enzymology* 9:242 (1983)); solid phase direct biotin-avidin EIA (see Kirkland *et al.*, *J. Immunol.* 137:3614 (1986));

solid phase direct labeled assay, solid phase direct labeled sandwich assay (see Harlow and Lane, *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Press (1988)); solid phase direct label RIA using I-125 label (see Morel *et al.*, *Mol. Immunol.* 25(1):7 (1988)); solid phase direct biotin-avidin EIA (Cheung *et al.*, *Virology* 176:546 (1990)); and direct labeled RIA. (Moldenhauer *et al.*, *Scand. J. Immunol.* 32:77 (1990)). Typically, such an assay involves the use of purified antigen bound to a solid surface or cells bearing either of these, an unlabeled test immunoglobulin and a labeled reference immunoglobulin. Competitive inhibition is measured by determining the amount of label bound to the solid surface or cells in the presence of the test immunoglobulin. Usually the test immunoglobulin is present in excess. Usually, when a competing antibody is present in excess, it will inhibit specific binding of a reference antibody to a common antigen by at least 50-55%, 55-60%, 60-65%, 65-70% 70-75% or more.

An epitope is also recognized by immunologic cells, for example, B cells and/or T cells. Cellular recognition of an epitope can be determined by *in vitro* assays that measure antigen-dependent proliferation, as determined by ^{3}H-thymidine incorporation, by cytokine secretion, by antibody secretion, or by antigen-dependent killing (cytotoxic T lymphocyte assay).

Exemplary epitopes or antigenic determinants can be found within the human amyloid precursor protein (APP), but are preferably found within the Aβ peptide of APP. Multiple isoforms of APP exist, for example APP^{695} APP^{751} and APP^{770}. Amino acids within APP are assigned numbers according to the sequence of the APP^{770} isoform (see *e.g.*, GenBank Accession No. P05067). Aβ (also referred to herein as beta amyloid peptide and A-beta) peptide is an approximately 4-kDa internal fragment of 39-43 amino acids of APP (Aβ39, Aβ40, Aβ41, Aβ42 and Aβ43). Aβ40, for example, consists of residues 672-711 of APP and Aβ42 consists of residues 673-713 of APP. As a result of proteolytic processing of APP by different secretase enzymes *iv vivo* or *in situ*, Aβ is found in both a "short form", 40 amino acids in length, and a "long form", ranging from 42-43 amino acids in length. Preferred epitopes or antigenic determinants, as described herein, are located within the N-terminus of the Aβ peptide and include residues within amino acids 1-10 of Aβ, preferably from residues 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 1-7 or 3-7 of Aβ42. Additional referred epitopes or antigenic determinants include residues 2-4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 of Aβ, residues 3-5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 of Aβ, or residues 4-7, 8, 9 or 10 of

Aβ42. When an antibody is said to bind to an epitope within specified residues, such as Aβ 3-7, what is meant is that the antibody specifically binds to a polypeptide containing the specified residues (*i.e.*, Aβ 3-7 in this an example). Such an antibody does not necessarily contact every residue within Aβ 3-7. Nor does every single amino acid substitution or deletion with in Aβ 3-7 necessarily significantly affect binding affinity.

The term "amyloidogenic disease" includes any disease associated with (or caused by) the formation or deposition of insoluble amyloid fibrils. Exemplary amyloidogenic diseases include, but are not limited to systemic amyloidosis, Alzheimer's disease, mature onset diabetes, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, fronto-temporal dementia, and the prion-related transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (kuru and Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease in humans and scrapie and BSE in sheep and cattle, respectively). Different amyloidogenic diseases are defined or characterized by the nature of the polypeptide component of the fibrils deposited. For example, in subjects or patients having Alzheimer's disease, β-amyloid protein (*e.g.*, wild-type, variant, or truncated β-amyloid protein) is the characterizing polypeptide component of the amyloid deposit. Accordingly, Alzheimer's disease is an example of a "disease characterized by deposits of Aβ" or a "disease associated with deposits of Aβ", *e.g.*, in the brain of a subject or patient. The terms "β-amyloid protein", "β-amyloid peptide", "β-amyloid", "Aβ" and "Aβ peptide" are used interchangeably herein.

An "immunogenic agent" or "immunogen" is capable of inducing an immunological response against itself on administration to a mammal, optionally in conjunction with an adjuvant.

The term "treatment" as used herein, is defined as the application or administration of a therapeutic agent to a patient, or application or administration of a therapeutic agent to an isolated tissue or cell line from a patient, who has a disease, a symptom of disease or a predisposition toward a disease, with the purpose to cure, heal, alleviate, relieve, alter, remedy, ameliorate, improve or affect the disease, the symptoms of disease or the predisposition toward disease.

The term "effective dose" or "effective dosage" is defined as an amount sufficient to achieve or at least partially achieve the desired effect. The term "therapeutically effective dose" is defined as an amount sufficient to cure or at least partially arrest the disease and its complications in a patient already suffering from the

disease. Amounts effective for this use will depend upon the severity of the infection and the general state of the patient's own immune system.

The term "patient" includes human and other mammalian subjects that receive either prophylactic or therapeutic treatment.

"Soluble" or "dissociated" Aβ refers to non-aggregating or disaggregated Aβ polypeptide, including monomeric soluble as well as oligomeric soluble Aβ polypeptide (*e.g.*, soluble Aβ dimers, trimers, and the like). "Insoluble" Aβ refers to aggregating Aβ polypeptide, for example, Aβ held together by noncovalent bonds. Aβ (*e.g.*, Aβ42) is believed to aggregate, at least in part, due to the presence of hydrophobic residues at the C-terminus of the peptide (part of the transmembrane domain of APP). Soluble Aβ can be found *in vivo* in biological fluids such as cerebrospinal fluid and/or serum. Alternatively, soluble Aβ can be prepared by dissolving lyophilized peptide in neat DMSO with sonication. The resulting solution is centrifuged (*e.g.*, at 14,000x g, 4°C, 10 minutes) to remove any insoluble particulates.

The term "effector function" refers to an activity that resides in the Fc region of an antibody (*e.g.*, an IgG antibody) and includes, for example, the ability of the antibody to bind effector molecules such as complement and/or Fc receptors, which can control several immune functions of the antibody such as effector cell activity, lysis, complement-mediated activity, antibody clearance, and antibody half-life.

The term "effector molecule" refers to a molecule that is capable of binding to the Fc region of an antibody (*e.g.*, an IgG antibody) including, but not limited to, a complement protein or a Fc receptor.

The term "effector cell" refers to a cell capable of binding to the Fc portion of an antibody (*e.g.*, an IgG antibody) typically *via* an Fc receptor expressed on the surface of the effector cell including, but not limited to, lymphocytes, *e.g.*, antigen presenting cells and T cells.

The term "Fc region" refers to a C-terminal region of an IgG antibody, in particular, the C-terminal region of the heavy chain(s) of said IgG antibody. Although the boundaries of the Fc region of an IgG heavy chain can vary slightly, a Fc region is typically defined as spanning from about amino acid residue Cys226 to the carboxyl-terminus of an IGg heavy chain(s).

The term "Kabat numbering" unless otherwise stated, is defined as the numbering of the residues in, *e.g.*, an IgG heavy chain antibody using the EU index as in Kabat *et al.* (Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest, 5th Ed. Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. (1991)), expressly incorporated herein by reference.

The term "Fc receptor" or "FcR" refers to a receptor that binds to the Fc region of an antibody. Typical Fc receptors which bind to an Fc region of an antibody (*e.g.*, an IgG antibody) include, but are not limited to, receptors of the FcγRI, FcγRII, and FcγRIII subclasses, including allelic variants and alternatively spliced forms of these receptors. Fc receptors are reviewed in Ravetch and Kinet, Annu. Rev. Immunol 9:457-92 (1991); Capel *et al.*, Immunomethods 4:25-34 (1994); and de Haas *et al.*, J. Lab. Clin. Med. 126:330-41 (1995).

I. Immunological and Therapeutic Reagents

Immunological and therapeutic reagents of the invention comprise or consist of immunogens or antibodies, or functional or antigen binding fragments thereof, as defined herein. The basic antibody structural unit is known to comprise a tetramer of subunits. Each tetramer is composed of two identical pairs of polypeptide chains, each pair having one "light" (about 25 kDa) and one "heavy" chain (about 50-70 kDa). The amino-terminal portion of each chain includes a variable region of about 100 to 110 or more amino acids primarily responsible for antigen recognition. The carboxy-terminal portion of each chain defines a constant region primarily responsible for effector function.

Light chains are classified as either kappa or lambda and are about 230 residues in length. Heavy chains are classified as gamma (γ), mu (μ), alpha (α), delta (δ), or epsilon (ε), are about 450-600 residues in length, and define the antibody's isotype as IgG, IgM, IgA, IgD and IgE, respectively. Both heavy and light chains are folded into domains. The term "domain" refers to a globular region of a protein, for example, an immunoglobulin or antibody. Immunoglobulin or antibody domains include, for example, 3 or four peptide loops stabilized by β-pleated sheet and an interchain disulfide bond. Intact light chains have, for example, two domains (V_L and

C_L) and intact heavy chains have, for example, four or five domains (V_H, C_H1, C_H2, and C_H3).

Within light and heavy chains, the variable and constant regions are joined by a "J" region of about 12 or more amino acids, with the heavy chain also including a "D" region of about 10 more amino acids. (*See generally, Fundamental Immunology* (Paul, W., ed., 2nd ed. Raven Press, N.Y. (1989), Ch. 7, incorporated by reference in its entirety for all purposes).

The variable regions of each light/heavy chain pair form the antibody binding site. Thus, an intact antibody has two binding sites. Except in bifunctional or bispecific antibodies, the two binding sites are the same. The chains all exhibit the same general structure of relatively conserved framework regions (FR) joined by three hypervariable regions, also called complementarity determining regions or CDRs. Naturally-occurring chains or recombinantly produced chains can be expressed with a leader sequence which is removed during cellular processing to produce a mature chain. Mature chains can also be recombinantly produced having a non-naturally occurring leader sequence, for example, to enhance secretion or alter the processing of a particular chain of interest.

The CDRs of the two mature chains of each pair are aligned by the framework regions, enabling binding to a specific epitope. From N-terminal to C-terminal, both light and heavy chains comprise the domains FR1, CDR1, FR2, CDR2, FR3, CDR3 and FR4. "FR4" also is referred to in the art as the D/J region of the variable heavy chain and the J region of the variable light chain. The assignment of amino acids to each domain is in accordance with the definitions of Kabat, *Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest* (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, 1987 and 1991). An alternative structural definition has been proposed by Chothia *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 196:901 (1987); *Nature* 342:878 (1989); and *J. Mol. Biol.* 186:651 (1989) (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Chothia *et al.*" and incorporated by reference in their entirety for all purposes),

A. Aβ Antibodies

Therapeutic agents of the invention include antibodies that specifically bind to Aβ or to other components of the amyloid plaque. Preferred antibodies are monoclonal antibodies. Some such antibodies bind specifically to the aggregated form

of Aβ without binding to the soluble form. Some bind specifically to the soluble form without binding to the aggregated form. Some bind to both aggregated and soluble forms. Antibodies used in therapeutic methods preferably have an intact constant region or at least sufficient of the constant region to interact with an Fc receptor. Preferred antibodies are those efficacious at stimulating Fc-mediated phagocytosis of Aβ in plaques. Human isotype IgG1 is preferred because of it having highest affinity of human isotypes for the FcRI receptor on phagocytic cells (*e.g.*, on brain resident macrophages or microglial cells). Human IgG1 is the equivalent of murine IgG2a, the latter thus suitable for testing *in vivo* efficacy in animal (*e.g.*, mouse) models of Alzheimer's. Bispecific Fab fragments can also be used, in which one arm of the antibody has specificity for Aβ, and the other for an Fc receptor. Preferred antibodies bind to Aβ with a binding affinity greater than (or equal to) about 10^6, 10^7, 10^8, 10^9, or 10^{10} M^{-1} (including affinities intermediate of these values).

Monoclonal antibodies bind to a specific epitope within Aβ that can be a conformational or nonconformational epitope. Prophylactic and therapeutic efficacy of antibodies can be tested using the transgenic animal model procedures described in the Examples. Preferred monoclonal antibodies bind to an epitope within residues 1-10 of Aβ (with the first N terminal residue of natural Aβ designated 1), more preferably to an epitope within residues 3-7 of Aβ. In some methods, multiple monoclonal antibodies having binding specificities to different epitopes are used, for example, an antibody specific for an epitope within residues 3-7 of Aβ can be co-administered with an antibody specific for an epitope outside of residues 3-7 of Aβ. Such antibodies can be administered sequentially or simultaneously. Antibodies to amyloid components other than Aβ can also be used (*e.g.*, administered or co-administered).

Epitope specificity of an antibody can be determined, for example, by forming a phage display library in which different members display different subsequences of Aβ. The phage display library is then selected for members specifically binding to an antibody under test. A family of sequences is isolated. Typically, such a family contains a common core sequence, and varying lengths of flanking sequences in different members. The shortest core sequence showing specific binding to the antibody defines the epitope bound by the antibody. Antibodies can also be tested for epitope specificity in a competition assay with an antibody whose epitope specificity has already

been determined. For example, antibodies that compete with the 12B4 antibody for binding to Aβ bind to the same or similar epitope as 12B4, *i.e.*, within residues Aβ 3-7. Screening antibodies for epitope specificity is a useful predictor of therapeutic efficacy. For example, an antibody determined to bind to an epitope within residues 1-7 of Aβ is likely to be effective in preventing and treating Alzheimer's disease according to the methodologies of the present invention.

Antibodies that specifically bind to a preferred segment of Aβ without binding to other regions of Aβ have a number of advantages relative to monoclonal antibodies binding to other regions or polyclonal sera to intact Aβ. First, for equal mass dosages, dosages of antibodies that specifically bind to preferred segments contain a higher molar dosage of antibodies effective in clearing amyloid plaques. Second, antibodies specifically binding to preferred segments can induce a clearing response against amyloid deposits without inducing a clearing response against intact APP polypeptide, thereby reducing the potential side effects.

1. Production of Nonhuman Antibodies

The present invention features non-human antibodies, for example, antibodies having specificity for the preferred Aβ epitopes of the invention. Such antibodies can be used in formulating various therapeutic compositions of the invention or, preferably, provide complementarity determining regions for the production of humanized or chimeric antibodies (described in detail below). The production of non-human monoclonal antibodies, *e.g.*, murine, guinea pig, primate, rabbit or rat, can be accomplished by, for example, immunizing the animal with Aβ. A longer polypeptide comprising Aβ or an immunogenic fragment of Aβ or anti-idiotypic antibodies to an antibody to Aβ can also be used. See Harlow & Lane, *supra,* incorporated by reference for all purposes). Such an immunogen can be obtained from a natural source, by peptide synthesis or by recombinant expression. Optionally, the immunogen can be administered fused or otherwise complexed with a carrier protein, as described below. Optionally, the immunogen can be administered with an adjuvant. The term "adjuvant" refers to a compound that when administered in conjunction with an antigen augments the immune response to the antigen, but when administered alone does not generate an immune response to the antigen. Adjuvants can augment an immune response by

several mechanisms including lymphocyte recruitment, stimulation of B and/or T cells, and stimulation of macrophages. Several types of adjuvant can be used as described below. Complete Freund's adjuvant followed by incomplete adjuvant is preferred for immunization of laboratory animals.

Rabbits or guinea pigs are typically used for making polyclonal antibodies. Exemplary preparation of polyclonal antibodies, *e.g.*, for passive protection, can be performed as follows. 125 non-transgenic mice are immunized with 100 μg Aβ1-42, plus CFA/IFA adjuvant, and euthanized at 4-5 months. Blood is collected from immunized mice. IgG is separated from other blood components. Antibody specific for the immunogen may be partially purified by affinity chromatography. An average of about 0.5-1 mg of immunogen-specific antibody is obtained per mouse, giving a total of 60-120 mg.

Mice are typically used for making monoclonal antibodies. Monoclonals can be prepared against a fragment by injecting the fragment or longer form of Aβ into a mouse, preparing hybridomas and screening the hybridomas for an antibody that specifically binds to Aβ. Optionally, antibodies are screened for binding to a specific region or desired fragment of Aβ without binding to other nonoverlapping fragments of Aβ. The latter screening can be accomplished by determining binding of an antibody to a collection of deletion mutants of an Aβ peptide and determining which deletion mutants bind to the antibody. Binding can be assessed, for example, by Western blot or ELISA. The smallest fragment to show specific binding to the antibody defines the epitope of the antibody. Alternatively, epitope specificity can be determined by a competition assay is which a test and reference antibody compete for binding to Aβ. If the test and reference antibodies compete, then they bind to the same epitope or epitopes sufficiently proximal such that binding of one antibody interferes with binding of the other. The preferred isotype for such antibodies is mouse isotype IgG2a or equivalent isotype in other species. Mouse isotype IgG2a is the equivalent of human isotype IgG1 (*e.g.*, human IgG1).

2. Chimeric and Humanized Antibodies

The present invention also features chimeric and/or humanized antibodies (*i.e.*, chimeric and/or humanized immunoglobulins) specific for beta amyloid peptide. Chimeric and/or humanized antibodies have the same or similar binding specificity and affinity as a mouse or other nonhuman antibody that provides the starting material for construction of a chimeric or humanized antibody.

A. Production of Chimeric Antibodies

The term "chimeric antibody" refers to an antibody whose light and heavy chain genes have been constructed, typically by genetic engineering, from immunoglobulin gene segments belonging to different species. For example, the variable (V) segments of the genes from a mouse monoclonal antibody may be joined to human constant (C) segments, such as IgG1 and IgG4. Human isotype IgG1 is preferred. A typical chimeric antibody is thus a hybrid protein consisting of the V or antigen-binding domain from a mouse antibody and the C or effector domain from a human antibody.

B. Production of Humanized Antibodies

The term "humanized antibody" refers to an antibody comprising at least one chain comprising variable region framework residues substantially from a human antibody chain (referred to as the acceptor immunoglobulin or antibody) and at least one complementarity determining region substantially from a mouse antibody, (referred to as the donor immunoglobulin or antibody). See, Queen *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86:10029-10033 (1989), US 5,530,101, US 5,585,089, US 5,693,761, US 5,693,762, Selick *et al.*, WO 90/07861, and Winter, US 5,225,539 (incorporated by reference in their entirety for all purposes). The constant region(s), if present, are also substantially or entirely from a human immunoglobulin.

The substitution of mouse CDRs into a human variable domain framework is most likely to result in retention of their correct spatial orientation if the human variable domain framework adopts the same or similar conformation to the mouse variable framework from which the CDRs originated. This is achieved by obtaining the human variable domains from human antibodies whose framework sequences exhibit a high degree of sequence identity with the murine variable

framework domains from which the CDRs were derived. The heavy and light chain variable framework regions can be derived from the same or different human antibody sequences. The human antibody sequences can be the sequences of naturally occurring human antibodies or can be consensus sequences of several human antibodies. See Kettleborough *et al.*, *Protein Engineering* 4:773 (1991); Kolbinger *et al.*, *Protein Engineering* 6:971 (1993) and Carter *et al.*, WO 92/22653.

Having identified the complementarity determining regions of the murine donor immunoglobulin and appropriate human acceptor immunoglobulins, the next step is to determine which, if any, residues from these components should be substituted to optimize the properties of the resulting humanized antibody. In general, substitution of human amino acid residues with murine should be minimized, because introduction of murine residues increases the risk of the antibody eliciting a human-anti-mouse-antibody (HAMA) response in humans. Art-recognized methods of determining immune response can be performed to monitor a HAMA response in a particular patient or during clinical trials. Patients administered humanized antibodies can be given an immunogenicity assessment at the beginning and throughout the administration of said therapy. The HAMA response is measured, for example, by detecting antibodies to the humanized therapeutic reagent, in serum samples from the patient using a method known to one in the art, including surface plasmon resonance technology (BIACORE) and/or solid-phase ELISA analysis.

Certain amino acids from the human variable region framework residues are selected for substitution based on their possible influence on CDR conformation and/or binding to antigen. The unnatural juxtaposition of murine CDR regions with human variable framework region can result in unnatural conformational restraints, which, unless corrected by substitution of certain amino acid residues, lead to loss of binding affinity.

