HUMANIZED ANTIBODY AGAINST AMYLOID BETA

The present invention is related to methods and compositions for diagnosis and treatment of amyloidosis, a group of disorders and abnormalities associated with amyloid protein such as Alzheimer's disease.

Amyloidosis is not a single disease entity but rather a diverse group of progressive disease processes characterized by extracellular tissue deposits of a waxy, starch-like protein called amyloid, which accumulates in one or more organs or body systems. As the amyloid deposits accumulate, they begin to interfere with the normal function of the organ or body system. There are at least 15 different types of amyloidosis. The major forms are primary amyloidosis without known antecedent, secondary amyloidosis following some other condition, and hereditary amyloidosis.

Secondary amyloidosis occurs during chronic infection or inflammatory disease, such as tuberculosis, a bacterial infection called familial Mediterranean fever, bone infections (osteomyelitis), rheumatoid arthritis, inflammation of the small intestine (granulomatous ileitis), Hodgkin's disease, and leprosy.

Amyloid deposits include amyloid P (pentagonal) component (AP), a glycoprotein related to normal serum amyloid P (SAP), and sulphated glycosaminoglycans (GAG), complex carbohydrates of connective tissue. Amyloid protein fibrils, which account for about 90% of the amyloid material, comprise one of several different types of proteins. These proteins are capable of folding into so-called "beta-pleated" sheet fibrils, a unique protein configuration which exhibits binding sites for Congo red resulting in the unique staining properties of the amyloid protein.

Many diseases of aging are based on or associated with amyloid-like proteins and are characterized, in part, by the buildup of extracellular deposits of amyloid or amyloid-like material that contribute to the pathogenesis, as well as the progression of the disease. These diseases include, but are not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Lewy body dementia, Down's syndrome, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with

amyloidosis (Dutch type); the Guam Parkinson-Dementia complex. Other diseases which are based on or associated with amyloid-like proteins are progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple sclerosis; Creutzfeld Jacob disease, Parkinson's disease, HIV-related dementia, ALS (amyotropic lateral sclerosis), Adult Onset Diabetes; senile cardiac amyloidosis; endocrine tumors, and others, including macular degeneration.

Although pathogenesis of these diseases may be diverse, their characteristic deposits often contain many shared molecular constituents. To a significant degree, this may be attributable to the local activation of pro-inflammatory pathways thereby leading to the concurrent deposition of activated complement components, acute phase reactants, immune modulators, and other inflammatory mediators (McGeer et al., 1994).

Alzheimer's Disease (AD) is a neurological disorder primarily thought to be caused by amyloid plaques, an accumulation of abnormal deposit of proteins in the brain. The most frequent type of amyloid found in the brain of affected individuals is composed primarily of Aβ fibrils. Scientific evidence demonstrates that an increase in the production and accumulation of beta-amyloid protein in plaques leads to nerve cell death, which contributes to the development and progression of AD. Loss of nerve cells in strategic brain areas, in turn, causes reduction in the neurotransmitters and impairment of memory. The proteins principally responsible for the plaque build up include amyloid precursor protein (APP) and two presenilins (presenilin I and presenilin II). Sequential cleavage of the amyloid precursor protein (APP), which is constitutively expressed and catabolized in most cells, by the enzymes β and γ secretase leads to the release of a 39 to 43 amino acid Aβ peptide. The degradation of APPs likely increases their propensity to aggregate in plaques. It is especially the Aβ(1-42) fragment that has a high propensity of building aggregates due to two very hydrophobic amino acid residues at its C-terminus. The Aβ(1-42) fragment is therefore believed to be mainly involved and responsible for the initiation of neuritic plaque formation in AD and to have, therefore, a high pathological potential. There is therefore a need for agents to prevent the formation of amyloid plaques and to diffuse existing plaques in AD.

The symptoms of AD manifest slowly and the first symptom may only be mild forgetfulness. In this stage, individuals may forget recent events, activities, the names of familiar people or things and may not be able to solve simple math problems. As the disease progresses, symptoms are

more easily noticed and become serious enough to cause people with AD or their family members to seek medical help. Mid-stage symptoms of AD include forgetting how to do simple tasks such as grooming, and problems develop with speaking, understanding, reading, or writing. Later stage AD patients may become anxious or aggressive, may wander away from home and ultimately need total care.

Presently, the only definite way to diagnose AD is to identify plaques and tangles in brain tissue in an autopsy after death of the individual. Therefore, doctors can only make a diagnosis of "possible" or "probable" AD while the person is still alive. Using current methods, physicians can diagnose AD correctly up to 90 percent of the time using several tools to diagnose "probable" AD. Physicians ask questions about the person's general health, past medical problems, and the history of any difficulties the person has carrying out daily activities. Behavioral tests of memory, problem solving, attention, counting, and language provide information on cognitive degeneration and medical tests such as tests of blood, urine, or spinal fluid, and brain scans can provide some further information.

The management of AD consists of medication-based and non-medication based treatments. Treatments aimed at changing the underlying course of the disease (delaying or reversing the progression) have so far been largely unsuccessful. Medicines that restore the deficit (defect), or malfunctioning, in the chemical messengers of the nerve cells (neurotransmitters), in particular the cholinesterase inhibitors (ChEIs) such as tacrine and rivastigmine, have been shown to improve symptoms. ChEIs impede the enzymatic degradation of neurotransmitters thereby increasing the amount of chemical messengers available to transmit the nerve signals in the brain.

For some people in the early and middle stages of the disease, the drugs tacrine (COGNEX®, Morris Plains, NJ), donepezil (ARICEPT®, Tokyo, JP), rivastigmine (EXELON®, East Hanover, NJ), or galantamine (REMINYL®, New Brunswick, NJ) may help prevent some symptoms from becoming worse for a limited time. Another drug, memantine (NAMENDA®, New York, NY), has been approved for treatment of moderate to severe AD. Medications are also available to address the psychiatric manifestations of AD. Also, some medicines may help control behavioral symptoms of AD such as sleeplessness, agitation, wandering, anxiety, and depression. Treating these symptoms often makes patients more comfortable and makes their care easier for

caregivers. Unfortunately, despite significant treatment advances showing that this class of agents is consistently better than a placebo, the disease continues to progress, and the average effect on mental functioning has only been modest. Many of the drugs used in AD medication such as, for example, ChEIs also have side effects that include gastrointestinal dysfunction, liver toxicity and weight loss.

Another disease that is based on or associated with the accumulation and deposit of amyloid-like protein is macular degeneration.

Macular degeneration is a common eye disease that causes deterioration of the macula, which is the central area of the retina (the paper-thin tissue at the back of the eye where light-sensitive cells send visual signals to the brain). Sharp, clear, 'straight ahead' vision is processed by the macula. Damage to the macula results in the development of blind spots and blurred or distorted vision. Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a major cause of visual impairment in the United States and for people over age 65 it is the leading cause of legal blindness among Caucasians. Approximately 1.8 million Americans age 40 and older have advanced AMD, and another 7.3 million people with intermediate AMD are at substantial risk for vision loss. The government estimates that by 2020 there will be 2.9 million people with advanced AMD. Victims of AMD are often surprised and frustrated to find out how little is known about the causes and treatment of this blinding condition.

There are two forms of macular degeneration: dry macular degeneration and wet macular degeneration. The dry form, in which the cells of the macula slowly begin to break down, is diagnosed in 85 percent of macular degeneration cases. Both eyes are usually affected by dry AMD, although one eye can lose vision while the other eye remains unaffected. Drusen, which are yellow deposits under the retina, are common early signs of dry AMD. The risk of developing advanced dry AMD or wet AMD increases as the number or size of the drusen increases. It is possible for dry AMD to advance and cause loss of vision without turning into the wet form of the disease; however, it is also possible for early-stage dry AMD to suddenly change into the wet form.

The wet form, although it only accounts for 15 percent of the cases, results in 90 percent of the blindness, and is considered advanced AMD (there is no early or intermediate stage of wet AMD). Wet AMD is always preceded by the dry form of the disease. As the dry form worsens,

some people begin to have abnormal blood vessels growing behind the macula. These vessels are very fragile and will leak fluid and blood (hence 'wet' macular degeneration), causing rapid damage to the macula.

The dry form of AMD will initially often cause slightly blurred vision. The center of vision in particular may then become blurred and this region grows larger as the disease progresses. No symptoms may be noticed if only one eye is affected. In wet AMD, straight lines may appear wavy and central vision loss can occur rapidly.

Diagnosis of macular degeneration typically involves a dilated eye exam, visual acuity test, and a viewing of the back of the eye using a procedure called fundoscopy to help diagnose AMD, and—if wet AMD is suspected—fluorescein angiography may also be performed. If dry AMD reaches the advanced stages, there is no current treatment to prevent vision loss. However, a specific high dose formula of antioxidants and zinc may delay or prevent intermediate AMD from progressing to the advanced stage. Macugen® (pegaptanib sodium injection), laser photocoagulation and photodynamic therapy can control the abnormal blood vessel growth and bleeding in the macula, which is helpful for some people who have wet AMD; however, vision that is already lost will not be restored by these techniques. If vision is already lost, low vision aids exist that can help improve the quality of life.

One of the earliest signs of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the accumulation of extracellular deposits known as drusen between the basal lamina of the retinal pigmented epithelium (RPE) and Bruch's membrane (BM). Recent studies conducted by Anderson et al. have confirmed that drusen contains amyloid beta. (Experimental Eye Research 78 (2004) 243-256).

Ongoing research continues with studies exploring environmental, genetic, and dietary factors that may contribute to AMD. New treatment strategies are also being explored, including retinal cell transplants, drugs that will prevent or slow down the progress of the disease, radiation therapy, gene therapies, a computer chip implanted in the retina that may help stimulate vision and agents that will prevent the growth of new blood vessels under the macula.

An important factor to consider when developing new drugs is the ease of use for the target patients. Oral drug delivery, -specifically tablets, capsules and softgels-, account for 70% of all dosage forms consumed because of patient convenience. Drug developers agree that patients prefer oral delivery rather than subjecting themselves to injections or other, more invasive forms of medicinal administration. Formulations resulting in low dosing intervals (i.e. once a day or sustained release) are also preferable. The ease of administering antibiotics in oral dosage forms results in an increase of patient compliance during treatment.

What is needed are effective methods and compositions for preventing or addressing the complications associated with amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis including, but not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Lewy body dementia, Down's syndrome, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis (Dutch type); the Guam Parkinson-Dementia complex; as well as other diseases which are based on or associated with amyloid-like proteins such as progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple sclerosis; Creutzfeld Jacob disease, Parkinson's disease, HIV-related dementia, ALS (amyotropic lateral sclerosis), Adult Onset Diabetes; senile cardiac amyloidosis; endocrine tumors, and others, including macular degeneration. In particular what is needed are agents capable of counteracting the physiological manifestations of the disease such as the formation of plaques associated with aggregation of fibers of the amyloid or amyloid-like peptide.

Anti-amyloid antibodies elicited by the inoculation of $A\beta_{1-42}$ mixed with Freund complete or incomplete adjuvant were reported to reduce the amyloid burden in transgenic mice for human Alzheimer disease (Schenk et al., 1999). Intraperitoneal inoculation of tetrapalmitoylated $A\beta_{1-16}$ reconstituted in liposomes to NORBA transgenic mice elicited significant titers of anti-amyloid antibodies, which were reported to solubilize amyloid fibers and plaques *in vitro* and *in vivo*. (Nicolau et al., 2002).

A possible mechanism by which the dissolution of amyloid plaques and fibres occurred was first suggested by Bard et al., (2000), who concluded that the antibodies opsonized the plaques, which were subsequently destroyed by the macrophages of the microglia. De Mattos et al., (2001) indicated that a mAb directed against the central domain of β-amyloid was able to bind and completely sequester plasma amyloid. They argued that the presence of these mAbs in

circulation shifted the equilibrium of Aβ between brain and plasma, favoring the peripheral clearing and catabolism instead of deposition within the brain.

Prolonged human therapy with rodent antibodies may result in an antiglobulin response which is detectable at about 8-12 days after administration and reaches a peak at about 20-30 days. If such an antiglobulin response is encountered, the treatment must be discontinued after not more than about 10 days and re-treatment at a latter date is usually precluded because it will lead to rapid onset of a secondary antiglobulin response. Although rodent antibodies share a considerable degree of sequence conservation with that of human antibodies, there are many sequence differences between rodents and human antibodies sufficient for the rodent antibodies to be immunogenic in humans.

This problem may be overcome by generating antibodies directly in humans or by the creation of "humanized' (a.k.a. "reshaped' antibodies). Humanized antibodies have a variable region amino acid sequence that contains the rodent-derived CDRs interspersed into human or human-like framework sequences. Since the specificity of the humanized antibody is provided by the rodent-derived CDRs, their residues are to be used essentially unchanged with only minor modifications being allowable, which do not significantly interfere with the affinity and specificity of the antibody for its target antigen. Framework residues may be derived from any primate or, particularly, from any human variable region or may be a combination thereof and the resultant designed variable region would be considered reshaped.

To maximise the likelihood that affinity will be retained in the reshaped antibody it is important to make a proper selection of the framework region. It is known that the framework sequences serve to hold the CDRs in their correct spatial orientation for interaction with antigen, and that framework residues can sometimes even participate in antigen binding. In order to maintain the affinity of the antibody for its antigen it is advantageous to select human framework sequences that are most similar to the sequences of the rodent frameworks. It then may still be necessary to replace one or more amino acids in the human framework sequence with the corresponding residue in the rodent framework to avoid losses with the affinity. This replacement may be aided by computer modelling.

The present invention provides novel methods and compositions comprising highly specific and highly effective antibodies, particularly chimeric antibodies including fragments thereof, more particularly partially or fully humanized antibodies including fragments thereof, having the ability to specifically recognize and bind to specific epitopes from a range of β-amyloid antigens, which my be presented to the antibody in a monomeric, dimeric, trimeric, etc, a polymeric form, in form of an aggregate, fibers, filaments or in the condensed form of a plaque. The antibodies enabled by the teaching of the present invention are particularly useful for the treatment of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis including, but not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Lewy body dementia, Down's syndrome, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis (Dutch type); the Guam Parkinson-Dementia complex; as well as other diseases which are based on or associated with amyloid-like proteins such as progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple sclerosis; Creutzfeld Jacob disease, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis Dutch type, Parkinson's disease, HIV-related dementia, ALS (amyotropic lateral sclerosis), Adult Onset Diabetes; senile cardiac amyloidosis; endocrine tumors, and others, including macular degeneration, to name just a few.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one embodiment, the invention relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which recognizes and binds to at least one distinct binding site, particularly to a least two distinct binding sites, and more particularly to at least three distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said one, said at least two and said at least three binding sites each comprise at least one or two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody.

In particular, the chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or the humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the invention binds to at least two, particularly to at least three distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein at least two of the three distinct binding sites comprise at least two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody and at least one of the three distinct binding sites comprise at least one amino acid residue.

The at least two distinct binding sites comprising at least two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody are located in close proximity to each other on the antigen, separated and/or flanked by at least one amino acid residue not involved in antibody binding or to a significantly smaller extent as compared to said at least two consecutive amino acid residues, thus forming a conformational discontinuous epitope.

The at least three distinct binding sites comprising at least two consecutive amino acid residues and at least one amino acid residue, respectively, which are predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody are located in close proximity to each other on the epitope, separated and/or flanked by at least one amino acid residue not involved in antibody binding or to a significantly smaller extent as compared to the amino acid residues, which are predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, thus forming a conformational discontinuous epitope.

In particular, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, which recognizes and binds to at least one distinct binding site, particularly to a least two distinct binding sites, more particularly to at least three distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said at least one or said at least two distinct binding sites each comprise at least two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, wherein the at least two consecutive amino acid residues representing a first binding site are –Phe-Phe- embedded within the following core sequence (SEQ ID NO: 9):

Xaa_3 - Phe – Phe – Xaa_4 – Xaa_5 – Xaa_6, wherein
Xaa_3 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, norleucine, Met, Phe, and Ile;
Xaa_4 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, Ser and Ile;
Xaa_5 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp,
Xaa_6 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp, and wherein said amino acid residues Xaa_3 Xaa_4, Xaa_5 and Xaa_6 are not involved in antibody binding or to a significantly smaller extent as compared to the –Phe-Phe- binding site.

In another embodiment of the invention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, wherein

Xaa_3 is Val or Leu, but particularly Val;

Xaa_4 is Ala or Val, but particularly Ala;

Xaa_5 is Glu or Asp, but particularly Glu;

Xaa_6 is Glu or Asp, but particularly Asp.

In particular, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, which recognizes and binds to at least one distinct binding site, particularly to a least two distinct binding sites, more particularly to at least three distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said distinct binding sites comprise at least one and at least two consecutive amino acid residues, respectively, predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, wherein the at least two consecutive amino acid residues representing a first binding site are –Phe-Phe- and the at least one amino acid residue is –His- embedded within the following core sequence:

$-Xaa_1-His-Xaa_3-Xaa_4-Xaa_5-Xaa_6-Phe-Phe-Xaa_7-Xaa_8-Xaa_9-$,

wherein

Xaa_1 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of His, Asn, Gln, Lys and Arg

Xaa_3 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Asn and Gln

Xaa_4 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of His, Asn, Gln, Lys and Arg

Xaa_5 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, Ser and Ile;

Xaa_6 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, norleucine, Met, Phe, and Ile

Xaa_7 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu and Ile

Xaa_8 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp,

Xaa_9 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp, and wherein said amino acid residues Xaa_1, Xaa_3, Xaa_6, Xaa_7, Xaa_8 and Xaa_9, are not involved in antibody binding or to a smaller to significantly smaller extent as compared to the –His- and the –Phe-Phe- binding site, respectively..

In another embodiment of the invention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, wherein

Xaa_3 is Gln or Asn, but particularly Gln;

Xaa_4 is Lys

Xaa_5 is Leu

Xaa_6 is Val or Leu, but particularly Val;

Xaa_7 is Ala or Val, but particularly Ala;

Xaa_8 is Glu or Asp, but particularly Glu; and

Xaa_9 is Asp or Glu, but particularly Asp.

In another embodiment of the invention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, which recognizes and binds to at least one distinct binding site, particularly to a least two distinct binding sites, more particularly to at least three distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein, wherein said at least one or said at least two distinct binding sites each comprise at least two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, wherein the at least two consecutive amino acid residues representing a second binding site are –Lys-Leu- embedded within the following core sequence (SEQ ID NO: 10):

$Xaa_1 - Xaa_2$ - Lys - Leu – Xaa_3 wherein

Xaa_1 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of His, Asn, Gln Lys, and Arg;

Xaa_2 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Asn and Gln;

Xaa_3 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, norleucine, Met, Phe, and Ile; and wherein said amino acid residues Xaa_2, Xaa_3, are not involved in antibody binding or to a smaller to significantly smaller extent as compared to the –Lys-Leu- binding site.

In another embodiment of the invention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, which recognizes and binds to at least one distinct binding site, particularly to a least two distinct binding sites, more particularly to at least three distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said distinct binding sites comprise at least one and at least two consecutive amino acid residues, respectively, predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, wherein the at least one and the at least two consecutive amino acids, which are separated by at least one amino acid residue not involved in antibody binding or to a significantly smaller extent as compared to the amino acid residues

predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, are -His- and –Lys-Leu-, respectively, embedded within the following core sequence:

His – Xaa_2 - Lys - Leu – Xaa_3– Xaa_4– Xaa_5–Xaa_6- – Xaa_7 — Xaa_8 – wherein

Xaa_2 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Asn and Gln;

Xaa_3 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, norleucine, Met, Phe, and Ile;

Xaa_4 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, norleucine, Met, Phe, and Ile

Xaa_5 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, norleucine, Met, Phe, and Ile

Xaa_6 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, Ser and Ile;

Xaa_7 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp,

Xaa_8 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp

and wherein said amino acid residues Xaa_2, Xaa_3, Xaa_6, Xaa_7, Xaa_8, are not involved in antibody binding or to a smaller to significantly smaller extent as compared to the –His- and the –Lys-Leu- binding site, respectively.

In another embodiment of the invention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, wherein

Xaa_2 is Gln or Asn, but particularly Gln;

Xaa_3 is Val or Leu, but particularly Val;

Xaa_4 is Phe

Xaa_5 is Phe

Xaa_6 is Ala or Val, but particularly Ala;

Xaa_7 is Glu or Asp, but particularly Glu; and

Xaa_8 is Asp or Glu, but particularly Asp.

In another embodiment of the invention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, which recognizes and binds to at least two distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said at least two distinct binding sites each comprise at least two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, wherein the at least two consecutive amino acids are separated by at

least one amino acid residue not involved in antibody binding or to a significantly smaller extent than said consecutive amino acid residues, which are –Phe-Phe- and –Lys-Leu-, respectively, representing a first and second binding site embedded within the following core sequence:

Xaa_1 – Xaa_2 - Lys - Leu – Xaa_3 - Phe – Phe - Xaa_4 – Xaa_5 – Xaa_6, wherein

Xaa_1 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of His, Asn, Gln Lys, and Arg;

Xaa_2 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Asn and Gln;

Xaa_3 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, norleucine, Met, Phe, and Ile;

Xaa_4 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, Ser and Ile;

Xaa_5 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp,

Xaa_6 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp and wherein said amino acid residues Xaa_2, Xaa_3, Xaa_4, Xaa_5 and Xaa_6 are not involved in antibody binding or to a smaller to significantly smaller extent as compared to the –Lys-Leu- and –Phe-Phe- binding site, respectively.

In another embodiment of the invention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, which recognizes and binds to at least one distinct binding site, particularly to a least two distinct binding sites, more particularly to at least three distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said distinct binding sites comprise at least one and at least two consecutive amino acid residues, respectively, predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, wherein the at least one and the at least two consecutive amino acids are separated by at least one amino acid residue not involved in antibody binding or to a significantly smaller extent as compared to the amino acid residues, which are predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, and wherein said amino acid residues are –His- and –Phe-Phe- and –Lys-Leu-, respectively, embedded within the following core sequence:

His – Xaa_2 - Lys - Leu – Xaa_3 - Phe – Phe - Xaa_4 - Xaa_5 - Xaa_6, wherein

Xaa_2 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Asn and Gln;

Xaa_3 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, norleucine, Met, Phe, and Ile;

Xaa_4 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, Ser and Ile;

Xaa_5 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp,

Xaa_6 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp, and wherein said amino acid residues Xaa_2, Xaa_3, Xaa_4, Xaa_5, Xaa_6, are not involved in antibody binding or to a smaller to significantly smaller extent as compared to the –His-, the –Lys-Leu- and the –Phe-Phe- binding site, respectively.

In another embodiment of the invention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, wherein

Xaa_2 is Gln or Asn, but particularly Gln;

Xaa_3 is Val or Leu, but particularly Val;

Xaa_4 is Ala or Val, but particularly Ala;

Xaa_5 is Glu or Asp, but particularly Glu; and

Xaa_6 is Asp or Glu, but particularly Asp.

In another embodiment of the invention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, which recognizes and binds to at least two distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said at least two distinct binding sites each comprise at least two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, wherein the at least two consecutive amino acids are separated by at least one amino acid residue not involved in antibody binding or to a significantly smaller extent than said consecutive amino acid residues, which are –Phe-Phe- and –Lys-Leu-, respectively, representing a first and second binding site embedded within the following core sequence:

Xaa_1 – Xaa_2 - Lys - Leu – Xaa_3 - Phe – Phe - Xaa_4 – Xaa_5 – Xaa_6, wherein

Xaa_1 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of His, Asn, Gln, Lys and Arg;

Xaa_2 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Asn and Gln;

Xaa_3 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Val, Ala, Leu, Met, Phe, norleucine and Ile

Xaa_4 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu and Ile;

Xaa_5 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp,

Xaa_6 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp, and wherein said amino acid residues Xaa_2, Xaa_3, Xaa_4, Xaa_5, Xaa_6, are not involved in antibody binding or to a smaller to significantly smaller extent as compared to the —Lys-Leu- and the –Phe- Phe binding site, respectively.

In another embodiment of the invention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, wherein

Xaa_1 is His or Arg, but particularly His;

Xaa_2 is Gln or Asn, but particularly Gln;

Xaa_3 is Val or Leu, but particularly Val;

Xaa_4 is Ala or Val, but particularly Ala;

Xaa_5 is Glu or Asp, but particularly Glu; and

Xaa_6 is Asp or Glu, but particularly Asp.

In one embodiment of the invention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided which recognizes and binds to at least two distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said at least two distinct binding sites each comprise at least two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, which are - Phe - Phe – Ala – Glu -, particularly - Phe - Phe – Ala –,but especially - Phe - Phe – and - Lys - Leu –, respectively, and wherein said at least two distinct binding sites exhibit amino acid sequence –Val - Phe - Phe - Ala - Glu – Asp - shown in SEQ ID NO: 7 and amino acid sequence His - Gln - Lys - Leu – Val - shown in SEQ ID NO: 8, respectively.

In one embodiment of the invention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, which recognizes and binds to at least one distinct binding site, particularly to a least two distinct binding sites, more particularly to at least three distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein the said at least one or said at least two distinct binding sites comprise at least one and at least two consecutive amino acid residues, respectively, predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, which are - Phe - Phe – and - Lys - Leu –, and –His-, respectively, wherein said distinct binding sites are embedded in the amino acid sequence –Val - Phe - Phe - Ala – Glu-, and amino acid sequence -His - Gln - Lys - Leu – Val -, respectively.