The selection of amino acid residues for substitution is determined, in part, by computer modeling. Computer hardware and software are described herein for producing three-dimensional images of immunoglobulin molecules. In general, molecular models are produced starting from solved structures for immunoglobulin chains or domains thereof. The chains to be modeled are compared for amino acid sequence similarity with chains or domains of solved three-dimensional structures, and the chains or domains showing the greatest sequence similarity is/are selected as starting

points for construction of the molecular model. Chains or domains sharing at least 50% sequence identity are selected for modeling, and preferably those sharing at least 60%, 70%, 80%, 90% sequence identity or more are selected for modeling. The solved starting structures are modified to allow for differences between the actual amino acids in the immunoglobulin chains or domains being modeled, and those in the starting structure. The modified structures are then assembled into a composite immunoglobulin. Finally, the model is refined by energy minimization and by verifying that all atoms are within appropriate distances from one another and that bond lengths and angles are within chemically acceptable limits.

The selection of amino acid residues for substitution can also be determined, in part, by examination of the characteristics of the amino acids at particular locations, or empirical observation of the effects of substitution or mutagenesis of particular amino acids. For example, when an amino acid differs between a murine variable region framework residue and a selected human variable region framework residue, the human framework amino acid should usually be substituted by the equivalent framework amino acid from the mouse antibody when it is reasonably expected that the amino acid:

(1) noncovalently binds antigen directly,

(2) is adjacent to a CDR region,

(3) otherwise interacts with a CDR region (*e.g.*, is within about 3-6 Å of a CDR region as determined by computer modeling), or

(4) participates in the VL-VH interface.

Residues which "noncovalently bind antigen directly" include amino acids in positions in framework regions which are have a good probability of directly interacting with amino acids on the antigen according to established chemical forces, for example, by hydrogen bonding, Van der Waals forces, hydrophobic interactions, and the like.

CDR and framework regions are as defined by Kabat *et al.* or Chothia *et al.*, *supra*. When framework residues, as defined by Kabat *et al.*, *supra*, constitute structural loop residues as defined by Chothia *et al.*, *supra*, the amino acids present in the mouse antibody may be selected for substitution into the humanized antibody. Residues which are "adjacent to a CDR region" include amino acid residues in positions immediately adjacent to one or more of the CDRs in the primary sequence of the

humanized immunoglobulin chain, for example, in positions immediately adjacent to a CDR as defined by Kabat, or a CDR as defined by Chothia (See *e.g.*, Chothia and Lesk JMB 196:901 (1987)). These amino acids are particularly likely to interact with the amino acids in the CDRs and, if chosen from the acceptor, to distort the donor CDRs and reduce affinity. Moreover, the adjacent amino acids may interact directly with the antigen (Amit *et al.*, Science, 233:747 (1986), which is incorporated herein by reference) and selecting these amino acids from the donor may be desirable to keep all the antigen contacts that provide affinity in the original antibody.

Residues that "otherwise interact with a CDR region" include those that are determined by secondary structural analysis to be in a spatial orientation sufficient to affect a CDR region. In one embodiment, residues that "otherwise interact with a CDR region" are identified by analyzing a three-dimensional model of the donor immunoglobulin (*e.g.*, a computer-generated model). A three-dimensional model, typically of the original donor antibody, shows that certain amino acids outside of the CDRs are close to the CDRs and have a good probability of interacting with amino acids in the CDRs by hydrogen bonding, Van der Waals forces, hydrophobic interactions, etc. At those amino acid positions, the donor immunoglobulin amino acid rather than the acceptor immunoglobulin amino acid may be selected. Amino acids according to this criterion will generally have a side chain atom within about 3 angstrom units (Å) of some atom in the CDRs and must contain an atom that could interact with the CDR atoms according to established chemical forces, such as those listed above.

In the case of atoms that may form a hydrogen bond, the 3 Å is measured between their nuclei, but for atoms that do not form a bond, the 3 Å is measured between their Van der Waals surfaces. Hence, in the latter case, the nuclei must be within about 6 Å (3 Å plus the sum of the Van der Waals radii) for the atoms to be considered capable of interacting. In many cases the nuclei will be from 4 or 5 to 6 Å apart. In determining whether an amino acid can interact with the CDRs, it is preferred not to consider the last 8 amino acids of heavy chain CDR 2 as part of the CDRs, because from the viewpoint of structure, these 8 amino acids behave more as part of the framework.

Amino acids that are capable of interacting with amino acids in the CDRs, may be identified in yet another way. The solvent accessible surface area of each framework amino acid is calculated in two ways: (1) in the intact antibody, and (2) in a hypothetical molecule consisting of the antibody with its CDRs removed. A significant

difference between these numbers of about 10 square angstroms or more shows that access of the framework amino acid to solvent is at least partly blocked by the CDRs, and therefore that the amino acid is making contact with the CDRs. Solvent accessible surface area of an amino acid may be calculated based on a three-dimensional model of an antibody, using algorithms known in the art (*e.g.*, Connolly, J. Appl. Cryst. 16:548 (1983) and Lee and Richards, J. Mol. Biol. 55:379 (1971), both of which are incorporated herein by reference). Framework amino acids may also occasionally interact with the CDRs indirectly, by affecting the conformation of another framework amino acid that in turn contacts the CDRs.

The amino acids at several positions in the framework are known to be capable of interacting with the CDRs in many antibodies (Chothia and Lesk, *supra*, Chothia *et al.*, *supra* and Tramontano *et al.*, J. Mol. Biol. 215:175 (1990), all of which are incorporated herein by reference). Notably, the amino acids at positions 2, 48, 64 and 71 of the light chain and 26-30, 71 and 94 of the heavy chain (numbering according to Kabat) are known to be capable of interacting with the CDRs in many antibodies. The amino acids at positions 35 in the light chain and 93 and 103 in the heavy chain are also likely to interact with the CDRs. At all these numbered positions, choice of the donor amino acid rather than the acceptor amino acid (when they differ) to be in the humanized immunoglobulin is preferred. On the other hand, certain residues capable of interacting with the CDR region, such as the first 5 amino acids of the light chain, may sometimes be chosen from the acceptor immunoglobulin without loss of affinity in the humanized immunoglobulin.

Residues which "participate in the VL-VH interface" or "packing residues" include those residues at the interface between VL and VH as defined, for example, by Novotny and Haber, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 82:4592-66 (1985) or Chothia *et al, supra.* Generally, unusual packing residues should be retained in the humanized antibody if they differ from those in the human frameworks.

In general, one or more of the amino acids fulfilling the above criteria is substituted. In some embodiments, all or most of the amino acids fulfilling the above criteria are substituted. Occasionally, there is some ambiguity about whether a particular amino acid meets the above criteria, and alternative variant immunoglobulins are produced, one of which has that particular substitution, the other of which does not.

Alternative variant immunoglobulins so produced can be tested in any of the assays described herein for the desired activity, and the preferred immunoglobulin selected.

Usually the CDR regions in humanized antibodies are substantially identical, and more usually, identical to the corresponding CDR regions of the donor antibody. Although not usually desirable, it is sometimes possible to make one or more conservative amino acid substitutions of CDR residues without appreciably affecting the binding affinity of the resulting humanized immunoglobulin. By conservative substitutions is intended combinations such as gly, ala; val, ile, leu; asp, glu; asn, gln; ser, thr; lys, arg; and phe, tyr.

Additional candidates for substitution are acceptor human framework amino acids that are unusual or "rare" for a human immunoglobulin at that position. These amino acids can be substituted with amino acids from the equivalent position of the mouse donor antibody or from the equivalent positions of more typical human immunoglobulins. For example, substitution may be desirable when the amino acid in a human framework region of the acceptor immunoglobulin is rare for that position and the corresponding amino acid in the donor immunoglobulin is common for that position in human immunoglobulin sequences; or when the amino acid in the acceptor immunoglobulin is rare for that position and the corresponding amino acid in the donor immunoglobulin is also rare, relative to other human sequences. These criteria help ensure that an atypical amino acid in the human framework does not disrupt the antibody structure. Moreover, by replacing an unusual human acceptor amino acid with an amino acid from the donor antibody that happens to be typical for human antibodies, the humanized antibody may be made less immunogenic.

The term "rare", as used herein, indicates an amino acid occurring at that position in less than about 20% but usually less than about 10% of sequences in a representative sample of sequences, and the term "common", as used herein, indicates an amino acid occurring in more than about 25% but usually more than about 50% of sequences in a representative sample. For example, all human light and heavy chain variable region sequences are respectively grouped into "subgroups" of sequences that are especially homologous to each other and have the same amino acids at certain critical positions (Kabat *et al., supra*). When deciding whether an amino acid in a human acceptor sequence is "rare" or "common" among human sequences, it will often

be preferable to consider only those human sequences in the same subgroup as the acceptor sequence.

Additional candidates for substitution are acceptor human framework amino acids that would be identified as part of a CDR region under the alternative definition proposed by Chothia *et al.*, *supra*. Additional candidates for substitution are acceptor human framework amino acids that would be identified as part of a CDR region under the AbM and/or contact definitions.

Additional candidates for substitution are acceptor framework residues that correspond to a rare or unusual donor framework residue. Rare or unusual donor framework residues are those that are rare or unusual (as defined herein) for murine antibodies at that position. For murine antibodies, the subgroup can be determined according to Kabat and residue positions identified which differ from the consensus. These donor specific differences may point to somatic mutations in the murine sequence which enhance activity. Unusual residues that are predicted to affect binding are retained, whereas residues predicted to be unimportant for binding can be substituted.

Additional candidates for substitution are non-germline residues occurring in an acceptor framework region. For example, when an acceptor antibody chain (*i.e.*, a human antibody chain sharing significant sequence identity with the donor antibody chain) is aligned to a germline antibody chain (likewise sharing significant sequence identity with the donor chain), residues not matching between acceptor chain framework and the germline chain framework can be substituted with corresponding residues from the germline sequence.

Other than the specific amino acid substitutions discussed above, the framework regions of humanized immunoglobulins are usually substantially identical, and more usually, identical to the framework regions of the human antibodies from which they were derived. Of course, many of the amino acids in the framework region make little or no direct contribution to the specificity or affinity of an antibody. Thus, many individual conservative substitutions of framework residues can be tolerated without appreciable change of the specificity or affinity of the resulting humanized immunoglobulin. Thus, in one embodiment the variable framework region of the humanized immunoglobulin shares at least 85% sequence identity to a human variable framework region sequence or consensus of such sequences. In another embodiment, the variable framework region of the humanized immunoglobulin shares at least 90%,

preferably 95%, more preferably 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% sequence identity to a human variable framework region sequence or consensus of such sequences. In general, however, such substitutions are undesirable.

The humanized antibodies preferably exhibit a specific binding affinity for antigen of at least 10^7, 10^8, 10^9 or 10^{10} M^{-1}. Usually the upper limit of binding affinity of the humanized antibodies for antigen is within a factor of three, four or five of that of the donor immunoglobulin. Often the lower limit of binding affinity is also within a factor of three, four or five of that of donor immunoglobulin. Alternatively, the binding affinity can be compared to that of a humanized antibody having no substitutions (*e.g.*, an antibody having donor CDRs and acceptor FRs, but no FR substitutions). In such instances, the binding of the optimized antibody (with substitutions) is preferably at least two- to three-fold greater, or three- to four-fold greater, than that of the unsubstituted antibody. For making comparisons, activity of the various antibodies can be determined, for example, by BIACORE (*i.e.*, surface plasmon resonance using unlabelled reagents) or competitive binding assays.

C. Production of Humanized 12B4 Antibodies

A preferred embodiment of the present invention features a humanized antibody to the N-terminus of Aβ, in particular, for use in the therapeutic and/or diagnostic methodologies described herein. A particularly preferred starting material for production of humanized antibodies is 12B4. 12B4 is specific for the N-terminus of Aβ and has been shown to mediate phagocytosis (*e.g.*, induce phagocytosis) of amyloid plaque. The cloning and sequencing of cDNA encoding the 12B4 antibody heavy and light chain variable regions is described in Example I.

Suitable human acceptor antibody sequences are identified by computer comparisons of the amino acid sequences of the mouse variable regions with the sequences of known human antibodies. The comparison is performed separately for heavy and light chains but the principles are similar for each. In particular, variable domains from human antibodies whose framework sequences exhibit a high degree of sequence identity with the murine VL and VH framework regions were identified by query of the Kabat Database using NCBI BLAST (publicly accessible through the National Institutes of Health NCBI internet server) with the respective murine framework sequences. In one embodiment, acceptor sequences sharing greater that 50%

sequence identity with murine donor sequences are selected. Preferably, acceptor antibody sequences sharing 60%, 70%, 80%, 90% or more are selected.

A computer comparison of 12B4 revealed that the 12B4 light chain shows the greatest sequence identity to human light chains of subtype kappa II, and that the 12B4 heavy chain shows greatest sequence identity to human heavy chains of subtype II, as defined by Kabat *et al.*, *supra*. Thus, light and heavy human framework regions are preferably derived from human antibodies of these subtypes, or from consensus sequences of such subtypes. The preferred light chain human variable regions showing greatest sequence identity to the corresponding region from 12B4 are from an antibody having Kabat ID Number 005036. The preferred heavy chain human variable regions showing greatest sequence identity to the corresponding region from 12B4 are from an antibody having Kabat ID Number 000333, an antibody having Genbank Accession No. AAB35009, and an antibody having Genbank Accession No. AAD53816, with the antibody having Kabat ID Number 000333 being more preferred.

Residues are next selected for substitution, as follows. When an amino acid differs between a 12B4 variable framework region and an equivalent human variable framework region, the human framework amino acid should usually be substituted by the equivalent mouse amino acid if it is reasonably expected that the amino acid:

(1) noncovalently binds antigen directly,

(2) is adjacent to a CDR region, is part of a CDR region under the alternative definition proposed by Chothia *et al.*, *supra*, or otherwise interacts with a CDR region (*e.g.*, is within about 3A of a CDR region), or

(3) participates in the VL-VH interface.

Computer modeling of the 12B4 antibody heavy and light chain variable regions, and humanization of the 12B4 antibody is described in Example V. Briefly, a three-dimensional model is generated based on the closest solved murine antibody structures for the heavy and light chains. The model is further refined by a series of energy minimization steps to relieve unfavorable atomic contacts and optimize electrostatic and van der Walls interactions.

Three-dimensional structural information for the antibodies described herein is publicly available, for example, from the Research Collaboratory for Structural Bioinformatics' Protein Data Bank (PDB). The PDB is freely accessible *via* the World

Wide Web internet and is described by Berman *et al.* (2000) *Nucleic Acids Research*, 28:235. Computer modeling allows for the identification of CDR-interacting residues. The computer model of the structure of 12B4 can in turn serve as a starting point for predicting the three-dimensional structure of an antibody containing the 12B4 complementarity determining regions substituted in human framework structures. Additional models can be constructed representing the structure as further amino acid substitutions are introduced.

In general, substitution of one, most or all of the amino acids fulfilling the above criteria is desirable. Accordingly, the humanized antibodies of the present invention will usually contain a substitution of a human light chain framework residue with a corresponding 12B4 residue in at least 1, 2, 3 or more of the chosen positions. The humanized antibodies also usually contain a substitution of a human heavy chain framework residue with a corresponding 12B4 residue in at least 1, 2, 3 or more of the chosen positions.

Occasionally, however, there is some ambiguity about whether a particular amino acid meets the above criteria, and alternative variant immunoglobulins are produced, one of which has that particular substitution, the other of which does not. In instances where substitution with a murine residue would introduce a residue that is rare in human immunoglobulins at a particular position, it may be desirable to test the antibody for activity with or without the particular substitution. If activity (*e.g.*, binding affinity and/or binding specificity) is about the same with or without the substitution, the antibody without substitution may be preferred, as it would be expected to elicit less of a HAMA response, as described herein.

Other candidates for substitution are acceptor human framework amino acids that are unusual for a human immunoglobulin at that position. These amino acids can be substituted with amino acids from the equivalent position of more typical human immunoglobulins. Alternatively, amino acids from equivalent positions in the mouse 12B4 can be introduced into the human framework regions when such amino acids are typical of human immunoglobulin at the equivalent positions.

Other candidates for substitution are non-germline residues occurring in a framework region. By performing a computer comparison of 12B4 with known germline sequences, germline sequences with the greatest degree of sequence identity to the heavy or light chain can be identified. Alignment of the framework region and the

germline sequence will reveal which residues may be selected for substitution with corresponding germline residues. Residues not matching between a selected light chain acceptor framework and one of these germline sequences could be selected for substitution with the corresponding germline residue.

Table 1 summarizes the sequence analysis of the 12B4 VH and VL regions. Additional mouse and human structures that can be used for computer modeling of the 12B4 antibody and additional human antibodies are set forth as well as germline sequences that can be used in selecting amino acid substitutions. Rare mouse residues are also set forth in Table 1. Rare mouse residues are identified by comparing the donor VL and/or VH sequences with the sequences of other members of the subgroup to which the donor VL and/or VH sequences belong (according to Kabat) and identifying the residue positions which differ from the consensus. These donor specific differences may point to somatic mutations which enhance activity. Unusual or rare residues close to the binding site may possibly contact the antigen, making it desirable to retain the mouse residue. However, if the unusual mouse residue is not important for binding, use of the corresponding acceptor residue is preferred as the mouse residue may create immunogenic neoepitopes in the humanized antibody. In the situation where an unusual residue in the donor sequence is actually a common residue in the corresponding acceptor sequence, the preferred residue is clearly the acceptor residue.

Table 1. Summary of 12B4 V region sequence

Chain	VL	VH
Mouse Subgroup	II	Ib
Human Subgroup	II	II
Rare amino acids (% frequency)	K107 (0.542%)	T3, I11, L12, F24, S41, N75, D83, A85

Chothia canonical class	L1: ~class 4[1rnf] L2: class 1[1lmk] L3: class 1[1tet]	H1: class 3 [1ggi] H2:~class 1
Closest mouse MAb solved structure	2PCP (2.2Å)	1ETZ (2.6Å)
Homology with modeling template	94%	80%
Human Framework seq	KABID 005036	1-KABID 000333 2-AAB35009/1F7 3-AAD53816
Germline ref for Hu Fr	A3/x12690 & A19/X63397	1: VH4-39/AB019439/ BAA75036.1 2: VH2-5/AB019440/ BAA75057.1

Kabat ID sequences referenced herein are publicly available, for example, from the Northwestern University Biomedical Engineering Department's Kabat Database of Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest. Three-dimensional structural information for antibodies described herein is publicly available, for example, from the Research Collaboratory for Structural Bioinformatics' Protein Data Bank (PDB). The PDB is freely accessible *via* the World Wide Web internet and is described by Berman *et al.* (2000) *Nucleic Acids Research*, p235-242. Germline gene sequences referenced herein are publicly available, for example, from the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) database of sequences in collections of Igh, Ig kappa and Ig lambda germline V genes (as a division of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)). Homology searching of the NCBI "Ig Germline Genes" database is provided by IgG BLAST™.

In a preferred embodiment, a humanized antibody of the present invention contains (i) a light chain comprising a variable domain comprising murine 12B4 VL CDRs and a human acceptor framework, the framework having at least one, residue substituted with the corresponding 12B4 residue and (ii) a heavy chain comprising 12B4 VH CDRs and a human acceptor framework, the framework having at least one, preferably two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, or nine residues substituted with the corresponding 12B4 residue, and, optionally, at least one, preferably two or three residues substituted with a corresponding human germline residue.

In another preferred embodiment, a humanized antibody of the present invention has structural features, as described herein, and further has at least one (preferably two, three, four or all) of the following activities: (1) binds soluble Aβ; (2) binds aggregated Aβ1-42 (*e.g.*, as determined by ELISA); (3) binds Aβ in plaques (*e.g.*, staining of AD and/or PDAPP plaques); (4) binds Aβ with two- to three- fold higher binding affinity as compared to chimeric 12B4 (*e.g.*, 12B4 having murine variable region sequences and human constant region sequences); (5) mediates phagocytosis of Aβ (*e.g.*, in an *ex vivo* phagocytosis assay, as described herein); and (6) crosses the blood-brain barrier (*e.g.*, demonstrates short-term brain localization, for example, in a PDAPP animal model, as described herein).

In another preferred embodiment, a humanized antibody of the present invention has structural features, as described herein, binds Aβ in a manner or with an affinity sufficient to elicit at least one of the following *in vivo* effects: (1) reduce Aβ plaque burden; (2) prevent plaque formation; (3) reduce levels of soluble Aβ; (4) reduce the neuritic pathology associated with an amyloidogenic disorder; (5) lessen or ameliorate at least one physiological symptom associated with an amyloidogenic disorder; and/or (6) improve cognitive function.

In another preferred embodiment, a humanized antibody of the present invention has structural features, as described herein, and specifically binds to an epitope comprising residues 3-7 of Aβ.

In another preferred embodiment, a humanized antibody of the present invention has structural features, as described herein, binds to an N-terminal epitope within Aβ (*e.g.*, binds to an epitope within amino acids 3-7 of Aβ), and is capable of

reducing (1) Aβ peptide levels; (2) Aβ plaque burden; and (3) the neuritic burden or neuritic dystrophy associated with an amyloidogenic disorder.

The activities described above can be determined utilizing any one of a variety of assays described herein or in the art (*e.g.*, binding assays, phagocytosis assays, etc.). Activities can be assayed either *in vivo* (*e.g.*, using labeled assay components and/or imaging techniques) or *in vitro* (*e.g.*, using samples or specimens derived from a subject). Activities can be assayed either directly or indirectly. In certain preferred embodiments, neurological endpoints (*e.g.*, amyloid burden, neuritic burden, etc) are assayed. Such endpoints can be assayed in living subjects (*e.g.*, in animal models of Alzheimer's disease or in human subjects, for example, undergoing immunotherapy) using non-invasive detection methodologies. Alternatively, such endpoints can be assayed in subjects post mortem. Assaying such endpoints in animal models and/or in human subjects post mortem is useful in assessing the effectiveness of various agents (*e.g.*, humanized antibodies) to be utilized in similar immunotherapeutic applications. In other preferred embodiments, behavioral or neurological parameters can be assessed as indicators of the above neuropathological activities or endpoints.

3. Production of Variable Regions

Having conceptually selected the CDR and framework components of humanized immunoglobulins, a variety of methods are available for producing such immunoglobulins. Because of the degeneracy of the code, a variety of nucleic acid sequences will encode each immunoglobulin amino acid sequence. The desired nucleic acid sequences can be produced by *de novo* solid-phase DNA synthesis or by PCR mutagenesis of an earlier prepared variant of the desired polynucleotide. Oligonucleotide-mediated mutagenesis is a preferred method for preparing substitution, deletion and insertion variants of target polypeptide DNA. See Adelman *et al.*, DNA 2:183 (1983). Briefly, the target polypeptide DNA is altered by hybridizing an oligonucleotide encoding the desired mutation to a single-stranded DNA.template. After hybridization, a DNA polymerase is used to synthesize an entire second complementary strand of the template that incorporates the oligonucleotide primer, and encodes the selected alteration in the target polypeptide DNA.

4. Selection of Constant Regions

The variable segments of antibodies produced as described *supra* (*e.g.*, the heavy and light chain variable regions of chimeric or humanized antibodies) are typically linked to at least a portion of an immunoglobulin constant region (Fc region), typically that of a human immunoglobulin. Human constant region DNA sequences can be isolated in accordance with well known procedures from a variety of human cells, but preferably immortalized B cells (see Kabat *et al.*, *supra*, and Liu *et al.*, W087/02671) (each of which is incorporated by reference in its entirety for all purposes). Ordinarily, the antibody will contain both light chain and heavy chain constant regions. The heavy chain constant region usually includes CH1, hinge, CH2, CH3, and CH4 regions. The antibodies described herein include antibodies having all types of constant regions, including IgM, IgG, IgD, IgA and IgE, and any isotype, including IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 and IgG4. When it is desired that the antibody (*e.g.*, humanized antibody) exhibit cytotoxic activity, the constant domain is usually a complement fixing constant domain and the class is typically IgG1. Human isotype IgG1 is preferred. Light chain constant regions can be lambda or kappa. The humanized antibody may comprise sequences from more than one class or isotype. Antibodies can be expressed as tetramers containing two light and two heavy chains, as separate heavy chains, light chains, as Fab, Fab' F(ab')2, and Fv, or as single chain antibodies in which heavy and light chain variable domains are linked through a spacer.

5. Expression of Recombinant Antibodies

Chimeric and humanized antibodies are typically produced by recombinant expression. Nucleic acids encoding light and heavy chain variable regions, optionally linked to constant regions, are inserted into expression vectors. The light and heavy chains can be cloned in the same or different expression vectors. The DNA segments encoding immunoglobulin chains are operably linked to control sequences in the expression vector(s) that ensure the expression of immunoglobulin polypeptides. Expression control sequences include, but are not limited to, promoters (*e.g.*, naturally-associated or heterologous promoters), signal sequences, enhancer elements, and transcription termination sequences. Preferably, the expression control sequences are eukaryotic promoter systems in vectors capable of transforming or transfecting eukaryotic host cells. Once the vector has been incorporated into the appropriate host,

the host is maintained under conditions suitable for high level expression of the nucleotide sequences, and the collection and purification of the crossreacting antibodies.

These expression vectors are typically replicable in the host organisms either as episomes or as an integral part of the host chromosomal DNA. Commonly, expression vectors contain selection markers (*e.g.*, ampicillin-resistance, hygromycin-resistance, tetracycline resistance, kanamycin resistance or neomycin resistance) to permit detection of those cells transformed with the desired DNA sequences (see, *e.g.*, Itakura *et al.*, US Patent 4,704,362).

E. coli is one prokaryotic host particularly useful for cloning the polynucleotides (*e.g.*, DNA sequences) of the present invention. Other microbial hosts suitable for use include bacilli, such as *Bacillus subtilis*, and other enterobacteriaceae, such as *Salmonella*, *Serratia*, and various *Pseudomonas* species. In these prokaryotic hosts, one can also make expression vectors, which will typically contain expression control sequences compatible with the host cell (*e.g.*, an origin of replication). In addition, any number of a variety of well-known promoters will be present, such as the lactose promoter system, a tryptophan (trp) promoter system, a beta-lactamase promoter system, or a promoter system from phage lambda. The promoters will typically control expression, optionally with an operator sequence, and have ribosome binding site sequences and the like, for initiating and completing transcription and translation.

Other microbes, such as yeast, are also useful for expression. *Saccharomyces* is a preferred yeast host, with suitable vectors having expression control sequences (*e.g.*, promoters), an origin of replication, termination sequences and the like as desired. Typical promoters include 3-phosphoglycerate kinase and other glycolytic enzymes. Inducible yeast promoters include, among others, promoters from alcohol dehydrogenase, isocytochrome C, and enzymes responsible for maltose and galactose utilization.

In addition to microorganisms, mammalian tissue cell culture may also be used to express and produce the polypeptides of the present invention (*e.g.*, polynucleotides encoding immunoglobulins or fragments thereof). See Winnacker, From Genes to Clones, VCH Publishers, N.Y., N.Y. (1987). Eukaryotic cells are actually preferred, because a number of suitable host cell lines capable of secreting heterologous proteins (*e.g.*, intact immunoglobulins) have been developed in the art, and include CHO cell lines, various Cos cell lines, HeLa cells, preferably, myeloma cell

lines, or transformed B-cells or hybridomas. Preferably, the cells are nonhuman. Expression vectors for these cells can include expression control sequences, such as an origin of replication, a promoter, and an enhancer (Queen *et al.*, *Immunol. Rev.* 89:49 (1986)), and necessary processing information sites, such as ribosome binding sites, RNA splice sites, polyadenylation sites, and transcriptional terminator sequences. Preferred expression control sequences are promoters derived from immunoglobulin genes, SV40, adenovirus, bovine papilloma virus, cytomegalovirus and the like. See Co *et al.*, *J. Immunol.* 148:1149 (1992).

Alternatively, antibody-coding sequences can be incorporated in transgenes for introduction into the genome of a transgenic animal and subsequent expression in the milk of the transgenic animal (see, *e.g.*, Deboer *et al.*, US 5,741,957, Rosen, US 5,304,489, and Meade *et al.*, US 5,849,992). Suitable transgenes include coding sequences for light and/or heavy chains in operable linkage with a promoter and enhancer from a mammary gland specific gene, such as casein or beta lactoglobulin.

The vectors containing the polynucleotide sequences of interest (*e.g.*, the heavy and light chain encoding sequences and expression control sequences) can be transferred into the host cell by well-known methods, which vary depending on the type of cellular host. For example, calcium chloride transfection is commonly utilized for prokaryotic cells, whereas calcium phosphate treatment, electroporation, lipofection, biolistics or viral-based transfection may be used for other cellular hosts. (See generally Sambrook *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual* (Cold Spring Harbor Press, 2nd ed., 1989) (incorporated by reference in its entirety for all purposes). Other methods used to transform mammalian cells include the use of polybrene, protoplast fusion, liposomes, electroporation, and microinjection (see generally, Sambrook *et al.*, *supra*). For production of transgenic animals, transgenes can be microinjected into fertilized oocytes, or can be incorporated into the genome of embryonic stem cells, and the nuclei of such cells transferred into enucleated oocytes.

When heavy and light chains are cloned on separate expression vectors, the vectors are co-transfected to obtain expression and assembly of intact immunoglobulins. Once expressed, the whole antibodies, their dimers, individual light and heavy chains, or other immunoglobulin forms of the present invention can be purified according to standard procedures of the art, including ammonium sulfate precipitation, affinity columns, column chromatography, HPLC purification, gel

electrophoresis and the like (see generally Scopes, Protein Purification (Springer-Verlag, N.Y., (1982)). Substantially pure immunoglobulins of at least about 90 to 95% homogeneity are preferred, and 98 to 99% or more homogeneity most preferred, for pharmaceutical uses.

6. Antibody Fragments

Also contemplated within the scope of the instant invention are antibody fragments. In one embodiment, fragments of non-human, and/or chimeric antibodies are provided. In another embodiment, fragments of humanized antibodies are provided. Typically, these fragments exhibit specific binding to antigen with an affinity of at least 10^7, and more typically 10^8 or $10^9 M^{-1}$. Humanized antibody fragments include separate heavy chains, light chains, Fab, Fab', F(ab')2, Fabc, and Fv. Fragments are produced by recombinant DNA techniques, or by enzymatic or chemical separation of intact immunoglobulins.

7. Testing Antibodies for Therapeutic Efficacy in Animal Models

Groups of 7-9 month old PDAPP mice each are injected with 0.5 mg in PBS of polyclonal anti-Aβ or specific anti-Aβ monoclonal antibodies. All antibody preparations are purified to have low endotoxin levels. Monoclonals can be prepared against a fragment by injecting the fragment or longer form of Aβ into a mouse, preparing hybridomas and screening the hybridomas for an antibody that specifically binds to a desired fragment of Aβ without binding to other nonoverlapping fragments of Aβ.

Mice are injected intraperitoneally as needed over a 4 month period to maintain a circulating antibody concentration measured by ELISA titer of greater than 1/1000 defined by ELISA to Aβ42 or other immunogen. Titers are monitored and mice are euthanized at the end of 6 months of injections. Histochemistry, Aβ levels and toxicology are performed post mortem. Ten mice are used per group.

8. Screening Antibodies for Clearing Activity

The invention also provides methods of screening an antibody for activity in clearing an amyloid deposit or any other antigen, or associated biological entity, for which clearing activity is desired. To screen for activity against an amyloid deposit, a tissue sample from a brain of a patient with Alzheimer's disease or an animal model having characteristic Alzheimer's pathology is contacted with phagocytic cells bearing an Fc receptor, such as microglial cells, and the antibody under test in a medium *in vitro*. The phagocytic cells can be a primary culture or a cell line, and can be of murine (*e.g.*, BV-2 or C8-B4 cells) or human origin (*e.g.*, THP-1 cells). In some methods, the components are combined on a microscope slide to facilitate microscopic monitoring. In some methods, multiple reactions are performed in parallel in the wells of a microtiter dish. In such a format, a separate miniature microscope slide can be mounted in the separate wells, or a nonmicroscopic detection format, such as ELISA detection of Aβ can be used. Preferably, a series of measurements is made of the amount of amyloid deposit in the *in vitro* reaction mixture, starting from a baseline value before the reaction has proceeded, and one or more test values during the reaction. The antigen can be detected by staining, for example, with a fluorescently labeled antibody to Aβ or other component of amyloid plaques. The antibody used for staining may or may not be the same as the antibody being tested for clearing activity. A reduction relative to baseline during the reaction of the amyloid deposits indicates that the antibody under test has clearing activity. Such antibodies are likely to be useful in preventing or treating Alzheimer's and other amyloidogenic diseases. Particularly useful antibodies for preventing or treating Alzheimer's and other amyloidogenic diseases include those capable of clearing both compact and diffuse amyloid plaques, for example, the 12B4 antibody of the instant invention, or chimeric or humanized versions thereof.

Analogous methods can be used to screen antibodies for activity in clearing other types of biological entities. The assay can be used to detect clearing activity against virtually any kind of biological entity. Typically, the biological entity has some role in human or animal disease. The biological entity can be provided as a tissue sample or in isolated form. If provided as a tissue sample, the tissue sample is preferably unfixed to allow ready access to components of the tissue sample and to avoid perturbing the conformation of the components incidental to fixing. Examples of tissue samples that can be tested in this assay include cancerous tissue, precancerous

tissue, tissue containing benign growths such as warts or moles, tissue infected with pathogenic microorganisms, tissue infiltrated with inflammatory cells, tissue bearing pathological matrices between cells (*e.g.*, fibrinous pericarditis), tissue bearing aberrant antigens, and scar tissue. Examples of isolated biological entities that can be used include Aβ, viral antigens or viruses, proteoglycans, antigens of other pathogenic microorganisms, tumor antigens, and adhesion molecules. Such antigens can be obtained from natural sources, recombinant expression or chemical synthesis, among other means. The tissue sample or isolated biological entity is contacted with phagocytic cells bearing Fc receptors, such as monocytes or microglial cells, and an antibody to be tested in a medium. The antibody can be directed to the biological entity under test or to an antigen associated with the entity. In the latter situation, the object is to test whether the biological entity is phagocytosed with the antigen. Usually, although not necessarily, the antibody and biological entity (sometimes with an associated antigen), are contacted with each other before adding the phagocytic cells. The concentration of the biological entity and/or the associated antigen remaining in the medium, if present, is then monitored. A reduction in the amount or concentration of antigen or the associated biological entity in the medium indicates the antibody has a clearing response against the antigen and/or associated biological entity in conjunction with the phagocytic cells (see, *e.g.*, Example IV).

9. Chimeric / Humanized Antibodies Having Altered Effector Function

For the above-described antibodies of the invention comprising a constant region (Fc region), it may also be desirable to alter the effector function of the molecule. Generally, the effector function of an antibody resides in the constant or Fc region of the molecule which can mediate binding to various effector molecules, *e.g.*, complement proteins or Fc receptors. The binding of complement to the Fc region is important, for example, in the opsonization and lysis of cell pathogens and the activation of inflammatory responses. The binding of antibody to Fc receptors, for example, on the surface of effector cells can trigger a number of important and diverse biological responses including, for example, engulfment and destruction of antibody-coated pathogens or particles, clearance of immune complexes, lysis of antibody-coated target cells by killer cells (*i.e.*, antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity, or ADCC),

release of inflammatory mediators, placental transfer of antibodies, and control of immunoglobulin production.

Accordingly, depending on a particular therapeutic or diagnostic application, the above-mentioned immune functions, or only selected immune functions, may be desirable. By altering the Fc region of the antibody, various aspects of the effector function of the molecule, including enhancing or suppressing various reactions of the immune system, with beneficial effects in diagnosis and therapy, are achieved.

The antibodies of the invention can be produced which react only with certain types of Fc receptors, for example, the antibodies of the invention can be modified to bind to only certain Fc receptors, or if desired, lack Fc receptor binding entirely, by deletion or alteration of the Fc receptor binding site located in the Fc region of the antibody. Other desirable alterations of the Fc region of an antibody of the invention are cataloged below. Typically the Kabat numbering system is used to indicate which amino acid residue(s) of the Fc region (*e.g.*, of an IgG antibody) are altered (*e.g.*, by amino acid substitution) in order to achieve a desired change in effector function. The numbering system is also employed to compare antibodies across species such that a desired effector function observed in, for example, a mouse antibody, can then be systematically engineered into a human, humanized, or chimeric antibody of the invention.

For example, it has been observed that antibodies (*e.g.*, IgG antibodies) can be grouped into those found to exhibit tight, intermediate, or weak binding to an Fc receptor (*e.g.*, an Fc receptor on human monocytes (FcγRI)). By comparison of the amino-acid sequences in these different affinity groups, a monocyte-binding site in the hinge-link region (Leu234-Ser239) has been identified. Moreover, the human FcγRI receptor binds human IgG1 and mouse IgG2a as a monomer, but the binding of mouse IgG2b is 100-fold weaker. A comparison of the sequence of these proteins in the hinge-link region shows that the sequence 234 to 238, *i.e.*, Leu-Leu-Gly-Gly-Pro in the strong binders becomes Leu-Glu-Gly-Gly-Pro in mouse gamma 2b, *i.e.*, weak binders. Accordingly, a corresponding change in a human antibody hinge sequence can be made if reduced FcγI receptor binding is desired. It is understood that other alterations can be made to achieve the same or similar results. For example, the affinity of FcγRI binding can be altered by replacing the specified residue with a residue having an inappropriate

functional group on its sidechain, or by introducing a charged functional group (*e.g.*, Glu or Asp) or for example an aromatic non-polar residue (*e.g.*, Phe, Tyr, or Trp).

These changes can be equally applied to the murine, human, and rat systems given the sequence homology between the different immunoglobulins. It has been shown that for human IgG3, which binds to the human FcγRI receptor, changing Leu 235 to Glu destroys the interaction of the mutant for the receptor. The binding site for this receptor can thus be switched on or switched off by making the appropriate mutation.

Mutations on adjacent or close sites in the hinge link region (*e.g.*, replacing residues 234, 236 or 237 by Ala) indicate that alterations in residues 234, 235, 236, and 237 at least affect affinity for the FcγRI receptor. Accordingly, the antibodies of the invention can also have an altered Fc region with altered binding affinity for FcγRI as compared with the unmodified antibody. Such an antibody conveniently has a modification at amino acid residue 234, 235, 236, or 237.

Affinity for other Fc receptors can be altered by a similar approach, for controlling the immune response in different ways.

As a further example, the lytic properties of IgG antibodies following binding of the Cl component of complement can be altered.

The first component of the complement system, Cl, comprises three proteins known as Clq, Clr and Cls which bind tightly together. It has been shown that Clq is responsible for binding of the three protein complex to an antibody.

Accordingly, the Clq binding activity of an antibody can be altered by providing an antibody with an altered CH 2 domain in which at least one of the amino acid residues 318, 320, and 322 of the heavy chain has been changed to a residue having a different side chain. The numbering of the residues in the heavy chain is that of the EU index (see Kabat *et al.*, supra). Other suitable alterations for altering, *e.g.*, reducing or abolishing specific Clq-binding to an antibody include changing any one of residues 318 (Glu), 320 (Lys) and 322 (Lys), to Ala.

Moreover, by making mutations at these residues, it has been shown that Clq binding is retained as long as residue 318 has a hydrogen-bonding side chain and residues 320 and 322 both have a positively charged side chain.

Clq binding activity can be abolished by replacing any one of the three specified residues with a residue having an inappropriate functionality on its side chain. It is not necessary to replace the ionic residues only with Ala to abolish Clq binding. It is also possible to use other alkyl-substituted non-ionic residues, such as Gly, Ile, Leu, or Val, or such aromatic non-polar residues as Phe, Tyr, Trp and Pro in place of any one of the three residues in order to abolish Clq binding. In addition, it is also be possible to use such polar non-ionic residues as Ser, Thr, Cys, and Met in place of residues 320 and 322, but not 318, in order to abolish Clq binding activity.

It is also noted that the side chains on ionic or non-ionic polar residues will be able to form hydrogen bonds in a similar manner to the bonds formed by the Glu residue. Therefore, replacement of the 318 (Glu) residue by a polar residue may modify but not abolish Clq binding activity.

It is also known that replacing residue 297 (Asn) with Ala results in removal of lytic activity while only slightly reducing (about three fold weaker) affinity for Clq. This alteration destroys the glycosylation site and the presence of carbohydrate that is required for complement activation. Any other substitution at this site will also destroy the glycosylation site.

The invention also provides an antibody having an altered effector function wherein the antibody has a modified hinge region. The modified hinge region may comprise a complete hinge region derived from an antibody of different antibody class or subclass from that of the CH1 domain. For example, the constant domain (CH1) of a class IgG antibody can be attached to a hinge region of a class IgG4 antibody. Alternatively, the new hinge region may comprise part of a natural hinge or a repeating unit in which each unit in the repeat is derived from a natural hinge region. In one example, the natural hinge region is altered by converting one or more cysteine residues into a neutral residue, such as alanine, or by converting suitably placed residues into cysteine residues. Such alterations are carried out using art recognized protein chemistry and, preferably, genetic engineering techniques, as described herein.