In another embodiment of the invention, the chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof comprises an antigen recognition and binding site which recognizes and binds to at least two distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said at least two distinct binding sites each comprise at least two consecutive amino acid residues within the amino acid sequence given in SEQ ID NOs: 7 and 8, respectively, wherein said consecutive amino acid residues, particularly –Phe- Phe- and –Lys-Leu-, are predominantly involved in the binding of the β-amyloid protein.

In a further specific embodiment of the invention, an antibody or a fragment thereof according to the invention is provided, which binds to 4 distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said 4 distinct binding sites include 2 binding sites each comprising one amino acid residue and 2 binding sites each comprising two consecutive amino acid residues, which residues are predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, wherein said 4 distinct binding sites are located in close proximity to each other on the β-amyloid protein, and wherein said 4 binding sites are separated by at least one amino acid residue not involved in antibody binding or involved in binding but to a significantly smaller extent as compared to said one amino acid residue and said two consecutive amino acid residues of the 4 distinct binding sites thus forming a conformational discontinuous epitope.

In particular, the first of the two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody is –Lys-Leu-, and the second of the at least two consecutive amino acid residues is –Phe-Phe-, the first of the single amino acid residues is -His- and the second of the single amino acid residues is -Asp- embedded within the following core sequence:

- Xaa_1– His – Xaa_2 – Lys – Leu –Xaa_3 – Phe – Phe – Xaa_4 – Xaa_5 – Asp – Xaa_6

wherein

Xaa_1 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of His, Asn, Gln, Lys and Arg, but particularly His;

Xaa_2 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Asn and Gln, but particularly Gln ;

Xaa_3 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, norleucine, Met, Phe, and Ile, particularly Val;

Xaa_4 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, Ser and Ile, particularly Ala;

Xaa_5 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp, particularly Glu;

Xaa_6 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, norleucine, Met, Phe, and Ile, particularly Val; and wherein said amino acid residues Xaa_1, Xaa_2, Xaa_3, Xaa_4, Xaa_5, Xaa_6, are not involved in antibody binding or are involved in binding but to a significantly smaller extent as compared to the –His-, –Asp-, the -Lys-Leu, and the –Phe-Phe- binding site.

In one embodiment, the invention relates to an antibody or a fragment thereof according to the invention, which binds to 4 distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein, wherein said 4 distinct binding sites include two binding sites each comprising one amino acid residue and two binding sites each comprising two consecutive amino acid residues, wherein the first of the two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody is –Lys-Leu-, and the second of the at least two consecutive amino acid residues is –Phe-Phe-, the first of the single amino acid residues is -His- and the second of the single amino acid residues is -Asp- embedded within the following core sequence:

- Xaa_1– His – Xaa_2 – Lys – Leu –Xaa_3 – Phe – Phe – Xaa_4 – Xaa_5 – Asp – Xaa_6

wherein

Xaa_1 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of His, Asn, Gln, Lys and Arg, but particularly His;

Xaa_2 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Asn and Gln, but particularly Gln ;

Xaa_3 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, norleucine, Met, Phe, and Ile, particularly Val;

Xaa_4 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, Ser and Ile, particularly Ala;

Xaa_5 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp, particularly Glu;

Xaa_6 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, norleucine, Met, Phe, and Ile, particularly Val; and wherein said amino acid residues Xaa_1, Xaa_2, Xaa_3, Xaa_4, Xaa_5, Xaa_6, are not involved in antibody binding or are involved in binding but to a significantly smaller extent as compared to the –His-, –Asp-, the -Lys-Leu, and the –Phe-Phe- binding site.

In a specific embodiment of the invention, the recognition and binding sites as defined herein before are forming a conformational discontinuous epitope localized in a region of the β-amyloid protein between amino acid residue 12 to 24, particularly between residues 14 to 23, more particularly between amino acid residues 14 and 20, wherein the at least two distinct recognition and binding sites each comprising at least 2 amino acid residues, are located at position 16 and 17 and at position 19 and 20, respectively, and wherein the at least one distinct recognition and binding site comprising at least 1 amino acid residue is located at position 14, which residues are predominantly involved in the binding of the β-amyloid protein and wherein said distinct recognition and binding sites are at least on one side flanked by amino acid residues, particularly residues 21 and 22, and separated by one amino acid residue located at position 15 and 18, which amino acid residues are not directly involved in the binding of the antigen or, at least, to a substantially smaller extent.

In still another embodiment of the invention the said at least three distinct recognition and binding sites are flanked on both sides by amino acid residues, particularly residues 12 and 13, and residues 21 and 22 and are separated by one amino acid residue located at position 15 and 18, which amino acid residues are not directly involved in the binding of the antigen or, at least, to a substantially smaller extent.

In a specific embodiment, said consecutive amino acid residues, particularly –Lys-Leu- at position 16 and 17 and –Phe- Phe- at position 19 and 20, which are predominantly involved in the binding of the β-amyloid protein, are embedded into the following core region:

Val–	His–	His–	Gln–	Lys–	Leu–	Val–	Phe–	Phe–	Ala–	Glu–	Asp
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23

In another specific embodiment, said amino acid residues, particularly –Lys-Leu- at position 16 and 17 and –Phe- Phe- at position 19 and 20, and –His- at position 14, which are predominantly involved in the binding of the β-amyloid protein, are embedded into the following core region:

Val–	His–	His–	Gln–	Lys–	Leu–	Val–	Phe–	Phe–	Ala–	Glu–	Asp–	Val–	Gly–
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25

In another embodiment of the invention, a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided which comprises in the light chain and heavy chain variable region, respectively, at least one CDR of non-human origin, particularly two CDRs of non-human origin, more particularly three CDR of non-human origin, embedded in one or more human- or primate-derived framework regions and, optionally, a constant region derived from a human or primate source antibody, which humanized antibody or fragment thereof is capable of specifically recognizing and binding β-amyloid protein, particularly a β-amyloid monomeric peptide, more particularly a β-amyloid polymeric peptide, even more particularly β-amyloid fibers, fibrils or filaments in isolation or as part of a β-amyloid plaque, at an epitope comprising the following amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 11):

$Xaa_1 - Xaa_2$ - Lys - Leu – Xaa_3 - Phe – Phe- Xaa_4 - Xaa_5 - Xaa_6, wherein

Xaa_1 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of His, Asn, Gln, but particularly His;

Xaa_2 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Asn and Gln, but particularly Gln; and

Xaa_3 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Val, Leu, and Ile, but particularly Val;

Xaa_4 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala and Val, but particularly Ala;

Xaa_5 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp, but particularly Glu;

Xaa_6 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp, but particularly Asp.

In still another embodiment of the invention, a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided which comprises in the light chain and heavy chain variable region, respectively, at least one CDR of non-human origin, particularly two CDRs of non-human origin, more particularly three CDR of non-human origin, embedded in one or more human- or primate-derived framework regions and, optionally, a constant region derived from a human or primate source antibody, which humanized antibody or fragment thereof is capable of specifically recognizing and binding β-amyloid protein, particularly a β-amyloid monomeric peptide, more particularly a β-amyloid polymeric peptide, even more particularly β-amyloid fibers, fibrils or

filaments in isolation or as part of a β-amyloid plaque, at an epitope comprising the following amino acid sequence:

His – Xaa_2 - Lys - Leu – Xaa_3 - Phe – Phe- Xaa_4-Xaa_5-Xaa_6, wherein

Xaa_2 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Asn and Gln, but particularly Gln; and

Xaa_3 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Val, Leu, and Ile, but particularly Val;

Xaa_4 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala and Val, but particularly Ala;

Xaa_5 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp, but particularly Glu;

Xaa_6 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp, but particularly Glu; and wherein said amino acid residues Xaa_2, Xaa_3, Xaa_4, Xaa_5, Xaa_6, are not involved in antibody binding or to a smaller extent as compared to the –His- and the –Lys-Leu- and the -Phe-Phe- binding site.

In a specific embodiment of the invention, the CDR of non-human origin is obtained from a donor antibody, but particularly from a murine donor antibody, raised against an antigen fragment which does not contain said distinct binding site. This shift in the epitopic region may have at least partially been caused by the use of a supramolecular antigenic construct comprising an antigenic peptide corresponding to the amino acid sequence of the β-amyloid peptide, particularly of β-amyloid peptide $A\beta_{1-16}$, modified with a hydrophilic moiety such as, for example, polyethylene glycol (PEG), wherein said hydrophilic moiety is covalently bound to each of the termini of the antigenic peptide through at least one, particularly one or two amino acids such as, for example, lysine, glutamic acid and cysteine or any other suitable amino acid or amino acid analogue capable of serving as a connecting device for coupling the hydrophilic moiety to the peptide fragment, as described herein below in the immunization process. When a PEG is used as the hydrophilic moiety, the free PEG termini are covalently bound to phosphatidylethanolamine or any other compound suitable to function as the anchoring element, for example, to embed the antigenic construct in the bilayer of a liposome as described herein.

In particular, the CDR of non-human origin is obtained from a murine donor antibody which exhibits the characteristic properties of ACI-01-Ab7C2 (also named "mC2" throughout the

application) deposited 01 December 2005 with the "Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ) in Braunschweig, Mascheroder Weg 1 B, 38124 Branuschweig, under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty under accession no DSM ACC2750).

In one embodiment of the invention, the CDR of non-human origin is obtained from murine donor antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2 (also named "mC2" throughout the application) deposited 01 December 2005 with the "Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ) in Braunschweig, Mascheroder Weg 1 B, 38124 Branuschweig, under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty under accession no DSM ACC2750).

Also the use of lipid A as part of the immunization protocol may have contributed to a shift in the epitopic region.

In a specific embodiment, the invention relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived framework regions at least one peptide with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

In another embodiment, the invention relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, wherein said humanized antibody comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least one peptide with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).
In still another embodiment, the invention relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, wherein said humanized antibody comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived light chain framework regions a peptide with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

In particular, the invention relates to a Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived framework regions at least one peptide with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

In another specific embodiment, the invention relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived framework regions at least one peptide with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

The invention further relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived framework regions at least two peptides, which peptides are different and exhibit an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) wherein the same CDR cannot be present twice in the antibody. In particular, if the at least two CDRs present are both CDRs of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), at least on of said CDRs must be CDR1 represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

Also comprised by the invention is a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least two peptides with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR), but particularly a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof wherein the same CDR cannot be present twice in the antibody.

In particular, the invention relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least two peptides with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

In a further embodiment, the invention relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived light chain framework regions at least two

peptides with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

In particular, the invention relates to a Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), which has integrated into human- or primate-derived light chain framework regions at least two peptides with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), wherein the same CDR cannot be present twice in the antibody and, in particular, at least on of said CDRs must be CDR1 represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

The invention also relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR), particularly in the order indicated above.

In particular, the invention relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR), particularly in the order indicated above.

Also comprised by the invention is a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived light chain framework regions peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), particularly in the order indicated above.

In particular, the invention relates to a Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived light chain framework regions peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and

SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), particularly in the order indicated above.

The invention also relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived framework regions at least three peptides with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1 , SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), but particularly a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof wherein the same CDR cannot be present twice in the antibody.

In another embodiment the invention relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which antibody comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived framework regions at least four peptides with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1 , SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO:3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), but particularly a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof wherein the same CDR cannot be present twice in the antibody.

In still anther embodiment, the invention relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived framework regions at least five peptides with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO:3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), but particularly a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof wherein the same CDR cannot be present twice in the antibody.

In still anther embodiment, the invention relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived framework regions peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2

and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

In a specific embodiment, the invention relates to a humanized antibody, a Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR), or a fragment thereof, wherein said humanized antibody, Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) or fragment thereof comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least a peptide with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

In another specific embodiment, the invention relates to a humanized antibody, a Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) or a fragment thereof, wherein said humanized antibody, Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) or fragment thereof comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least a peptide with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

In another specific embodiment, the invention relates to a humanized antibody, Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) or a fragment thereof, which antibody, Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) or fragment thereof comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least two peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1 and SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

In another specific embodiment, the invention relates to a humanized antibody, a Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) or a fragment thereof, which antibody, Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) or fragment thereof comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least two peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

In another specific embodiment, the invention relates to a humanized antibody, a Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) or a fragment thereof, which antibody, Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) or fragment thereof comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain

framework regions at least two peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

In another specific embodiment, the invention relates to a humanized antibody, a Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) or a fragment thereof, which antibody, Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) or fragment thereof comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least two peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1 and SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

In another specific embodiment, the invention relates to a humanized antibody, a Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) or a fragment thereof, which antibody, Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) or fragment thereof comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least two peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

Further comprised by the invention is a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, wherein both the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) of the mouse C2 antibody each contributes at least one of its CDR regions to the at least two CDR regions of the humanized antibody. The resulting humanized antibody or a fragment thereof thus may comprise

-at least an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1 (HCVR) in combination with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1 (LCVR);

-at least an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 (HCVR) in combination with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1 (LCVR);

-at least an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 (HCVR) in combination with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1 (LCVR);

-at least an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1 (HCVR) in combination with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 (LCVR);

-at least an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 (HCVR) in combination with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 (LCVR);

-at least an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 representing CDR2 (HCVR) in combination with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 (LCVR);
-at least an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 representing CDR1 (HCVR) in combination with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 (LCVR);
-at least an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 (HCVR) in combination with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 (LCVR);
-at least an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 (HCVR) in combination with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 (LCVR).

In still another embodiment, the invention relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof as described herein before, which antibody comprises a light chain and/or a heavy chain constant region of human or primate origin.

In a further embodiment, the invention relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, wherein at least one, particularly at least one but not more than 5, more particularly at least one but not more than 4, even more particularly at least one but not more than 3, but especially at least one but not more than 2, of the amino acids representative of the light chain and/or heavy chain CDR regions as given in SEQ ID NOs: 1 – 6 is changed through a conservative substitution such that the antibody maintains its full functionality.

In particular, the invention relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, wherein in CDR2 of the light chain variable region (LCVR) as given in SEQ ID NO: 5, the Lys at Kabat position 50 is replaced by an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Arg, Gln and Glu, particularly by Arg.

In particular, the invention relates to a light chain variable region (LCVR) wherein in CDR2 as given in SEQ ID NO: 5, the Lys at Kabat position 50 is replaced by an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Arg, Gln and Glu, particularly by Arg.
In another embodiment, the invention relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, wherein in CDR2 of the light chain variable region (LCVR) as given in SEQ ID NO: 5, the Ser at Kabat position 53 is replaced by an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Asn or Thr, but particularly by Asn.

In particular, the invention relates to a light chain variable region (LCVR) wherein in CDR2 as given in SEQ ID NO: 5, the Ser at Kabat position 53 is replaced by an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Asn or Thr, but particularly by Asn.

In one embodiment of the invention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, wherein the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) has an amino acid sequence that is 90%, particularly 95%, more particularly 98% identical to the sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 15 and 16, respectively.

In another embodiment of the invention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, wherein the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) has an amino acid sequence that is 90%, particularly 95%, more particularly 98% identical to the sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 12 and 13, respectively.
In still another embodiment of the invention, a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, wherein at least two, but especially three, of the CDR regions of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) have an amino acid sequence that is 90%, particularly 95%, more particularly 98% identical to the corresponding CDR region as given in SEQ ID NO: 1 – 3.

In a further embodiment of the invention, a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, wherein at least two, but especially three, of the CDR regions of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) have an amino acid sequence that is 90%, particularly 95%, more particularly 98% identical to the corresponding CDR region as given in SEQ ID NO: 4 – 6.

In still another embodiment, the invention relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the present invention as described herein before wherein the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) has an amino acid sequence that is 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% identical to the sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 15 and 16, respectively.

In still another embodiment, the invention relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the present invention as described herein before wherein the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) has an amino acid sequence that

is 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% identical to the sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 12 and 13, respectively.

In still another embodiment, the invention relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the present invention as described herein before, wherein at least one, particularly at least two, but especially three, of the CDR regions of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) have an amino acid sequence that is 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% identical to the corresponding CDR region as given in SEQ ID NO: 1 – 3.

In still another embodiment, the invention relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the present invention as described herein before, wherein at least one, particularly at least two, but especially three, of the CDR regions of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) have an amino acid sequence that is 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% identical to the corresponding CDR region as given in SEQ ID NO: 4 – 6.

In still another embodiment, the invention relates to a humanized antibody according to the present invention and as described herein before, wherein at least one of the amino acids representative of the acceptor framework sequences obtained from human germline V_H and V_K sequences, respectively is changed through a substitution to an amino acid from the corresponding region of murine antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2 or a substitution conservative thereto.

In particular, the invention relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Leu, norleucine, Ile, Val, Met, Ala, and Phe, particularly Leu and Ile, but especially Leu such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15.

The invention further relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Arg in Kabat position 94 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT

subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ser and Thr, but especially by Ser such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15...

In still another embodiment, the invention relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Leu, norleucine, Ile, Val, Met, Ala, and Phe, particularly Leu and Ile, but especially Leu and the Arg in Kabat position 94 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ser and Thr, but especially by Ser such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15.

The invention further relates to a Light Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Light Chain Variable Region, respectively,, wherein the Gln in Kabat position 45 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_K sequences of KABAT subgroup V_KII of the Light Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Lys, Arg, Gln, and Asn, particularly by Lys and Arg, but especially by Lys.

The invention further relates to a Light Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Light Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Tyr in Kabat position 87 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_K sequences of KABAT subgroup V_KII of the Light Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Phe, Leu, Val, Ile, and Ala, particularly by Leu and Phe, but especially by Phe.

The invention further relates to a Light Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Light Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Lys in Kabat position 50 in the CDR2 region obtained from a mouse monoclonal antibody, particularly murine antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2, such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 12 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Arg, Gln, His, and Asn, but especially by Arg

In still another embodiment, the invention relates to a Light Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Light Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Asn in Kabat position 53 in the CDR2 region obtained from a mouse monoclonal antibody, particularly murine antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2, such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 12 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, Ser and Ile; but especially Ser..

In still another embodiment, the invention relates to a humanized antibody, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Leu, norleucine, Ile, Val, Met, Ala, and Phe, particularly Leu and Ile, but especially Leu and the Arg in Kabat position 94 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ser and Thr, but especially by Ser as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15, and the Tyr in Kabat position 87 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_K sequences of KABAT subgroup V_KII of the Light Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Phe, Leu, Val, Ile, and Ala, particularly by Leu and Phe, but especially by Phe.

In still another embodiment, the invention relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 is replaced by Leu.

In still another embodiment, the invention relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Arg in Kabat position 94 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by Ser such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15.

In still another embodiment, the invention relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively,, wherein the

Trp in Kabat position 47 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by Leu and Ile, but especially Leu and the Arg in Kabat position 94 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by Ser such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15..

In still another embodiment, the invention relates to a Light Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Tyr in Kabat position 87 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_K sequences of KABAT subgroup V_KII of the Light Chain Variable Region is replaced by Phe.

In still another embodiment, the invention relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively,, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by Leu and Ile, but especially Leu and the Arg in Kabat position 94 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by Ser such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 and the Tyr in Kabat position 87 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_K sequences of KABAT subgroup V_KII of the Light Chain Variable Region is replaced by Phe..

In one embodiment, the invention relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Leu, norleucine, Ile, Val, Met, Ala, and Phe, particularly Leu and Ile, but especially Leu and the Arg in Kabat position 94 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ser and Thr, but especially by Ser such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 and wherein the Lys in Kabat position 50 in the CDR2 region obtained from a mouse monoclonal antibody, particularly murine antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2, is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Arg, Gln, His, and Asn, but especially by Arg.

In one embodiment, the invention relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Leu, norleucine, Ile, Val, Met, Ala, and Phe, particularly Leu and Ile, but especially Leu and the Arg in Kabat position 94 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ser and Thr, but especially by Ser such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 and wherein the Asn in Kabat position 53 in the CDR2 region obtained from a mouse monoclonal antibody, particularly murine antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2, is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, Ser and Ile; but especially Ser.

In a specific embodiment, the invention relates to the light chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 12.

In another specific embodiment of the invention, a humanized antibody is provided, which comprises the light chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 12.

In a specific embodiment, the invention relates to the light chain variable region including signal sequences as shown in SEQ ID NO: 13.

In another specific embodiment of the invention, a humanized antibody is provided, which comprises the complete light chain variable region including signal sequences as shown in SEQ ID NO: 13.

In another specific embodiment of the invention, a humanized antibody is provided, which comprises the light chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 12 and the light chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 14.

In another specific embodiment of the invention, a humanized antibody is provided, which comprises the complete light chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 13 and the light chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 14.

In a specific embodiment, the invention relates to the heavy chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 15.

In another specific embodiment of the invention, a humanized antibody is provided, which comprises the heavy chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 15.

In a specific embodiment, the invention relates to the heavy chain variable region including signal sequences as shown in SEQ ID NO: 16.

In another specific embodiment of the invention, a humanized antibody is provided, which comprises the complete heavy chain variable region including signal sequences as shown in SEQ ID NO: 16.

In another specific embodiment of the invention, a humanized antibody is provided, which comprises the heavy chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 15 and the heavy chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 17.

In another specific embodiment of the invention, a humanized antibody is provided, which comprises the heavy chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 16 and the heavy chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 17.

In one embodiment the humanized antibody according to the invention and as described herein, upon co-incubation with an Aβ monomeric peptide having at least 30, particularly at least 35, more particularly at least 38, even more particularly at least 40 amino acid residues and/or an Aβ polymeric soluble amyloid peptide comprising a plurality of said Aβ monomeric units, but especially with an $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric and/or an Aβ polymeric soluble amyloid peptide comprising a plurality of said $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric units, particularly at a molar concentration ratio of antibody to Aβ1-42 of up to 1:1000, particularly of up to 1:500, more particularly of up to 1:300, even more particularly of up to 1:200, but especially at a molar concentration ratio of between 1:10 and 1:100, inhibits the aggregation of the Aβ monomers to high molecular polymeric fibrils.

In particular, the co-incubation of the antibody according to the invention with amyloid monomeric and/or polymeric soluble amyloid peptides is carried out for 24 hours to 60 hours, particularly for 30 hours to 50 hours, more particularly for 48 hours, but especially 24 hours, at a temperature of between 28°C and 40°C, particularly of between 32°C and 38°C, more particularly at 37°C.

In a specific embodiment of the invention, co-incubation with amyloid monomeric and/or polymeric soluble amyloid peptides is accomplished for 24 hours at a temperature of 37°C.

In particular, the antibody, particularly the humanized antibody according to the invention including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof binds to $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric peptide and/or $A\beta$ polymeric soluble amyloid peptide comprising a plurality of said $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric units and, upon co-incubation with $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric peptide and/or $A\beta$ polymeric soluble amyloid peptide comprising a plurality of said $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric units inhibits the aggregation of the $A\beta$ monomers and/or polymers to high molecular polymeric fibrils.

In one embodiment, the antibody, particularly the humanized antibody according to the invention including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof inhibits the aggregation of the $A\beta$ monomers and/or $A\beta$ soluble polymers comprising a plurality of said $A\beta$ monomeric units to high molecular polymeric fibrils by at least 50%, particularly by at least 60%, particularly by at least 65%, more particularly by at least 75%, even more particularly by at least 80%, but especially by at least 85%-90%, or more as compared to the respective amyloid peptide monomers incubated in buffer (control), at a molar concentration ratio of antibody to $A\beta$1-42 of up to 1:1000, particularly at a molar concentration ratio of between 1:10 and 1:100, but especially at a molar concentration ratio of 1:10.

In a specific embodiment of the invention, the antibody, particularly the humanized antibody according to the invention including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof inhibits the aggregation of the $A\beta$ monomers and/or $A\beta$ soluble polymers comprising a plurality of said $A\beta$ monomeric units to high molecular polymeric fibrils by at least 30% at a molar concentration ratio of antibody to $A\beta$1-42 of 1:100.

In another specific embodiment of the invention, the antibody, particularly the humanized antibody according to the invention including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof inhibits the aggregation of the Aβ monomers and/or Aβ soluble polymers comprising a plurality of said Aβ monomeric units to high molecular polymeric fibrils by at least 80% at a molar concentration ratio of antibody to Aβ1-42 of 1:10.

Binding of the antibodies according to the invention and as described herein to amyloidogenic monomeric and/or polymeric peptides but, particularly, to the amyloid form (1-42) leads to inhibition of the aggregation of monomeric and/or polymeric amyloidogenic peptides to high molecular fibrils or filaments. Through the inhibition of the aggregation of amyloidogenic monomeric and/or polymeric peptides the antibodies according to the present invention are capable of preventing or slowing down the formation of amyloid plaques, particularly the amyloid form (1-42), which is know to become insoluble by change of secondary conformation and to be the major part of amyloid plaques in brains of diseased animals or humans.

The aggregation inhibition potential of the antibody according to the invention may be determined by any suitable method known in the art, particularly by density-gradient ultracentrifugation followed by a SDS-PAGE sedimentation analysis on a preformed gradient and/or by a thioflavin T (Th-T) fluorescent assay.