In one embodiment of the invention, the number of cysteine residues in the hinge region of the antibody is reduced, for example, to one cysteine residue. This modification has the advantage of facilitating the assembly of the antibody, for example, bispecific antibody molecules and antibody molecules wherein the Fc portion has been replaced by an effector or reporter molecule, since it is only necessary to form a single

disulfide bond. This modification also provides a specific target for attaching the hinge region either to another hinge region or to an effector or reporter molecule, either directly or indirectly, for example, by chemical means.

Conversely, the number of cysteine residues in the hinge region of the antibody is increased, for example, at least one more than the number of normally occurring cysteine residues. Increasing the number of cysteine residues can be used to stabilize the interactions between adjacent hinges. Another advantage of this modification is that it facilitates the use of cysteine thiol groups for attaching effector or reporter molecules to the altered antibody, for example, a radiolabel.

Accordingly, the invention provides for an exchange of hinge regions between antibody classes, in particular, IgG classes, and/or an increase or decrease in the number of cysteine residues in the hinge region in order to achieve an altered effector function (see for example U.S. Patent No. 5,677,425 which is expressly incorporated herein). A determination of altered antibody effector function is made using the assays described herein or other art recognized techniques.

Importantly, the resultant antibody can be subjected to one or more assays to evaluate any change in biological activity compared to the starting antibody. For example, the ability of the antibody with an altered Fc region to bind complement or Fc receptors can be assessed using the assays disclosed herein as well as any art recognized assay.

Production of the antibodies of the invention is carried out by any suitable technique including techniques described herein as well as techniques known to those skilled in the art. For example an appropriate protein sequence, *e.g.* forming part of or all of a relevant constant domain, *e.g.*, Fc region, *i.e.*, CH2, and/or CH3 domain(s), of an antibody, and include appropriately altered residue(s) can be synthesized and then chemically joined into the appropriate place in an antibody molecule.

Preferably, genetic engineering techniques are used for producing an altered antibody. Preferred techniques include, for example, preparing suitable primers for use in polymerase chain reaction (PCR) such that a DNA sequence which encodes at least part of an IgG heavy chain, *e.g.*, an Fc or constant region (*e.g.*, CH2, and/or CH3) is altered, at one or more residues. The segment can then be operably linked to the remaining portion of the antibody, *e.g.*, the variable region of the antibody and required regulatory elements for expression in a cell.

The present invention also includes vectors used to transform the cell line, vectors used in producing the transforming vectors, cell lines transformed with the transforming vectors, cell lines transformed with preparative vectors, and methods for their production.

Preferably, the cell line which is transformed to produce the antibody with an altered Fc region (*i.e.*, of altered effector function) is an immortalized mammalian cell line (*e.g.*, CHO cell).

Although the cell line used to produce the antibody with an altered Fc region is preferably a mammalian cell line, any other suitable cell line, such as a bacterial cell line or a yeast cell line, may alternatively be used.

B. Nucleic Acid Encoding Immunologic and Therapeutic Agents

Immune responses against amyloid deposits can also be induced by administration of nucleic acids encoding antibodies and their component chains used for passive immunization. Such nucleic acids can be DNA or RNA. A nucleic acid segment encoding an immunogen is typically linked to regulatory elements, such as a promoter and enhancer, that allow expression of the DNA segment in the intended target cells of a patient. For expression in blood cells, as is desirable for induction of an immune response, promoter and enhancer elements from light or heavy chain immunoglobulin genes or the CMV major intermediate early promoter and enhancer are suitable to direct expression. The linked regulatory elements and coding sequences are often cloned into a vector. For administration of double-chain antibodies, the two chains can be cloned in the same or separate vectors.

A number of viral vector systems are available including retroviral systems *(see, e.g.*, Lawrie and Tumin, *Cur. Opin. Genet. Develop.* 3:102-109 (1993)); adenoviral vectors (*see, e.g.*, Bett *et al.*, *J. Virol.* 67:5911 (1993)); adeno-associated virus vectors (see, *e.g.*, Zhou *et al.*, *J. Exp. Med.* 179:1867 (1994)), viral vectors from the pox family including vaccinia virus and the avian pox viruses, viral vectors from the alpha virus genus such as those derived from Sindbis and Semliki Forest Viruses *(see, e.g.*, Dubensky *et al.*, *J. Virol.* 70:508 (1996)), Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus (see Johnston *et al.*, US 5,643,576) and rhabdoviruses, such as vesicular stomatitis virus (see Rose, 6,168,943) and papillomaviruses (Ohe *et al.*, *Human Gene Therapy* 6:325 (1995);

Woo *et al.*, WO 94/12629 and Xiao & Brandsma, *Nucleic Acids. Res.* 24, 2630-2622 (1996)).

DNA encoding an immunogen, or a vector containing the same, can be packaged into liposomes. Suitable lipids and related analogs are described by Eppstein *et al.*, US 5,208,036, Felgner *et al.*, US 5,264,618, Rose, US 5,279,833, and Epand *et al.*, US 5,283,185. Vectors and DNA encoding an immunogen can also be adsorbed to or associated with particulate carriers, examples of which include polymethyl methacrylate polymers and polylactides and poly (lactide-co-glycolides), see, *e.g.*, McGee *et al.*, *J. Micro Encap.* (1996).

Gene therapy vectors or naked polypeptides (*e.g.*, DNA) can be delivered *in vivo* by administration to an individual patient, typically by systemic administration (*e.g.*, intravenous, intraperitoneal, nasal, gastric, intradermal, intramuscular, subdermal, or intracranial infusion) or topical application (*see e.g.*, Anderson *et al.*, US 5,399,346). The term "naked polynucleotide" refers to a polynucleotide not complexed with colloidal materials. Naked polynucleotides are sometimes cloned in a plasmid vector. Such vectors can further include facilitating agents such as bupivacine (Weiner *et al.*, US 5,593,972). DNA can also be administered using a gene gun. See Xiao & Brandsma, *supra*. The DNA encoding an immunogen is precipitated onto the surface of microscopic metal beads. The microprojectiles are accelerated with a shock wave or expanding helium gas, and penetrate tissues to a depth of several cell layers. For example, The Accel™ Gene Delivery Device manufactured by Agricetus, Inc. Middleton WI is suitable. Alternatively, naked DNA can pass through skin into the blood stream simply by spotting the DNA onto skin with chemical or mechanical irritation (see Howell *et al.*, WO 95/05853).

In a further variation, vectors encoding immunogens can be delivered to cells *ex vivo*, such as cells explanted from an individual patient (*e.g.*, lymphocytes, bone marrow aspirates, tissue biopsy) or universal donor hematopoietic stem cells, followed by reimplantation of the cells into a patient, usually after selection for cells which have incorporated the vector.

II. Prophylactic and Therapeutic Methods

The present invention is directed *inter alia* to treatment of Alzheimer's and other amyloidogenic diseases by administration of therapeutic immunological reagents (*e.g.*, humanized immunoglobulins) to specific epitopes within Aβ to a patient under conditions that generate a beneficial therapeutic response in a patient (*e.g.*, induction of phagocytosis of Aβ, reduction of plaque burden, inhibition of plaque formation, reduction of neuritic dystrophy, improving cognitive function, and/or reversing, treating or preventing cognitive decline) in the patient, for example, for the prevention or treatment of an amyloidogenic disease. The invention is also directed to use of the disclosed immunological reagents (*e.g.*, humanized immunoglobulins) in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of an amyloidogenic disease.

In one aspect, the invention provides methods of preventing or treating a disease associated with amyloid deposits of Aβ in the brain of a patient. Such diseases include Alzheimer's disease, Down's syndrome and cognitive impairment. The latter can occur with or without other characteristics of an amyloidogenic disease. Some methods of the invention entail administering an effective dosage of an antibody that specifically binds to a component of an amyloid deposit to the patient. Such methods are particularly useful for preventing or treating Alzheimer's disease in human patients. Exemplary methods entail administering an effective dosage of an antibody that binds to Aβ. Preferred methods entail administering an effective dosage of an antibody that specifically binds to an epitope within residues 1-10 of Aβ, for example, antibodies that specifically bind to an epitope within residues 1-3 of Aβ, antibodies that specifically bind to an epitope within residues 1-4 of Aβ, antibodies that specifically bind to an epitope within residues 1-5 of Aβ, antibodies that specifically bind to an epitope within residues 1-6 of Aβ, antibodies that specifically bind to an epitope within residues 1-7 of Aβ, or antibodies that specifically bind to an epitope within residues 3-7 of Aβ. In yet another aspect, the invention features administering antibodies that bind to an epitope comprising a free N-terminal residue of Aβ. In yet another aspect, the invention features administering antibodies that bind to an epitope within residues of 1-10 of Aß wherein residue 1 and/or residue 7 of Aβ is aspartic acid. In yet another aspect, the invention features administering antibodies that specifically bind to Aβ peptide without binding to

full-length amyloid precursor protein (APP). In yet another aspect, the isotype of the antibody is human IgG1.

In yet another aspect, the invention features administering antibodies that bind to an amyloid deposit in the patient and induce a clearing response against the amyloid deposit. For example, such a clearing response can be effected by Fc receptor mediated phagocytosis.

Therapeutic agents of the invention are typically substantially pure from undesired contaminant. This means that an agent is typically at least about 50% w/w (weight/weight) purity, as well as being substantially free from interfering proteins and contaminants. Sometimes the agents are at least about 80% w/w and, more preferably at least 90 or about 95% w/w purity. However, using conventional protein purification techniques, homogeneous peptides of at least 99% w/w can be obtained.

The methods can be used on both asymptomatic patients and those currently showing symptoms of disease. The antibodies used in such methods can be human, humanized, chimeric or nonhuman antibodies, or fragments thereof (*e.g.*, antigen binding fragments) and can be monoclonal or polyclonal, as described herein. In yet another aspect, the invention features administering antibodies prepared from a human immunized with Aβ peptide, which human can be the patient to be treated with antibody.

In another aspect, the invention features administering an antibody with a pharmaceutical carrier as a pharmaceutical composition. Alternatively, the antibody can be administered to a patient by administering a polynucleotide encoding at least one antibody chain. The polynucleotide is expressed to produce the antibody chain in the patient. Optionally, the polynucleotide encodes heavy and light chains of the antibody. The polynucleotide is expressed to produce the heavy and light chains in the patient. In exemplary embodiments, the patient is monitored for level of administered antibody in the blood of the patient.

The invention thus fulfills a longstanding need for therapeutic regimes for preventing or ameliorating the neuropathology and, in some patients, the cognitive impairment associated with Alzheimer's disease.

A. Patients Amenable to Treatment

Patients amenable to treatment include individuals at risk of disease but not showing symptoms, as well as patients presently showing symptoms. In the case of Alzheimer's disease, virtually anyone is at risk of suffering from Alzheimer's disease if he or she lives long enough. Therefore, the present methods can be administered prophylactically to the general population without the need for any assessment of the risk of the subject patient. The present methods are especially useful for individuals who have a known genetic risk of Alzheimer's disease. Such individuals include those having relatives who have experienced this disease, and those whose risk is determined by analysis of genetic or biochemical markers. Genetic markers of risk toward Alzheimer's disease include mutations in the APP gene, particularly mutations at position 717 and positions 670 and 671 referred to as the Hardy and Swedish mutations respectively (see Hardy, *supra*). Other markers of risk are mutations in the presenilin genes, PS1 and PS2, and ApoE4, family history of AD, hypercholesterolemia or atherosclerosis. Individuals presently suffering from Alzheimer's disease can be recognized from characteristic dementia, as well as the presence of risk factors described above. In addition, a number of diagnostic tests are available for identifying individuals who have AD. These include measurement of CSF tau and Aβ42 levels. Elevated tau and decreased Aβ42 levels signify the presence of AD. Individuals suffering from Alzheimer's disease can also be diagnosed by ADRDA criteria as discussed in the Examples section.

In asymptomatic patients, treatment can begin at any age (*e.g.*, 10, 20, 30). Usually, however, it is not necessary to begin treatment until a patient reaches 40, 50, 60 or 70. Treatment typically entails multiple dosages over a period of time. Treatment can be monitored by assaying antibody levels over time. If the response falls, a booster dosage is indicated. In the case of potential Down's syndrome patients, treatment can begin antenatally by administering therapeutic agent to the mother or shortly after birth.

B. Treatment Regimes and Dosages

In prophylactic applications, pharmaceutical compositions or medicaments are administered to a patient susceptible to, or otherwise at risk of, Alzheimer's disease in an amount sufficient to eliminate or reduce the risk, lessen the

severity, or delay the outset of the disease, including biochemical, histologic and/or behavioral symptoms of the disease, its complications and intermediate pathological phenotypes presenting during development of the disease. In therapeutic applications, compositions or medicaments are administered to a patient suspected of, or already suffering from such a disease in an amount sufficient to cure, or at least partially arrest, the symptoms of the disease (biochemical, histologic and/or behavioral), including its complications and intermediate pathological phenotypes in development of the disease.

In some methods, administration of agent reduces or eliminates myocognitive impairment in patients that have not yet developed characteristic Alzheimer's pathology. An amount adequate to accomplish therapeutic or prophylactic treatment is defined as a therapeutically- or prophylactically-effective dose. In both prophylactic and therapeutic regimes, agents are usually administered in several dosages until a sufficient immune response has been achieved. The term "immune response" or "immunological response" includes the development of a humoral (antibody mediated) and/or a cellular (mediated by antigen-specific T cells or their secretion products) response directed against an antigen in a recipient subject. Such a response can be an active response, *i.e.*, induced by administration of immunogen, or a passive response, *i.e.*, induced by administration of immunoglobulin or antibody or primed T-cells. Typically, the immune response is monitored and repeated dosages are given if the immune response starts to wane.

Effective doses of the compositions of the present invention, for the treatment of the above described conditions vary depending upon many different factors, including means of administration, target site, physiological state of the patient, whether the patient is human or an animal, other medications administered, and whether treatment is prophylactic or therapeutic. Usually, the patient is a human but non-human mammals including transgenic mammals can also be treated. Treatment dosages need to be titrated to optimize safety and efficacy.

For passive immunization with an antibody, the dosage ranges from about 0.0001 to 100 mg/kg, and more usually 0.01 to 5 mg/kg (*e.g.*, 0.02 mg/kg, 0.25 mg/kg, 0.5 mg/kg, 0.75 mg/kg, 1mg/kg, 2 mg/kg, etc.), of the host body weight. For example dosages can be 1 mg/kg body weight or 10 mg/kg body weight or within the range of 1-10 mg/kg, preferably at least 1 mg/kg. Doses intermediate in the above ranges are also intended to be within the scope of the invention. Subjects can be administered such

doses daily, on alternative days, weekly or according to any other schedule determined by empirical analysis. An exemplary treatment entails administration in multiple dosages over a prolonged period, for example, of at least six months. Additional exemplary treatment regimes entail administration once per every two weeks or once a month or once every 3 to 6 months. Exemplary dosage schedules include 1-10 mg/kg or 15 mg/kg on consecutive days, 30 mg/kg on alternate days or 60 mg/kg weekly. In some methods, two or more monoclonal antibodies with different binding specificities are administered simultaneously, in which case the dosage of each antibody administered falls within the ranges indicated.

Antibody is usually administered on multiple occasions. Intervals between single dosages can be weekly, monthly or yearly. Intervals can also be irregular as indicated by measuring blood levels of antibody to Aβ in the patient. In some methods, dosage is adjusted to achieve a plasma antibody concentration of 1-1000 μg/ml and in some methods 25-300 μg/ml. Alternatively, antibody can be administered as a sustained release formulation, in which case less frequent administration is required. Dosage and frequency vary depending on the half-life of the antibody in the patient. In general, humanized antibodies show the longest half-life, followed by chimeric antibodies and nonhuman antibodies.

The dosage and frequency of administration can vary depending on whether the treatment is prophylactic or therapeutic. In prophylactic applications, compositions containing the present antibodies or a cocktail thereof are administered to a patient not already in the disease state to enhance the patient's resistance. Such an amount is defined to be a "prophylactic effective dose." In this use, the precise amounts again depend upon the patient's state of health and general immunity, but generally range from 0.1 to 25 mg per dose, especially 0.5 to 2.5 mg per dose. A relatively low dosage is administered at relatively infrequent intervals over a long period of time. Some patients continue to receive treatment for the rest of their lives.

In therapeutic applications, a relatively high dosage (*e.g.*, from about 1 to 200 mg of antibody per dose, with dosages of from 5 to 25 mg being more commonly used) at relatively short intervals is sometimes required until progression of the disease is reduced or terminated, and preferably until the patient shows partial or complete amelioration of symptoms of disease. Thereafter, the patent can be administered a prophylactic regime.

Doses for nucleic acids encoding antibodies range from about 10 ng to 1 g, 100 ng to 100 mg, 1 μg to 10 mg, or 30-300 μg DNA per patient. Doses for infectious viral vectors vary from 10-100, or more, virions per dose.

Therapeutic agents can be administered by parenteral, topical, intravenous, oral, subcutaneous, intraarterial, intracranial, intraperitoneal, intranasal or intramuscular means for prophylactic and/or therapeutic treatment. The most typical route of administration of an immunogenic agent is subcutaneous although other routes can be equally effective. The next most common route is intramuscular injection. This type of injection is most typically performed in the arm or leg muscles. In some methods, agents are injected directly into a particular tissue where deposits have accumulated, for example intracranial injection. Intramuscular injection or intravenous infusion are preferred for administration of antibody. In some methods, particular therapeutic antibodies are injected directly into the cranium. In some methods, antibodies are administered as a sustained release composition or device, such as a Medipad™ device.

Agents of the invention can optionally be administered in combination with other agents that are at least partly effective in treatment of amyloidogenic disease. In the case of Alzheimer's and Down's syndrome, in which amyloid deposits occur in the brain, agents of the invention can also be administered in conjunction with other agents that increase passage of the agents of the invention across the blood-brain barrier. Agents of the invention can also be administered in combination with other agents that enhance access of the therapeutic agent to a target cell or tissue, for example, liposomes and the like. Coadministering such agents can decrease the dosage of a therapeutic agent (*e.g.*, therapeutic antibody or antibody chain) needed to achieve a desired effect.

C. Pharmaceutical Compositions

Agents of the invention are often administered as pharmaceutical compositions comprising an active therapeutic agent, *i.e.*, and a variety of other pharmaceutically acceptable components. See *Remington's Pharmaceutical Science* (15th ed., Mack Publishing Company, Easton, Pennsylvania (1980)). The preferred form depends on the intended mode of administration and therapeutic application. The compositions can also include, depending on the formulation desired, pharmaceutically-acceptable, non-toxic carriers or diluents, which are defined as vehicles commonly used

to formulate pharmaceutical compositions for animal or human administration. The diluent is selected so as not to affect the biological activity of the combination. Examples of such diluents are distilled water, physiological phosphate-buffered saline, Ringer's solutions, dextrose solution, and Hank's solution. In addition, the pharmaceutical composition or formulation may also include other carriers, adjuvants, or nontoxic, nontherapeutic, nonimmunogenic stabilizers and the like.

Pharmaceutical compositions can also include large, slowly metabolized macromolecules such as proteins, polysaccharides such as chitosan, polylactic acids, polyglycolic acids and copolymers (such as latex functionalized sepharose(TM), agarose, cellulose, and the like), polymeric amino acids, amino acid copolymers, and lipid aggregates (such as oil droplets or liposomes). Additionally, these carriers can function as immunostimulating agents (*i.e.*, adjuvants).

For parenteral administration, agents of the invention can be administered as injectable dosages of a solution or suspension of the substance in a physiologically acceptable diluent with a pharmaceutical carrier that can be a sterile liquid such as water oils, saline, glycerol, or ethanol. Additionally, auxiliary substances, such as wetting or emulsifying agents, surfactants, pH buffering substances and the like can be present in compositions. Other components of pharmaceutical compositions are those of petroleum, animal, vegetable, or synthetic origin, for example, peanut oil, soybean oil, and mineral oil. In general, glycols such as propylene glycol or polyethylene glycol are preferred liquid carriers, particularly for injectable solutions. Antibodies can be administered in the form of a depot injection or implant preparation, which can be formulated in such a manner as to permit a sustained release of the active ingredient. An exemplary composition comprises monoclonal antibody at 5 mg/mL, formulated in aqueous buffer consisting of 50 mM L-histidine, 150 mM NaCl, adjusted to pH 6.0 with HCl.