In one embodiment, the invention relates to an antibody, particularly a humanized antibody as described herein including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof, which antibody, upon co-incubation, particularly at a molar concentration ratio of between 1:5 and 1:1000, particularly of between 1:10 and 1:500, more particularly at a ratio of 1:10 to 1:300, even more particularly at a ratio of between 1:10 and 1:100, with preformed high molecular polymeric amyloid fibrils or filaments formed by the aggregation of Aβ monomeric peptides having at least 30, particularly at least 35, more particularly at least 38, even more particularly at least 40 amino acid residues and, but especially $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric peptides, is capable of disaggregating the preformed polymeric fibrils or filaments by at least 20%, particularly by at least 30%, more particularly by at least 35%%, even more particularly by at least 40%, but especially by at least 50% or more.

In a specific embodiment of the invention, the aggregation inhibition and the disaggregation potential of the antibody, respectively, is determined by density-gradient ultracentrifugation followed by a SDS-PAGE sedimentation analysis on a preformed gradient.

In another specific embodiment of the invention, the aggregation inhibition and the disaggregation potential of the antibody, respectively, is determined by thioflavin T (Th-T) fluorescent assay.

In another specific embodiment, the antibody according to the invention is co-incubated with amyloid preformed high molecular polymeric amyloid fibrils or filaments for 12 hours to 36 hours, particularly for 18 hours to 30 hours, more particularly for 24 hours at a temperature of between 28°C and 40°C, particularly of between 32°C and 38°C, more particularly at 37°C.

In particular, the co-incubation with preformed high molecular polymeric amyloid fibrils or filaments is done for 24 hours at a temperature of 37°C.

In a specific embodiment of the invention, the antibody, particularly the humanized antibody according to the invention including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof is capable of disaggregating the preformed polymeric fibrils or filaments by at least 24% at a molar concentration ratio of antibody to Aβ1-42 of 1:100.

In another specific embodiment of the invention, the antibody, particularly the humanized antibody according to the invention including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof is capable of disaggregating the preformed polymeric fibrils or filaments by at least 32% at a molar concentration ratio of antibody to Aβ1-42 of 1:10.

Through the disaggregation of amyloidogenic polymeric fibrils or filaments the antibodies according to the present invention are capable of preventing or slowing down the formation of amyloid plaques which leads to an alleviation of the symptoms associated with the disease and a delay or reversal of its progression.

Accordingly, it is a further embodiment of the invention to provide an antibody, particularly a humanized antibody, including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof as described herein, which antibody is capable of decreasing the total amount of Aβ in the brain of an animal, particularly a mammal, but especially a human suffering from a disease or condition leading to increased concentration of Aβ in the brain.

In another embodiment, the invention relates to a humanized antibody according to the invention and as described herein before, which antibody is bi-effective in that it exhibits both an

aggregation inhibition property as well as a disaggregation property, particularly paired with a high degree of conformational sensitivity.

In particular, the invention relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the invention and as described herein before, which antibody, upon co-incubation with amyloid monomeric and/or polymeric soluble amyloid peptides, particularly with β-amyloid monomeric peptides such as, for example, Aβ monomeric peptides 1-39; 1-40, 1-41, or 1-42, and/or a polymeric soluble β-amyloid peptide comprising a plurality of said Aβ monomeric units, but especially with an $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric and/or an Aβ polymeric soluble amyloid peptide comprising a plurality of said $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric units,, inhibits the aggregation of the Aβ monomers into high molecular polymeric fibrils or filaments and, in addition, upon co-incubation with preformed high molecular polymeric amyloid fibrils or filaments formed by the aggregation of amyloid monomeric peptides, particularly β-amyloid monomeric peptides such as, for example, Aβ monomeric peptides 1-39; 1-40, 1-41, or 1-42, but especially $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric peptides, is capable of disaggregating the preformed polymeric fibrils or filaments.

In another aspect, the invention relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the present invention and as described herein before, which antibody is capable of inducing a transition of the β-sheet conformation towards an α-helix and/or a random coil conformation, but particularly a random coil conformation, even more particularly a random coil conformation at a given location in the molecule, especially in the environment of Tyr 10 and Val12 of the Aβ protein, which leads to an increase of the random coil conformation at the expense of the β-sheet conformation and an improved solubilization of the preformed high molecular polymeric amyloid fibrils or filaments. In particular the decrease of the β-sheet conformation amounts to at least 30%, particularly to at least 35%, and more particularly to at least 40% and more as compared to the respective preformed amyloid polymeric fibrils or filaments incubated in buffer (control).

The antibody's potential in inducing a transition in the secondary structure is determined by solid state 13C NMR spectroscopy but, in particular, by measuring the integral intensities of the conformations of Tyr 10 and Val 12 Cβ in the $A\beta_{1-42}$ peptide.

In a further embodiment of the invention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the present invention and as described herein before, is provided comprising at least one light chain or a fragment thereof or at least one heavy chain or a fragment thereof, wherein said antibody or fragment binds to an Aβ monomer with a high binding affinity with a K_D in a range of between at least about 1 x 10^{-7} M to at least about 1 x 10^{-12} M, particularly of at least about 1 x 10^{-8} M to at least about 1 x 10^{-11} M, more particularly of at least about 1 x 10^{-9} M to at least about 1 x 10^{-10} M, even more particularly of at least about 1 x 10^{-8} M to at least about 2 x 10^{-8} M, but, preferably, does not show any significant cross-reactivity with amyloid precursor protein (APP).

In another embodiment of the invention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the present invention and as described herein before, is provided comprising at least one light chain or a fragment thereof or at least one heavy chain or a fragment thereof, wherein said antibody or fragment binds to an Aβ fiber, fibril or filament with a high binding affinity with a K_D in a range of between at least about 1 x 10^{-7} M to at least about 1 x 10^{-12} M, particularly of at least about 1 x 10^{-8} M to at least about 1 x 10^{-11} M, more particularly of at least about 1 x 10^{-9} M to at least about 1 x 10^{-10} M, even more particularly of at least about 2 x 10^{-9} M to at least about 5 x 10^{-9} M, but, preferably, does not show any significant cross-reactivity with amyloid precursor protein (APP).

In another embodiment, the antibody according to the invention and as described herein before or a fragment thereof, exhibits an binding affinity to an Aβ fiber, fibril or filament which is at least 2 times, particularly at least 4 times, particularly at least 10 times, particularly at least 15 times, more particularly at least 20 times, but especially at least 25 times higher than the binding affinity to an Aβ monomer.

In still another embodiment, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided as described herein before, which antibody substantially binds to aggregated Aβ, including Aβ plaques, in the mammalian, particularly the human brain but, preferably, does not show any significant cross-reactivity with amyloid precursor protein (APP).

In another aspect of the invention, the chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided as described herein before, which antibody

substantially binds to soluble polymeric amyloid, particularly amyloid β (Aβ), including Aβ monomers, in the mammalian, particularly the human brain but, preferably, does not show any significant cross-reactivity with amyloid precursor protein (APP).

Further provided is a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the invention and as described herein before, which antibody significantly reduces Aβ plaque burden in the mammalian, particularly the human brain. This can be achieved by either binding of the antibody to the plaque or by shifting the equilibrium between amyloid, particularly amyloid β (Aβ), in its insoluble and aggregated state towards its soluble form by disaggregating fibers to soluble poly- and monomeric forms by inducing a shift in conformation and binding and stabilizing the disaggregated and solubilized amyloid forms, particularly amyloid β (Aβ) forms, in the tissue and/or body fluids, particularly the brain. Through the activity of the antibody according to the invention the peripheral clearing and catabolism is thus favored rather than deposition within the tissue and/or body fluids, particularly the brain. The beneficial effect of the antibody according to the invention can thus be obtained without binding of the antibody to the plaque.

Through this stabilizing activity, the antibody according to the invention is able to neutralize the toxic effects of the polymeric and less aggregated soluble amyloid protein, particularly amyloid β (Aβ) protein, in the tissue and/or body fluids. In a specific embodiment of the invention the antibody according to the invention may thus achieve its beneficial effects without necessarily binding aggregated amyloid beta in the brain.

In a further aspect of the invention a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the present invention and as described herein before, is provided comprising at least one light chain or a fragment thereof or at least one heavy chain or a fragment thereof incorporating at least one, particularly two and more particularly three CDR regions obtained form a mouse donor antibody, particularly from mouse antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2 (named "mC2" and hC2 for the humanized C2 antibody, throughout the application) deposited 01 December 2005 with the "Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ) in Braunschweig, Mascheroder Weg 1 B, 38124 Braunschweig, under accession no DSM ACC2750, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof has an affinity to the Aβ antigen which is at least 5 times,

particularly at least 8 times, more particularly at least 10 times, but especially at least 15 times higher than that of the mouse donor antibody.

The antibody of this invention can be, in one embodiment, a whole antibody (e.g., with two full length light chains and two full length heavy chains) of any isotype and subtype (*e.g.*, IgM, IgD, IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4, IgE, IgA1 and IgA2); but especially an antibody of the IgG4 isotype; alternatively, in another embodiment, it can be an antigen-binding fragment (e.g., Fab, $F(ab')_2$, and Fv) of a whole antibody.

The invention thus also relates to antigen-binding fragments of the antibodies described herein. In one embodiment of the invention, the fragment is selected from the group consisting of a Fab fragment, a Fab' fragment, a $F(ab)_2$fragment, and a F_v fragment, including the products of an Fab immunoglobulin expression library and epitope-binding fragments of any of the antibodies and fragments mentioned above.

In another embodiment, the antibody or antigen-binding fragment of the invention is conjugated to polyethylene glycol. In yet another embodiment, the constant region of the antibody of the invention is modified to reduce at least one constant region-mediated biological effector function relative to an unmodified antibody. In still another embodiment, the antibody or antigen-binding fragment of the invention comprises a Fc region having an altered effector function.

The invention further relates to a nucleotide molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the invention and as disclosed herein before.

In particular, the invention relates to a nucleotide molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a stretch of contiguous amino acid molecules as given in SEQ ID NO: 2 and 3, respectively, or the complementary sequence, representing the Complementarity Determining Regions (CDRs) 2 and 3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

More particularly, the invention relates to a nucleotide molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a stretch of contiguous amino acid molecules as given in SEQ ID NO: 4, or

the complementary sequence, representing the Complementarity Determining Regions (CDRs) 1 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

In another embodiment of the invention a nucleotide molecule is provided comprising a nucleotide sequence as given in SEQ ID NO: 18 and SEQ ID NO: 19, or the complementary sequence, encoding the amino acid sequence of CDR 2 and CDR 3, respectively, of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

In another embodiment of the invention a nucleotide molecule is provided comprising a nucleotide sequence as given in SEQ ID NO: 20, or the complementary sequence, encoding the nucleotide sequence of CDR 1 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

In another embodiment of the invention a nucleotide molecule is provided comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21, or the complementary sequence, encoding the light chain variable region.

In another embodiment of the invention a nucleotide molecule is provided comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22, or the complementary sequence, encoding the complete light chain variable region including signal sequences.

In another embodiment of the invention a nucleotide molecule is provided comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the light chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 22 and the light chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 23. The invention also comprises the complementary strand of said nucleotide molecule.

In another embodiment of the invention a nucleotide molecule is provided comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 24 encoding the heavy chain variable region. The invention also comprises the complementary strand of said nucleotide molecule.

In another embodiment of the invention a nucleotide molecule is provided comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 25 encoding the complete heavy chain variable region including signal sequences. The invention also comprises the complementary strand of said nucleotide molecule.

In another embodiment of the invention a nucleotide molecule is provided comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the heavy chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 25 and the heavy chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 26 . The invention also comprises the complementary strand of said nucleotide molecule.

Also comprised by the present invention is a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to one of the above-described antibody-encoding nucleotide sequences of the invention, particularly to the complementary strand thereof, either in isolation or as part of larger nucleotide molecule.

In particular, the invention relates to a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under conventional hybridization conditions, particularly under stringent hybridization conditions, to any of the nucleotide sequences given in SEQ ID NOs: 18-26 and 29 - 32, particularly to the complementary strand thereof.

In another embodiment of the invention an expression vector is provided comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to the invention and as mentioned herein before.

In another embodiment of the invention a cell is provided comprising an expression vector comprising the nucleic acid according to the invention and as mentioned herein before.

In still another embodiment, the invention relates to a composition comprising the antibody according to the invention, but particularly a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the invention and as described herein before including any functionally equivalent antibody or any derivative or functional parts thereof, in a therapeutically effective amount, in particular a composition which is a pharmaceutical composition optionally further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

In another embodiment of the invention, said composition comprises the antibody in a therapeutically effective amount.

Further comprised by the invention is a mixture comprising an antibody, particularly a monoclonal antibody according to the invention, but particularly a chimeric antibody or a

fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the invention and as described herein before including any functionally equivalent antibody or any derivative or functional parts thereof, in a therapeutically effective amount and, optionally, a further biologically active substance and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or a diluent and/or an excipient.

In particular, the invention relates to a mixture, wherein the further biologically active substance is a compound used in the medication of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid or amyloid-like protein such as the Aβ protein involved in Alzheimer's disease.

In another embodiment of the invention, the other biologically active substance or compound may also be a therapeutic agent that may be used in the treatment of amyloidosis caused by amyloid β or may be used in the medication of other neurological disorders.

The other biologically active substance or compound may exert its biological effect by the same or a similar mechanism as the antibody according to the invention or by an unrelated mechanism of action or by a multiplicity of related and/or unrelated mechanisms of action.

Generally, the other biologically active compound may include neutron-transmission enhancers, psychotherapeutic drugs, acetylcholine esterase inhibitors, calcium-channel blockers, biogenic amines, benzodiazepine tranquillizers, acetylcholine synthesis, storage or release enhancers, acetylcholine postsynaptic receptor agonists, monoamine oxidase-A or –B inhibitors, N-methyl-D-aspartate glutamate receptor antagonists, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, antioxidants, and serotonergic receptor antagonists.

More particularly, the invention relates to a mixture comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of compounds effective against oxidative stress, anti-apoptotic compounds, metal chelators, inhibitors of DNA repair such as pirenzepin and metabolites, 3-amino-1-propanesulfonic acid (3APS), 1,3-propanedisulfonate (1,3PDS), α-secretase activators, β- and γ–secretase inhibitors, tau proteins, neurotransmitter, β-sheet breakers, attractants for amyloid beta clearing / depleting cellular components, inhibitors of N-terminal truncated amyloid beta including pyroglutamated amyloid beta 3-42, anti-inflammatory molecules, or

cholinesterase inhibitors (ChEIs) such as tacrine, rivastigmine, donepezil, and/or galantamine, M1 agonists and other drugs including any amyloid or tau modifying drug and nutritive supplements, and nutritive supplements, together with an antibody according to the present invention and, optionally, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or a diluent and/or an excipient.

The invention further relates to a mixture, wherein the compound is a cholinesterase inhibitor (ChEIs), particularly a mixture, wherein the compound is one selected from the group consisting of tacrine, rivastigmine, donepezil, galantamine, niacin and memantine.

In a further embodiment, the mixtures according to the invention may comprise niacin or memantine together with an antibody according to the present invention and, optionally, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or a diluent and/or an excipient.

In still another embodiment of the invention mixtures are provided that comprise "atypical antipsychotics" such as, for example clozapine, ziprasidone, risperidone, aripiprazole or olanzapine for the treatment of positive and negative psychotic symptoms including hallucinations, delusions, thought disorders (manifested by marked incoherence, derailment, tangentiality), and bizarre or disorganized behavior, as well as anhedonia, flattened affect, apathy, and social withdrawal, together with an antibody, particularly a monoclonal antibody according to the invention, but particularly a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the invention and as described herein and, optionally, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or a diluent and/or an excipient.

In a specific embodiment of the invention, the compositions and mixtures according to the invention and as described herein before comprise the antibody and the biologically active substance, respectively, in a therapeutically effective amount.

Other compounds that can be suitably used in mixtures in combination with the antibody according to the present invention are described in WO 2004/058258 (see especially pages 16 and 17) including therapeutic drug targets (page 36-39), alkanesulfonic acids and alkanolsulfuric acids (pages 39-51), cholinesterase inhibitors (pages 51-56), NMDA receptor antagonists (pages 56-58), estrogens (pages 58-59), non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (pages 60-61),

antioxidants (pages 61-62), peroxisome proliferators-activated receptor (PPAR) agonists (pages 63-67), cholesterol–lowering agents (pages 68-75); amyloid inhibitors (pages 75-77), amyloid formation inhibitors (pages 77-78), metal chelators (pages 78-79), anti-psychotics and anti-depressants (pages 80-82), nutritional supplements (pages 83-89) and compounds increasing the availability of biologically active substances in the brain (see pages 89-93) and prodrugs (pages 93 and 94), which document is incorporated herein by reference.

In another embodiment, the invention relates to a mixture comprising the antibody, particularly a monoclonal antibody according to the invention, but particularly a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the invention and as described herein before and/or the biologically active substance in a therapeutically effective amount.

The invention further relates to the use of an antibody, particularly a monoclonal antibody according to the invention, but particularly a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the invention and as described herein before and/or a functional part thereof and/or a pharmaceutical composition, or a mixture comprising said antibody, for the preparation of a medicament for treating or alleviating the effects of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis such as diseases including, but not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Lewy body dementia, Down's syndrome, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis (Dutch type); the Guam Parkinson-Dementia complex; as well as other diseases which are based on or associated with amyloid-like proteins such as progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple sclerosis; Creutzfeld Jacob disease, Parkinson's disease, HIV-related dementia, ALS (amyotropic lateral sclerosis), Adult Onset Diabetes; senile cardiac amyloidosis; endocrine tumors, and others, including macular degeneration.

Also comprised by the present invention is a method for the preparation of an antibody, particularly a monoclonal antibody according to the invention, but particularly a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the invention and as described herein before and/or a functional part thereof and/or a pharmaceutical composition, or a mixture comprising said antibody and/or a functional part

thereof, particularly in a therapeutically effective amount, for use in a method of preventing, treating or alleviating the effects of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis such as diseases including, but not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Lewy body dementia, Down's syndrome, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis (Dutch type); the Guam Parkinson-Dementia complex; as well as other diseases which are based on or associated with amyloid-like proteins such as progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple sclerosis; Creutzfeld Jacob disease, Parkinson's disease, HIV-related dementia, ALS (amyotropic lateral sclerosis), Adult Onset Diabetes; senile cardiac amyloidosis; endocrine tumors, and others, including macular degeneration comprising formulating an antibody, particularly a monoclonal antibody according to the invention, but particularly a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the invention in a pharmaceutically acceptable form.

Further comprised by the present invention is a method for preventing, treating or alleviating the effects of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis such as diseases including, but not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Lewy body dementia, Down's syndrome, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis (Dutch type); the Guam Parkinson-Dementia complex; as well as other diseases which are based on or associated with amyloid-like proteins such as progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple sclerosis; Creutzfeld Jacob disease, Parkinson's disease, HIV-related dementia, ALS (amyotropic lateral sclerosis), Adult Onset Diabetes; senile cardiac amyloidosis; endocrine tumors, and others, including macular degeneration by administering an antibody and/or a functional part thereof, but particularly a humanized antibody and/or a functional part thereof, or a composition or mixture comprising such an antibody and/or a functional part thereof, to a an animal or a human affected by such a disorder comprising administering the antibody in a therapeutically effective amount.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a method for the treatment of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis including, but not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), particularly a disease or condition characterized by a loss of

cognitive memory capacity by administering to an animal, particularly a mammal or a human, an antibody, particularly a pharmaceutical composition according to the invention and as described herein.

In a specific embodiment the invention provides a method for retaining or increasing cognitive memory capacity but, particularly, for restoring the cognitive memory capacity of an animal, particularly a mammal or a human, suffering from memory impairment by administering to an animal, particularly a mammal or a human, an antibody, particularly a pharmaceutical composition according to the invention and as described herein before.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a therapeutic composition and a method of producing such a composition as well as a method for the treatment of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis including, but not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), particularly a disease or condition characterized by a loss of cognitive memory capacity, using an antibody according to the invention and as described herein before.

In particular, the invention relates to the treatment of an animal, particularly a mammal or a human, suffering from an amyloid-associated condition characterized by a loss of cognitive memory capacity leads to the retention of cognitive memory capacity.

The invention further relates to a method of diagnosis of an amyloid-associated disease or condition in a patient comprising detecting the immunospecific binding of an antibody or an active fragment thereof to an epitope of the amyloid protein in a sample or *in situ* which includes the steps of

(a) bringing the sample or a specific body part or body area suspected to contain the amyloid protein into contact with an antibody, particularly a monoclonal antibody according to the invention, but particularly a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the invention and as described herein before, and/or a functional part thereof, which antibody binds an epitope of the amyloid protein;

(b) allowing the antibody and/or a functional part thereof, to bind to the amyloid protein to form an immunological complex;

(c) detecting the formation of the immunological complex; and

(d) correlating the presence or absence of the immunological complex with the presence or absence of amyloid protein in the sample or specific body part or area.

Also comprised is a method of determining the extent of amyloidogenic plaque burden in a tissue and/or body fluids comprising

(a) obtaining a sample representative of the tissue and/or body fluids under investigation;

(b) testing said sample for the presence of amyloid protein with an antibody, particularly a monoclonal antibody according to the invention, but particularly a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the invention and as described herein before, and/or a functional part thereof;

(c) determining the amount of antibody bound to the protein; and

(d) calculating the plaque burden in the tissue and/or body fluids.

In particular, the invention relates to a method of determining the extent of amyloidogenic plaque burden in a tissue and/or body fluids, wherein the formation of the immunological complex in step c) is determined such that presence or absence of the immunological complex correlates with presence or absence of amyloid protein.

In another embodiment of the invention, a test kit for detection and diagnosis of amyloid-associated diseases and conditions is provided comprising an antibody, particularly a monoclonal antibody according to the invention, but particularly a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the invention and as described herein before, and/or a functional part thereof.

In particular, the invention relates to a test kit for detection and diagnosis of amyloid-associated diseases and conditions comprising a container holding one or more antibodies according to the present invention, and/or a functional part thereof, and instructions for using the antibodies for the purpose of binding to amyloid protein to form an immunological complex and detecting the

formation of the immunological complex such that presence or absence of the immunological complex correlates with presence or absence of amyloid protein.

In another aspect, the invention provides an antibody comprising a variable region as recited in SEQ ID NO: 27, or a variant thereof. In one embodiment, a cell line expressing the antibody.

In another aspect, the invention provides an antibody gene comprising a variable region as recited in SEQ ID NO: 29, or a variant thereof. In one embodiment, a cell line expresses the antibody.

In another aspect, the invention provides a method for disaggregating preformed beta-amyloid fibers, comprising interacting an hC2 antibody with preformed beta-amyloid fibers.

In another aspect, the invention provides a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof protects neurons from Abeta-induced degradation.

In another aspect, the invention provides a method of preventing Abeta-induced neuron degradation comprising treating neurons with an effective amount of a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the disclosure herein.

In another aspect, the invention provides use of a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the description herein for the preparation of a medicament for preventing degeneration of neurons upon exposure to Abeta oligomer.

These and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent after a review of the following detailed description of the disclosed embodiment and the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF FIGURES AND SEQUENCES

Figure 1 (Example 2): Expression Cassette of the mouse light chain variable region of the Chimeric Antibody

Figure 2 (Example 2): Expression Cassette of the mouse heavy chain variable region of the Chimeric Antibody

Figure 3 (Example 5.2): Comparison of the mouse heavy chain variable region to the closest murine germ line sequence

Figure 4 (Example 8): Activity of purified humanized C2 antibodies

Figure 5 (Example 9): Binding activity of antibodies produced by transient expression of C2 modified CDRL2 constructs in conjunction with C2 chimeric heavy chain, compared to chimeric antibody C2ChVHAF/ChVK, produced by transient transfection and purified antibody.

Figure 6 (Example 11): Results of Immunohistochemical Binding Assay with chimeric antibody AF and humanized antibody H4K1.

Figure 7 (Example 12): Functionality of mC2 on Amyloid fibers

Figure 8 (Example 12): Binding Affinity of humanized C2 in ELISA.

Figure 9 (Example 14): Conformation specific binding of mC2 to different classes of amyloid protein. Pellet preparation in the legend to this figure refers to $A\beta_{1-42}$ fibers, supernatant preparation refers to amyloid monomers.

Figure 10: Humanized C2 VK sequences compared to murine sequence and human acceptor sequences DPK15 AND J_K1

Figure 11: Humanized C2 VH sequences compared to murine sequence and human acceptor sequences DP54 AND J_H6

Figure 12: Complete DNA and protein sequence of light chain variable region of C2 humanized antibody, C2HuVK1

Figure 13: Complete DNA and protein sequence of light chain constant region (human C Kappa) of humanized C2 antibody

Figure 14: Complete DNA and protein sequence of heavy chain constant region (human IgG4 ser228-pro) of humanized C2 antibody

Figure 15A-C (Example 15): Results of Epitope Mapping experiments

Figure 16 (Example 13): Results of aggregation assay experiments

Figure 17 (Example 13): Results of disaggregation assay experiments

Figure 18: (Example 16): Results of neuroprotection experiments with humanized antibody C2.

SEQ ID NO: 1 Amino acid sequence of C2 HuVH AF 4 humanized heavy chain variable region (CDR1)

SEQ ID NO: 2 Amino acid sequence of C2 HuVH AF 4 humanized heavy chain variable region (CDR2)

SEQ ID NO: 3 Amino acid sequence of C2 HuVH AF 4 humanized heavy chain variable region (CDR3)

SEQ ID NO: 4 Amino acid sequence of C2 HuVK 1 humanized light chain variable region (CDR1)

SEQ ID NO: 5 Amino acid sequence of C2 HuVK 1 humanized light chain variable region (CDR2)

SEQ ID NO: 6 Amino acid sequence of C2 HuVK 1 humanized light chain variable region (CDR3)

SEQ ID NO: 7 Amino acid sequence of Aβ epitope region 2

SEQ ID NO: 8 Amino acid sequence of Aβ epitope region 1

SEQ ID NO: 9 Amino acid sequence of Aβ epitope region 2 modified

SEQ ID NO: 10 Amino acid sequence of Aβ epitope region 1 modified

SEQ ID NO: 11 Amino acid sequence of Epitope region modified complete

SEQ ID NO: 12 Amino acid sequence of C2 HuVK 1 humanized light chain variable region

SEY ID NO: 13 Amino acid sequence of C2 humanized light chain

SEQ ID NO: 14 Amino acid sequence of humanized C2 light chain constant region

SEQ ID NO: 15 Amino acid sequence of C2 HuVH AF 4 humanized heavy chain variable region

SEQ ID NO: 16 Amino acid sequence of C2 humanized heavy chain

SEQ ID NO: 17: Amino acid sequence of IG GAMMA-4 CHAIN C REGION – modified

SEQ ID NO: 18: Nucleotide sequence of CDR2 of C2 HuVH AF 4 humanised heavy chain variable region

SEQ ID NO: 19: Nucleotide sequence of CDR3 of C2 HuVH AF 4 humanised heavy chain variable region

SEQ ID NO: 20: Nucleotide sequence of CDR1 of C2 HuVK 1 humanised light chain variable region

SEQ ID NO: 21: Nucleotide sequence of C2 HuVK 1 humanized light chain variable region

SEQ ID NO: 22: Nucleotide sequence of C2 humanized light chain

SEQ ID NO: 23: Nucleotide sequence of C2 humanized light chain constant region

SEQ ID NO: 24: Nucleotide sequence of C2 HuVH AF 4 humanized heavy chain variable region

SEQ ID NO: 25: Nucleotide sequence of C2 humanized heavy chain

SEQ ID NO: 26: Nucleotide sequence of C2 humanized heavy chain constant region

SEQ ID NO: 27: Amino acid sequence of Mouse C2 Light Chain Variable Region

SEQ ID NO: 28: Amino acid sequence of Mouse C2 Heavy Chain Variable Region

SEQ ID NO: 29: Nucleotide sequence of Mouse C2 Light Chain Variable Region

SEQ ID NO: 30: Nucleotide sequence of Mouse C2 Light Chain

SEQ ID NO: 31: Nucleotide sequence of Mouse C2 Heavy Chain Variable Region

SEQ ID NO: 32: Nucleotide sequence of Mouse C2 Heavy Chain

DEFINITIONS

The terms "polypeptide", "peptide", and "protein", as used herein, are interchangeable and are defined to mean a biomolecule composed of amino acids linked by a peptide bond.

The terms "a", "an" and "the" as used herein are defined to mean "one or more" and include the plural unless the context is inappropriate.

The language "diseases and disorders which are caused by or associated with amyloid or amyloid-like proteins" includes, but is not limited to, diseases and disorders caused by the presence or activity of amyloid-like proteins in monomeric, fibril, or polymeric state, or any combination of the three. Such diseases and disorders include, but are not limited to, amyloidosis, endocrine tumors, and macular degeneration.

The term "amyloidosis" refers to a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including, but not limited to, secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis such as diseases including, but not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), including diseases or conditions characterized by a loss of cognitive memory capacity such as, for example, mild cognitive impairment (MCI), Lewy body dementia, Down's syndrome, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis (Dutch type); the Guam Parkinson-Dementia complex; as well as other diseases which are based on or associated with amyloid-like proteins such as progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple sclerosis; Creutzfeld Jacob disease, Parkinson's disease, HIV-related dementia, ALS (amyotropic lateral sclerosis), inclusion-body myositis (IBM), Adult Onset Diabetes, and senile cardiac amyloidosis; and various eye diseases including macular degeneration, drusen-related optic neuropathy, and cataract due to beta-amyloid deposition.

The terms "detecting" or "detected" as used herein mean using known techniques for detection of biologic molecules such as immunochemical or histological methods and refer to qualitatively or quantitatively determining the presence or concentration of the biomolecule under investigation.

"Polymeric soluble amyloid" refers to multiple aggregated monomers of amyloid peptides, or of amyloid-like peptides, or of modified or truncated amyloid peptides or of other derivates of amyloid peptides forming oligomeric or polymeric structures which are soluble in the mammalian or human body more particularly in the brain, but particularly to multiple aggregated monomers of amyloid β (Aβ) or of modified or truncated amyloid β (Aβ) peptides or of derivatives thereof, which are soluble in the mammalian or human body more particularly in the brain.

"Amyloid β, Aβ or β-amyloid" is an art recognized term and refers to amyloid β proteins and peptides, amyloid β precursor protein (APP), as well as modifications, fragments and any functional equivalents thereof. In particular, by amyloid β as used herein is meant any fragment produced by proteolytic cleavage of APP but especially those fragments which are involved in or associated with the amyloid pathologies including, but not limited to, $A\beta_{1-38}$, $A\beta_{1-39}$, $A\beta_{1-40}$, $A\beta_{1-41}$ $A\beta_{1-42}$ and $A\beta_{1-43}$.

The structure and sequences of the amyloid β peptides as mentioned above are well known to those skilled in the art and methods of producing said peptides or of extracting them from brain and other tissues are described, for example, in Glenner and Wong, Biochem Biophys Res Comm129, 885-890 (1984). Moreover, amyloid β peptides are also commercially available in various forms.

By "isolated" is meant a biological molecule free from at least some of the components with which it naturally occurs.

The terms "antibody" or "antibodies" as used herein are art-recognized terms and are understood to refer to molecules or active fragments of molecules that bind to known antigens, particularly to immunoglobulin molecules and to immunologically active portions of immunoglobulin molecules, i.e molecules that contain a binding site that specifically binds an antigen. An immunoglobulin is a protein comprising one or more polypeptides substantially encoded by the

immunoglobulin kappa and lambda, alpha, gamma, delta, epsilon and mu constant region genes, as well as myriad immunoglobulin variable region genes. Light chains are classified as either kappa or lambda. Heavy chains are classified as gamma, mu, alpha, delta, or epsilon, which in turn define the immunoglobulin classes, IgG, IgM, IgA, IgD and IgE, respectively. Also subclasses of the heavy chain are known. For example, IgG heavy chains in humans can be any of IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 and IgG4 subclass. The immunoglobulin according to the invention can be of any class (IgG, IgM, IgD, IgE, IgA and IgY) or subclass (IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4, IgA1 and IgA2) of immunoglobulin molecule.

As used herein "specifically binds" in reference to an antibody means that the antibody binds to its target antigen with greater affinity that it does to a structurally different antigen(s).

A typical immunoglobulin structural unit is known to comprise a tetramer. Each tetramer is composed of two identical pairs of polypeptide chains, each pair having one "light" (about 25 kD) and one "heavy" chain (about 50-70 kD). The N-terminus of each chain defines a variable region of about 100 to 110 or more amino acids primarily responsible for antigen recognition. The terms variable light chain (V_L) and variable heavy chain (V_H) refer to these light and heavy chains respectively.

Antibodies exist as full length intact antibodies or as a number of well-characterized fragments produced by digestion with various peptidases or chemicals. Thus, for example, pepsin digests an antibody below the disulfide linkages in the hinge region to produce $F(ab')_2$, a dimer of Fab which itself is a light chain joined to V_H-CH_1 by a disulfide bond. The $F(ab')_2$ may be reduced under mild conditions to break the disulfide linkage in the hinge region thereby converting the $F(ab')_2$ dimer into an Fab' monomer. The Fab' monomer is essentially a Fab fragment with part of the hinge region (see, Fundamental Immunology, W. E. Paul, ed., Raven Press, N.Y. (1993), for a more detailed description of other antibody fragments). While various antibody fragments are defined in terms of the digestion of an intact antibody, one of skill will appreciate that any of a variety of antibody fragments may be synthesized de novo either chemically or by utilizing recombinant DNA methodology. Thus, the term antibody, as used herein also includes antibody fragments either produced by the modification of whole antibodies or synthesized de novo or antibodies and fragments obtained by using recombinant DNA methodologies.

"Antibodies" are intended within the scope of the present invention to include monoclonal antibodies, polyclonal antibodies, chimeric, single chain, bispecific, simianized, human and humanized antibodies as well as active fragments thereof. Examples of active fragments of molecules that bind to known antigens include separated light and heavy chains, Fab, Fab/c, Fv, Fab', and $F(ab')_2$ fragments, including the products of an Fab immunoglobulin expression library and epitope-binding fragments of any of the antibodies and fragments mentioned above.

These active fragments can be derived from an antibody of the present invention by a number of techniques. For example, monoclonal antibodies can be cleaved with an enzyme, such as pepsin, and subjected to HPLC gel filtration. The appropriate fraction containing Fab fragments can then be collected and concentrated by membrane filtration and the like. For further description of general techniques for the isolation of active fragments of antibodies, see for example, Khaw, B. A. et al. J. Nucl. Med. 23:1011-1019 (1982); Rousseaux et al. Methods Enzymology, 121:663-69, Academic Press, 1986.

Recombinantly made antibodies may be conventional full length antibodies, active antibody fragments known from proteolytic digestion, unique active antibody fragments such as Fv or single chain Fv (scFv), domain deleted antibodies, and the like. An Fv antibody is about 50 Kd in size and comprises the variable regions of the light and heavy chain. A single chain Fv ("scFv") polypeptide is a covalently linked VH::VL heterodimer which may be expressed from a nucleic acid including VH- and VL-encoding sequences either joined directly or joined by a peptide-encoding linker. See Huston, et al. (1988) Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA, 85:5879-5883. A number of structures for converting the naturally aggregated, but chemically separated light and heavy polypeptide chains from an antibody V region into an scFv molecule which will fold into a three dimensional structure substantially similar to the structure of an antigen-binding site. See, e.g. U.S. Patent Nos. 5,091,513, 5,132,405 and 4,956,778.

The combining site refers to the part of an antibody molecule that participates in antigen binding. The antigen binding site is formed by amino acid residues of the N-terminal variable ("V") regions of the heavy ("H") and light ("L") chains. The antibody variable regions comprise three highly divergent stretches referred to as "hypervariable regions" or "complementarity determining regions" (CDRs) which are interposed between more conserved flanking stretches known as "framework regions" (FRs). In an antibody molecule, the three hypervariable regions

of a light chain (LCDR1, LCDR2, and LCDR3) and the three hypervariable regions of a heavy chain (HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3) are disposed relative to each other in three dimensional space to form an antigen binding surface or pocket. The antibody combining site therefore represents the amino acids that make up the CDRs of an antibody and any framework residues that make up the binding site pocket.

The identity of the amino acid residues in a particular antibody that make up the combining site can be determined using methods well known in the art. For example, antibody CDRs may be identified as the hypervariable regions originally defined by Kabat et al. (see, "Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest," E. Kabat et al., U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Johnson, G and Wu, TT (2001) Kabat Database and its applications: future directions. Nucleic Acids Research, 29: 205-206; http://immuno.bme.nwa.edu). The positions of the CDRs may also be identified as the structural loop structures originally described by Chothia and others, (see Chothia and Lesk, J. Mol. Biol. 196, 901 (1987), Chothia et al., Nature 342, 877 (1989), and Tramontano et al., J. Mol. Biol. 215, 175 (1990)). Other methods include the "AbM definition" which is a compromise between Kabat and Chothia and is derived using Oxford Molecular's AbM antibody modeling software (now Accelrys) or the "contact definition" of CDRs by Macallum et al., ("Antibody-antigen interactions: contact analysis and binding site topography," J Mol Biol. 1996 Oct 11;262(5):732-45). The following chart identifies CDRs based upon various known definitions.

Loop	Kabat	AbM	Chothia	Contact
L1	L24 -- L34	L24 -- L34	L24 -- L34	L30 -- L36
L2	L50 -- L56	L50 -- L56	L50 -- L56	L46 -- L55
L3	L89 -- L97	L89 -- L97	L89 -- L97	L89 -- L96
H1 (Kabat Numbering)	H31 -- H35B	H26 -- H35B	H26 -- H32..34	H30 -- H35B
H1 (Chothia Numbering)	H31 -- H35	H26 -- H35	H26 -- H32	H30 -- H35
H2	H50 -- H65	H50 -- H58	H52 -- H56	H47 -- H58
H3	H95 -- H102	H95 -- H102	H95 -- H102	H93 -- H101

General guidelines by which one may identify the CDRs in an antibody from sequence alone are as follows:

LCDR1:

Start - Approximately residue 24.

Residue before is always a Cys.

Residue after is always a Trp. Typically TRP is followed with TYR-GLN, but also may be followed by LEU-GLN, PHE-GLN, or TYR-LEU.

Length is 10 to 17 residues.

LCDR2:

Start - 16 residues after the end of L1.

Sequence before is generally ILE-TYR, but also may be VAL-TYR, ILE-LYS, or ILE-PHE.

Length is generally 7 residues.

LCDR3:

Start – generally 33 residues after end of L2.

Residue before is a Cys.

Sequence after is PHE-GLY-X-GLY.

Length is 7 to 11 residues.

HCDR1:

Start – at approximately residue 26 (four residues after a CYS) [Chothia / AbM definition] Kabat definition starts 5 residues later.

Sequence before is CYS-X-X-X.

Residues after is a TRP, typically followed by VAL, but also followed by ILE, or ALA.

Length is 10 to 12 residues under AbM definition while Chothia definition excludes the last 4 residues.

HCDR2:

Start - 15 residues after the end of Kabat /AbM definition of CDR-H1.

Sequence before typically LEU-GLU-TRP-ILE-GLY (SEQ ID NO. 1), but a number of variations are possible.
Sequence after is LYS/ARG-LEU/ILE/VAL/PHE/THR/ALA-THR/SER/ILE/ALA
Length is 16 to 19 residues under Kabat definition (AbM definition ends 7 residues earlier).

HCDR3:

Start –33 residues after end of CDR-H2 (two residues after a CYS).
Sequence before is CYS-X-X (typically CYS-ALA-ARG).
Sequence after is TRP-GLY-X-GLY.
Length is 3 to 25 residues.

The identity of the amino acid residues in a particular antibody that are outside the CDRs, but nonetheless make up part of the combining site by having a side chain that is part of the lining of the combining site (i.e., it is available to linkage through the combining site), can be determined using methods well known in the art such as molecular modeling and X-ray crystallography. See e.g., Riechmann et al., (1988) Nature, 332:;323-327.

Chimeric antibodies are those in which one or more regions of the antibody are from one species of animal and one or more regions of the antibody are from a different species of animal. A preferred chimeric antibody is one which includes regions from a primate immunoglobulin. A chimeric antibody for human clinical use is typically understood to have variable regions from a non-human animal, e.g. a rodent, with the constant regions from a human. In contrast, a humanized antibody uses CDRs from the non-human antibody with most or all of the variable framework regions from and all the constant regions from a human immunoglobulin. A human chimeric antibody is typically understood to have the variable regions from a rodent. A typical human chimeric antibody has human heavy constant regions and human light chain constant regions with the variable regions of both the heavy and light coming from a rodent antibody. A chimeric antibody may include some changes to a native amino acid sequence of the human constant regions and the native rodent variable region sequence. Chimeric and humanized antibodies may be prepared by methods well known in the art including CDR grafting approaches (see, e.g., U.S. Patent Nos. 5,843,708; 6,180,370; 5,693,762; 5,585,089; 5,530,101), chain shuffling strategies (see e.g., U.S. Patent No. 5,565,332; Rader et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.

USA (1998) 95:8910-8915), molecular modeling strategies (U.S. Patent No. 5,639,641), and the like.

A "humanized antibody" as used herein in the case of a two chain antibody is one where at least one chain is humanized. A humanized antibody chain has a variable region where one or more of the framework regions are human. A humanized antibody which is a single chain is one where the chain has a variable region where one or more of the framework regions are human. The non-human portions of the variable region of the humanized antibody chain or fragment thereof is derived from a non-human source, particularly a non-human antibody, typically of rodent origin. The non-human contribution to the humanized antibody is typically provided in form at least one CDR region which is interspersed among framework regions derived from one (or more) human immunoglobulin(s). In addition, framework support residues may be altered to preserve binding affinity.

The humanized antibody may further comprise 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 constant regions of a humanized antibody if present generally are human.

Methods to obtain "humanized antibodies" are well known to those skilled in the art. (see, e.g., Queen et al., Proc. Natl Acad Sci USA, 86:10029-10032 (1989), Hodgson et al., Bio/Technology, 9:421 (1991)).

A "humanized antibody" may also be obtained by a novel genetic engineering approach that enables production of affinity-matured human-like polyclonal antibodies in large animals such as, for example, rabbits and mice. See, e.g. U.S. Pat No. 6,632,976.

The term constant region (CR) as used herein refers to constant regions genes of the immunoglobulin. The constant region genes encode the portion of the antibody molecule which confers effector functions. For Chimeric human antibodies and humanized antibodies, typically non-human (*e.g.*, murine), constant regions are substituted by human constant regions. The constant regions of the subject chimeric or humanized antibodies are typically derived from human immunoglobulins. The heavy chain constant region can be selected from any of the five isotypes: alpha, delta, epsilon, gamma or mu. Further, heavy chains of various subclasses (such

as the IgG subclasses of heavy chains) are responsible for different effector functions and thus, by choosing the desired heavy chain constant region, antibodies with desired effector function can be produced. Constant regions that may be used within the scope of this invention are gamma 1 (IgGl), particularly an Fc region of the gamma 1 (IgG1) isotype, gamma 3 (IgG3) and especially gamma 4 (IgG4). The light chain constant region can be of the kappa or lambda type, preferably of the kappa type. In one embodiment the light chain constant region is the human kappa constant chain (Heiter *et al.* (1980) *Cell* 22:197-207) and the heavy constant chain is the human IgG4 constant chain.

The term "monoclonal antibody" is also well recognized in the art and refers to an antibody that is the product of a single cloned antibody producing cell. Monoclonal antibodies are typically made by fusing a normally short-lived, antibody-producing B cell to a fast-growing cell, such as a cancer cell (sometimes referred to as an "immortal" cell). The resulting hybrid cell, or hybridoma, multiplies rapidly, creating a clone that produces the antibody.

For the purpose of the present invention, "monoclonal antibody" is also to be understood to comprise antibodies that are produced by a mother clone which has not yet reached full monoclonality.

"Functionally equivalent antibody" is understood within the scope of the present invention to refer to an antibody which substantially shares at least one major functional property with an antibody mentioned above and herein described comprising: binding specificity to the β-amyloid protein, particularly to the $A\beta_{1-42}$ protein, and more particularly to the 16-21 epitope region of the $A\beta_{1-42}$ protein, immunoreactivity *in vitro*, inhibition of aggregation of the $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomers into high molecular polymeric fibrils and/or disaggregation of preformed $A\beta_{1-42}$ polymeric fibrils, and/or a β-sheet breaking property and alleviating the effects of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis such as diseases including, but not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Lewy body dementia, Down's syndrome, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis (Dutch type); the Guam Parkinson-Dementia complex; as well as other diseases which are based on or associated with amyloid-like proteins such as progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple sclerosis; Creutzfeld Jacob disease, Parkinson's disease, HIV-related dementia, ALS (amyotropic lateral sclerosis), Adult Onset

Diabetes; senile cardiac amyloidosis; endocrine tumors, and others, including macular degeneration, when administered prophylactically or therapeutically. The antibodies can be of any class such as IgG, IgM, or IgA, etc or any subclass such as IgG1, IgG2a, etc and other subclasses mentioned herein above or known in the art, but particularly of the IgG4 class. Further, the antibodies can be produced by any method, such as phage display, or produced in any organism or cell line, including bacteria, insect, mammal or other type of cell or cell line which produces antibodies with desired characteristics, such as humanized antibodies. The antibodies can also be formed by combining a Fab portion and an Fc region from different species.

The term "hybridize" as used refers to conventional hybridization conditions, preferably to hybridization conditions at which 5xSSPE, 1% SDS, 1xDenhardts solution is used as a solution and/or hybridization temperatures are between 35°C and 70°C, preferably 65°C. After hybridization, washing is preferably carried out first with 2xSSC, 1% SDS and subsequently with 0.2xSSC at temperatures between 35°C and 70°C, preferably at 65°C (regarding the definition of SSPE, SSC and Denhardts solution see Sambrook et al. loc. cit.). Stringent hybridization conditions as for instance described in Sambrook et al, supra, are particularly preferred. Particularly preferred stringent hybridization conditions are for instance present if hybridization and washing occur at 65°C as indicated above. Non-stringent hybridization conditions, for instance with hybridization and washing carried out at 45°C are less preferred and at 35°C even less.

"Homology" between two sequences is determined by sequence identity. If two sequences which are to be compared with each other differ in length, sequence identity preferably relates to the percentage of the nucleotide residues of the shorter sequence which are identical with the nucleotide residues of the longer sequence. Sequence identity can be determined conventionally with the use of computer programs such as the Bestfit program (Wisconsin Sequence Analysis Package, Version 8 for Unix, Genetics Computer Group, University Research Park, 575 Science Drive Madison, WI 53711). Bestfit utilizes the local homology algorithm of Smith and Waterman, Advances in Applied Mathematics 2 (1981), 482-489, in order to find the segment having the highest sequence identity between two sequences. When using Bestfit or another sequence alignment program to determine whether a particular sequence has for instance 95% identity with a reference sequence of the present invention, the parameters are preferably so

adjusted that the percentage of identity is calculated over the entire length of the reference sequence and that homology gaps of up to 5% of the total number of the nucleotides in the reference sequence are permitted. When using Bestfit, the so-called optional parameters are preferably left at their preset ("default") values. The deviations appearing in the comparison between a given sequence and the above-described sequences of the invention may be caused for instance by addition, deletion, substitution, insertion or recombination. Such a sequence comparison can preferably also be carried out with the program "fasta20u66" (version 2.0u66, September 1998 by William R. Pearson and the University of Virginia; see also W.R. Pearson (1990), Methods in Enzymology 183, 63-98, appended examples and http://workbench.sdsc.edu/). For this purpose, the "default" parameter settings may be used.

The antibody according to the invention may be an immunoglobulin or antibody, which is understood to have each of its binding sites identical (if multivalent) or, in the alternative, may be a "bispecific" or "bifunctional antibody".

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 "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).

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.

"Fragment" also refers to a peptide or polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of at least 5 contiguous amino acid residues, at least 10 contiguous amino acid residues, at least 15 contiguous amino acid residues, at least 20 contiguous amino acid residues, at least 25 contiguous amino acid residues, at least 40 contiguous amino acid residues, at least 50 contiguous amino acid residues, at least 60 contiguous amino residues, at least 70 contiguous amino acid residues, at least contiguous 80 amino acid residues, at least contiguous 90 amino acid residues, at least contiguous 100 amino acid residues, at least contiguous 125 amino acid residues, at least 150 contiguous amino acid residues, at least contiguous 175 amino acid residues, at least contiguous 200 amino acid residues, or at least contiguous 250 amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of another polypeptide. In a specific embodiment, a fragment of a polypeptide retains at least one function of the polypeptide.

The term "antigen" refers to an entity or fragment thereof which can bind to an antibody. An immunogen refers to an antigen which can elicit an immune response in an organism, particularly an animal, more particularly a mammal including a human. The term antigen includes regions known as antigenic determinants or epitopes which refers to a portion of the antigen (which are contacted or which play a significant role in supporting a contact reside in the antigen responsible for antigenicity or antigenic determinants.

As used herein, the term "soluble" means partially or completely dissolved in an aqueous solution.

Also as used herein, the term "immunogenic" refers to substances which elicit the production of antibodies, T-cells and other reactive immune cells directed against an antigen of the immunogen.

An immune response occurs when an individual produces sufficient antibodies, T-cells and other reactive immune cells against administered immunogenic compositions of the present invention to moderate or alleviate the disorder to be treated.

The term immunogenicity as used herein refers to a measure of the ability of an antigen to elicit an immune response (humoral or cellular) when administered to a recipient. The present

invention is concerned with approaches that reduce the immunogenicity of the subject human chimeric or humanized antibodies.

Humanized antibody of reduced immunogenicity refers to a humanized antibody exhibiting reduced immunogenicity relative to the parent antibody, e.g., the murine antibody.

Humanized antibody substantially retaining the binding properties of the parent antibody refers to a humanized antibody which retains the ability to specifically bind the antigen recognized by the parent antibody used to produce such humanized antibody. Preferably the humanized antibody will exhibit the same or substantially the same antigen-binding affinity and avidity as the parent antibody. Ideally, the affinity of the antibody will not be less than 10% of the parent antibody affinity, more preferably not less than about 30%, and most preferably the affinity will not be less than 50% of the parent antibody. Methods for assaying antigen-binding affinity are well known in the art and include half-maximal binding assays, competition assays, and Scatchard analysis. Suitable antigen binding assays are described in this application.