Typically, compositions are prepared as injectables, either as liquid solutions or suspensions; solid forms suitable for solution in, or suspension in, liquid vehicles prior to injection can also be prepared. The preparation also can be emulsified or encapsulated in liposomes or micro particles such as polylactide, polyglycolide, or copolymer for enhanced adjuvant effect, as discussed above (see Langer, *Science* 249: 1527 (1990) and Hanes, *Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews* 28:97 (1997)). The agents of this invention can be administered in the form of a depot injection or implant

preparation, which can be formulated in such a manner as to permit a sustained or pulsatile release of the active ingredient.

Additional formulations suitable for other modes of administration include oral, intranasal, and pulmonary formulations, suppositories, and transdermal applications. For suppositories, binders and carriers include, for example, polyalkylene glycols or triglycerides; such suppositories can be formed from mixtures containing the active ingredient in the range of 0.5% to 10%, preferably 1%-2%. Oral formulations include excipients, such as pharmaceutical grades of mannitol, lactose, starch, magnesium stearate, sodium saccharine, cellulose, and magnesium carbonate. These compositions take the form of solutions, suspensions, tablets, pills, capsules, sustained release formulations or powders and contain 10%-95% of active ingredient, preferably 25%-70%.

Topical application can result in transdermal or intradermal delivery. Topical administration can be facilitated by co-administration of the agent with cholera toxin or detoxified derivatives or subunits thereof or other similar bacterial toxins (See Glenn *et al.*, *Nature* 391, 851 (1998)). Co-administration can be achieved by using the components as a mixture or as linked molecules obtained by chemical crosslinking or expression as a fusion protein.

Alternatively, transdermal delivery can be achieved using a skin path or using transferosomes (Paul *et al.*, *Eur. J. Immunol.* 25:3521 (1995); Cevc *et al.*, *Biochem. Biophys. Acta* 1368:201-15 (1998)).

III. Monitoring the Course of Treatment

The invention provides methods of monitoring treatment in a patient suffering from or susceptible to Alzheimer's, *i.e.*, for monitoring a course of treatment being administered to a patient. The methods can be used to monitor both therapeutic treatment on symptomatic patients and prophylactic treatment on asymptomatic patients. In particular, the methods are useful for monitoring passive immunization (*e.g.*, measuring level of administered antibody).

Some methods entail determining a baseline value, for example, of an antibody level or profile in a patient, before administering a dosage of agent, and comparing this with a value for the profile or level after treatment. A significant increase (*i.e.*, greater than the typical margin of experimental error in repeat

measurements of the same sample, expressed as one standard deviation from the mean of such measurements) in value of the level or profile signals a positive treatment outcome (*i.e.*, that administration of the agent has achieved a desired response). If the value for immune response does not change significantly, or decreases, a negative treatment outcome is indicated.

In other methods, a control value (*i.e.*, a mean and standard deviation) of level or profile is determined for a control population. Typically the individuals in the control population have not received prior treatment. Measured values of the level or profile in a patient after administering a therapeutic agent are then compared with the control value. A significant increase relative to the control value (*e.g.*, greater than one standard deviation from the mean) signals a positive or sufficient treatment outcome. A lack of significant increase or a decrease signals a negative or insufficient treatment outcome. Administration of agent is generally continued while the level is increasing relative to the control value. As before, attainment of a plateau relative to control values is an indicator that the administration of treatment can be discontinued or reduced in dosage and/or frequency.

In other methods, a control value of the level or profile (*e.g.*, a mean and standard deviation) is determined from a control population of individuals who have undergone treatment with a therapeutic agent and whose levels or profiles have plateaued in response to treatment. Measured values of levels or profiles in a patient are compared with the control value. If the measured level in a patient is not significantly different (*e.g.*, more than one standard deviation) from the control value, treatment can be discontinued. If the level in a patient is significantly below the control value, continued administration of agent is warranted. If the level in the patient persists below the control value, then a change in treatment may be indicated.

In other methods, a patient who is not presently receiving treatment but has undergone a previous course of treatment is monitored for antibody levels or profiles to determine whether a resumption of treatment is required. The measured level or profile in the patient can be compared with a value previously achieved in the patient after a previous course of treatment. A significant decrease relative to the previous measurement (*i.e.*, greater than a typical margin of error in repeat measurements of the same sample) is an indication that treatment can be resumed. Alternatively, the value measured in a patient can be compared with a control value (mean plus standard

deviation) determined in a population of patients after undergoing a course of treatment. Alternatively, the measured value in a patient can be compared with a control value in populations of prophylactically treated patients who remain free of symptoms of disease, or populations of therapeutically treated patients who show amelioration of disease characteristics. In all of these cases, a significant decrease relative to the control level (*i.e.*, more than a standard deviation) is an indicator that treatment should be resumed in a patient.

The tissue sample for analysis is typically blood, plasma, serum, mucous fluid or cerebrospinal fluid from the patient. The sample is analyzed, for example, for levels or profiles of antibodies to Aβ peptide, *e.g.*, levels or profiles of humanized antibodies. ELISA methods of detecting antibodies specific to Aβ are described in the Examples section. In some methods, the level or profile of an administered antibody is determined using a clearing assay, for example, in an *in vitro* phagocytosis assay, as described herein. In such methods, a tissue sample from a patient being tested is contacted with amyloid deposits (*e.g.*, from a PDAPP mouse) and phagocytic cells bearing Fc receptors. Subsequent clearing of the amyloid deposit is then monitored. The existence and extent of clearing response provides an indication of the existence and level of antibodies effective to clear Aβ in the tissue sample of the patient under test.

The antibody profile following passive immunization typically shows an immediate peak in antibody concentration followed by an exponential decay. Without a further dosage, the decay approaches pretreatment levels within a period of days to months depending on the half-life of the antibody administered.

In some methods, a baseline measurement of antibody to Aβ in the patient is made before administration, a second measurement is made soon thereafter to determine the peak antibody level, and one or more further measurements are made at intervals to monitor decay of antibody levels. When the level of antibody has declined to baseline or a predetermined percentage of the peak less baseline (*e.g.*, 50%, 25% or 10%), administration of a further dosage of antibody is administered. In some methods, peak or subsequent measured levels less background are compared with reference levels previously determined to constitute a beneficial prophylactic or therapeutic treatment regime in other patients. If the measured antibody level is significantly less than a reference level (*e.g.*, less than the mean minus one standard deviation of the reference

value in population of patients benefiting from treatment) administration of an additional dosage of antibody is indicated.

Additional methods include monitoring, over the course of treatment, any art-recognized physiologic symptom (*e.g.*, physical or mental symptom) routinely relied on by researchers or physicians to diagnose or monitor amyloidogenic diseases (*e.g.*, Alzheimer's disease). For example, one can monitor cognitive impairment. The latter is a symptom of Alzheimer's disease and Down's syndrome but can also occur without other characteristics of either of these diseases. For example, cognitive impairment can be monitored by determining a patient's score on the Mini-Mental State Exam in accordance with convention throughout the course of treatment.

C. Kits

The invention further provides kits for performing the monitoring methods described above. Typically, such kits contain an agent that specifically binds to antibodies to Aβ. The kit can also include a label. For detection of antibodies to Aβ, the label is typically in the form of labeled anti-idiotypic antibodies. For detection of antibodies, the agent can be supplied prebound to a solid phase, such as to the wells of a microtiter dish. Kits also typically contain labeling providing directions for use of the kit. The labeling may also include a chart or other correspondence regime correlating levels of measured label with levels of antibodies to Aβ. The term labeling refers to any written or recorded material that is attached to, or otherwise accompanies a kit at any time during its manufacture, transport, sale or use. For example, the term labeling encompasses advertising leaflets and brochures, packaging materials, instructions, audio or videocassettes, computer discs, as well as writing imprinted directly on kits.

The invention also provides diagnostic kits, for example, research, detection and/or diagnostic kits (*e.g.*, for performing *in vivo* imaging). Such kits typically contain an antibody for binding to an epitope of Aβ, preferably within residues 1-10. Preferably, the antibody is labeled or a secondary labeling reagent is included in the kit. Preferably, the kit is labeled with instructions for performing the intended application, for example, for performing an *in vivo* imaging assay. Exemplary antibodies are those described herein.

D. *In vivo* Imaging

The invention provides methods of *in vivo* imaging amyloid deposits in a patient. Such methods are useful to diagnose or confirm diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, or susceptibility thereto. For example, the methods can be used on a patient presenting with symptoms of dementia. If the patient has abnormal amyloid deposits, then the patient is likely suffering from Alzheimer's disease. The methods can also be used on asymptomatic patients. Presence of abnormal deposits of amyloid indicates susceptibility to future symptomatic disease. The methods are also useful for monitoring disease progression and/or response to treatment in patients who have been previously diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

The methods work by administering a reagent, such as antibody that binds to Aβ, to the patient and then detecting the agent after it has bound. Preferred antibodies bind to Aβ deposits in a patient without binding to full length APP polypeptide. Antibodies binding to an epitope of Aβ within amino acids 1-10 are particularly preferred. In some methods, the antibody binds to an epitope within amino acids 7-10 of Aβ. Such antibodies typically bind without inducing a substantial clearing response. In other methods, the antibody binds to an epitope within amino acids 1-7 of Aβ. Such antibodies typically bind and induce a clearing response to Aβ. However, the clearing response can be avoided by using antibody fragments lacking a full-length constant region, such as Fabs. In some methods, the same antibody can serve as both a treatment and diagnostic reagent. In general, antibodies binding to epitopes C-terminal to residue 10 of Aβ do not show as strong a signal as antibodies binding to epitopes within residues 1-10, presumably because the C-terminal epitopes are inaccessible in amyloid deposits. Accordingly, such antibodies are less preferred.

Diagnostic reagents can be administered by intravenous injection into the body of the patient, or directly into the brain by intracranial injection or by drilling a hole through the skull. The dosage of reagent should be within the same ranges as for treatment methods. Typically, the reagent is labeled, although in some methods, the primary reagent with affinity for Aβ is unlabelled and a secondary labeling agent is used to bind to the primary reagent. The choice of label depends on the means of detection. For example, a fluorescent label is suitable for optical detection. Use of paramagnetic

labels is suitable for tomographic detection without surgical intervention. Radioactive labels can also be detected using PET or SPECT.

Diagnosis is performed by comparing the number, size, and/or intensity of labeled loci, to corresponding baseline values. The base line values can represent the mean levels in a population of undiseased individuals. Baseline values can also represent previous levels determined in the same patient. For example, baseline values can be determined in a patient before beginning treatment, and measured values thereafter compared with the baseline values. A decrease in values relative to baseline signals a positive response to treatment.

The present invention will be more fully described by the following non-limiting examples.

The present invention also provides any one of the embodiments disclosed below and indicated with the numbers 1 to 115.

1. A humanized immunoglobulin light chain comprising variable region complementary determining regions (CDRs) from the 12B4 immunoglobulin light chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:2, and comprising variable framework regions from a human acceptor immunoglobulin light chain sequence, provided that at least one framework residue is substituted with the corresponding amino acid residue from the mouse 12B4 light chain variable region sequence, wherein the framework residue is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a residue that non-covalently binds antigen directly;

(b) a residue adjacent to a CDR;

(c) a CDR-interacting residue; and

(d) a residue participating in the VL-VH interface.

2. A humanized immunoglobulin heavy chain comprising variable region complementary determining regions (CDRs) from the 12B4 immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:4 and comprising variable framework regions from a human acceptor immunoglobulin heavy chain, provided that at least one framework residue is substituted with the corresponding amino acid residue from the mouse 12B4 heavy chain variable region sequence, wherein the framework residue is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a residue that non-covalently binds antigen directly;

(b) a residue adjacent to a CDR;

(c) a CDR-interacting residue; and

(d) a residue participating in the VL-VH interface.

3. The light chain of claim 1, wherein a CDR-interacting residue is identified by modeling the 12B4 light chain based on the solved structure of a murine immunoglobulin light chain that shares at least 70% sequence identity with the 12B4 light chain.

4. The light chain of claim 1, wherein a CDR-interacting residue is identified by modeling the 12B4 light chain based on the solved structure of a murine immunoglobulin light chain that shares at least 80% sequence identity with the 12B4 light chain.

5. The light chain of claim 1, wherein a CDR-interacting residue is identified by modeling the 12B4 light chain based on the solved structure of a murine immunoglobulin light chain that shares at least 90% sequence identity with the 12B4 light chain.

6. The heavy chain of claim 2, wherein a CDR-interacting residue is identified by modeling the 12B4 heavy chain based on the solved structure of a murine immunoglobulin heavy chain that shares at least 70% sequence identity with the 12B4 heavy chain.

7. The heavy chain of claim 2, wherein a CDR-interacting residue is identified by modeling the 12B4 heavy chain based on the solved structure of a murine immunoglobulin heavy chain that shares at least 80% sequence identity with the 12B4 heavy chain.

8. The heavy chain of claim 2, wherein a CDR-interacting residue is identified by modeling the 12B4 heavy chain based on the solved structure of a murine immunoglobulin heavy chain that shares at least 90% sequence identity with the 12B4 heavy chain.

9. A humanized immunoglobulin light chain comprising variable region complementary determining regions (CDRs) from the 12B4 immunoglobulin light chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:2, and comprising variable framework regions from a human acceptor immunoglobulin light chain sequence, provided that at least one framework residue is substituted with the corresponding amino acid residue from the mouse 12B4 light chain variable region sequence, wherein the framework

residue is a residue capable of affecting light chain variable region conformation or function as identified by analysis of a three-dimensional model of the variable region.

10. A humanized immunoglobulin heavy chain comprising variable region complementary determining regions (CDRs) from the 12B4 immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:4, and comprising variable framework regions from a human acceptor immunoglobulin heavy chain, provided that at least one framework residue is substituted with the corresponding amino acid residue from the mouse 12B4 heavy chain variable region sequence, wherein the framework residue is a residue capable of affecting heavy chain variable region conformation or function as identified by analysis of a three-dimensional model of the variable region.

11. The light chain of claim 9, wherein the framework residue is selected from the group consisting of a residue capable of interacting with antigen, a residue proximal to the antigen binding site, a residue capable of interacting with a CDR, a residue adjacent to a CDR, a residue within 6 Å of a CDR residue, a canonical residue, a vernier zone residue, an interchain packing residue, a rare residue, and a glycoslyation site residue on the surface of the structural model.

12. The heavy chain of claim 10, wherein the framework residue is selected from the group consisting of a residue capable of interacting with antigen, a residue proximal to the antigen binding site, a residue capable of interacting with a CDR, a residue adjacent to a CDR, a residue within 6 Å of a CDR residue, a canonical residue, a vernier zone residue, an interchain packing residue, an unusual residue, and a glycoslyation site residue on the surface of the structural model.

13. The light chain of claim 9 or 11, wherein the framework residue is identified by modeling the 12B4 light chain based on the solved structure of a murine immunoglobulin light chain that shares at least 70% sequence identity with the 12B4 light chain.

14. The light chain of claim 9 or 11, wherein the framework residue is identified by modeling the 12B4 light chain based on the solved structure of a murine immunoglobulin light chain that shares at least 80% sequence identity with the 12B4 light chain.

15. The light chain of claim 9 or 11, wherein the framework residue is identified by modeling the 12B4 light chain based on the solved structure of a murine immunoglobulin light chain that shares at least 90% sequence identity with the 12B4 light chain.

16. The heavy chain of claim 10 or 12, wherein the framework residue is identified by modeling the 12B4 heavy chain based on the solved structure of a murine immunoglobulin heavy chain that shares at least 70% sequence identity with the 12B4 heavy chain.

17. The heavy chain of claim 10 or 12, wherein the framework residue is identified by modeling the 12B4 heavy chain based on the solved structure of a murine immunoglobulin heavy chain that shares at least 80% sequence identity with the 12B4 heavy chain.

18. The heavy chain of claim 10 or 12, wherein the framework residue is identified by modeling the 12B4 heavy chain based on the solved structure of a murine immunoglobulin heavy chain that shares at least 90% sequence identity with the 12B4 heavy chain.

19. A light chain comprising the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) and variable region framework residue L2 (Kabat numbering convention) from the monoclonal antibody 12B4 light chain, wherein the remainder of the light chain is from a human immunoglobulin.

20. A heavy chain comprising the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) and variable framework residues H2, H24, H27, H29, H48, H49, H67, H71, and H78 (Kabat numbering convention) from the monoclonal antibody 12B4 heavy chain, wherein the remainder of the heavy chain is from a human immunoglobulin.

21. A heavy chain comprising the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) and variable framework residues H24, H27, H29 and H71 (Kabat numbering convention) from the monoclonal antibody 12B4 heavy chain, wherein the remainder of the heavy chain is from a human immunoglobulin.

22. A heavy chain comprising the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) and variable framework residues H24, H27, H29, H48, H71 and H78 (Kabat numbering convention) from the monoclonal antibody 12B4 heavy chain, wherein the remainder of the heavy chain is from a human immunoglobulin.

23. A humanized immunoglobulin comprising the light chain of any one of the preceding claims, and the heavy chain of any one of the preceding claims, or antigen-binding fragment of said immunoglobulin.

24. The immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment of claim 23, which specifically binds to beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) with a binding affinity of at least 10^{-7} M.

25. The immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment of claim 23, which specifically binds to beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) with a binding affinity of at least 10^{-8} M.

26. The immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment of claim 23, which specifically binds to beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) with a binding affinity of at least 10^{-9} M.

27. The immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment of claim 23, wherein the heavy chain isotype is gamma 1.

28. The immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment of claim 23, which binds to soluble beta amyloid peptide (Aβ).

29. The immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment of claim 23, which binds to aggregated beta amyloid peptide (Aβ).

30. The immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment of claim 23, which binds to an epitope within residues 3-7 of beta amyloid peptide (Aβ).

31. The immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment of claim 23, which mediates phagocytosis of beta amyloid peptide (Aβ).

32. The immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment of claim 23, which crosses the blood-brain barrier in a subject.

33. The immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment of claim 23, which reduces beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) plaque burden in a subject.

34. A humanized antibody comprising the complementary determining regions (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3) of the 12B4 variable light chain sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:2.

35. A humanized antibody comprising the complementary determining regions (CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3) of the 12B4 variable heavy chain sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:4.

36. A humanized antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, which specifically binds to beta amyloid peptide (Aβ), comprising a variable region comprising complementary determining regions (CDRs) corresponding to CDRs from the mouse 12B4 antibody.

37. The fragment of claim 36 which is a Fab fragment.

38. A chimeric immunoglobulin comprising variable region sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, and comprising constant region sequences from a human immunoglobulin.

39. A method of preventing or treating an amyloidogenic disease in a patient, comprising administering to the patient an effective dosage of the humanized immunoglobulin of any one of the preceding claims.

40. A method of preventing or treating Alzheimer's disease in a patient, comprising administering to the patient an effective dosage of the humanized immunoglobulin of any one of the preceding claims.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein the effective dosage of humanized immunoglobulin is 1 mg/kg body weight.

42. The method of claim 40, wherein the effective dosage of humanized immunoglobulin is 10 mg/kg body weight.

43. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the immunoglobulin of any one of claims the preceding claims and a pharmaceutical carrier.

44. An isolated polypeptide comprising a fragment of SEQ ID NO:2 selected from the group consisting of amino acids 43-58 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 74-80 of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 113-121 of SEQ ID NO:2.

45. An isolated polypeptide comprising amino acids 43-48 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 74-80 of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 113-121 of SEQ ID NO:2.

46. An isolated polypeptide comprising a fragment of SEQ ID NO:4 selected from the group consisting of amino acids 50-56 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 71-86 of SEQ ID NO:4 and amino acids 118-131 of SEQ ID NO:4.

47. An isolated polypeptide comprising amino acids 50-56 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 71-86 of SEQ ID NO:4 and amino acids 118-131 of SEQ ID NO:4.

48. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:6.

49. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10 and SEQ ID NO:12.

50. A variant of the polypeptide of claim 48, said variant comprising at least one conservative amino acid substitution, wherein the variant retains the ability to direct specific binding to beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) with a binding affinity of at least 10^{-7} M.

51. A variant of the polypeptide of claim 49, said variant comprising at least one conservative amino acid substitution, wherein the variant retains the ability to direct specific binding to beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) with a binding affinity of at least 10^{-7} M.

52. An isolated polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 20-131 of SEQ ID NO:2.

53. An isolated polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 20-142 of SEQ ID NO:4.

54. An isolated polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 21-132 of SEQ ID NO:6.

55. An isolated polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 20-142 of SEQ ID NO:8.

56. An isolated polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 20-142 of SEQ ID NO:10.

57. An isolated polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 20-142 of SEQ ID NO:12.

58. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the polypeptide of any one of claims 52-57.

59. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the light chain of any one of the preceding claims.

60. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the heavy chain of any one of the preceding claims.

61. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the immunoglobulin of any one of the preceding claims.

62. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:5.

63. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9 and SEQ ID NO:11.

64. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any of the preceding claims.

65. A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any of the preceding claims.

66. A transgenic animal expressing a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of any of the preceding claims.

67. The transgenic animal of claim 66, wherein the polypeptide is expressed in the milk of said animal.

68. A method of producing an antibody, or fragment thereof, comprising culturing the host cell of claim 51 under conditions such that the antibody or fragment is produced and isolating said antibody from the host cell or culture.

69. A method of producing an antibody, or fragment thereof, comprising a fragment of SEQ ID NO:2 selected from the group consisting of amino acids 43-58 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 74-80 of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 113-121 of SEQ ID NO:2, said method comprising culturing a host cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule that encodes said antibody, or fragment thereof, under conditions such that the antibody or fragment is produced, and isolating said antibody from the host cell or culture.

70. A method of producing an antibody, or fragment thereof, comprising a fragment of SEQ ID NO:4 selected from the group consisting of amino acids 50-56 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 71-86 of SEQ ID NO:4 and amino acids 118-131 of SEQ ID NO:4, said method comprising culturing a host cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule that encodes said antibody, or fragment thereof, under conditions such that the antibody or fragment is produced, and isolating said antibody from the host cell or culture.

71. A method for identifying residues amenable to substitution in a humanized 12B4 immunoglobulin variable framework region, comprising modeling the three-dimensional structure of the murine 12B4 variable regions based on a solved immunoglobulin structure and analyzing said model for residues capable of affecting 12B4 immunoglobulin variable region conformation or function, such that residues amenable to substitution are identified.

72. Use of the variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, or any portion thereof, in producing a three-dimensional image of a 12B4 immunoglobulin, 12B4 immunoglobulin chain, or domain thereof.

73. A methods of imaging amyloid deposits in the brain of a patient comprising administering to the patient an agent that specifically binds to Aβ, and detecting the antibody bound to Aβ.

74. The method of claim 73, wherein the agent an antibody comprising a light chain variable sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 and a heavy chain variable region sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4, or an antigen-binding fragment of said antibody.

75. The method of claim 73, wherein the antigen-binding fragment is a Fab fragment.

76. A method of treating an amyloidogenic disease comprising administering to a patient having said amyloidogenic disease, a nucleic acid molecule that encodes an immunoglobulin light chain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 and a nucleic acid molecule that encodes an immunoglobulin heavy chain that comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8, the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:10, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, under conditions such that said immunoglobulin chains are expressed, such that a beneficial therapeutic response in said patient is generated.

77. A method of preventing or treating a disease associated with amyloid deposits of Aβ in the brain of a patient, comprising administering to the patient an effective dosage of the humanized immunoglobulin of any one of the preceding claims.

78. The method of claim 1, wherein the disease is characterized by cognitive impairment.

79. The method of claim 1, wherein the disease is Alzheimer's disease.

80. The method of claim 1, wherein the disease is Down's syndrome.

81. The method of claim 1, wherein the disease is mild cognitive impairment.

82. The method of claim 1, wherein the antibody is of human isotype IgG1.

83. The method of any of the preceding claims, wherein the patient is human.

84. The method of any one of claims 77-83, wherein after administration the antibody binds to an amyloid deposit in the patient and induces a clearing response against the amyloid deposit.

85. The method of claim 84, wherein the clearing response is an Fc receptor-mediated phagocytosis response.

86. The method of claim 84 or 85, further comprising monitoring the clearing response.

87. The method of any one of claims 77-83, wherein after administration the antibody binds to soluble Aβ in the patient.

88. The method of any one of claims 77-83, wherein after administration the antibody binds to soluble Aβ in the serum, blood or cerebrospinal fluid of the patient.

89. The method of any of one of claims 77-88, wherein the patient is asymptomatic.

90. The method of any one of claims 77-89, wherein the patient is under 50 years of age.

91. The method of any one of claims 77-90, wherein the patient has an inherited risk factor indicating susceptibility to Alzheimer's disease.

92. The method of any one of claims 77-91, wherein the dosage of antibody is at least 1 mg/kg body weight of the patient.

93. The method of any one of claims 77-91, wherein the dosage of antibody is at least 10 mg/kg body weight of the patient.

94. The method of any one of claims 77-93, wherein the antibody is administered with a carrier as a pharmaceutical composition.

95. The method of any one of claims 77-94, wherein the antibody is administered intraperitoneally, orally, intranasally, subcutaneously, intramuscularly, topically or intravenously.

96. A method for reducing plaque burden in a subject in need thereof comprising administering to the patient an effective dosage of the humanized immunoglobulin of any one of the preceding claims.

97. The method of claim 96, wherein after administration the antibody binds to an amyloid deposit in the patient and induces a clearing response against the amyloid deposit.

98. The method of claim 97, wherein the clearing response is an Fc receptor-mediated phagocytosis response.

99. The method of claim 97 or 98, further comprising monitoring the clearing response.

100. The method of claim 96, wherein after administration the antibody binds to soluble Aβ in the patient.

101. The method of claim 96, wherein after administration the antibody binds to soluble Aβ in the serum, blood or cerebrospinal fluid of the patient.

102. A humanized immunoglobulin of any one of the preceding claims, which comprises a Fc region having an altered effector function.

103. A method for reducing neuritic burden in a subject in need thereof comprising administering to the subject an effective dose of a humanized antibody which binds to an epitope within amino acids 3-7 of beta amyloid peptide (Aβ), wherein the antibody is of the IgG1 isotype.

104. The method of claim 103, wherein the subject has an amyloidogenic disease.

105. The method of claim 104, wherein the amyloidogenic disease is Alzheimer's disease.

106. A method for treating an amyloidogenic disease in a patient comprising administering to the patient an effective dose of a humanized antibody capable of reducing beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) burden and neuritic dystrophy in the patient, wherein the antibody binds to an epitope within amino acids 3-7 of Aβ and is of the IgG1 isotype.

107. The method of claim 106, wherein the amyloidogenic disease is Alzheimer's disease.

108. A method for reducing beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) burden and neuritic dystrophy in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective dose of a humanized antibody capable of reducing beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) burden and neuritic dystrophy, wherein the antibody binds to an epitope within amino acids 3-7 of Aβ and is of the IgG1 isotype.

109. The method of claim 108, wherein the mammal is a human.

110. The method of claim 108 or 109, wherein the mammal has an amyloidogenic disease.

111. The method of claim 110, wherein the amyloidogenic disease is Alzheimer's disease.

112. A therapeutic composition comprising a humanized antibody of the IgG1 isotype which binds to an epitope within amino acids 3-7 of beta amyloid peptide (Aβ), wherein the antibody is capable of reducing neuritic burden in a subject.

113. A method for treating an amyloidogenic disease in a patient comprising administering to the patient an effective dose of a humanized antibody which binds to soluble beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) and reduces neuritic dystrophy in the patient, wherein the antibody binds to an epitope within amino acids 3-7 of Aβ and is of the IgG1 isotype.

114. The method of claim 113, wherein the amyloidogenic disease is Alzheimer's disease.

115. A therapeutic composition comprising a humanized antibody of the IgG1 isotype which binds to soluble beta amyloid peptide (Aβ), wherein the antibody binds to an epitope within amino acids 3-7 of Aβ and is capable of reducing neuritic burden in a subject.

EXAMPLES

The following Sequence identifiers are used throughout the Examples section to refer to immunoglobulin chain variable region nucleotide and amino acid sequences.

Antibody	VL nucleotide sequence	VL amino acid sequence	VH nucleotide sequence	VH amino acid sequence
12B4	SEQ ID NO:1	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:3	SEQ ID NO:4
humanized 12B4v1	SEQ ID NO:5	SEQ ID NO:6	SEQ ID NO:7	SEQ ID NO:8
humanized 12B4v2	SEQ ID NO:1	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:9	SEQ ID NO:10
humanized 12B4v3	SEQ ID NO:1	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:12
germline A19	SEQ ID NO:29	SEQ ID NO:30		
Kabat ID 005036	SEQ ID NO:31	SEQ ID NO:32		
Kabat ID 000333			SEQ ID NO:33	SEQ ID NO:34
germline VH4-61			SEQ ID NO:35	SEQ ID NO:36
germline VH4-39			SEQ ID NO:37	SEQ ID NO:38

As used herein, an antibody or immunoglobulin sequence comprising a VL and/or VH sequence as set forth in any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1-12 or 29-38 can comprise either the full sequence or can comprise the mature sequence (*i.e.*, mature peptide without the signal or leader peptide).

Example I. Cloning and Sequencing of the Mouse 12B4 Variable Regions

Cloning and Sequence Analysis of 12B4 VH. The VH and VL regions of 12B4 from hybridoma cells were cloned by RT-PCR and 5' RACE using mRNA from hybridoma cells and standard cloning methodology. The nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:3) and deduced amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:4) derived from two independent cDNA clones encoding the presumed 12B4 VH domain, are set forth in Table 2 and Table 3, respectively.

Table 2: Mouse 12B4 VH DNA sequence.

ATGGACAGGCTTACTTCCTCATTCCTGCTGCTGATTGTCCCTGCATATGTCCTGTCCCA
GGTTACTCTGAAAGAGTCTGGCCCTGGGATATTGCAGCCCTCCCAGACCCTCAGTCTGA
CTTGTTCTTTCTCTGGGTTTTCACTGAGCACTAATGGTATGGGTGTGAGCTGGATTCGT
CAGCCTTCAGGAAAGGGTCTGGAGTGGCTGGCACACATTTACTGGGATGAGGACAAGCG
CTATAACCCATCCCTGAAGAGCCGGCTCACAATCTCCAAGGATACCTCTAACAATCAGG
TATTCCTCAAGATCACCAATGTGGACACTGCTGATACTGCCACATACTACTGTGCTCGA
AGGAGGATCATCTATGATGTTGAGGACTACTTTGACTACTGGGGCCAAGGCACCACTCT
CACAGTCTCCTCAG (SEQ ID NO:3)

*Leader peptide underlined.

Table 3: Mouse 12B4 VH amino acid sequence

mdrltssfllllivpayvlsqVTLKESGPGILQPSQTLSLTCSFSGFSLStngmgvsWIR
QPSGKGLEWLAhiywdedkrynpslksRLTISKDTSNNQVFLKITNVDTADTATYYCAR
rriiydvedyfdyWGQGTTLTVSS (SEQ ID NO: 4)

* Leader peptide and CDRs in lower case.

Cloning and Sequence Analysis of 12B4 VL. The light chain variable VL region of 12B4 was cloned in an analogous manner as the VH region. The nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:1) and deduced amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:2) derived from two independent cDNA clones encoding the presumed 12B4 VL domain, are set forth in Table 4 and Table 5, respectively.

Table 4: Mouse 12B4 VL DNA sequence

ATGAAGTTGCCTGTTAGGCTGTTGGTGCTGATGTTCTGGATTCCTGCTTCCAGCAGTGA
TGTTTTGATGACCCAAACTCCACTCTCCCTGCCTGTCAGTCTTGGAGATCAAGCCTCCA
TCTCTTGCAGATCTAGTCAGAACATTGTTCATAGTAATGGAAACACCTATTTAGAATGG
TACCTGCAGAAACCAGGCCAGTCTCCAAAGCTCCTGATCTACAAAGTTTCCAACCGATT
TTCTGGGGTCCCAGACAGGTTCAGTGGCAGTGGATCAGGGACAGATTTCACACTCAAGA
TCAGCAGAGTGGAGGCTGAGGATCTGGGAGTTTATTACTGCTTTCAAGGTTCACATGTT

CCGCTCACGTTCGGTGCTGGGACCAAGCTGGAGCTGAAAC (SEQ ID NO:1)

*Leader peptide underlined

Table 5: Mouse 12B4 VL amino acid sequence

mklpvrllvlmfwipasssDVLMTQTPLSLPVSLGDQASISCrssqnivhsngntyleW
YLQKPGQSPKLLIYkvsnrfSGVPDRFSGSGSGTDFTLKISRVEAEDLGVYYCfqgshv
pltFGAGTKLELK (SEQ ID NO: 2)

* Leader peptide and CDRs in lower case.

The 12B4 VL and VH sequences meet the criteria for functional V regions in so far as they contain a contiguous ORF from the initiator methionine to the C-region, and share conserved residues characteristic of immunoglobulin V region genes. From N-terminal to C-terminal, both light and heavy chains comprise the domains FR1, CDR1, FR2, CDR2, FR3, CDR3 and FR4. The assignment of amino acids to each domain is in accordance with the numbering convention of Kabat *et al.*, *supra*.

Example II: Expression of Chimeric 12B4 Antibody

Expression of Chimeric 12B4 Antibody: The variable heavy and light chain regions were re-engineered to encode splice donor sequences downstream of the respective VDJ or VJ junctions, and cloned into the mammalian expression vector pCMV-hγ1 for the heavy chain, and pCMV-hκ1 for the light chain. These vectors encode human γ1 and Ck constant regions as exonic fragments downstream of the inserted variable region cassette. Following sequence verification, the heavy chain and light chain expression vectors were co-transfected into COS cells. Various heavy chain clones were independently co-transfected with different chimeric light chain clones to confirm reproducibility of the result. Conditioned media was collected 48 hrs post transfection and assayed by western blot analysis for antibody production or ELISA for Aβ binding. The multiple transfectants all expressed heavy chain + light chain combinations which are recognized by a goat anti-human IgG (H+L) antibody on a western blot.

Direct binding of chimeric 12B4 antibodies to Aβ was tested by ELISA assay. Figure 5 demonstrates that chimeric 12B4 was found to bind to Aβ with high avidity, similar to that demonstrated by chimeric and humanized 3D6 (Figure 5). (The cloning, characterization and humanization of 3D6 is described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/010,942, the entire content of which is incorporated herein by this reference.) Furthermore, an ELISA based competitive inhibition assay revealed that the chimeric 12B4 and the murine 12B4 antibody competed equally with biotinylated murine and chimeric 3D6, as well as 10D5 (a murine monoclonal antibody of the IgGγ1 isotype which recognizes the same epitope as 12B4), in binding to Aβ. Figure 6 demonstrates that chimeric 12B4 (dashed line, open triangles) competes with equal potency with its non biotinylated murine counterpart (solid line, closed triangles) for binding of biotinylated murine 12B4 to Aβ 1-42 peptide.

Example III: Efficacy of mAb 12B4 on various neuropathological endpoints in PDAPP mice

This Example describes the efficacy of murine mAb 12B4 on various neuropathological endpoints. Comparison of two mAbs, 12B4 and 3D6, is described. Both mAbs are of the IgG2a isotype and both bind an epitope within the N-terminus of the Aβ peptide.

Immunizations

PDAPP mice were passively immunized with either mAb 12B4 (recognizing Aβ 3-7) or mAb 3D6 (recognizing Aβ 1-5), both of the IgGγ2a isotype. 12B4 was tested at 10 mg/kg. 3D6 was administered at three different doses, 10 mg/kg, 1 mg/kg and 10 mg/kg once a month (1 x 4). An unrelated IgGγ2a antibody (TY 11/15) and PBS injections served as controls. Active immunization with Aβ peptide served as a comparison. Between 20 and 35 animals were analyzed in each group.

The neuropathological endpoints assayed include amyloid burden and neuritic burden.

Amyloid burden

The extent of the frontal cortex occupied by amyloid deposits was determined by immunostaining with 3D6 followed by quantitative image analysis. The results of this analysis are shown in Table 6. All of the immunotherapies (*e.g.*, immunization with 12B4, 3D6 (all doses tested) and Aβ peptide) led to a significant reduction of amyloid burden.

Neuritic burden

Previously, it had been observed that 10D5 was unable to significantly reduce neuritic burden, suggesting that antibodies of the IgGγ2a isotype, but not other isotypes, are able to reduce neuritic burden in animal models of Alzheimer's disease (data not shown). Neuritic burden following passive immunization with 12B4 versus 3D6 (both of the IgGγ2a isotype) was thus determined in PDAPP mice by immunostaining of brain sections with anti-APP antibody 8E5 followed by quantitative image analysis. Neuritic dystrophy is indicated by the appearance of dystrophic neurites (*e.g.*, neurites with a globular appearance) located in the immediate vicinity of amyloid plaques. The results of this analysis are shown in Table 7. These data indicate that treatment with 12B4 most significantly reduced neuritic burden. By contrast, 3D6 did not significantly reduce neuritic burden.

Table 6: Frontal Cortex Amyloid Burden

	PBS	TY 11/15	12B4	3D6, 10 mg/kg	3D6, 1 mg/kg	3D6, 10 mg/kg/4 wks.	Active
N	31	30	33	29	31	32	24
Median (%AB)	15.182297	13.303288	2.317222	0.865671	2.286513	1.470956	2.162772
Range	0.160-31.961	0-61.706	0-14.642	0-7.064	0.077-63.362	0-10.688	0-30.715
p Value (*M-W)		.9425 ns	*** <.0001	***.0001	*** <.0001	*** <.0001	***.0004
% Change	N/A	12%	85%	94%	85%	90%	86%

Table 7: Frontal Cortex Neuritic Burden

	PBS	TY 11/15	12B4	3D6, 10 mg/kg	3D6, 1 mg/kg	3D6, 10 mg/kg/4 wks.	Active
N	31	30	33	29	31	32	24
Median (%NB)	0.3946	0.3958	0.0816	0.4681	0.3649	0.4228	0.2344
Range	0-1.3828	0-2.6800	0-0.8127	0-1.3098	0-1.5760	0-1.8215	0-1.1942
p Value (*M-W)		.8967 ns	***.0002	.9587 ns	.6986 ns	>.9999	***.0381
% Change		0%	79%	0%	7%	0%	41%

The above results indicate that treatment with an Aβ antibody of the IgGγ2a isotype may be necessary, but not sufficient, to reduce neuritic burden. Binding Aβ *via* a distinct epitope (*i.e.*, Aβ 3-7) may also be essential to reduce this pathology in PDAPP mice.

The characterization of various neuropathological endpoints in the PDAPP mouse model of Alzheimer's disease provides valuable information to be used by the skilled artisan in designing appropriate human therapeutic immunization protocols. For example, reduction of neuritic burden may be accomplished in human subjects using a humanized version of 12B4 of the IgG1 subtype (*i.e.*, the human equivalent of the IgGγ2A subtype in mice) which binds to an epitope within residues 3-7 of Aβ.

Example IV: *Ex vivo* Screening Assay for Activity of Antibodies Against Amyloid Deposits

To examine the effect of antibodies on plaque clearance, an *ex vivo* assay was utilized in which primary microglial cells were cultured with unfixed cryostat sections of either PDAPP mouse or human AD brains. Microglial cells were obtained from the cerebral cortices of neonate DBA/2N mice (1-3 days). The cortices were mechanically dissociated in $HBSS^{--}$ (Hanks' Balanced Salt Solution, Sigma) with 50 µg/ml DNase I (Sigma). The dissociated cells were filtered with a 100 µm cell strainer (Falcon), and centrifuged at 1000 rpm for 5 minutes. The pellet was resuspended in growth medium (high glucose DMEM, 10%FBS, 25ng/ml recombinant murine GM-CSF (rmGM-CSF), and the cells were plated at a density of 2 brains per T-75 plastic culture flask. After 7-9 days, the flasks were rotated on an orbital shaker at 200 rpm for 2h at 37°C. The cell suspension was centrifuged at 1000rpm and resuspended in the assay medium.