A "back mutation" is a mutation introduced in a nucleotide sequence which encodes a humanized antibody, the mutation results in an amino acid corresponding to an amino acid in the parent antibody (*e.g.*, donor antibody, for example, a murine antibody). Certain framework residues from the parent antibody may be retained during the humanization of the antibodies of the invention in order to substantially retain the binding properties of the parent antibody, while at the same time minimizing the potential immunogenicity of the resultant antibody. In one embodiment of the invention, the parent antibody is of mouse origin. For example, the back mutation changes a human framework residue to a parent murine residue. Examples of framework residues that may be back mutated include, but are not limited to, canonical residues, interface packing residues, unusual parent residues which are close to the binding site, residues in the "Vernier Zone" (which forms a platform on which the CDRs rest) (Foote & Winter, 1992, *J. Mol. Biol.* 224, 487-499), and those close to CDR H3.

As used herein a "conservative change" refers to alterations that are substantially conformationally or antigenically neutral, producing minimal changes in the tertiary structure of the mutant polypeptides, or producing minimal changes in the antigenic determinants of the mutant polypeptides, respectively, as compared to the native protein. When referring to the

antibodies and antibody fragments of the invention, a conservative change means an amino acid substitution that does not render the antibody incapable of binding to the subject receptor. Those of ordinary skill in the art will be able to predict which amino acid substitutions can be made while maintaining a high probability of being conformationally and antigenically neutral. Such guidance is provided, for example in Berzofsky, (1985) *Science* 229:932-940 and Bowie *et al.* (1990) *Science* 247:1306-1310. Factors to be considered that affect the probability of maintaining conformational and antigenic neutrality include, but are not limited to: (a) substitution of hydrophobic amino acids is less likely to affect antigenicity because hydrophobic residues are more likely to be located in a protein's interior; (b) substitution of physiochemically similar, amino acids is less likely to affect conformation because the substituted amino acid structurally mimics the native amino acid; and (c) alteration of evolutionarily conserved sequences is likely to adversely affect conformation as such conservation suggests that the amino acid sequences may have functional importance. One of ordinary skill in the art will be able to assess alterations in protein conformation using well-known assays, such as, but not limited to microcomplement fixation methods (Wasserman *et al.* (1961) J. Immunol. 87:290-295; Levine *et al.* (1967) Meth. Enzymol. 11:928-936) and through binding studies using conformation-dependent monoclonal antibodies (Lewis *et al.* (1983) Biochem. 22:948-954).

Further, the term "therapeutically effective amount" refers to the amount of antibody which, when administered to a human or animal, which is sufficient to result in a therapeutic effect in said human or animal. The effective amount is readily determined by one of skill in the art following routine procedures.

As used herein, the terms "treat," "prevent," "preventing," and "prevention" refer to the prevention of the recurrence or onset of one or more symptoms of a disorder in a subject resulting from the administration of a prophylactic or therapeutic agent.

Construction of Humanized Antibodies

The present invention may be understood more readily by reference to the following detailed description of specific embodiments included herein. Although the present invention has been described with reference to specific details of certain embodiments, thereof, it is not intended that such details should be regarded as limitations upon the scope of the invention.

The present invention provides novel methods and compositions comprising highly specific and highly effective antibodies having the ability to specifically recognize and bind to specific epitopes from a range of β-amyloid antigens. The antibodies enabled by the teaching of the present invention are particularly useful for the treatment of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis including, but not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Lewy body dementia, Down's syndrome, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis (Dutch type); the Guam Parkinson-Dementia complex; as well as other diseases which are based on or associated with amyloid-like proteins such as progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple sclerosis; Creutzfeld Jacob disease, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis Dutch type, Parkinson's disease, HIV-related dementia, ALS (amyotropic lateral sclerosis), Adult Onset Diabetes; senile cardiac amyloidosis; endocrine tumors, and others, including macular degeneration, to name just a few.

A fully humanized or reshaped variable region according to the present invention may be created within the scope of the invention by first designing a variable region amino acid sequence that contains non-human-, particularly rodent-derived CDRs, but especially CDRs derived from murine antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2 (named "mC2" throughout the application and deposited 01 December 2005 with the "Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ) in Braunschweig, Mascheroder Weg 1 B, 38124 Branuschweig, under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty and given accession no DSM ACC2750) embedded in human-derived framework sequences. The non-human-, particularly the rodent-derived CDRs, which may be obtained from the antibody according to the present invention, provide the desired specificity. Accordingly, these residues are to be included in the design of the reshaped variable region essentially unchanged. Any modifications should thus be restricted to a minimum and closely watched for changes in the specificity and affinity of the antibody. On the other hand, framework residues in theory can be derived from any human variable region.

In order to create a reshaped antibody which shows an acceptable or an even improved affinity, a human framework sequences should be chosen, which is equally suitable for creating a reshaped variable region and for retaining antibody affinity.

In order to achieve this goal, the best-fit strategy was developed. As it is known that the framework sequences serve to hold the CDRs in their correct spatial orientation for interaction with antigen, and that framework residues can sometimes even participate in antigen binding, this strategy aims at minimizing changes that may negatively effect the three-dimensional structure of the antibody by deriving the human framework sequence used for antibody reshaping from the human variable region that is most homologous or similar to the non-human-, particularly the rodent-derived variable region. This will also maximise the likelihood that affinity will be retained in the reshaped antibody.

At its simplest level, the "best fit" strategy involves comparing the donor rodent V-region with all known human V-region amino acid sequences, and then selecting the most homologous to provide the acceptor framework regions for the humanization exercises. In reality there are several other factors which should be considered, and which may influence the final selection of acceptor framework regions. Molecular modelling predictions may be used in this regard prior to any experimental work in an attempt to maximise the affinity of the resultant reshaped antibody. Essentially, the goal of the modelling is to predict which key residues (if any) of the most homologous human framework should be left as in the rodent to obtain the best affinity in the reshaped antibody.

In one embodiment of the invention, the CDRs are obtainable from mouse monoclonal antibody, particularly from mouse monoclonal antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2 (named "mC2" throughout the application) described in co-pending application EP 05 02 7092.5 filed 12.12.2005, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Hybridoma cells FP-12H3-C2, producing mouse monoclonal antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2 (named "mC2" and hC2 for the humanized C2 antibody, throughout the application) were deposited 01 December 2005 in co-pending application no EP05027092.5 with the "Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ) in Braunschweig, Mascheroder Weg 1 B, 38124 Braunschweig, under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty and given accession no DSM ACC2750.

The mouse antibody may be raised against a supramolecular antigenic construct comprising an antigenic peptide corresponding to the amino acid sequence of the β-amyloid peptide,

particularly of β-amyloid peptide $A\beta_{1-15}$, $A\beta_{1-16}$ and $A\beta_{1-16(\Delta 14)}$, modified with a hydrophobic moiety such as, for example, palmitic acid or a hydrophilic moiety such as, for example, polyethylene glycol (PEG) or a combination of both, wherein the hydrophobic and hydrophilic moiety, respectively, is covalently bound to each of the termini of the antigenic peptide through at least one, particularly one or two amino acids such as, for example, lysine, glutamic acid and cysteine or any other suitable amino acid or amino acid analogue capable of serving as a connecting device for coupling the hydrophobic and hydrophilic moiety to the peptide fragment. When a PEG is used as the hydrophilic moiety, the free PEG termini is covalently bound to phosphatidylethanolamine or any other compound suitable to function as the anchoring element, for example, to embed the antigenic construct in the bilayer of a liposome.

In particular, a mouse antibody may be raised against a supramolecular antigenic construct comprising an antigenic peptide corresponding to the amino acid sequence of the β-amyloid peptide $A\beta_{1-16}$ modified with a hydrophilic moiety such as, for example, polyethylene glycol (PEG) hydrophilic moiety is covalently bound to each of the termini of the antigenic peptide through at least one, particularly one or two amino acids such as, for example, lysine, glutamic acid and cysteine or any other suitable amino acid or amino acid analogue capable of serving as a connecting device for coupling the hydrophobic and hydrophilic moiety to the peptide fragment. When a PEG is used as the hydrophilic moiety, the free PEG termini are covalently bound to phosphatidylethanolamine or any other compound suitable to function as the anchoring element, for example, to embed the antigenic construct in the bilayer of a liposome.

In an embodiment of the invention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided which comprises in the variable region at least one CDR of non-human origin embedded in one or more human- or primate-derived framework regions and combined with a constant region derived from a human or primate source antibody, which chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is capable of specifically recognizing and binding β-amyloid monomeric peptide.

The CDRs contain the residues most likely to bind antigen and must be retained in the reshaped antibody. CDRs are defined by sequence according to Kabat *et al.*, Sequence of Proteins of Immunological Interest, 5th Edition, The United States Department of Health and Human Services, The United States Government Printing Office, 1991. CDRs fall into canonical classes

(Chothia *et al*, 1989 *Nature*, 342, 877-883) where key residues determine to a large extent the structural conformation of the CDR loop. These residues are almost always retained in the reshaped antibody.

In the process for preparing a humanized antibody according to the invention, the amino acid sequences of the C2 heavy chain and light chain variable regions (V_H and V_K) are compared to rodent antibody V_H and V_K sequences in the NCBI and Kabat databases.

The closest match mouse germ line gene to C2 V_K is bb1, Locus MMU231201, (Schable *et al*, 1999). A comparison reveals that two amino acids differ from this germ line sequence, both located within CDRL1. Mature murine antibodies with similar, but not identical, sequence can be found. Several have an identical CDRL2 and identical CDRL3, but the CDRL1 of C2 seems to be unique. Comparison with human germ line V_K sequences shows that genes from subgroup V_KII are the best match for C2 V_K (Cox *et al*, 1994). C2 V_K can thus be assigned to Kabat subgroup MuV_KII.Sequence.

DPK15 together with the human J region HuJ_K1 may be selected to provide the acceptor framework sequences for the humanized V_K.

The residues at the interface between the variable light and heavy chains have been defined (Chothia *et al*, 1985 *J. Mol. Biol.*, 186, 651-663). These are usually retained in the reshaped antibody. The Phe at position 87 of mouse C2 V_K is unusual at the interface, where a Tyr is more common in the V_KII subgroup, indicating that this framework residue may be important for antibody activity. Tyr 87 is present in the human germline and humanized C2VK.

The humanized V_K sequences thus may be designed such that the C2HuVK1 consists of mouse C2 V_K CDRs with frameworks from DPK 15 and human J_K1. In a specific embodiment of the invention, murine residues may be substituted in the human framework region at positions 45, and/or 87. In the CDR2 region obtainable from a mouse monoclonal antibody, particularly murine antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2, amino acid substitutions may be made at Kabat positions 50 and/or 53. Residue 45 may be involved in supporting the conformation of the CDRs. Residue 87 is located at the interface of the V_H and V_K domains. Therefore these residues may be critical for maintenance of antibody binding.

The closest match mouse germ line gene to C2 V_H AF is VH7183, Locus AF120466, (Langdon *et al*, 2000). Comparison with human germ line V_H sequences shows that genes from subgroup V_HIII are the best match for C2 V_H. C2 V_H AF can be assigned to Kabat subgroup MuV_HIID. Sequence DP54 together with the human J region HuJ_H6 can be selected to provide the acceptor framework sequences for the humanized V_H.

The comparison shows that there are nine amino acid differences between the C2 VH sequences and the human acceptor germ line sequence DP54 and J_H6, most being located within CDRH2. Mature murine antibodies with identical or similar (one residue different) CDRH1 or with similar CDRH2 (one residue different) are found, but none with all three CDRs identical to C2 V_H AF. CDRH3 of C2 antibody is unusually short, consisting of only three residues. However, other antibodies are found in the database with CDRH3 of this length. Residue 47 of C2 V_H is Leu rather than the more common Trp, and residue 94 is Ser rather than the normal Arg, indicating that these framework residues may be important for antibody activity.

Various humanized V_H sequences may be designed. C2HuVH1 consists of C2 V_H AF CDRs with frameworks from DP54 and HuJ_H6. In a specific embodiment of the invention, murine residues may be substituted in the human framework region at positions 47 or 94 or both. Residue 47 in framework 2 makes contact both with the CDRs and with the V_K domain. Residue 94 may be involved in supporting the conformation of the CDRs. Therefore these residues may be critical for maintenance of antibody binding.

Different HCVR and LCVR regions may be designed which comprise the non-human CDRs obtainable from the donor antibody, for example, a murine antibody, embedded into the native or modified human- or primate-derived framework regions. The modification may particularly concern an exchange of one or more amino acid residues within the framework region by non-human residues, particularly murine residues, more commonly found in this position in the respective subgroups or by residues which have similar properties to the ones more commonly found in this position in the respective subgroups.

The modification of the framework region the framework sequences serve to hold the CDRs in their correct spatial orientation for interaction with antigen, and that framework residues can sometimes even participate in antigen binding. In one embodiment of the invention measures are

taken to further adapt the selected human framework sequences to make them most similar to the sequences of the rodent frameworks in order to maximise the likelihood that affinity will be retained in the reshaped antibody.

Accordingly, murine residues in the human framework region may be substituted. In particular, murine residues may be substituted in the human framework region of the Heavy Chain Variable (HCVR) region at positions 47 or 94 or both and in the human framework region of the Light Chain Variable (LCVR) region at positions 45 and/or 87. In the CDR2 region obtainable from a mouse monoclonal antibody, particularly murine antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2, amino acid substitutions may be made at Kabat positions 50 and/or 53..

The residues found in the above indicated positions in the human framework region may be exchanged by murine residues more commonly found in this position in the respective subgroups. In particular, the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Heavy Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 may be replaced by an Leu or by an amino acid residue that has similar properties and the substitution of which leads to alterations that are substantially conformationally or antigenically neutral, producing minimal changes in the tertiary structure of the mutant polypeptides, or producing minimal changes in the antigenic determinants. In particular, the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Heavy Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 may further be replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of norleucine, Ile, Val, Met, Ala, and Phe, particularly by Ile. Alternative conservative substitutions may be contemplated which are conformationally and antigenically neutral.
The Arg in Kabat position 94 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Heavy Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 may be replaced by Ser or by an amino acid residue that has similar properties and the substitution of which leads to alterations that are substantially conformationally or antigenically neutral, producing minimal changes in the tertiary structure of the mutant polypeptides, or producing minimal changes in the antigenic determinants. In particular, the Arg in Kabat position 94 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Heavy Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 may alternatively be replaced by Thr.

In another embodiment of the invention, both residues may be replaced in the humanized antibody.

The Gln in Kabat position 45 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Light Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 12 may be replaced by Lys or by an amino acid residue that has similar properties and the substitution of which leads to alterations that are substantially conformationally or antigenically neutral, producing minimal changes in the tertiary structure of the mutant polypeptides, or producing minimal changes in the antigenic determinants. In particular, the Gln in Kabat position 45 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Light Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 12 may be replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Arg, Gln, and Asn, particularly by Arg.

The Leu in Kabat position 50 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Light Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 12 may be replaced by Lys or by an amino acid residue that has similar properties and the substitution of which leads to alterations that are substantially conformationally or antigenically neutral, producing minimal changes in the tertiary structure of the mutant polypeptides, or producing minimal changes in the antigenic determinants. In particular, the Leu in Kabat position 50 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Light Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 12 may be replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Arg, Gln, and Asn, particularly by Arg.

The Asn in Kabat position 53 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Light Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 12 may be replaced by His and Gln or by an amino acid residue that has similar properties and the substitution of which leads to alterations that are substantially conformationally or antigenically neutral, producing minimal changes in the tertiary structure of the mutant polypeptides, or producing minimal changes in the antigenic determinants. In particular, the Asn in Kabat position 53 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Light Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 12 may be replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Gln, His, Lys and Arg.

The Thr in Kabat position 87 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Light Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 12 may be replaced by Phe or by an amino acid

residue that has similar properties and the substitution of which leads to alterations that are substantially conformationally or antigenically neutral, producing minimal changes in the tertiary structure of the mutant polypeptides, or producing minimal changes in the antigenic determinants. In particular, the Tyr in Kabat position 87 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Light Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 12 may be replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Leu, Val, Ile, and Ala, particularly by Leu.

The so obtained variable region comprising at least one CDR of non-human origin embedded in one or more human- or primate-derived framework regions may then be combined with a constant region derived from a human or primate source antibody, particularly with human IgG4 or κ constant regions respectively. The IgG4 constant region may be modified by, for example, changing Serine at position 228 in the hinge region to Proline (HuIgG4 Ser-Pro). This mutation stabilizes the interchain disulphide bond and prevents the formation of half molecules that may occur in native human IgG4 preparations. The IgG4 constant region may be further modified by deletion of the terminal Lys in position 439 as shown in SEQ ID NO: 16.

The modified variable regions may be constructed by method known in the art such as, for example overlapping PCR recombination. The expression cassettes for the chimeric antibody, C2 ChV_H AF and C2 ChV_K, may be used as templates for mutagenesis of the framework regions to the required sequences. Sets of mutagenic primer pairs are synthesized encompassing the regions to be altered. The humanized V_H and V_K expression cassettes produced may be cloned into appropriate cloning vectors know in the art such as, for example, pUC19. After the entire DNA sequence is confirmed to be correct for each V_H and V_K, the modified heavy and light chain V-region genes can be excised from the cloning vector as expression cassettes. These can then be transferred to appropriate expression vectors such as pSV*gpt* and pSV*hyg* which include human IgG4 Ser-Pro or κ constant regions respectively.

EXPRESSION VECTORS

Expression vector *pSVgpt* is based on pSV_2*gpt* (Mulligan and Berg, 1980) and includes the ampicillin resistance gene for selection in bacterial cells, the *gpt* gene for selection in mammalian cells, the murine heavy chain immunoglobulin enhancer region, genomic sequence

encoding the constant region gene and SV40 poly A sequences. The heavy chain variable region for expression is inserted as a *Hin*dIII to *Bam*HI fragment.

Expression vector pSVhyg includes the ampicillin resistance gene for selection in bacterial cells, the *hyg* gene for selection in mammalian cells, the murine heavy chain immunoglobulin enhancer region, genomic sequence encoding the kappa constant region gene and including the kappa enhancer and SV40 poly A sequences. The light chain variable region for expression is inserted as a *Hin*dIII to *Bam*HI fragment.

The DNA sequence is then to be confirmed to be correct for the humanized V_H and V_K in the expression vectors.

For antibody production the humanized heavy and light chain expression vectors may be introduced into appropriate production cell lines know in the art such as, for example, NS0 cells. Introduction of the expression vectors may be accomplished by co-transfection via electroporation or any other suitable transformation technology available in the art. Antibody producing cell lines can then be selected and expanded and humanized antibodies purified. The purified antibodies can then be analyzed by standard techniques such as SDS-PAGE.

ANTIBODY WITH IMPROVED AFFINITY, SPECIFICITY, STABILITY

The CDRL2 sequence ("KVSNRFS") of the mouse C2 antibody may be modified slightly without adversely affecting antibody activity. Conservative substitutions may be made through exchange of R for K at position 50 and S for N at position 53. The two alternative CDRL2 sequences are therefore "RVSNRFS" and "KVSSRFS", respectively. These are incorporated into the murine V_K sequence with no other changes, as C2 VK-R and C2 VK-S, respectively.

The affinity, specificity and stability of an antibody according to the invention as described herein before or a fragment thereof can be modified by change of its glycosylation profile or pattern resulting in improved therapeutic values.

To achieve this change in glycosylation pattern, host cells may be engineered such that they are capable of expressing a preferred range of a glycoprotein-modifying glycosyl transferase activity which increases complex N-linked oligosaccharides carrying bisecting GlcNAc. Further,

modified glycoforms of glycoproteins may be obtained, for example antibodies, including whole antibody molecules, antibody fragments, or fusion proteins that include a region equivalent to the Fc region of an immunoglobulin, having an enhanced Fc-mediated cellular cytotoxicity.

Methods of obtaining antibodies with modified glycosylation pattern are known to those skilled in the art and described, for example, in EP1071700, US2005272128, Ferrara et al (2006) J Biol Chem 281(8), 5032-5036); Ferrara et al (2006) Biotechnology and Bioengineering 93(5), 851-861.

PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATION AND ADMINISTRATION

The antibodies according to the invention, but particularly a monoclonal antibody according the invention, can be prepared in a physiologically acceptable formulation and may comprise a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent and/or excipient using known techniques. For example, the antibody according to the invention and as described herein before including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof, in particular, the monoclonal antibody including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof is combined with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent and/or excipient to form a therapeutic composition. Suitable pharmaceutical carriers, diluents and/or excipients are well known in the art and include, for example, phosphate buffered saline solutions, water, emulsions such as oil/water emulsions, various types of wetting agents, sterile solutions, etc.

Formulation of the pharmaceutical composition according to the invention can be accomplished according to standard methodology know to those skilled in the art.

The compositions of the present invention may be administered to a subject in the form of a solid, liquid or aerosol at a suitable, pharmaceutically effective dose. Examples of solid compositions include pills, creams, and implantable dosage units. Pills may be administered orally. Therapeutic creams may be administered topically. Implantable dosage units may be administered locally, for example, at a tumor site, or may be implanted for systematic release of the therapeutic composition, for example, subcutaneously. Examples of liquid compositions include formulations adapted for injection intramuscularly, subcutaneously, intravenously, intra-arterially, and formulations for topical and intraocular administration. Examples of aerosol formulations include inhaler formulations for administration to the lungs.

The compositions may be administered by standard routes of administration. In general, the composition may be administered by topical, oral, rectal, nasal, interdermal, intraperitoneal, or parenteral (for example, intravenous, subcutaneous, or intramuscular) routes. In addition, the composition may be incorporated into sustained release matrices such as biodegradable polymers, the polymers being implanted in the vicinity of where delivery is desired, for example, at the site of a tumor. The method includes administration of a single dose, administration of repeated doses at predetermined time intervals, and sustained administration for a predetermined period of time.

A sustained release matrix, as used herein, is a matrix made of materials, usually polymers which are degradable by enzymatic or acid/base hydrolysis or by dissolution. Once inserted into the body, the matrix is acted upon by enzymes and body fluids. The sustained release matrix desirably is chosen by biocompatible materials such as liposomes, polylactides (polylactide acid), polyglycolide (polymer of glycolic acid), polylactide co-glycolide (copolymers of lactic acid and glycolic acid), polyanhydrides, poly(ortho)esters, polypeptides, hyaluronic acid, collagen, chondroitin sulfate, carboxylic acids, fatty acids, phospholipids, polysaccharides, nucleic acids, polyamino acids, amino acids such phenylalanine, tyrosine, isoleucine, polynucleotides, polyvinyl propylene, polyvinylpyrrolidone and silicone. A preferred biodegradable matrix is a matrix of one of either polylactide, polyglycolide, or polylactide co-glycolide (co-polymers of lactic acid and glycolic acid).

It is well know to those skilled in the pertinent art that the dosage of the composition will depend on various factors such as, for example, the condition of being treated, the particular composition used, and other clinical factors such as weight, size, sex and general health condition of the patient, body surface area, the particular compound or composition to be administered, other drugs being administered concurrently, and the route of administration.

The composition may be administered in combination with other compositions comprising an biologically active substance or compound, particularly at least one compound selected from the group consisting of compounds against oxidative stress, anti-apoptotic compounds, metal chelators, inhibitors of DNA repair such as pirenzepin and metabolites, 3-amino-1-propanesulfonic acid (3APS), 1,3-propanedisulfonate (1,3PDS), α-secretase activators, β- and γ

–secretase inhibitors, tau proteins, neurotransmitter, β-sheet breakers, attractants for amyloid beta clearing / depleting cellular components, inhibitors of N-terminal truncated amyloid beta including pyroglutamated amyloid beta 3-42, anti-inflammatory molecules, "atypical antipsychotics" such as, for example clozapine, ziprasidone, risperidone, aripiprazole or olanzapine or cholinesterase inhibitors (ChEIs) such as tacrine, rivastigmine, donepezil, and/or galantamine, M1 agonists and other drugs including any amyloid or tau modifying drug and nutritive supplements such as, for example, vitamin B12, cysteine, a precursor of acetylcholine, lecithin, choline, Ginkgo biloba, acyetyl-L-carnitine, idebenone, propentofylline, or a xanthine derivative, together with an antibody according to the present invention and, optionally, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or a diluent and/or an excipient and procedures for the treatment of diseases.

Proteinaceous pharmaceutically active matter may be present in amounts between 1 ng and 10 mg per dose. Generally, the regime of administration should be in the range of between 0.1 μg and 10 mg of the antibody according to the invention, particularly in a range 1.0 μg to 1.0 mg, and more particularly in a range of between 1.0 μg and 100 μg, with all individual numbers falling within these ranges also being part of the invention. If the administration occurs through continuous infusion a more proper dosage may be in the range of between 0.01 μg and 10 mg units per kilogram of body weight per hour with all individual numbers falling within these ranges also being part of the invention.

Administration will generally be parenterally, eg intravenously. Preparations for parenteral administration include sterile aqueous or non-aqueous solutions, suspensions and emulsions. Non-aqueous solvents include without being limited to it, propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, vegetable oil such as olive oil, and injectable organic esters such as ethyl oleate. Aqueous solvents may be chosen from the group consisting of water, alcohol/aqueous solutions, emulsions or suspensions including saline and buffered media. Parenteral vehicles include sodium chloride solution, Ringer's dextrose, dextrose and sodium chloride, lactated Ringer's, or fixed oils. Intravenous vehicles include fluid and nutrient replenishers, electrolyte replenishers (such as those based on Ringer's dextrose) and others. Preservatives may also be present such as, for example, antimicrobials, anti-oxidants, chelating agents, inert gases, etc.

The pharmaceutical composition may further comprise proteinaceous carriers such as, for example, serum albumin or immunoglobulin, particularly of human origin. Further biologically active agents may be present in the pharmaceutical composition of the invention dependent on its the intended use.