10-µm cryostat sections of PDAPP mouse or human AD brains (post-mortem interval < 3hr) were thaw mounted onto poly-lysine coated round glass coverslips and placed in wells of 24-well tissue culture plates. The coverslips were washed twice with assay medium consisting of H-SFM (Hybridoma-serum free medium, Gibco BRL) with 1% FBS, glutamine, penicillin/streptomycin, and 5ng/ml rmGM-CSF (R&D). Control or anti-Aβ antibodies (12B4) were added at a 2x concentration (5

μg/ml final) for 1 hour. The microglial cells were then seeded at a density of 0.8x 10^6 cells/ml assay medium. The cultures were maintained in a humidified incubator (37°C, 5%CO_2) for 24hr or more. At the end of the incubation, the cultures were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde and permeabilized with 0.1% Triton-X100. The sections were stained with biotinylated 3D6 followed by a streptavidin / Cy3 conjugate (Jackson ImmunoResearch). The exogenous microglial cells were visualized by a nuclear stain (DAPI). The cultures were observed with an inverted fluorescent microscope (Nikon, TE300) and photomicrographs were taken with a SPOT digital camera using SPOT software (Diagnostic instruments).

When the assay was performed with PDAPP brain sections in the presence of a control antibody having no in vivo efficacy, β-amyloid plaques remained intact and no phagocytosis was observed. In contrast, when adjacent sections were cultured in the presence of 3D6 or 12B4, the amyloid deposits were largely gone and the microglial cells showed numerous phagocytic vesicles containing Aβ (Figure 7). Similar results were obtained with AD brain sections; 3D6 (a humanized version) and chimeric 12B4 induced phagocytosis of AD plaques, while control IgG1 was ineffective (Figure 8A-B).

The data presented in Examples II and III confirm function of the cloned 12B4 variable regions.

Example V. 12B4 Humanization

A. 12B4 Humanized Antibody, Version 1

Homology/Molecular Modeling. In order to identify key structural framework residues in the murine 12B4 antibody, a three-dimensional model was generated based on the closest murine antibodies for the heavy and light chains. For this purpose, an antibody designated 2PCP was chosen as a template for modeling the 12B4 light chain (PDB ID: 2PCP, Lim *et al.* (1998) *J. Biol. Chem.* 273:28576), and an antibody designated 1ETZ was chosen as the template for modeling the heavy chain. (PDB ID: 1ETZ, Guddat *et al.* (2000) *J. .Mol. Biol.* 302:853). Amino acid sequence alignment of 12B4 with the light chain and heavy chain of these antibodies revealed that the 2PCP and 1ETZ antibodies share significant sequence homology with 12B4. In addition, the CDR loops of the selected antibodies fall into the same canonical Chothia

structural classes as do the CDR loops of 12B4. Therefore, 2PCP and 1ETZ were initially selected as antibodies of solved structure for homology modeling of 12B4.

A first pass homology model of 12B4 variable region based on the antibodies noted above was constructed using the Look & SegMod Modules GeneMine (v3.5) software package. This software was purchased under a perpetual license from Molecular Applications Group (Palo Alto, CA). This software package, authored by Drs. Michael Levitt and Chris Lee, facilitates the process of molecular modeling by automating the steps involved in structural modeling a primary sequence on a template of known structure based on sequence homology. Working on a Silicon Graphics IRIS workstation under a UNIX environment, the modeled structure is automatically refined by a series of energy minimization steps to relieve unfavorable atomic contacts and optimize electrostatic and van der Walls interactions. A further refined model was built using the modeling capability of Quanta®.

Selection of Human Acceptor Antibody Sequences. Suitable human acceptor antibody sequences were identified by computer comparisons of the amino acid sequences of the mouse variable regions with the sequences of known human antibodies. The comparison was performed separately for the 12B4 heavy and light chains. In particular, variable domains from human antibodies whose framework sequences exhibited a high degree of sequence identity with the murine VL and VH framework regions were identified by query of the Kabat Database using NCBI BLAST (publicly accessible through the National Institutes of Health NCBI internet server) with the respective murine framework sequences.

Two candidate sequences were chosen as acceptor sequences based on the following criteria: (1) homology with the subject sequence; (2) sharing canonical CDR structures with the donor sequence; and (3) not containing any rare amino acid residues in the framework regions. The selected acceptor sequence for VL is Kabat ID Number (KABID) 005036 (Genbank Accession No. X67904), and for VH is KABID 000333 (Genbank Accession No. X54437). First versions of humanized 3D6 antibody utilize these selected acceptor antibody sequences.

Substitution of Amino Acid Residues. As noted *supra*, the humanized antibodies of the invention comprise variable framework regions substantially from a human immunoglobulin (acceptor immunoglobulin) and complementarity determining regions substantially from a mouse immunoglobulin (donor immunoglobulin) termed 12B4. Having identified the complementarity determining regions of 12B4 and appropriate human acceptor immunoglobulins, the next step was to determine which, if any, residues from these components to substitute to optimize the properties of the resulting humanized antibody.

Reshaped light chain V region:

The amino acid alignment of the reshaped light chain V region is shown in Figure 1. The choice of the acceptor framework (Kabid 005036) is from the same human subgroup as that which corresponds to the murine V region, has no unusual framework residues, and the CDRs belong to the same Chothia canonical structure groups. A single back mutation (I2V) is dictated as this residue falls into the canonical classification. Version 1 of the reshaped VL is fully germline.

Reshaped heavy chain V region:

The amino acid alignment of the reshaped heavy chain V region is shown in Figure 2. The choice for the acceptor framework (Kabid 000333) is from the same human subgroup as that which corresponds to the murine V region, has no unusual framework residues, and the CDRs belong to the same Chothia canonical groups. Structural modeling of the murine VH chain, in conjunction with the amino acid alignment of Kabid 000333 to the murine sequence dictates 9 back-mutations in version 1 (v1) of the reshaped heavy chain: L2V, V24F, G27F, I29L, I48L, G49A, V67L, V71K, & F78V (Kabat numbering). The back mutations are highlighted by asterisks in the amino-acid alignment shown in Figure 2.

Of the 9 back mutations, 4 are dictated by the model because the residues are canonical residues (V24F, G27F, I29L, & V71K, indicated by solid filled boxes), *i.e.* framework residues which may contribute to antigen binding by virtue of proximity to CDR residues. There are no back mutations necessary in the next most important class

of residues, the interface residues involved in VH-VL packing interactions (indicated by open boxes). The remaining 5 residues targeted for back mutation (L2V, I48L,G49A, V67L, F78V, Kabat numbering) all fall into the vernier class (indirect contribution to CDR conformation, dense stippled boxes in figure 2,).

Version 2 was designed to retain the lowest number of non-CDR murine residues. The L2V backmutation introduces a non-germline change (when using VH4-61 as the germline reference), and this backmutation is eliminated in version 2 of the heavy chain to restore it to germ line. The remaining 4 vernier class back mutations are also restored in version 2 of the heavy chain (I48L, G49A, V67L, F78V). Version 2 thus contain a total of 5 non-CDR murine residues (1 in VL, and 4 in VH). Version 3 was designed to restore 2 of the 5 vernier residues (I48L, & F78V), which the model indicates may be the more important vernier residues. Hence version 3 contains a total of 7 non CDR murine residues.

A summary of the changes incorporated into versions 1, 2 and 3 of humanized 12B4 are presented in Table 8.

Table 8. Summary of changes in humanized 12B4.v1

Changes	VL (111 residues)	VH (123 residues)
Hu->Mu: Framework	1/111	9/123
CDR1	8/16	7/7
CDR2	3/7	8/16
CDR3	6/8	10/13
Total Hu->Mu	18/111 (16%)	34/123 (28%, v2=23%)
Mu->Hu: Framework	10/111	16/123
Backmutation notes	1. I2V: a canonical position.	2. Canonical: V24F, G27F, I29L, & V71K

		3. Packing: none. 4. Vernier: L2V*, I48L*#, G49A*, V67L*, F78V*#
Acceptor notes	5. KABID 005036/Genbank Acc#-x67904 6. CDRs from same canonical structural group as donor mouse; 7. anti-cardiolipin/ss DNA autoantibody from SLE patient;	8. KABID000333/Genbank Acc#x54437 9. CDRs from same canonical structural group as donor mouse; 10. rheumatoid factor mAb from RA patient

*eliminate in v2 and v3;

#eliminate in v2, restore in v3.

Tables 10 and 11 set forth Kabat numbering keys for the various light and heavy chains, respectively.

5

Table 9: Key to Kabat Numbering for Light Chain

KAB #	#	TYPE	mouse 12B4 VL	HUM 12B4 VL	KABID 005036	A19-Germ-line	Comment
1	1	FR1	D	D	D	D	
2	2		V	V	I	I	canonical – backmutate in v1, v2 and v3
3	3		L	V	V	V	
4	4		M	M	M	M	
5	5		T	T	T	T	
6	6		Q	Q	Q	Q	
7	7		T	S	S	S	
8	8		P	P	P	P	
9	9		L	L	L	L	
10	10		S	S	S	S	
11	11		L	L	L	L	
12	12		P	P	P	P	
13	13		V	V	V	V	
14	14		S	T	T	T	
15	15		L	P	P	P	
16	16		G	G	G	G	
17	17		D	E	E	E	
18	18		Q	P	P	P	
19	19		A	A	A	A	
20	20		S	S	S	S	
21	21		I	I	I	I	
22	22		S	S	S	S	
23	23		C	C	C	C	

24	24	CDR1	R	R	R	R
25	25		S	S	S	S
26	26		S	S	S	S
27	27		Q	Q	Q	Q
27A	28		N	N	S	S
27B	29		I	I	L	L
27C	30		V	V	L	L
27D	31		H	H	H	H
27E	32		S	S	R	S
28	33		N	N	Y	N
29	34		G	G	G	G
30	35		N	N	Y	Y
31	36		T	T	N	N
32	37		Y	Y	Y	Y
33	38		L	L	L	L
34	39		E	E	D	D
35	40	FR2	W	W	W	W
36	41		Y	Y	Y	Y
37	42		L	L	L	L
38	43		Q	Q	Q	Q
39	44		K	K	K	K
40	45		P	P	P	P
41	46		G	G	G	G
42	47		Q	Q	Q	Q
43	48		S	S	S	S
44	49		P	P	P	P
45	50		K	Q	Q	Q
46	51		L	L	L	L
47	52		L	L	L	L
48	53		I	I	I	I
49	54		Y	Y	Y	Y
50	55	CDR2	K	K	L	L
51	56		V	V	G	G
52	57		S	S	S	S
53	58		N	N	N	N
54	59		R	R	R	R
55	60		F	F	A	A
56	61		S	S	S	S

57	62	FR3	G	G	G	G
58	63		V	V	V	V
59	64		P	P	P	P
60	65		D	D	D	D
61	66		R	R	R	R
62	67		F	F	F	F
63	68		S	S	S	S
64	69		G	G	G	G
65	70		S	S	S	S
66	71		G	G	G	G
67	72		S	S	S	S
68	73		G	G	G	G
69	74		T	T	T	T
70	75		D	D	D	D
71	76		F	F	F	F
72	77		T	T	T	T
73	78		L	L	L	L
74	79		K	K	K	K
75	80		I	I	I	I
76	81		S	S	S	S
77	82		R	R	R	R
78	83		V	V	V	V
79	84		E	E	E	E
80	85		A	A	A	A
81	86		E	E	E	E
82	87		D	D	D	D
83	88		L	V	V	V
84	89		G	G	G	G
85	90		V	V	V	V
86	91		Y	Y	Y	Y
87	92		Y	Y	Y	Y
88	93		C	C	C	C
89	94	CDR3	F	F	M	M
90	95		Q	Q	Q	Q
91	96		G	G	A	A
92	97		S	S	L	L
93	98		H	H	Q	Q
94	99		V	V	T	T
95	100		P	P	P	P
96	101		L	L	Y	
97	102		T	T	T	

98	103	FR4	F	F	F
99	104		G	G	G
100	105		A	Q	Q
101	106		G	G	G
102	107		T	T	T
103	108		K	K	K
104	109		L	L	L
105	110		E	E	E
106	111		L	I	I
106A	112		K	K	K

Table 10. Key to Kabat Numbering for Heavy Chain

KAB #	#	TYPE	Mouse 12B4 VH	HUM 12B4 VHv1	KABID 000333	VH4-39 Germ-line	VH4-61 Germ-line	Comment
1	1	FR1	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	
2	2		V	V	L	L	V	vernier – backmutate in v1 only
3	3		T	Q	Q	Q	Q	
4	4		L	L	L	L	L	
5	5		K	Q	Q	Q	Q	
6	6		E	E	E	E	E	
7	7		S	S	S	S	S	
8	8		G	G	G	G	G	
9	9		P	P	P	P	P	
10	10		G	G	G	G	G	
11	11		I	L	L	L	L	
12	12		L	V	V	V	V	
13	13		Q	K	K	K	K	
14	14		P	P	P	P	P	
15	15		S	S	S	S	S	
16	16		Q	E	E	E	E	
17	17		T	T	T	T	T	
18	18		L	L	L	L	L	
19	19		S	S	S	S	S	
20	20		L	L	L	L	L	
21	21		T	T	T	T	T	
22	22		C	C	C	C	C	
23	23		S	T	T	T	T	
24	24		F	F	V	V	V	canonical – backmutate in v1, v2 and v3
25	25		S	S	S	S	S	
26	26		G	G	G	G	G	
27	27		F	F	G	G	G	canonical – backmutate in v1, v2 and v3
28	28		S	S	S	S	S	
29	29		L	L	I	I	V	canonical – backmutate in v1, v2 and v3
30	30		S	S	S	S	S	

31	31	CDR1	T	T	R	S	S	
32	32		N	N	G	S	G	
33	33		G	G	S	S	G	
34	34		M	M	H	Y	Y	
35	35		G	G	Y	Y	Y	
35A	36		V	V	W	W	W	
35B	37		S	S	G	G	S	
36	38	FR2	W	W	W	W	W	
37	39		I	I	I	I	I	
38	40		R	R	R	R	R	
39	41		Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	
40	42		P	P	P	P	P	
41	43		S	P	P	P	P	
42	44		G	G	G	G	G	
43	45		K	K	K	K	K	
44	46		G	G	G	G	G	
45	47		L	L	L	L	L	
46	48		E	E	E	E	E	
47	49		W	W	W	W	W	
48	50		L	L	I	I	I	vernier – backmutate in v1 and v3 only
49	51		A	A	G	G	G	vernier – backmutate in v1 only
50	52	CDR2	H	H	S	S	Y	
51	53		I	I	I	I	I	
52	54		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
53	55		W	W	Y	Y	Y	
54	56		D	D	S	S	S	
55	57		E	E	G	G	G	
56	58		D	D	N	S	S	
57	59		K	K	T	T	T	
58	60		R	R	Y	Y	N	
59	61		Y	Y	F	Y	Y	
60	62		N	N	N	N	N	
61	63		P	P	P	P	P	
62	64		S	S	S	S	S	
63	65		L	L	L	L	L	
64	66		K	K	K	K	K	
65	67		S	S	S	S	S	

66	68	FR3	R	R	R	R	R	
67	69		L	L	V	V	V	vernier – backmutate in v1 only
68	70		T	T	T	T	T	
69	71		I	I	I	I	I	
70	72		S	S	S	S	S	
71	73		K	K	V	V	V	canonical – backmutate in v1, v2 and v3
72	74		D	D	D	D	D	
73	75		T	T	T	T	T	
74	76		S	S	S	S	S	
75	77		N	K	K	K	K	
76	78		N	N	N	N	N	
77	79		Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	
78	80		V	V	F	F	F	vernier – backmutate in v1 and v3
79	81		F	S	S	S	S	
80	82		L	L	L	L	L	
81	83		K	K	K	K	K	
82	84		I	L	L	L	L	
82A	85		T	S	S	S	S	
82B	86		N	S	S	S	S	
82C	87		V	V	V	V	V	
83	88		D	T	T	T	T	
84	89		T	A	A	A	A	
85	90		A	A	A	A	A	
86	91		D	D	D	D	D	
87	92		T	T	T	T	T	
88	93		A	A	A	A	A	
89	94		T	V	V	V	V	
90	95		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
91	96		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
92	96		C	C	C	C	C	
93	97		A	A	A	A	A	
94	98		R	R	R	R	R	

95	99	CDR3	R	R	L
95A	100		-	-	G
96	101		R	R	P
97	102		I	I	D
98	103		I	I	D
99	104		Y	Y	Y
100	105		D	D	T
100A	106		V	V	L
100B	107		E	E	D
100C	108		D	D	G
100D	109		Y	Y	-
100E	110		F	F	M
101	111		D	D	D
102	112		Y	Y	V
103	113	FR4	W	W	W
104	114		G	G	G
105	115		Q	Q	Q
106	116		G	G	G
107	117		T	T	T
108	118		T	T	T
109	119		L	V	V
110	120		T	T	T
111	121		V	V	V
112	122		S	S	S
113	123		S	S	S

The humanized antibodies preferably exhibit a specific binding affinity for Aβ of at least 10^7, 10^8, 10^9 or 10^{10} M^{-1}. Usually the upper limit of binding affinity of the humanized antibodies for Aβ is within a factor of three, four or five of that of 12B4 (*i.e.*, ~10^9 M^{-1}). Often the lower limit of binding affinity is also within a factor of three, four or five of that of 12B4.

Assembly and Expression of Humanized 12B4 VH and VL, Version 1

Figure 9a is a schematic representation of the strategy for PCR mediated assembly of humanized VL.v1. Figure 9b is a schematic representation of the strategy for PCR mediated assembly of humanized VH.v1. Table 11 sets forth primers used for the PCR-mediated assembly of 12B4v1.

Table 11: Synthetic oligonucleotides used in PCR mediated assembly of humanized 12B4 V regions, v1

DNA #	Size	Coding strand?	Sequence	Comments
4881	135	Yes	gagattaagcttgccgccaccATGAGGCT CCCTGCTCAGCTCCTGGGGCTGCTAATGC TCTGGGTCTCTGGATCCAGTGGGGATGTT GTGATGACTCAGTCTCCACTCTCCCTGCC CGTCACCCCTGGAGAGCCG	hum12B4 VLv1A primer synthesized by Oligos etc. nts 1>115 12B4VLv1.cons, sense strand. Adds HindIII site + Kozak consensus.
			SEQ ID NO:13	
4882	131	No	AGGAGCTGTGGAGACTGCCCTGGCTTCTG CAGGTACCATTCCAAATAGGTGTTTCCAT TACTATGAACAATGTTCTGACTAGACCTG CAGGAGATGGAGGCCGGCTCTCCAGGGGT GACGGGCAGGGAGAG	hum12B4 VLv1B primer synthesized by Oligos etc. Reverse Complement DNA Sequence 12B4VLv1.cons(85,215)
			SEQ ID NO:14	
4883	132	Yes	TGCAGAAGCCAGGGCAGTCTCCACAGCTC CTGATCTACAAAGTTTCCAACCGATTTTC TGGGGTCCCTGACAGGTTCAGTGGCAGTG GATCAGGCACAGATTTTACACTGAAAATC AGCAGAGTGGAGGCTG	hum12B4 VLv1C primer synthesized by Oligos etc. nts 185>316 12B4VLv1.cons, sense strand.
			SEQ ID NO:15	
4884	130	No	tgatatggatccactcacGTTTGATCTCC AGCTTGGTCCCCTGACCGAACGTGAGCGG AACATGTGAACCTTGAAAGCAGTAATAAA CCCCAACATCCTCAGCCTCCACTCTGCTG ATTTTCAGTGTAAA	hum12B4 VLv1D primer synthesized by Oligos etc. Reverse Complement DNA Sequence 12B4VLv1.cons(286,397) adds splice donor+BamHI site.
			SEQ ID NO:16	
4885	143	Yes	gagataaagcttgccgccaccATGAAGCA CCTGTGGTTCTTCCTCCTGCTGGTGGCAG CTCCCAGATGGGTCCTGTCCCAGGTGCAG CTGCAGGAGTCGGGCCCAGGACTGGTGAA GCCTTCGGAGACCCTGTCCCTCACCTG	hum12B4 VHv1A primer synthesized by Oligos etc. 12B4VHv1.cons nts 1-122, adds Kozak consensus, and HindIII site
			SEQ ID NO:17	

4886	137	No	TCCTCATCCCAATAGATGTGTGCCAGCCA CTCCAGTCCCTTCCCTGGGGGCTGCCGGA TCCAGCTCACACCCATACCATTAGTGCTC AGGGAAAAACCAGAGAAAGTGCAGGTGAG GGACAGGGTCTCCGAAGGCTT	hum12B4 VHv1B primer synthesized by Oligos etc. Reverse Complement DNA Sequence 12B4VHv1.cons(94,230)
			SEQ ID NO:18	
4887	138	Yes	GTGGCTGGCACACATCTATTGGGATGAGG ACAAGCGCTATAACCCATCCCTCAAGAGT CGACTCACCATATCAAAGGACACGTCCAA GAACCAGGTATCCCTGAAGCTGAGCTCTG TGACCGCTGCAGACACGGCCGT	hum12B4 VHv1C primer synthesized by Oligos etc. 12B4VHv1.cons nts201-338
			SEQ ID NO:19	
4888	139	No	tcatatggatccactcacCTGAGGAGACG GTGACCGTGGTCCCTTGGCCCCAGTAGTC AAAGTAGTCCTCAACATCATAGATGATCC TCCTTCTCGCACAGTAATACACGGCCGTG TCTGCAGCGGTCACAGAGCTCAG	hum12B4 VHv1D primer synthesized by Oligos etc. Reverse Complement DNA Sequence 12B4VHv1.cons(307,427) adds splice donor + BamHI site to 3' end.
			SEQ ID NO:20	
4889	22	Yes	gag att aag ctt gcc gcc acc A	hum 12B4 VLv1, A+B For primer% A+T = 45.45 [10]; % C+G = 54.55 [12] Davis,Botstein,Roth Melting Temp C. 64.54
			SEQ ID NO:21	
4890	21	No	AGG AGC TGT GGA GAC TGC CCT	hum 12B4 VLv1, A+B bak primer% A+T = 38.10 [8]; % C+G = 61.90 [13] Davis,Botstein,Roth Melting Temp C. 66.47
			SEQ ID NO:22	

4891	20	Yes	TGC AGA AGC CAG GGC AGT CT	hum 12B4 VLv1, C+D For primer % A+T = 40.00 [8]; % C+G = 60.00 [12] Davis,Botstein,Roth Melting Temp C. 64.50
			SEQ ID NO:23	
4892	28	No	tga tat gga tcc act cac GTT TGA TCT C	hum 12B4 VLv1, C+D bak primer % A+T = 57.14 [16]; % C+G = 42.86 [12] Davis,Botstein,Roth Melting Temp C. 64.61
			SEQ ID NO:24	
4893	23	Yes	gag ata aag ctt gcc gcc acc AT	hum 12B4 VHv1, A+B For primer% A+T = 47.83 [11]; % C+G = 52.17 [12] Davis,Botstein,Roth Melting Temp C. 64.55
			SEQ ID NO:25	
4894	24	No	TCC TCA TCC CAA TAG ATG TGT GCC	hum 12B4 VHv1, A+B bak primer % A+T = 50.00 [12]; % C+G = 50.00 [12] Davis,Botstein,Roth Melting Temp C. 64.57
			SEQ ID NO:26	
4895	22	Yes	GTG GCT GGC ACA CAT CTA TTG G	hum 12B4 VHv1, C+D For primer % A+T = 45.45 [10]; % C+G = 54.55 [12] Davis,Botstein,Roth Melting Temp C. 64.54
			SEQ ID NO:27	
4896	24	No	tca tat gga tcc act cac CTG AGG	hum 12B4 VHv1, C+D For primer % A+T = 50.00 [12]; % C+G = 50.00 [12] Davis,Botstein,Roth Melting Temp C. 64.57
			SEQ ID NO:28	

Equimolar rations of VHv1A+VHv1B and VHv1C+VHv1D synthetic fragments were annealed as pairs, in separate reaction tubes using standard procedures. The A+B annealing reaction was assembled using PCR with primers A+B for and A+B back at 60°C annealing, 25 cycles (for = forward and back = backwards, alternatively, rev or reverse). Likewise the C+D annealing reaction was assembled using PCR primers C+Dfor and C+Dback under identical conditions. The PCR-assembled 5' A+B half, and 3' C+D half, were gel purified for a final PCR-mediated assembly. Full V region assembly was effected by mixing the A+B assembled 5' half with the C+D 3' half of the V-region, annealing, and extending by PCR using VHv1A+B for primer, and VHv1C+D back primer. The full length VH and VL regions assembled in this manner were gel purified, and cloned into pCRScript for DNA sequence verification.

The nucleotide sequences of humanized 12B4VL (version 1) (SEQ ID NO:5) and 12B4VH (version 1) (SEQ ID NO: 7) are listed below as Tables 12 and 13, respectively.

Table 12. Nucleotide sequence of humanized 12B4VLv1.

ATGAGGCTCCCTGCTCAGCTCCTGGGGCTGCTAATGCTCTGGGTCTCTGGATCCAGTGG
GGATGTTGTGATGACTCAGTCTCCACTCTCCCTGCCCGTCACCCCTGGAGAGCCGGCCT
CCATCTCCTGCAGGTCTAGTCAGAACATTGTTCATAGTAATGGAAACACCTATTTGGAA
TGGTACCTGCAGAAGCCAGGGCAGTCTCCACAGCTCCTGATCTACAAAGTTTCCAACCG
ATTTTCTGGGGTCCCTGACAGGTTCAGTGGCAGTGGATCAGGCACAGATTTTACACTGA
AAATCAGCAGAGTGGAGGCTGAGGATGTTGGGGTTTATTACTGCTTTCAAGGTTCACAT
GTTCCGCTCACGTTCGGTCAGGGGACCAAGCTGGAGATCAAAC

Table 13. Nucleotide sequence of humanized 12B4VHv1

ATGAAGCACCTGTGGTTCTTCCTCCTGCTGGTGGCAGCTCCCAGATGGGTCCTGTCCCA
GGTGCAGCTGCAGGAGTCGGGCCCAGGACTGGTGAAGCCTTCGGAGACCCTGTCCCTCA
CCTGCACTTTCTCTGGTTTTTCCCTGAGCACTAATGGTATGGGTGTGAGCTGGATCCGG
CAGCCCCCAGGGAAGGGACTGGAGTGGCTGGCACACATCTATTGGGATGAGGACAAGCG
CTATAACCCATCCCTCAAGAGTCGACTCACCATATCAAAGGACACGTCCAAGAACCAGG
TATCCCTGAAGCTGAGCTCTGTGACCGCTGCAGACACGGCCGTGTATTACTGTGCGAGA
AGGAGGATCATCTATGATGTTGAGGACTACTTTGACTACTGGGGCCAAGGGACCACGGT
CACCGTCTCCTCAG

B. Humanized 12B4 Version 2 Antibody

A second version of humanized 12B4 was created having each of the substitutions indicated for version 1, except for the L→ V substitution at residue 2, the I→ L substitution at residue 48, the G→ A substitution at residue 49, the V→ L substitution at residue 67 and the F→ V substitution at residue 78. The nucleotide sequences of humanized 3D6 version 2 light and heavy chains are set forth as SEQ ID NOs: 9 and 11, respectively. The nucleotide sequences of humanized 3D6 version 2 light and heavy chains are set forth as SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 9, respectively. The amino acid sequences of humanized 3D6 version 2 light and heavy chains are set forth as SEQ ID NOs: 2 and 10, respectively.

C. Humanized 12B4 Version 3 Antibody

A third version of humanized 12B4 was created having each of the substitutions indicated for version 1, except for the L→ V substitution at residue 2, the G→ A substitution at residue 49 and the V→ L substitution at residue 67. The nucleotide sequences of humanized 3D6 version 2 light and heavy chains are set forth as SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 9, respectively. The nucleotide sequences of humanized 3D6 version 3 light and heavy chains are set forth as SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 11, respectively. The amino acid sequences of humanized 3D6 version 3 light and heavy chains are set forth as SEQ ID NOs: 2 and 12, respectively.

Example VI. Prevention and Treatment of Human Subjects

A single-dose phase I trial is performed to determine safety in humans. A therapeutic agent is administered in increasing dosages to different patients starting from about 0.01 the level of presumed efficacy, and increasing by a factor of three until a level of about 10 times the effective mouse dosage is reached.

A phase II trial is performed to determine therapeutic efficacy. Patients with early to mid Alzheimer's Disease defined using Alzheimer's disease and Related Disorders Association (ADRDA) criteria for probable AD are selected. Suitable patients score in the 12-26 range on the Mini-Mental State Exam (MMSE). Other selection

criteria are that patients are likely to survive the duration of the study and lack complicating issues such as use of concomitant medications that may interfere. Baseline evaluations of patient function are made using classic psychometric measures, such as the MMSE, and the ADAS, which is a comprehensive scale for evaluating patients with Alzheimer's Disease status and function. These psychometric scales provide a measure of progression of the Alzheimer's condition. Suitable qualitative life scales can also be used to monitor treatment. Disease progression can also be monitored by MRI. Blood profiles of patients can also be monitored including assays of immunogen-specific antibodies and T-cells responses.

Following baseline measurements, patients begin receiving treatment. They are randomized and treated with either therapeutic agent or placebo in a blinded fashion. Patients are monitored at least every six months. Efficacy is determined by a significant reduction in progression of a treatment group relative to a placebo group.

A second phase II trial is performed to evaluate conversion of patients from non-Alzheimer's Disease early memory loss, sometimes referred to as age-associated memory impairment (AAMI) or mild cognitive impairment (MCI), to probable Alzheimer's disease as defined as by ADRDA criteria. Patients with high risk for conversion to Alzheimer's Disease are selected from a non-clinical population by screening reference populations for early signs of memory loss or other difficulties associated with pre-Alzheimer's symptomatology, a family history of Alzheimer's Disease, genetic risk factors, age, sex, and other features found to predict high-risk for Alzheimer's Disease. Baseline scores on suitable metrics including the MMSE and the ADAS together with other metrics designed to evaluate a more normal population are collected. These patient populations are divided into suitable groups with placebo comparison against dosing alternatives with the agent. These patient populations are followed at intervals of about six months, and the endpoint for each patient is whether or not he or she converts to probable Alzheimer's Disease as defined by ADRDA criteria at the end of the observation.

Although the foregoing invention has been described in detail for purposes of clarity of understanding, it will be obvious that certain modifications may be practiced within the scope of the appended claims. All publications and patent documents cited herein, as well as text appearing in the figures and sequence listing, are

hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety for all purposes to the same extent as if each were so individually denoted.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that the invention provides for a number of uses. For example, the invention provides for the use of any of the antibodies to Aβ described above in the treatment, prophylaxis or diagnosis of amyloidogenic disease, or in the manufacture of a medicament or diagnostic composition for use in the same.

CLAIMS

1. A humanized immunoglobulin light chain comprising (i) at least one variable region complementarity determining region (CDR) from the 12B4 immunoglobulin light chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:2, and (ii) a variable framework region from a human acceptor immunoglobulin light chain sequence, wherein the light chain comprises

(a) at least one substitution of a canonical framework residue,

(b) at least one substitution of an interchain packing residue,

(c) at least one substitution of a vernier zone framework residue, or

(d) at least one substitution of a rare residue;

wherein the substitution is with the corresponding amino acid residue from the mouse 12B4 light chain variable region sequence.

2. The light chain of claim 1, wherein the canonical framework residue is selected from the group consisting of L2, L43, L64 and L71 (Kabat numbering convention).

3. The light chain of claim 2, wherein the canonical framework residue is L2 (Kabat numbering convention).

4. The light chain of claim 1, wherein the interchain packing framework residue is selected from the group consisting of L36, L38, L44, L46, L87 and L98 (Kabat numbering convention).

5. The light chain of any one of the preceding claims, which comprises two complementarity determining regions (CDRs) from the 12B4 immunoglobulin light chain variable region sequence.

6. The light chain of any one of the preceding claims, which comprises three complementarity determining regions (CDRs) from the 12B4 immunoglobulin light chain variable region sequence.

7. The light chain of any one of the preceding claims, wherein human immunoglobulin acceptor light chain sequence is of the subtype kappa II (Kabat convention).

8. The light chain of claim 7, wherein the human acceptor immunoglobulin light chain sequence is Kabat ID 005036.

9. The light chain of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the light chain further comprises at least one substitution of a rare framework residue, wherein the rare framework residue is substituted with a corresponding amino acid residue from a germline variable light chain sequence.

10. The light chain of claim 9, wherein the germline variable light chain sequence is A3 or A19.

11. The light chain of claim 9 or 10, wherein the rare framework residue of the light chain is selected based on occurrence at that position in less than 10% of human light chain variable region sequences in the light chain variable region subgroup.

12. A humanized immunoglobulin heavy chain comprising (i) at least one variable region complementarity determining region (CDR) from the 12B4 immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:4, and (ii) a variable framework region from a human acceptor immunoglobulin heavy chain sequence, wherein the heavy chain comprises

(a) at least one substitution of a canonical framework residue,

(b) at least one substitution of an interchain packing framework residue,

(c) at least one substitution of a vernier zone framework residue, or

(d) at least one substitution of a rare residue;

wherein the substitution is the corresponding amino acid residue from the mouse 12B4 heavy chain variable region sequence.

13. The heavy chain of claim 12, wherein the vernier zone framework residue is selected from the group consisting of H2, H48, H49, H67 and H78 (Kabat numbering convention).

14. The heavy chain of claim 12, wherein the canonical framework residue is selected from the group consisting of H24, H26, H27, H29, H71 and H94 (Kabat numbering convention).

15. The heavy chain of claim 12, wherein the canonical framework residue is selected from the group consisting of H24, H27, H29 and H71 (Kabat numbering convention).

16. The heavy chain of claim 12, wherein the interchain packing framework residue is selected from the group consisting of H37, H39, H45, H47, H91, H93 and H103 (Kabat numbering convention).

17. The heavy chain of any one of claims 12-16, which comprises two complementarity determining regions (CDRs) from the 12B4 immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region sequence.

18. The heavy chain of any one of claims 12-16, which comprises three complementarity determining regions (CDRs) from the 12B4 immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region sequence.

19. The heavy chain of any one of claims 12-18, which comprises

(a) a substitution of the H24, H27, H29 and H71 canonical framework residues (Kabat numbering convention), and

(b) a substitution of the H2, H48, H49, H67 and H78 vernier zone framework residues (Kabat numbering convention);

wherein, the substitution is with the corresponding amino acid residue from the mouse 12B4 heavy chain variable region sequence, and

wherein the remainder of the heavy chain is from a human immunoglobulin.

20. The heavy chain of any one of claims 12-19, wherein human immunoglobulin acceptor heavy chain sequence is of the subtype II (Kabat convention).

21. The heavy chain of claim 20, wherein the human acceptor immunoglobulin heavy chain sequence is selected from the group consisting of Kabat ID 000333, Genbank Accession No. AAB35009, and Genbank Accession No. AAD53816.

22. The heavy chain of any one of claims 12-21, wherein the heavy chain further comprises at least one substitution of a rare framework residue, wherein the rare framework residue is substituted with a corresponding amino acid residue from a germline variable heavy chain sequence.

23. The heavy chain of claim 22, wherein the germline variable heavy chain sequence is VH4-39 or VH2-5.

24. The heavy chain of claim 22 or 23, wherein the rare framework residue of the heavy chain is selected based on occurrence at that position in less than 10% of human heavy chain variable region sequences in the heavy chain variable region subgroup.

25. A humanized immunoglobulin which specifically binds to beta amyloid peptide (Aβ), comprising the light chain of any one of claims 1-11, and the heavy chain of any one of claims 12-24, or an antigen-binding fragment of said immunoglobulin.

26. The humanized immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of claim 25, which specifically binds to beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) with a binding affinity of at least 10^7 M^{-1}.

27. The humanized immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of claim 25, wherein the humanized immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment specifically binds to beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) with a binding affinity of at least 10^8 M^{-1}.

28. The humanized immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of claim 25, wherein the humanized immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment specifically binds to beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) with a binding affinity of at least 10^9 M^{-1}.

29. The humanized immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of claim 25, which binds to both soluble beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) and aggregated Aβ.

30. The humanized immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of claim 29, wherein the soluble beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) is disaggregated Aβ.

31. The humanized immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 25-30, which mediates phagocytosis of beta amyloid peptide (Aβ).

32. The humanized immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 25-31, which crosses the blood-brain barrier in a subject.

33. The humanized immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 25-32, which reduces both beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) burden and neuritic dystrophy in a subject.

34. The humanized immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 25-33, wherein the fragment is a Fab or Fab'2 fragment.

35. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the humanized immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of any of claims 25-34 and a pharmaceutical carrier.

36. A kit comprising the humanized immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 25-35 together with instructions for use.

37. The humanized immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment of any one of claims 25-36 for use as a medicament.

38. The humanized immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment of any one of claims 25-37 for use in preventing or treating an amyloidogenic disease in a patient by administration of an effective dosage of the immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment.

39. The humanized immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment of any one of claims 25-38 for use in preventing or treating Alzheimer's disease in a patient by administration of an effective dosage of the immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment.

40. The humanized immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment of claim 38 or 39, wherein the effective dosage is 1 mg/kg body weight.

41. The humanized immunoglobulin or antigen binding fragment of claim 38 or 39, wherein the effective dosage is 10 mg/kg body weight.

42. Use of a humanized immunoglobulin of any one of claims 25-37 in the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention or treatment of an amyloidogenic disease in a patient.

43. Use of a humanized immunoglobulin of any one of claims 25-37 in the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention or treatment of Alzheimer's disease in a patient.

44. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the light chain of any one of claims 1-11.

45. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the heavy chain of any one of claims 12-24.

46. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 44 or 45.

47. A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 44 or 45.

48. A host cell comprising the vector of claim 46.

49. A method of producing an immunoglobulin, or fragment thereof, comprising culturing the host cell of claim 47 or 48 under conditions such that the immunoglobulin or fragment is produced and isolating said immunoglobulin or fragment from the host cell or culture.

50. A non-human transgenic animal expressing a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 44 or 45.

51. The non-human transgenic animal of claim 50, wherein the polypeptide is expressed in the milk of said animal.

52. An isolated immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment thereof, which specifically binds beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) with a binding affinity of at least 10^7 M^{-1}, comprising a light chain comprising at least one variable region complementarity determining region (CDR) from the immunoglobulin light chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:6 and a light chain variable region framework from a human immunoglobulin light chain, wherein the light chain variable region framework has at least 70% sequence identity to the light chain variable framework sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6.

53. The immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of claim 52, wherein the light chain variable region framework has at least 80% sequence identity to the light chain variable framework sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6.

54. The immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of claim 52, wherein the light chain variable region framework has at least 90% sequence identity to the light chain variable framework sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6.

55. The immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 52-54, comprising at least two light chain complementarity determining regions (CDRs) from the antibody light chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:6.

56. The isolated immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 52-54, comprising three light chain complementarity determining regions (CDRs) from the antibody light chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:6.

57. An isolated immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment thereof, which specifically binds beta amyloid peptide (Aβ) with a binding affinity of at least 10^7 M^{-1}, comprising a heavy chain comprising at least one variable region complementarity determining region (CDR) from the immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:8 and a heavy chain variable region framework sequence from a human immunoglobulin heavy chain, wherein the heavy chain variable region framework has at least 70% sequence identity to the heavy chain variable framework sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:8.

58. The isolated immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of claim 57, wherein the heavy chain variable region framework has at least 80% identity to the heavy chain variable framework sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:8.

59. The isolated immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of claim 57, wherein the heavy chain variable region framework has at least 90% identity to the heavy chain variable framework sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:8.

60. The isolated immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 57-59, comprising at least two heavy chain complementarity determining regions (CDRs) from the antibody heavy chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:8.

61. The isolated immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 57-59, comprising three heavy chain complementarity determining regions (CDRs) from the antibody heavy chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:8.

62. The isolated immunoglobulin or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 52-61, wherein the immunoglobulin is a humanized immunoglobulin.

63. A humanized immunoglobulin which specifically binds amyloid beta (Aβ) peptide comprising a light chain comprising a variable region comprising at least one complementarity determining region (CDR) from the 12B4 immunoglobulin light chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:2, and comprising variable framework regions from a human acceptor immunoglobulin light chain sequence, wherein the variable region shares at least 95% sequence identity with the 12B4 immunoglobulin light chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:2.

64. The humanized immunoglobulin of claim 63, wherein the variable region shares at least 98% sequence identity with the 12B4 immunoglobulin light chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:2.

65. A humanized immunoglobulin which specifically binds amyloid beta (Aβ) peptide comprising a light chain comprising a variable region comprising at least one complementarity determining region (CDR) from the 12B4 immunoglobulin light chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:6, and comprising the variable framework region from the 12B4 immunoglobulin light chain variable region sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:6.

66. The humanized immunoglobulin of any one of claims 63-65, which binds to an epitope within residues 3-7 of Aβ.