When the binding target is located in the brain, certain embodiments of the invention provide for the antibody or active fragment thereof to traverse the blood-brain barrier. Certain neurodegenerative diseases are associated with an increase in permeability of the blood-brain barrier, such that the antibody or active fragment thereof can be readily introduced to the brain. When the blood-brain barrier remains intact, several art-known approaches exist for transporting molecules across it, including, but not limited to, physical methods, lipid-based methods, and receptor and channel-based methods.

Physical methods of transporting the antibody or active fragment thereof across the blood-brain barrier include, but are not limited to, circumventing the blood-brain barrier entirely, or by creating openings in the blood-brain barrier. Circumvention methods include, but are not limited to, direct injection into the brain (see, e.g., Papanastassiou et al., Gene Therapy 9: 398-406 (2002)) and implanting a delivery device in the brain (see, e.g., Gill et al., Nature Med. 9: 589-595 (2003); and Gliadel Wafers™, Guildford Pharmaceutical). Methods of creating openings in the barrier include, but are not limited to, ultrasound (see, e.g., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0038086), osmotic pressure (e.g., by administration of hypertonic mannitol (Neuwelt, E. A., Implication of the Blood-Brain Barrier and its Manipulation, Vols 1 & 2, Plenum Press, N.Y. (1989))), permeabilization by, e.g., bradykinin or permeabilizer A-7 (see, e.g., U.S. Patent Nos. 5,112,596, 5,268,164, 5,506,206, and 5,686,416), and transfection of neurons that straddle the blood-brain barrier with vectors containing genes encoding the antibody or antigen-binding fragment (see, e.g., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0083299).

Lipid-based methods of transporting the antibody or active fragment thereof across the blood-brain barrier include, but are not limited to, encapsulating the antibody or active fragment thereof in liposomes that are coupled to antibody binding fragments that bind to receptors on the vascular endothelium of the blood-brain barrier (see, e.g., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20020025313), and coating the antibody or active fragment thereof in low-density

lipoprotein particles (see, e.g., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20040204354) or apolipoprotein E (see, e.g., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20040131692).

Receptor and channel-based methods of transporting the antibody or active fragment thereof across the blood-brain barrier include, but are not limited to, using glucocorticoid blockers to increase permeability of the blood-brain barrier (see, e.g., U.S. Patent Application Publication Nos. 2002/0065259, 2003/0162695, and 2005/0124533); activating potassium channels (see, e.g., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0089473), inhibiting ABC drug transporters (see, e.g., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0073713); coating antibodies with a transferrin and modulating activity of the one or more transferrin receptors (see, e.g., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0129186), and cationizing the antibodies (see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 5,004,697).

DETECTION/DIAGNOSIS

In a further embodiment the present invention provides methods and kits for the detection and diagnosis of amyloid-associated diseases or conditions. These methods include known immunological methods commonly used for detecting or quantifying substances in biological samples or in an *in situ* condition.

Diagnosis of an amyloid-associated disease or condition in a patient may be achieved by detecting the immunospecific binding of a monoclonal antibody or an active fragment thereof to an epitope of the amyloid protein in a sample or *in situ,* which includes bringing the sample or a specific body part or body area suspected to contain the amyloid protein into contact with an antibody which binds an epitope of the amyloid protein, allowing the antibody to bind to the amyloid protein to form an immunological complex, detecting the formation of the immunological complex and correlating the presence or absence of the immunological complex with the presence or absence of amyloid protein in the sample or specific body part or area.

Biological samples that may be used in the diagnosis of an amyloid-associated disease or condition are, for example, fluids such as serum, plasma, saliva, gastric secretions, mucus, cerebrospinal fluid, lymphatic fluid and the like or tissue or cell samples obtained from an organism such as neural, brain, cardiac or vascular tissue. For determining the presence or

absence of the amyloid protein in a sample any immunoassay known to those of ordinary skill in the art. (See Harlow and Lane, Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York 1988 555-612) may be used such as, for example, assays which utilize indirect detection methods using secondary reagents for detection, ELISA's and immunoprecipitation and agglutination assays. A detailed description of these assays is, for example, given in WO96/13590 to Maertens and Stuyver, Zrein et al. (1998) and WO96/29605.

For *in situ* diagnosis, the antibody or any active and functional part thereof may be administered to the organism to be diagnosed by methods known in the art such as, for example, intravenous, intranasal, intraperitoneal, intracerebral, intraarterial injection such that a specific binding between the antibody according to the invention with an eptitopic region on the amyloid protein may occur. The antibody/antigen complex may be detected through a label attached to the antibody or a functional fragment thereof.

The immunoassays used in diagnostic applications typically rely on labelled antigens, antibodies, or secondary reagents for detection. These proteins or reagents can be labelled with compounds generally known to those skilled in the art including enzymes, radioisotopes, and fluorescent, luminescent and chromogenic substances including colored particles, such as colloidal gold and latex beads. Of these, radioactive labelling can be used for almost all types of assays and with most variations. Enzyme-conjugated labels are particularly useful when radioactivity must be avoided or when quick results are needed. Fluorochromes, although requiring expensive equipment for their use, provide a very sensitive method of detection. Antibodies useful in these assays include monoclonal antibodies, polyclonal antibodies, and affinity purified polyclonal antibodies.

Alternatively, the antibody may be labelled indirectly by reaction with labelled substances that have an affinity for immunoglobulin, such as protein A or G or second antibodies. The antibody may be conjugated with a second substance and detected with a labelled third substance having an affinity for the second substance conjugated to the antibody. For example, the antibody may be conjugated to biotin and the antibody-biotin conjugate detected using labelled avidin or streptavidin. Similarly, the antibody may be conjugated to a hapten and the antibody-hapten conjugate detected using labelled anti-hapten antibody.

Those of ordinary skill in the art will know of these and other suitable labels which may be employed in accordance with the present invention. The binding of these labels to antibodies or fragments thereof can be accomplished using standard techniques commonly known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Typical techniques are described by Kennedy, J. H., et al.,1976 (Clin. Chim. Acta 70:1-31), and Schurs, A. H. W. M., et al. 1977 (Clin. Chim Acta 81:1-40). Coupling techniques mentioned in the latter are the glutaraldehyde method, the periodate method, the dimaleimide method, and others, all of which are incorporated by reference herein.

Current immunoassays utilize a double antibody method for detecting the presence of an analyte, wherein. The antibody is labeled indirectly by reactivity with a second antibody that has been labeled with a detectable label. The second antibody is preferably one that binds to antibodies of the animal from which the monoclonal antibody is derived. In other words, if the monoclonal antibody is a mouse antibody, then the labeled, second antibody is an anti-mouse antibody. For the monoclonal antibody to be used in the assay described below, this label is preferably an antibody-coated bead, particularly a magnetic bead. For the polyclonal antibody to be employed in the immunoassay described herein, the label is preferably a detectable molecule such as a radioactive, fluorescent or an electrochemiluminescent substance.

An alternative double antibody system often referred to as fast format systems because they are adapted to rapid determinations of the presence of an analyte, may also be employed within the scope of the present invention. The system requires high affinity between the antibody and the analyte. According to one embodiment of the present invention, the presence of the amyloid protein is determined using a pair of antibodies, each specific for amyloid protein. One of said pairs of antibodies is referred to herein as a "detector antibody" and the other of said pair of antibodies is referred to herein as a "capture antibody". The monoclonal antibody of the present invention can be used as either a capture antibody or a detector antibody. The monoclonal antibody of the present invention can also be used as both capture and detector antibody, together in a single assay. One embodiment of the present invention thus uses the double antibody sandwich method for detecting amyloid protein in a sample of biological fluid. In this method, the analyte (amyloid protein) is sandwiched between the detector antibody and the capture antibody, the capture antibody being irreversibly immobilized onto a solid support. The detector antibody would contain a detectable label, in order to identify the presence of the antibody-analyte sandwich and thus the presence of the analyte.

Exemplary solid phase substances include, but are not limited to, microtiter plates, test tubes of polystyrene, magnetic, plastic or glass beads and slides which are well known in the field of radioimmunoassay and enzyme immunoassay. Methods for coupling antibodies to solid phases are also well known to those skilled in the art. More recently, a number of porous material such as nylon, nitrocellulose, cellulose acetate, glass fibers and other porous polymers have been employed as solid supports.

The present invention also relates to a diagnostic kit for detecting amyloid protein in a biological sample comprising a composition as defined above. Moreover, the present invention relates to the latter diagnostic kit which, in addition to a composition as defined above, also comprises a detection reagent as defined above. The term "diagnostic kit" refers in general to any diagnostic kit known in the art. More specifically, the latter term refers to a diagnostic kit as described in Zrein et al. (1998).

It is still another object of the present invention to provide novel immunoprobes and test kits for detection and diagnosis of amyloid-associated diseases and conditions comprising antibodies according to the present invention. For immunoprobes, the antibodies are directly or indirectly attached to a suitable reporter molecule, e.g., an enzyme or a radionuclide. The test kit includes a container holding one or more antibodies according to the present invention and instructions for using the antibodies for the purpose of binding to amyloid protein to form an immunological complex and detecting the formation of the immunological complex such that presence or absence of the immunological complex correlates with presence or absence of amyloid protein.

EXAMPLES

Materials

The development and preparation of mouse monoclonal antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2 (named "mC2" and hC2 for the humanized C2 antibody, throughout the application) is described in co-pending application EP 05 02 7092.5 filed 12.12.2005, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Hybridoma cells FP-12H3-C2, producing mouse monoclonal antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2 (named "mC2" and hC2 for the humanized C2 antibody, throughout the application) were deposited 01 December 2005 in co-pending application no EP05027092.5 with the "Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ) in Braunschweig, Mascheroder Weg 1 B, 38124 Braunschweig, under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty and given accession no DSM ACC2750.

Hybridoma cells were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle Medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% foetal bovine serum and antibiotics (Penicillin/Streptomycin). The isotype of the antibody produced was checked and found to be mouse IgG2b/kappa, as expected.

Assay

An ELISA for binding to Amyloid Beta provided a reliable measure of the potency of C2 antibodies. Positive control antibodies, murine FP-12H3-C2 antibody (Genovac Lot No: AK379/01), and standard Chemicon antibody 1560 (Lot no: 0508008791).

Choice of human constant regions

As immune system recruitment is not desirable for the clinical antibody candidate, the selected human constant region for the heavy chain was human IgG4, modified to change Serine at position 228 in the hinge region to Proline (HuIgG4 Ser-Pro). This mutation stabilizes the interchain disulphide bond and prevents the formation of half molecules that may occur in native human IgG4 preparations. The antibody expressed from the production cell lines will also have the terminal lysine removed. The sequences of human constant regions HuIgG4 Ser-Pro and human Kappa are given in SEQ ID NO: 17 and 14, respectively.

Example 1 Cloning and Sequencing of Antibody Variable Regions

Total RNA was prepared from 3 x 10^6 hybridoma cells (one T175 flask) using the Qiagen RNeasy mini kit (Cat No: 74104). RNA was eluted in 50µL water and checked on a 1.2% agarose gel. The conditioned medium from the cells was retained and a sample used for testing in the antibody activity assay.

V_H and V_K cDNAs were prepared using reverse transcriptase with mouse IgG and κ constant region primers. The first strand cDNAs were amplified by PCR using a large set of signal sequence primers. The amplified DNAs were gel-purified and cloned into the vector pGem® T Easy (Promega). The V_H and V_K clones obtained were screened for inserts of the expected size by PCR and the DNA sequence of selected clones determined by automated DNA sequencing. The locations of the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) in the sequences were determined with reference to other antibody sequences (Kabat EA *et al.*, 1991). The numbering convention of Kabat for antibody variable regions is used throughout this application; hence residue numbers may differ from the strict linear number.

The DNA sequence and deduced amino acid sequence for mC2 V_K is shown in SEQ ID NO: 29 and 27, respectively. Four clones gave this identical productive sequence. A non-productive aberrant V_K sequence that arises from the hybridoma fusion partner was also found in a number of clones.

For mC2 V_H, two different productive sequences were isolated. The mC2 V_H AF sequence (see SEQ ID NO: 30) was found in a total of 29 clones, with 14 single base pair changes in individual clones. The mC2 V_H B sequence was found in a total of 8 clones. Five of these represented the majority sequence, with the other 3 clones being variations on this. It is possible that these similar V_H B sequences arose as an artifact of the PCR amplification. A non-productive aberrant V_H was also obtained from the C2 hybridoma and is attributed to defective V-D-J joining.

In order to determine which is the correct active mC2 V_H, two chimeric antibodies were prepared with the two different V_H sequences, AF and B, combined with the mC2 V_K, to be tested for the correct antibody activity.

Example 2 Construction of Chimeric Antibody Genes

A human chimeric antibody in its most common form consists of human constant regions linked to murine (or other non-human) variable regions. A chimeric antibody provides a very useful tool, firstly for confirmation that the correct variable regions have been identified, secondly for use as a control antibody in antigen binding assays with the same effector functions and utilizing the same secondary detection reagents as a humanized or engineered antibody, and also may be used to investigate the pharmacokinetic and other properties of the human constant regions with reference to the particular target for the antibody.

Two chimeric heavy chain expression vectors were constructed consisting of mC2 V_H AF or mC2 V_H B variable regions linked to HuIgG4 (Ser-Pro) constant region in the expression vector *pSVgpt*. This is based on pSV_2gpt (Mulligan and Berg, 1980) and includes the ampicillin resistance gene for selection in bacterial cells, the *gpt* gene for selection in mammalian cells, the murine heavy chain immunoglobulin enhancer region, genomic sequence encoding the constant region gene and SV40 poly A sequences. The heavy chain variable region for expression is inserted as a *Hin*dIII to *Bam*HI fragment.

A chimeric light chain vector was constructed consisting of C2 VK linked to human C Kappa constant region in the expression vector pSVhyg. (Hieter PA et al, 1980) pSVhyg includes the ampicillin resistance gene for selection in bacterial cells, the *hyg* gene for selection in mammalian cells, the murine heavy chain immunoglobulin enhancer region, genomic sequence encoding the kappa constant region gene and including the kappa enhancer and SV40 poly A sequences. The light chain variable region for expression is inserted as a *Hin*dIII to *Bam*HI fragment.

Expression cassettes for the murine C2 VH and VK sequences were constructed by addition of 5' flanking sequence including the leader signal peptide, leader intron and the murine immunoglobulin promoter, and 3' flanking sequence including the splice site and intron sequence, using the vectors VH-PCR1 and VK-PCR1 as templates (Riechmann et al., 1988). The DNA sequence was confirmed to be correct for the VH and VK in the chimeric expression

vectors. The DNA and amino acid sequences of the VH and VK genes in the expression cassettes are shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Example 3 Expression of Chimeric Antibodies

3.1 Expression in stable cell lines

The host cell line for antibody expression was NS0, a non-immunoglobulin producing mouse myeloma, obtained from the European Collection of Animal Cell Cultures, Porton UK (ECACC No 85110503). The heavy and light chain expression vectors were co-transfected into NS0 cells by electroporation. Colonies expressing the *gpt* gene were selected in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% foetal bovine serum (FBS), 0.8 μg/ml mycophenolic acid and 250 μg/ml xanthine. Transfected cell clones were screened for production of human antibody by ELISA for human IgG. Cell lines secreting antibody were expanded and the highest producers selected and frozen down in liquid nitrogen. The best producing cell lines for each antibody were expanded in medium as above but with only 5% FBS. Chimeric antibodies were purified using Prosep®-A (Bioprocessing Ltd). The concentration was determined by ELISA for human IgGκ antibody. The antibodies were also analyzed by SDS-PAGE.

3.2 Transient expression of chimeric antibodies

To expedite the testing of the different chimeric antibodies, transient expression was used to produce quickly small quantities of cell supernatant containing recombinant antibody for testing. The mC2 V_H and V_K expression cassettes were transferred to vectors based on pcDNA3.1 (Invitrogen) for transient expression. The heavy chain vector included a human IgG constant region. The light chain vector included a human kappa constant region. Both mC2 V_H AF and mC2 V_H B were transfected with mC2 V_K into human embryonic kidney (HEK 298) cells with Lipofectamine 2000 reagent (Invitrogen Cat No: 11668) according to the protocol supplied by the manufacturer. Conditioned medium was harvested from cells 3 days after transfection. The amount of antibody produced was determined by ELISA for human IgGκ antibody.

Example 4 Activity of Chimeric C2 Antibodies

4.1 Activity of chimeric C2 antibodies produced by transient transfection

Samples of conditioned medium from transient transfection for the two different chimeric antibodies were tested in the ELISA for binding to Amyloid Beta. The results clearly indicate that the C2 VH AF is the correct sequence. The C2 V_H AF/C2 V_K chimeric antibody binds well in the assay, but the C2 V_H B/C2 V_K does not show any binding at all. The Chemicon 1560 murine control antibody showed good binding, but binding by the purified murine C2 antibody supplied was low. It should be noted that a different secondary antibody was employed for the murine antibodies with the mouse constant regions compared to the chimeric antibodies with human constant regions, so the results are not directly comparable. Conditioned medium from the C2 hybridoma was later found to give a good result in the assay.

4.2 Activity of purified chimeric C2 antibodies

The two different C2 chimeric antibodies were purified from stable NS0 cell lines as described and tested using the Amyloid Beta ELISA. The results obtained are in accordance with the results obtained with transiently expressed antibody. The C2 ChVH AF/ChVK antibody binds well in the ELISA and the C2 ChVH B/ChVK antibody does not bind at all.

Example 5 Design of Humanized C2 Antibody Genes

The mC2 V_H and V_K amino acid sequences were compared to rodent antibody V_H and V_K sequences in the NCBI and Kabat databases.

5.1 Light chain variable region

The closest match mouse germ line gene to mC2 V_K is bb1, Locus MMU231201, (Schable *et al*, 1999). Only two amino acids differ from this germ line sequence, both located within CDRL1. Mature murine antibodies with similar, but not identical, sequence are found. Several have an identical CDRL2 and identical CDRL3, but the CDRL1 of mC2 seems to be unique. mC2 V_K can be assigned to Kabat subgroup MuV_KII. Position 87 of mC2 V_K is F rather than the Y that is more common in the subgroup, indicating that this framework residue may be important for antibody activity. Comparison with human germ line V_K sequences shows that genes from

subgroup V_KII are the best match for mC2 V_K (Cox *et al*, 1994). Sequence DPK15 together with the human J region HuJ_K1 were selected to provide the acceptor framework sequences for the humanized V_K.

Four humanized V_K sequences were designed. C2HuVK1 consists of mC2 V_K CDRs with frameworks from DPK 15 and human J_K1. In versions 2, 3 and 4 murine residues have been substituted in the framework at positions 45 or 87 or both. Residue 45 may be involved in supporting the conformation of the CDRs. Residue 87 is located at the interface of the V_H and V_K domains. Therefore these residues may be critical for maintenance of antibody binding.
The positions and changes that have been made in the light chain framework regions are shown in Table 6. A comparison of the humanized sequences with mC2 V_K sequence, and with DPK15 and human J_K1

5.2 Heavy chain variable region

The closest match mouse germ line gene to mC2 V_H AF is VH7183, Locus AF120466, (Langdon *et al*, 2000). The comparison is shown in Figure 3. Nine amino acids differ from this germ line sequence, most being located within CDR2. Mature murine antibodies with identical or similar (one residue different) CDR1 or with similar CDR2 (one residue different) are found, but none with all three CDRs identical to mC2 V_H AF. CDR3 of mC2 antibody is unusually short, consisting of only three residues. However, other antibodies are found in the database with CDR3 of this length. mC2 V_H AF can be assigned to Kabat subgroup MuV_HIIID. Residue 47 of mC2 V_H is L rather than the more common W, and residue 94 is S rather than the normal R, indicating that these framework residues may be important for antibody activity. Comparison with human germ line V_H sequences shows that genes from subgroup V_HIII are the best match for mC2 V_H. Sequence DP54 together with the human J region HuJ_H6 was selected to provide the acceptor framework sequences for the humanized V_H.

Four humanized V_H sequences were designed. C2HuVH1 consists of mC2 V_H AF CDRs with frameworks from DP54 and HuJ_H6. In versions 2, 3 and 4 murine residues have been substituted in the framework at positions 47 or 94 or both. Residue 47 in framework 2 makes contact both with the CDRs and with the V_K domain. Residue 94 may be involved in supporting the conformation of the CDRs. Therefore these residues may be critical for maintenance of antibody binding.

The positions and changes that have been made in the heavy chain framework regions are shown in Table 7.

Example 6 Construction of Humanized Antibody Genes

The modified variable regions were constructed by the method of overlapping PCR recombination. The expression cassettes for the chimeric antibody, C2 ChV_H AF and C2 ChV_K, were used as templates for mutagenesis of the framework regions to the required sequences. Sets of mutagenic primer pairs were synthesized encompassing the regions to be altered. The humanized V_H and V_K expression cassettes produced were cloned into pUC19 and the entire DNA sequence was confirmed to be correct for each V_H and V_K. The modified heavy and light chain V-region genes were excised from pUC19 as *Hin*dIII to *Bam*HI expression cassettes. These were transferred to the expression vectors pSV*gpt* and pSV*hyg* which include human IgG4 Ser-pro or κ constant regions respectively, as for the chimeric antibody vectors. The DNA sequence was confirmed to be correct for the humanized V_H and V_K in the expression vectors.

Example 7 Expression of Humanized Antibodies

7.1 Expression in stable cell lines

The humanized heavy and light chain expression vectors were co-transfected into NS0 cells by electroporation, as for the expression of chimeric antibodies. Antibody producing cell lines were selected and expanded and humanized antibodies purified, exactly as for the chimeric antibody. The purified antibodies were analyzed by SDS-PAGE.

7.2 Transient expression of humanized antibodies

To expedite testing of the different humanized V_H and V_K constructs, the C2 humanized V_H and V_K expression cassettes were also transferred to the vectors for transient expression described in section 7.2. The four humanized C2 V_K constructs were co-transfected with the chimeric C2 V_H construct into HEK293 cells. Similarly, the four humanized C2 V_H constructs were co-transfected with the chimeric C2 V_K construct into HEK293 cells. Conditioned medium was

harvested from cells three days after transfection. The amount of antibody produced was determined by ELISA for human IgGκ antibody.

Example 8 Activity of Humanized C2 Antibodies

8.1 Activity of humanized C2 antibodies produced by transient transfection

Samples of conditioned medium from the transient transfection were tested in the Amyloid Beta ELISA. The results obtained clearly indicate that the humanized VH constructs C2 HuVH AF versions 2 and 4 are functional when combined with the chimeric C2 kappa chain, and are comparable to the chimeric C2 antibody in the assay. In contrast, the antibodies containing C2 HuVH AF versions 1 and 3 combined with the chimeric C2 kappa chain show no binding at all in the assay. This indicates that the substitution of the murine residue at position 94 is essential for antibody activity. Antibodies containing the chimeric C2 heavy chain combined with the four humanized C2 kappa chains all showed good binding, comparable to the chimeric antibody, in the ELISA.

8.2 Activity of purified humanized C2 antibodies

Eight different humanized C2 antibodies comprising all combinations of two humanized heavy chains and four humanized light chains were purified from stable NS0 cell lines as described and tested using the Amyloid Beta ELISA (Figure 4).

The results obtained clearly indicate that C2 HuVH4 antibodies perform better in the assay than C2 HuVH2 antibodies. Of the C2 HuVH2 antibodies, C2 HuVH2/HuVK3 shows the best binding activity, but this is approximately 2 fold reduced compared to the chimeric control antibody C2 ChVHAF/ChVK. C2 HuVH2/HuVK2 activity is four to five fold reduced compared to the control. The activities of the antibodies comprising C2HuVH4 with the four different humanized light chains are similar. The highest activity is observed for C2HuVH4/HuVK1and all four antibodies are close to the control chimeric antibody in the assay.

Example 9 Modifications to CDRL2

9.1 Design light chain with modified CDR 2

As noted above, many antibodies share the same CDRL2 sequence ("KVSNRFS") as the C2 antibody. It was decided to test whether CDRL2 could be modified slightly without adversely affecting antibody activity. Two conservative substitutions were selected: R for K at position 50 and S for N at position 53. The two alternative CDRL2 sequences are therefore "RVSNRFS" and "KVSSRFS". These were incorporated into the murine V_K sequence with no other changes, as mC2 VK-R and mC2 VK-S respectively.

9.2 Transient expression of modified CDRL2 antibody

The two C2 light chain constructs with modified CDRL2 described in Section 11.2.1 were cloned into the light chain vector for transient expression. Each was co-transfected with the chimeric C2 V_H vector into HEK293 cells. Conditioned medium was harvested from cells three days after transfection. The amount of antibody produced was determined by ELISA for human IgGκ antibody.

9.3 Activity of C2 antibody with modified CDRL2

Samples of conditioned medium from the transient transfection of mC2 V_Ks with modified CDRL2 combined with mC2 V_H were tested in the Amyloid Beta ELISA.(Figure 5) Both the VK-R and the VK-S antibodies are comparable to the chimeric C2 antibody, indicating that the individual modifications to CDRL2 chosen do not markedly affect the activity of the antibody in the assay.

Example 10 Affinity Determination

To assess the binding specificity and affinity of mouse (ACI-01-Ab-7-C2) chimeric (AF) and humanized antibodies (H4K1; H4K4), BIACORE.RTM. analysis was performed using amyloid beta 1-42 monomers and fibers as antigen immobilized on a CM5 chip. BIACORE.RTM. technology utilizes changes in the refractive index at the surface layer upon binding of the antibody to the antigen immobilized on the layer. Binding is detected by surface plasmon resonance (SPR) of laser light refracting from the surface. Analysis of the signal kinetics on rate

and off rate allows the discrimination between non-specific and specific interaction. The concentration of antibody used was in the range of 0.05 μM to 1.0 μM.

Table 1: Binding specificity and affinity of mouse (ACI-01-Ab-7-C2) chimeric (AF) and humanized antibodies (H4K1; H4K4) for amyloid beta 1-42 monomers and fibers

	Monomers			**Fibers**		
	k_a(1/Ms)	k_d(1/s)	KD (M)	k_a(1/Ms)	k_d(1/s)	KD (M)
Mouse ACI-01-Ab-7-C2	1.8E+04	2.7E-03	1.5E-07	2.4E+04	9.9E-04	4.1E-08
chimeric AF	4.7E+04	9.5E-04	2E-08	5.1E+04	3.3E-04	6.5E-09
humanized H4K1	5.0E+04	9.5E-04	1.9E-08	4.9E+04	2.3E-04	4.7E-09
humanized H4K4	2.5E+04	4.4E-04	1.8E-08	1.3E+05	3.0E-04	2.3E-09

Example 11 Immunhistochemical Binding Assay

11.1 Human brain sections

Brains from healthy, non-demented pre-AD and AD patients were obtained from the Universitätsklinik in Bonn after ethical approval. Brains were fixed in formaldehyde and the hippocampus region was dehydrated, embedded in paraffin and 5 μm sections were cut with a microtome. Paraffin sections were stored at RT until use. For fresh material, 5 µm cryosections were cut with a cryostat and sections stored at -80°C until use.

11.2 Immunohistochemistry

Paraffin sections were deparaffinized and rehydrated by bathing slides in xylene followed by 100% ethanol, 90% ethanol and 70% ethanol. Background was decreased by 30 minutes incubation in 10%H_2O_2, 10% methanol in water. Antigen retrieval was obtained by incubating the slides in 100% formic acid for 3 minutes. After 3 washes in Tris buffered saline (TBS, pH 7.5), non-specific labeling was blocked by a 2 hour incubation of the slides in 10 % BSA, 0.25% Triton X-100 in TBS. After washing (3 washes in TBS) blocking of endogenous antibodies was performed by adding a non-labeled anti-human IgG (Biomeda) and incubating slides in humid chambers overnight at RT. After another 3 washes, the primary human anti amyloid antibody was added to the slides and incubated another 24 hours at RT. Following washing, an alkaline phosphatase labeled secondary anti human IgG (Sigma) was added to the slides and incubated

for 2 hours at RT. After washing, slides were developed with Liquid permanent Red (Dakocytomation) washed with water and air-dried before mounting with permanent mounting media (corbitbalsam).

Cryosection were fixed in methanol for 30 minutes at -80°C and background decreased by adding H_2O_2 to the cold methanol to a final concentration of 10% and incubating for 30 minutes at RT. After 3 washes in Tris buffered saline (TBS, pH7.5), non-specific labeling was blocked by a 2 hour incubation of the slides in 10 % BSA, 0.25% Triton X 100 in TBS as above and the same staining procedure as above was carried out.

Sections were examined with a Leica DMLB microscope and photographed using a Leica DC500 camera and Leica FireCam1.2.0 software.

Both human antibodies A and C labeled plaques of brains from AD disease patients (Figure 6). Both diffuse and cored plaques were labeled. Moreover, diffuse plaques in non -demented pre-AD patients could also be detected by the A and C antibodies. Amyloid in cerebral amyloid angiopathy (CAA) was labeled with both antibodies and some staining of neurons which may correspond to intracellular amyloid was also detected. No labeling was seen on control brains from healthy patient. Plaques could be detected on paraffin sections pretreated with formic acid but no plaques were labeled on paraffin sections without formic acid pretreatment and on cryosections fixed in methanol. The human antibody B did not detect plaques on paraffin sections and the mouse antibody did not stain either paraffin or cryosections of human brains.

Abbreviations:

A = binding chimeric antibody AF (IgG4) (mC2ChVHAF)

B = non-binding chimeric antibody B (IgG4) (mC2VHB)

C = binding humanized antibody H4K1 (IgG4) (HuVH4/HuVK1)

Mouse = ACI-01-Ab-C2 mouse antibody (IgG2b)

Example 12 Functionality of mC2 on Amyloid Fibers

12.1 Modification of Conformation of Aâ1-42 Fibers and Initiation of Disaggregation after Binding of the mC2 antibody

In order to evaluate the mechanism by which the antibody is capable to disaggregate preformed beta-amyloid ($A\beta_{1-42}$) fibers a head-to-head comparison of Thioflavin-T (Th-T) fluorescent assay was performed measuring disaggregation and solid-state Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) of U-^{13}C Tyrosine10 and Valine12-labeled Aβ1-42 peptide analysing secondary conformation (Figure 7A). The mC2 antibody solubilised 35.4 % of the preformed Aβ1-42 fibers and simultaneously induced a shift in secondary conformation from beta sheet to random coiled. The reduction in the population of the beta sheet conformation with respect to the random coil is of the order of 35% and is therefore in close agreement with that measured using fluorescence Th-T assay (Figure 7B). These data indicate that the binding of the mC2 antibody initiates a transition of the secondary structure which potentially causes a destabilization of the parallel intermolecular arrangement of the beta sheets affecting a break of elongated fibers into smaller fragments.

12.2 Conformation-dependent Binding Affinity of mC2 antibody

Since it is well known in the scientific literature that a proportion of the antibody-antigen binding energy can be used for energy-dependent modification of the conformation of an antigen (Blond and Goldberg, 1987), a comparison experiment of the binding affinity of the C2 antibody to the whole $A\beta_{1-42}$ protein and to a smaller, nine amino acid long, peptide comprising the antibody's epitope was performed (Figure 8). For this comparison the affinities of the humanized antibody C2 were analyzed by ELISA using biotinylated peptides covering the complete amino-acid sequence of the C2's epitope (produced by Mimotopes and purchased from ANAWA Trading SA) and a biotinylated complete Aβ1-42 peptide (Bachem). The analysis was done according to the manufacturer's (Mimotopes) instructions. As demonstrated in Figure 8 andTable 2, the antibody binds with a 36.0% higher affinity to the peptide comprising its specific epitope (aminoacids 13-21 of the $A\beta_{1-42}$ sequence) than to the whole Aβ1-42 protein. It is therefore suggested that the difference in binding affinity energy was used for the energy-consuming transition of the secondary conformation of the amyloid protein to present the antigen in a more acceptable position for the antibody interaction. This explains why the affinity of the antibody is lower for the native (the whole amyloid protein) than for the isolated subunit.

Table 2

	O.D	
	Amyloid beta 13-21	Amyloid beta1-42
hC2	**1.225**	**0.9005**
Control IgG	**0.171**	**0.196**

Example 13 Effects of the anti-amyloid hC2 on the aggregation of amyloid beta 1-42 peptide

To evaluate the ability of the humanized anti-human amyloid beta monoclonal antibody hC2 to mediate anti-aggregating and disaggregating effects on amyloid beta (Aβ) a thioflavin T spectrofluorescence assay was accomplished.

13.1 Inhibition of Aggregation Assay

Aβ1-42 lyophilized powder was reconstituted in hexafluoroisopropanol (HFIP) to 1 mM. The peptide solution was sonicated for 15 min at room temperature, agitated overnight, and aliquots made into non-siliconized microcentrifuge tubes. The HFIP was then evaporated under a stream of argon. The resulting peptide film was vacuum dried for 10 min and stored at -80°C until used.

To assay for the antibody-mediated inhibition of Aβ1-42 aggregation the hC2 antibody was pre-diluted in PBS and an assay solution containing the following components was made in a non-siliconized incubation tube: 3.3 or 0.33 μM pre-diluted antibody, 10 μM thioflavin T, 33 μM Aβ1-42, and 8.2% DMSO. Therefore the final molar ratios of antibody to Aβ1-42 were 1:10 and 1:100. Appropriate control solutions were also prepared. The solutions were then incubated for 24 hrs at 37°C, and the spectrofluorescence (relative fluorescence units; RFU) read in six replicates in black 384-well plates (Perkin-Elmer) on a Perkin-Elmer FluoroCount spectrofluorometer. The spectrofluorescence was then measured and % disaggregation calculated as described below.

13.2 Disaggregation Assay

To assay for antibody-mediated disaggregation of pre-aggregated Aβ1-42, a low-molecular weight Aβ1-42, prepared as described above, was made up as a 110 μM solution in 27% DMSO and 1x PBS. This solution was then allowed to aggregate at 37°C for 24 hrs after which the

following were added: 3.3 or 0.33 μM pre-diluted antibody, and 10 μM thioflavin T. This resulted in a molar ratio of 1:10 and 1:100 antibody to Aβ1-42. This solution was then incubated for additional 24 hrs at 37°C. The spectrofluorescence was then measured and % disaggregation calculated as described below.

13.3 Calculation

Inhibition of aggregation or disaggregation is expressed as mean % inhibition or disaggregation, respectively, ± standard error of the mean (SEM) according to the following equation:

$$\% \text{ inhibition} = \frac{(\text{RFU of pos contrl} - \text{RFU of neg contrl}) - (\text{RFU of sample with A}\beta\text{1-42} - \text{RFU of sample without A}\beta\text{1-42})}{(\text{RFU of pos contrl} - \text{RFU of neg contrl})} \times 100\%$$

13.4 Result

13.4.1 Inhibition of Aβ1-42 aggregation

Inhibition of Aβ1-42 aggregation using the hC2 antibody is shown in Table 3 and Figure 11. At an antibody to Aβ1-42 molar ratio of 1:100 the inhibition averaged 30% (2 independent experiments), whereas at a 1:10 molar ratio the inhibition was 80% (2 independent experiments; see Table 3).

Table 3. hC2-mediated inhibition of Aβ1-42 aggregation at a 1:100 and 1:10 antibody to Aβ1-42 molar ratios.

Antibody	Molar ratio (antibody to Aβ1-42)	
	1:100	1:10
hC2	30.0 ± 4.1%	80.4 ± 6.9%

13.4.2 Disaggregation of pre-aggregated Aβ1-42

Disaggregation of pre-aggregated Aβ1-42 using the hC2 antibody is shown in Table 4 and Figure 12. At an antibody to Aβ1-42 molar ratio of 1:100 the disaggregation averaged 24%, whereas at a 1:10 molar ratio the disaggregation was 32% (3 independent experiments; see Table 4).

Table 4. hC2-mediated disaggregation of pre-aggregated Ab1-42 at a 1:100 and 1:10 antibody to Aβ1-42 molar ratios.

Antibody	Molar ratio (antibody to Aβ1-42)	
	1:100	1:10
hC2	23.9 ± 4.4%	31.9 ± 3.5%

Using the thioflavin T assay, the bi-functional properties of the anti-Aβ humanized antibody hC2 can be demonstrated, namely to inhibit the aggregation of Aβ1-42 into pathogenic protofibrillar conformation and in addition to disaggregate preformed Aβ1-42 protofibrils. hC2 inhibited Aβ1-42 aggregation by 80% at an antibody to Aβ1-42 molar ratio of 1:10. The ability of hC2 to disaggregate pre-aggregated protofibrils of Aβ1-42 at a 1:10 molar ratio was shown to be 32%.

Example 14: Conformation-specific binding of mC2 to different classes of Amyloid Protein

In order to evaluate the specificity of mC2 to different stages of polymerized amyloid protein, monomeric, polymeric soluble and fibrillic amyloid, an ELISA coated with these different stages of polymeric beta-amyloid was performed (Figure 9). Monomers were prepared according to a modified method published by (Klein, 2002), soluble polymeric amyloid beta according to (Barghorn et al., 2005), whereas fibers were performed by incubation of amyloid (Bachem, Switzerland) with a final concentration of 1μg/μl in Tris/HCl pH 7.4 at 37°C for 5 days followed by a centrifugation step (10,000 rpm for 5 minutes). Then amyloid polymers were coated on an ELISA plates with a final concentration of 55μg/ml and binding affinity ELISA by using an anti-mouse IgG monoclonal antibody (Jackson) labelled with alkaline phosphate was performed. As demonstrated in Table 5 the mC2 antibody binds with higher affinity to soluble polymeric amyloid beta than to fibers and with the lowest to monomers. These data indicate that the antibody's binding is influenced by the amyloid epitope and by the conformation of the different amyloid aggregates.

Table 5 Conformation-specific binding of mC2 to Amyloid Monomers, Oligomers and Fibres

mC2	O.D		
Ab Conc (ug/ml)	Oligomer	Fibers	Monomers
0.625	**2.806**	**1.620**	**1.155**
0.312	**1.724**	**0.989**	**0.649**
0.156	**1.036**	**0.631**	**0.397**
0.078	**0.652**	**0.499**	**0.333**

Example 15: Epitope mapping of AC Immune's monoclonal antibody hC2

Epitope mapping of the humanized monoclonal antibody hC2 was performed by ELISA using three different peptide libraries. One library comprised a total of 33 biotinylated peptides covering the complete amino acid (aa) sequence of Aβ1-42 (produced by Mimotopes and purchased from ANAWA Trading SA), the second library contains biotinylated peptides using peptide 12 (aa12-20 of Aβ) from the first peptide library and substituting each aa in the sequence by an alanine (see table 8 below) , and the third library contains biotinylated peptides 13, 14, or 15 (aa 13-21, 14-22 or 15-23 of Aβ) and substituting in each case the last amino acids to an alanine or to a glycine for aa 21 which is already an alanine (see table 9 below). A biotinylated complete Aβ1-42 peptide was used as positive control (Bachem). Epitope mapping was done according to the manufacturer's (Mimotopes) instructions. Briefly, Streptavidin coated plates (NUNC) were blocked with 0.1% BSA in PBS overnight at 4°C. After washing with PBS-0.05% Tween 20, plates were coated for 1 hour at RT with the different peptides from the library, diluted in 0.1% BSA, 0.1% Sodium Azide in PBS to a final concentration of 10 μM. After washing, plates were incubated for 1 hour at RT with the hC2 antibody or a non Aβ binding chimeric IgG4 antibody diluted to 200 ng/ml in 2% BSA, 0.1% Sodium Azide in PBS. Plates were washed again and incubated with alkaline phosphatase conjugated goat anti human IgG for 1h at RT. After final washing, plates were incubated with phosphatase substrate (pNPP) and read at 405 nm using an ELISA plate reader.

It was shown that the humanized monoclonal antibody hC2 bound specifically to peptides 12,13,14,15 and 16 of the first peptide library. These peptides comprise aa 12-20, 13-21, 14-22, 15-23 and 16-24 respectively of Aβ1-42, suggesting that the epitope lies in region 12-24 of Aβ. A second library with alanine substitutions was used to determine the critical aa for binding to Aβ12-20 (VHHQKLVFF). The binding of the hC2 antibody is lost completely when amino acids

16, 17, 19 or 20 are substituted by an alanine, indicating that these aa are absolutely critical for binding of the antibody to Aβ. The binding of the hC2 antibody is partially lost when aa 15 and 18 are substituted.

The binding was also almost completely lost when aa 14 was substituted for an alanine, indicating that aa 14 is also very important for binding.

Finally, a third library was used to determine whether aa 21, 22 or 23 are critical for binding to the epitope. The binding of the antibody to aa 15-23 was reduced when aa 23 was substituted for an alanine, indicating that aa 23 is also important for binding. The binding was partially lost when aa 21 was substituted for a glycine and slightly lost when aa 22 was substituted for an alanine.

Example 16: Neuroprotection by the hC2 Antibody

The ability of antibody hC2 to protect neurons from Abeta oligomer-induced degeneration was assessed in an in vitro assay. Embryonic day 16.5-17.5 mouse cortical neurons were isolated, dissociated, and cultured in vitro in N3-F12 media. The cells were grown for nine days in total, and were fed on day 3 and on the day that Abeta oligomer, or Abeta oligomer plus anti-Abeta antibody hC2 was added. At day five ("4 days Abeta") or day six ("3 days Abeta"), certain wells of cells were treated with either 2 μM Abeta oligomer alone, or a combination of 2 μM Abeta oligomer and 50 μg/mL anti-Abeta antibody hC2.

The Abeta oligomer was prepared by dissolving Abeta 1-42 (rPeptide) in HFIP, from which Abeta peptides were aliquoted into 10μl aliquots at 1mg/ml and then evaporated in a fume hood for 30 minutes and peptide films were stored at -80C until use. Upon use, the peptide film was dissolved in 10μl of DMSO, then 78.6μl of HAMS F12, and the Abeta peptide solution was incubated at 4C for 24-48 hours (25μM final concentration of Abeta).

For control cells, DMSO-F12 alone was added at the same volume as Abeta-DMSO at day 5, and the cells were cultured for an additional 4 days without any additional treatment. On day 9, neurons from all culture conditions were fixed and stained with Tuj1 (an anti-beta-tubulin antibody), followed by staining with secondary antibodies labeled with FITC to visualize microtubules, and thus neuronal processes in general. The results are shown in Figure 13.

Untreated mouse embryonic cortical neurons showed normal morphology after nine days of culture (Figure 13, leftmost panel). Treatment of the cells with Abeta oligomer for three days induced axon degeneration and caused a decrease in the total number of axons (Figure 13, lower center panel), and this effect was even more pronounced at four days of treatment (Figure 13, upper center panel). In contrast, the cells treated with the combination of Abeta oligomer and anti-Abeta antibody hC2 looked similar to control cells (Figure 13, upper and lower right panels). These results indicate that anti-Abeta antibody hC2 was able to protect embryonic mouse cortical neurons from Abeta oligomer-induced degeneration.

Table 6: Positions and changes made in the humanized C2 light chain framework regions

Position Light chain	45	87	50	53
Mouse $C2V_K$	K	F	K	N
Humanized $C2HuV_K1$	Q	Y	K	N
Humanized $C2HuV_K2$	Q	F	K	N
Humanized $C2HuV_K3$	K	Y	K	N
Humanized $C2HuV_K4$	K	F	K	N
Human Germline dpk15	Q	Y	L	N
Mouse $C2V_K$-R			R	
Mouse $C2V_K$-S				S

Table 7: Positions and changes made in the humanized C2 heavy chain framework regions

Position Heavy chain	47	94
Mouse C2VHAF	L	S
Humanized C2HuVHAF1	W	R
Humanized C2HuVHAF2	W	S
Humanized C2HuVHAF3	L	R
Humanized C2HuVHAF4	L	S
Human Germline DP-54	W	R

A total of 8 different antibodies were constructed with light chains Humanized $C2HuV_K1$, $C2HuV_K2$, $C2HuV_K3$, $C2HuV_K4$ and heavy chains C2HuVHAF4 and C2HuVHAF2

Table 8. Summary of peptides used in the second library
aa that are important for binding are marked in italics and underscore and aa absolutely critical for binding are marked in italics and bold.

p12-20	V	H	H	Q	K	L	V	F	F
A12	**A**	H	H	Q	K	L	V	F	F
A13	V	**A**	H	Q	K	L	V	F	F
A14	V	H	**A**	Q	K	L	V	F	F
A15	V	H	H	**A**	K	L	V	F	F
A16	V	H	H	Q	**A**	L	V	F	F
A17	V	H	H	Q	K	**A**	V	F	F
A18	V	H	H	Q	K	L	**A**	F	F
A19	V	H	H	Q	K	L	V	**A**	F
A20	V	H	H	Q	K	L	V	F	**A**
aa no.	12	13	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*

Table 9. Summary of peptides used in the third library.
aa that are important for binding are marked in italics and underscore and aa absolutely critical for binding are marked in italics and bold

p13-21		H	H	Q	K	L	V	F	F	A		
p13-21	G21	H	H	Q	K	L	V	F	F	**G**		
p14-22			H	Q	K	L	V	F	F	A	E	
p14-22	A22		H	Q	K	L	V	F	F	A	**A**	
p15-23				Q	K	L	V	F	F	A	E	D
p15-23	A23			Q	K	L	V	F	F	A	E	**A**
aa no.		13	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*	21	22	*23*

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CLAIMS:

1. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which specifically binds to at least one epitope on the β-amyloid protein wherein the epitope comprises at least two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in binding to the antibody, wherein the at least two consecutive amino acid residues are –Lys-Leu- embedded within the following core sequence (SEQ ID NO: 10):
   $Xaa_1 – Xaa_2$ - Lys - Leu – Xaa_3 wherein
   Xaa_1 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of His, Asn, Gln Lys, and Arg,
   Xaa_2 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Asn and Gln; and
   Xaa_3 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, norleucine, Met, Phe, and Ile.

2. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which specifically binds to at least one epitope on the β-amyloid protein wherein the said epitope comprises at least two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding to the antibody, wherein the at least two consecutive amino acid residues are –Phe-Phe- embedded within the following core sequence (SEQ ID NO: 9):
   Xaa_3 - Phe – Phe – Xaa_4 – Xaa_5 – Xaa_6, wherein
   Xaa_3 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, norleucine, Met, Phe, and Ile;
   Xaa_4 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, Ser and Ile;
   Xaa_5 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp, and
   Xaa_6 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp.

3. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claims 1 or 2, which specifically binds to at least two epitopes on the β-amyloid protein wherein said at least two epitopes each comprise at least two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody,wherein the at least two consecutive amino acids are separated by at least one amino acid residue not involved in antibody binding or to a significantly smaller extent than said consecutive amino acid

residues, which are –Phe-Phe- and –Lys-Leu-, respectively, embedded within the following core sequence:

Xaa_1 – Xaa_2 - Lys - Leu – Xaa_3 - Phe – Phe - Xaa_4 - Xaa_5 - Xaa_6, wherein

Xaa_1 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of His, Asn, Gln Lys, and Arg;

Xaa_2 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Asn and Gln;

Xaa_3 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, norleucine, Met, Phe, and Ile;

Xaa_4 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, Ser and Ile;

Xaa_5 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp, and

Xaa_6 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp.

4. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 - 3, wherein

Xaa_1 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of His and Arg;

Xaa_2 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Asn and Gln;

Xaa_3 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Val and Leu,

Xaa_4 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ala and Val;

Xaa_5 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp, and

Xaa_6 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp.

5. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 4, wherein

Xaa_1 is His

Xaa_2 is Gln;

Xaa_3 is Val;

Xaa_4 is Ala;

Xaa_5 is Glu; and

Xaa_6 is Asp.

6. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1-5, which specifically binds to at least two epitopes on the β-amyloid protein wherein said at least two epitopes each comprise at least two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, which are - Phe -

Phe –and - Lys - Leu –, respectively, and wherein said at least two distinct binding sites exhibit amino acid sequence –Val - Phe - Phe - Ala - Glu – Asp - shown in SEQ ID NO: 7 and amino acid sequence His - Gln - Lys - Leu – Val - shown in SEQ ID NO: 8, respectively.

7. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof which comprises in the variable region at least one CDR of non-human origin and one or more human- or primate-derived framework regions and, optionally, a constant region derived from a human or primate source antibody, which humanized antibody or fragment thereof is capable of specifically binding β-amyloid protein, β-amyloid monomeric peptide, polymeric soluble amyloid pepides comprising a plurality of β-amyloid monomeric units, β-amyloid fibers, fibrils or filaments, and a β-amyloid polymeric peptide in isolation or as part of a β-amyloid plaque, at an epitope comprising the following amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 11):
Xaa_1 – Xaa_2 - Lys - Leu – Xaa_3 - Phe – Phe- Xaa_4 - Xaa_5 - Xaa_6, wherein
Xaa_1 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of His, Asn, Gln, but particularly His;
Xaa_2 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Asn and Gln, but particularly Gln; and
Xaa_3 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Val, Leu, and Ile, but particularly Val;
Xaa4 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Ala and Val, but particularly Ala;
Xaa5 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp, but particularly Glu; and
Xaa6 is an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Glu and Asp, but particularly Asp.

8. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to according to any one of claims 1-7, wherein the CDR of non-human origin is obtained from a donor antibody raised against an antigen fragment which does not contain said epitope.

9. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof comprising variable regions with human- or primate-derived framework regions and at least one CDR with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and

SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR)

10. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 9, wherein said humanized antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region with human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions and at least one CDR with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

11. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 9, wherein said humanized antibody comprises a light chain variable region with human- or primate-derived light chain framework regions and a CDR with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

12. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 9, wherein the humanized antibody comprises variable regions with human- or primate-derived framework regions and at least two CDRs with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

13. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 12, wherein the humanized antibody comprises heavy chain variable region with human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions and at least two CDRs with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR), wherein the same CDR cannot be present twice in the antibody..

14. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 12, wherein the humanized antibody comprises light chain variable regions with human- or primate-derived light chain framework regions and at least two CDRs with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5

representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), wherein the same CDR cannot be present twice in the antibody.

15. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 9, wherein the humanized antibody comprises heavy chain variable regions with human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions and CDRs with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR), particularly in the order indicated.

16. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 9, wherein the humanized antibody comprises light chain variable regions with human- or primate-derived light chain framework regions and CDRs with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), particularly in the order indicated.

17. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 9, wherein the humanized antibody comprises variable regions with human- or primate-derived framework regions and at least three CDRs with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1 , SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), wherein the same CDR cannot be present twice in the antibody.

18. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 9, wherein the humanized antibody comprises variable regions with human- or primate-derived framework regions and at least four CDRs with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1 , SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO:3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), wherein the same CDR cannot be present twice in the antibody.

19. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 9, wherein the humanized antibody comprises variable regions with human- or primate-derived framework regions and at least five CDRs with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO:3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), wherein the same CDR cannot be present twice in the antibody.

20. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 9, wherein the humanized antibody comprises variable regions with human- or primate-derived framework regions and CDRs with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

21. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 10, wherein the at least one CDR is a CDR with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

22. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 10, wherein the at least one CDR is a CDR with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

23. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 13, wherein the at least two CDRs are CDRs with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1 and SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

24. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 13, wherein the at least two CDRs are CDRs with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

25. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 13, wherein the at least two CDRs are CDRs with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

26. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 14, wherein the at least two CDRs are CDRs with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1 and SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

27. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 14, wherein the at least two CDRs are CDRs with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

28. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 12, wherein the at least two CDRs are selected from the group of CDRs according to any one of claims 23 to 27.

29. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of claims 9 to 28 comprising a light chain and/or a heavy chain constant region of human or primate origin.

30. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, wherein at least one of the amino acids of a light chain and a heavy chain CDR region as given in SEQ ID NOs: 1 – 6 is changed through a conservative substitution such that the antibody maintains its full functionality.

31. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, according to claim 30, wherein within the amino acid sequence of CDR2 of the light chain variable region (LCVR) as given in SEQ ID NO: 5, the Lys at Kabat position 50 is replaced by Arg, Gln or Glu, but particularly by Arg, and /or the Asn at Kabat position 53 is replaced by Ala, Val, Leu, Ser and Ile; but expecially Ser.

32. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of claims 9 to 31, wherein the framework sequences are human germline V_K sequences of KABAT subgroup V_KII.

33. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of claims 9 to 31, wherein the framework sequences are human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII.

34. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 – 33, wherein at least one of the amino acids of the human- or primate-derived framework region is changed through a substitution to an amino acid from the corresponding region of murine humanized antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2 or a substitution conservative thereto.

35. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 34, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Leu, norleucine, Ile, Val, Met , Ala, and Phe.

36. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 34, wherein the Arg in Kabat position 94 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Heavy Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ser and Thr, but especially by Ser.

37. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 34, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Heavy Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Leu, norleucine, Ile, Val, Met, Ala, and Phe, particularly Leu and Ile, but especially Leu and Arg in Kabat position 94 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Heavy Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ser and Thr, but especially by Ser.

38. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 34, wherein the Tyr in Kabat position 87 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Light Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 12 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Phe, Leu, Val, Ile, and Ala, particularly by Leu and Phe, but especially by Phe.

39. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 34, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Heavy Chain Variable

Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Leu, norleucine, Ile, Val, Met, Ala, and Phe, particularly Leu and Ile, but especially Leu and the Arg in Kabat position 94 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Heavy Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ser and Thr, but especially by Ser., and the Tyr in Kabat position 87 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Light Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 12 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Phe, Leu, Val, Ile, and Ala, particularly by Leu and Phe, but especially by Phe.

40. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 35, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Heavy Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Leu, norleucine, Ile, Val, Met, Ala, and Phe, particularly Leu and Ile, but especially Leu.

41. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 36, wherein the Arg in Kabat position 94 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Heavy Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ser and Thr, but especially by Ser.

42. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 37, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Heavy Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Leu and Ile, but especially Leu.

43. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 38, wherein the Tyr in Kabat position 87 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Light Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 12 is replaced by Phe.

44. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 39, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Heavy Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group

consisting of Leu and Ile, but especially Leu and the Arg in Kabat position 94 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Heavy Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 is replaced by Ser and the Tyr in Kabat position 87 in the human- or primate-derived framework region of the Light Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 12 is replaced by Phe.

45. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof antibody according to any one of claims 1 – 44, wherein the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) has an amino acid sequence that is 90%, particularly 95%, more particularly 98% identical to the sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 15 and 16, respectively.

46. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 – 44, wherein the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) has an amino acid sequence that is 90%, particularly 95%, more particularly 98% identical to the sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 12 and 13, respectively.

47. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 – 44, wherein at least two, but especially three, of the CDR regions of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) have an amino acid sequence that is 90%, particularly 95%, more particularly 98% identical to the corresponding CDR region as given in SEQ ID NO: 1 – 3.

48. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 – 44, wherein at least two, but especially three, of the CDR regions of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) have an amino acid sequence that is 90%, particularly 95%, more particularly 98% identical to the corresponding CDR region as given in SEQ ID NO: 4 – 6.

49. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof which comprises the light chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 13.

50. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 49 which, in addition, comprises the light chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 14.

51. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof which comprises the light chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 13 and the light chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 14.

52. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof which comprises the heavy chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 16.

53. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 52 which, in addition, comprises the heavy chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 17.

54. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof which comprises the heavy chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 16 and the heavy chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 17.

55. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of claims 50, 51, 53 and 54, wherein the N-terminal Lys of the heavy chain constant region has been removed.

56. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of the preceding claims, which antibody is of the IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, or IgG4 isotype including a mutated IgG4, but particularly of the IgG_4 isotype.

57. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of the preceding claims, which antibody is bi-effective in that it exhibits both an aggregation inhibition property as well as a disaggregation property, particularly paired with a high degree of conformational sensitivity.

58. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of the preceding claims, which antibody, upon co-incubation with amyloid monomeric and/or polymeric soluble amyloid peptides, particularly with β-amyloid monomeric peptides such as, for example, Aβ monomeric peptides 1-39; 1-40, 1-41, or 1-42, and/or a polymeric soluble β-amyloid peptide comprising a plurality of said Aβ monomeric

units, but especially with an $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric and/or an $A\beta$ polymeric soluble amyloid peptide comprising a plurality of said $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric units, inhibits the aggregation of the $A\beta$ monomers into high molecular polymeric fibrils or filaments and, in addition, upon co-incubation with preformed high molecular polymeric amyloid fibrils or filaments formed by the aggregation of amyloid monomeric peptides, particularly β-amyloid monomeric peptides such as, for example, $A\beta$ monomeric peptides 1-39; 1-40, 1-41, or 1-42, but especially $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric peptides, is capable of disaggregating the preformed polymeric fibrils or filaments.

59. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of the preceding claims, which antibody substantially binds to aggregated $A\beta$ in a mammalian brain, particularly a human brain.

60. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of the preceding claims, which antibody reduces $A\beta$ plaque burden in a mammalian brain, particularly a human brain.

61. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 – 60.

62. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an antibody variable region comprising SEQ ID NO: 2 and 3 representing the Complementarity Determining Regions (CDRs) 2 and 3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

63. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an antibody variable region comprising SEQ ID NO: 4 representing the Complementarity Determining Regions (CDRs) 1 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

64. A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 62 comprising a nucleotide sequence as given in SEQ ID NO: 18 and SEQ ID NO: 19.

65. A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 63 comprising a nucleotide sequence as given in SEQ ID NO: 20.

66. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the light chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 22.

67. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the light chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 22 and the light chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 23.

68. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the heavy chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 25

69. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the heavy chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 25 and the heavy chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 26.

70. An expression vector comprising the nucleotide sequence of any one of claims 60 to 69.

71. A cell comprising an expression vector comprising the nucleotide sequence of any one of claims 60 to 68 or an expression vector of claim 70.

72. A composition comprising the antibody according to any one of claims 1 to 60 including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof in a therapeutically effective amount.

73. A composition according to claim 72 which is a pharmaceutical composition optionally further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

74. A composition according to any one of claims 72 to 73 comprising the antibody in a therapeutically effective amount.

75. A mixture comprising a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 60 including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof in a therapeutically effective amount and,

optionally, a further biologically active substance and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or a diluent and/or an excipient.

76. A mixture according to claim 75, wherein the further biologically active substance is a compound used in the treatment of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid or amyloid-like protein such as the Aβ protein involved in Alzheimer's disease.

77. A mixture according to claim 76 comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of compounds against oxidative stress, anti-apoptotic compounds, metal chelators, inhibitors of DNA repair such as pirenzepin and metabolites, 3-amino-1-propanesulfonic acid (3APS), 1,3-propanedisulfonate (1,3PDS), α-secretase activators, β- and γ –secretase inhibitors, tau proteins, neurotransmitter, β-sheet breakers, attractants for amyloid beta clearing / depleting cellular components, inhibitors of N-terminal truncated amyloid beta including pyroglutamated amyloid beta 3-42, anti-inflammatory molecules, or cholinesterase inhibitors (ChEIs) such as tacrine, rivastigmine, donepezil, and/or galantamine, M1 agonists and other drugs including any amyloid or tau modifying drug and nutritive supplements, together with an antibody according to the present invention and, optionally, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or a diluent and/or an excipient.

78. A mixture according to claim 77, wherein the compound is a cholinesterase inhibitor (ChEIs).

79. A mixture according to any one of claims 75 to 77, wherein the compound is one selected from the group consisting of tacrine, rivastigmine, donepezil, galantamine, niacin and memantine.

80. A mixture according to any one of claims 75 to 79 comprising the antibody and/or the biologically active substance in a therapeutically effective amount.

81. Use of a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof and/or a functional part thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 60 and/or a pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 72 to 74, or a mixture according to any one of claims 75 to 80 for the preparation of a medicament for treating or alleviating

the effects of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis such as diseases including, but not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Lewy body dementia, Down's syndrome, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis (Dutch type); the Guam Parkinson-Dementia complex; as well as other diseases which are based on or associated with amyloid-like proteins such as progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple sclerosis; Creutzfeld Jacob disease, Parkinson's disease, HIV-related dementia, ALS (amyotropic lateral sclerosis), Adult Onset Diabetes; senile cardiac amyloidosis; endocrine tumors, and others, including macular degeneration.

82. Use according to claim 81, wherein the amyloid associated disease or condition is Alzheimer's disease.

83. Use according to claim 81, wherein the amyloid-associated condition is characterized by a loss of cognitive memory capacity in an animal, particularly a mammal or a human.

84. Use according to claim 81, wherein treatment of an animal, particularly a mammal or a human, suffering from an amyloid-associated condition characterized by a loss of cognitive memory capacity leads to an increase of the cognitive memory capacity.

85. Use according to claim 81, wherein treatment of an animal, particularly a mammal or a human, suffering from an amyloid-associated condition characterized by a loss of cognitive memory capacity leads to a complete restoration of the cognitive memory capacity.

86. A method for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 72 to 74, or a mixture according to any one of claims 75 to 80 for use in a method of preventing, treating or alleviating the effects of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis such as diseases including, but not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Lewy body dementia, Down's syndrome, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis (Dutch type); the Guam Parkinson-Dementia complex; as well as other diseases which are based on or associated with amyloid-like proteins such as progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple sclerosis; Creutzfeld Jacob disease,

Parkinson's disease, HIV-related dementia, ALS (amyotropic lateral sclerosis), Adult Onset Diabetes; senile cardiac amyloidosis; endocrine tumors, and others, including macular degeneration comprising formulating an antibody according to the invention in a pharmaceutically acceptable form.

87. A method according to claim 86, wherein the antibody is comprised in the composition in a therapeutically effective amount.

88. A method according to claim 86, wherein the amyloid associated disease or condition is Alzheimer's Disease.

89. A method according to claim 86, wherein the amyloid-associated condition is characterized by a loss of cognitive memory capacity in an animal, particularly a mammal or a human.

90. A method according to claim 86, wherein treatment of an animal, particularly a mammal or a human, suffering from an amyloid-associated condition characterized by a loss of cognitive memory capacity leads to an increase of the cognitive memory capacity.

91. A method according to claim 86, wherein the amyloid-associated condition is characterized by an impairment of the cognitive memory capacity in an animal, particularly a mammal or a human.

92. A method according to claim 86, wherein treatment of an animal, particularly a mammal or a human, suffering from an amyloid-associated condition characterized by a loss of cognitive memory capacity leads to a reversal of the cognitive memory capacity and, particularly, a complete restoration of the cognitive memory capacity.

93. A method for preventing, treating or alleviating the effects of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis such as diseases including, but not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Lewy body dementia, Down's syndrome, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis (Dutch type); the Guam Parkinson-Dementia complex; as well as other diseases which are based on or associated

with amyloid-like proteins such as progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple sclerosis; Creutzfeld Jacob disease, Parkinson's disease, HIV-related dementia, ALS (amyotropic lateral sclerosis), Adult Onset Diabetes; senile cardiac amyloidosis; endocrine tumors, and others, including macular degeneration by administering a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof and/or a functional part thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 60 and/or a pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 72 to 74, or a mixture according to any one of claims 75 to 80, to a animal or a human affected by such a disorder comprising administering the antibody in a therapeutically effective amount.

94. A method according to claim 93, wherein the amyloid associated disease or condition is Alzheimer's Disease.

95. A method according to claim 93, wherein the amyloid-associated condition is characterized by a loss of cognitive memory capacity in an animal, particularly a mammal or a human.

96. A method according to claim 93, wherein treatment of an animal, particularly a mammal or a human, suffering from an amyloid-associated condition characterized by a loss of cognitive memory capacity leads to an increase in the retention or cognitive memory capacity.

97. A method according to claim 93, wherein the amyloid-associated condition is characterized by an impairment of cognitive memory capacity in an animal, particularly a mammal or a human.

98. A method according to claim 93, wherein treatment of an animal, particularly a mammal or a human, suffering from an amyloid-associated condition characterized by a loss of cognitive memory capacity leads to a complete restoration of cognitive memory capacity.

99. Method of diagnosis of an amyloid-associated disease or condition in a patient comprising

(a) bringing the sample or a specific body part or body area suspected to contain the amyloid protein into contact with an antibody according to any one of claims 1 to 60;

(b) allowing the antibody to bind to the amyloid protein;

(c) detecting the antibody bound to the protein; and

(d) correlating the presence or absence of antibody binding with the presence or absence of amyloid protein in the sample or specific body part or area.

100. Method of determining the extent of amyloidogenic plaque burden in a tissue and/or body fluids comprising

(a) obtaining a sample representative of the tissue and/or body fluids under investigation;

(b) testing said sample ~~for~~ the presence of amyloid protein with an antibody according to any one of claims 1-60;

(c) determining the amount of antibody bound to the protein; and

(d) calculating the plaque burden in the tissue and/or body fluids.

101. Test kits for detection and diagnosis of amyloid-associated diseases and conditions comprising an antibody according to any one of claims 1-60.

102. Test kit according to claim 101 comprising a container holding one or more antibodies according to the present invention and instructions for using the antibodies for the purpose of binding to amyloid protein to form an immunological complex and detecting the formation of the immunological complex such that presence or absence of the immunological complex correlates with presence or absence of amyloid protein.

103. Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) comprising human- or primate-derived framework regions and at least one CDR with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

104. Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) comprising human- or primate-derived framework regions and at least one CDR with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

105. Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) comprising human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions and at least two CDRs with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2

representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

106. Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR),comprising human- or primate-derived light chain framework regions and at least two CDRs with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

107. Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) comprising human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions and CDRs with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR), particularly in the order indicated above.

108. The Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived light chain framework regions and CDRs with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), particularly in the order indicated above.

109. The Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) of SEQ ID NO: 12.

110. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, which comprises the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) of SEQ ID NO: 12.

111. The Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) including signal sequences as shown in SEQ ID NO: 13.

112. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which comprises the complete Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) including signal sequences as shown in SEQ ID NO: 13.

113. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which comprises the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) of SEQ ID NO: 12 and the light chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 14.

114. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which comprises the complete Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) of SEQ ID NO: 13 and the light chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 14.

115. The Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) of SEQ ID NO: 15.

116. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which comprises the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) of SEQ ID NO: 15.

117. The Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) including signal sequences as shown in SEQ ID NO: 16.

118. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which comprises the complete Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) including signal sequences as shown in SEQ ID NO: 16.

119. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which comprises the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) of SEQ ID NO: 15 and the heavy chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 17.

120. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which comprises the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) of SEQ ID NO: 16 and the heavy chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 17.

121. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of the preceding claims, which antibody substantially binds Aβ monomers but, preferably, does not show any significant cross-reactivity with amyloid precursor protein (APP).

122. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 122, wherein said antibody or fragment binds to an Aβ monomer with a binding affinity represented by a K_D in a range of at least about 1×10^{-7} M to at least about 1×10^{-12} M, particularly of at least about 1×10^{-8} M to at least about 1×10^{-11} M, more particularly of at least about 1×10^{-8} M to at least about 1×10^{-10} M, even more particularly

of at least about 1 x 10^{-8} M to at least about 5 x 10^{-8} M but, preferably, does not show any significant cross-reactivity with amyloid precursor protein (APP).

123. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of the preceding claims, which antibody substantially binds Aβ fiber, fibril or filament but, preferably, does not show any significant cross-reactivity with amyloid precursor protein (APP).

124. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 123, wherein said antibody or fragment binds to an Aβ fiber, fibril or filament with a binding affinity represented by a K_D in a range of at least about 1 x 10^{-7}M to at least about 1 x 10^{-12} M, particularly of at least about 1 x 10^{-8}M to at least about 1 x 10^{-11}M, more particularly of at least about 1 x 10^{-9}M to at least about 1 x 10^{-10}M, even more particularly of at least about 2 x 10^{-9}M to at least about 8 x 10^{-9}M, but, preferably, does not show any significant cross-reactivity with amyloid precursor protein (APP).

125. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of the preceding claims, which antibody substantially binds soluble polymeric amyloid beta but, preferably, does not show any significant cross-reactivity with amyloid precursor protein (APP).

126. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of the preceding claims, which antibody substantially binds Aβ monomers and/or Aβ fibers, fibrils or filaments and/or soluble polymeric amyloid beta but, preferably, does not show any significant cross-reactivity with amyloid precursor protein (APP).

127. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 126, wherein the binding affinity increases in ascending order.

128. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 127, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof exhibits an binding affinity to an Aβ fiber, fibril or filament which is at least 10 times, particularly at

least 15 times, more particularly at least 20 times, but especially at least 25 times higher than the binding affinity to an Aβ monomer.

129. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of the preceding claims, which antibody substantially binds to aggregated Aβ, including Aβ plaques, in the mammalian, particularly the human brain but, preferably, does not show any significant cross-reactivity with amyloid precursor protein (APP).

130. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of the preceding claims, which antibody substantially binds to soluble fibers, including Aβ monomers, in the mammalian, particularly the human brain but, preferably, does not show any significant cross-reactivity with amyloid precursor protein (APP).

131. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of the preceding claims, which antibody or fragment thereof is capable of shifting the equilibrium between Aβ in its soluble and aggregated state towards its soluble form by disaggregating fibers to soluble poly- and monomeric forms by inducing a shift in conformation and binding and stabilizing the disaggregated and solubilized Aβ forms in the tissue and/or body fluids, particularly the brain.

132. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 131, which antibody or fragment thereof is capable of inducing a transition of the β-sheet conformation towards an α-helix and/or a random coil conformation, but particularly a random coil conformation, even more particularly a random coil conformation at a given location in the molecule, especially in the environment of Tyr 10 and Val12 of the Aβ protein, which leads to an increase of the random coil conformation at the expense of the β-sheet conformation and an improved solubilization of the preformed high molecular polymeric amyloid fibrils or filaments.

133. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 132, wherein the decrease of the β-sheet conformation amounts to

at least 30%, particularly to at least 35%, and more particularly to at least 40% and more as compared to the respective preformed amyloid polymeric fibrils or filaments incubated in buffer (control).

134. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to claim 131, which antibody or fragment thereof substantially bind to polymeric and less aggregated soluble Aβ protein species including monomeric forms thus modifying the peripheral clearing and catabolism of these Aβ protein species and reducing their toxic effects.

135. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any of the preceding claims comprising at least one light chain or a fragment thereof or at least one heavy chain or a fragment thereof incorporating at least one, particularly two and more particularly three CDR regions obtained form a mouse donor antibody, particularly from mouse antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof has an affinity to the Aβ antigen which is at least 5 times, particularly at least 8 times, more particularly at least 10 times, but especially at least 15 times higher than that of the mouse donor antibody.

136. Use according to any one of claims 83 to 85, wherein the humanized antibody or a fragment thereof does not necessarily bind aggregated amyloid beta in the brain.

137. A method according to any one of claims 89 to 91, wherein the humanized antibody or a fragment thereof does not necessarily bind aggregated amyloid beta in the brain.

138. Use according to claim 81, wherein treatment of an animal, particularly a mammal or a human, suffering from an amyloid-associated condition characterized by a loss of cognitive memory capacity leads to the retention of cognitive memory capacity.

139. A method according to claim 86, wherein treatment of an animal, particularly a mammal or a human, suffering from an amyloid-associated condition characterized by a loss of cognitive memory capacity leads to the retention of the cognitive memory capacity.

140. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of the preceding claims, which antibody or fragment thereof is capable of shifting the equilibrium between Aβ in its soluble and aggregated state towards its soluble form.

141. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of the preceding claims, which antibody or fragment thereof is capable of shifting the equilibrium between Aβ in its soluble and aggregated state towards its soluble form by disaggregating fibers to soluble poly- and monomeric forms.

142. A chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any one of the preceding claims, which antibody or fragment thereof does not substantially bind Aβ in human tissue and/or body fluids, particularly the brain, but is capable of shifting the equilibrium between Aβ in its soluble and aggregated state towards its soluble form by disaggregating fibers to soluble poly- and monomeric forms by inducing a shift in conformation and binding and stabilizing the disaggregated and solubilized Aβ forms in the tissue and/or body fluids, particularly the brain.

143. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof exhibits an binding affinity which is at least 5 times, 10 times, particularly at least 15 times, more particularly at least 20 times, but especially at least 100 times higher than the binding affinity of the mouse antibody.

144. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the affinity, specificity and stability of said antibody or fragment thereof has been modified by a change of the glycosylation profile.

145. An antibody comprising a variable region as recited in SEQ ID NO: 27, or a variant thereof.

146. A cell line expressing the antibody of claim 145.

147. An antibody gene comprising a variable region as recited in SEQ ID NO: 29, or a variant thereof.

148. A cell line expressing the antibody of claim 147.

149. A method for disaggregating preformed beta-amyloid fibers, comprising interacting an hC2 antibody with preformed beta-amyloid fibers.

150. A humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof protects neurons from Abeta-induced degradation.

151. A method of preventing Abeta-induced neuron degradation comprising treating neurons with an effective amount of a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any of the preceding claims.

152. Use of a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any of the preceding claims for the preparation of a medicament for preventing degeneration of neurons upon exposure to Abeta oligomer.

Sequence Listing

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<130> M1967 EP S3

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        35                  40                  45

Pro Gln Leu Leu Ile Tyr Lys Val Ser Asn Arg Phe Ser Gly Val Pro
    50                  55                  60

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65                  70                  75                  80

Ser Arg Val Glu Ala Glu Asp Val Gly Val Tyr Tyr Cys Ser Gln Ser
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Ser Gly Asn Ser Gln Glu Ser Val Thr Glu Gln Asp Ser Lys Asp Ser
165 170 175

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<210> 26
<211> 981
<212> DNA
<213> Homo sapiens

<220>
<223> artificial humanized C2 heavy chain constant region

<400> 26
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<211> 112
<212> PRT
<213> Mus musculus

<400> 27

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Asp Gln Ala Ser Ile Ser Cys Arg Ser Ser Gln Ser Leu Val Tyr Ser
20 25 30

Asn Gly Asp Thr Tyr Leu His Trp Tyr Leu Gln Lys Pro Gly Gln Ser
35 40 45

Pro Lys Leu Leu Ile Tyr Lys Val Ser Asn Arg Phe Ser Gly Val Pro
50 55 60

Asp Arg Phe Ser Gly Ser Gly Ser Gly Thr Asp Phe Thr Leu Lys Ile
65 70 75 80

Ser Arg Val Glu Ala Glu Asp Leu Gly Val Tyr Phe Cys Ser Gln Ser
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Thr His Val Pro Trp Thr Phe Gly Gly Gly Thr Lys Leu Glu Ile Lys
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<210> 28
<211> 112
<212> PRT
<213> Mus musculus

<400> 28

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Ser Leu Lys Leu Ser Cys Ala Ala Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Ser Tyr

20 25 30

Gly Met Ser Trp Val Arg Gln Thr Pro Asp Lys Arg Leu Glu Leu Val
35 40 45

Ala Ser Ile Asn Ser Asn Gly Gly Ser Thr Tyr Tyr Pro Asp Ser Val
50 55 60

Lys Gly Arg Phe Thr Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ala Lys Asn Thr Leu Tyr
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Leu Gln Met Ser Ser Leu Lys Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Met Tyr Tyr Cys
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Ala Ser Gly Asp Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Ser Thr Leu Thr Val Ser Ser
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<212> DNA
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agagtggagg ctgaggatct gggagtttat ttctgctctc aaagtacaca tgttccttgg 360

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<210> 31
<211> 336
<212> DNA
<213> Mus musculus

<400> 31
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ccagacaaga ggctggaatt ggtcgcaagc atcaatagta atggtggtag cacctattat 180

ccagacagtg tgaagggccg attcaccatc tccagagaca atgccaagaa caccctgtac 240

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<210> 32
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<212> DNA
<213> Mus musculus

<400> 32
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caaatgagca gtctgaagtc tgaggacaca gccatgtatt actgtgcaag tggtgactac 360

tggggccaag gctccactct cacagtctcc tcagccaaaa caacaccc 408