

METHOD FOR DETECTING A TAU PROTEIN IN A SALIVA SAMPLE

The invention relates to an *in vitro* method for detecting a tau protein or fragment thereof in a saliva sample using a specific binding molecule, such as an antibody, directed to key epitopes of tau. The invention may find applications in diagnostics of tauopathies.

Disorders related to tau are collectively referred to as neurodegenerative tauopathies. Alzheimer's disease (AD) is part of this group of neurodegenerative diseases. Conditions of dementia such as Alzheimer's disease (AD) are frequently characterised by a progressive accumulation of intracellular and/or extracellular deposits of proteinaceous structures such as β -amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles (NFTs) composed of tau, in the brains of affected patients. The appearance of tau aggregation lesions largely correlates with pathological neurofibrillary degeneration and brain atrophy, as well as with cognitive impairment. In AD, tau protein self-assembles to form paired helical filaments (PHFs) and straight filaments that constitute the neurofibrillary tangles within neurons and dystrophic neurites in the brain. Protein misfolding to form amyloid fibrils is a hallmark of many different diseases collectively known as the amyloidoses, each of which is characterised by a specific precursor protein.

The long history of research into the causes of AD and other protein conformational disorders has not led to the hoped-for major advances in diagnostics or therapeutics. One reason for the limited progress is thought to be a lack of high-affinity specific binding molecules targeted to key epitopes of tau. This shortcoming was addressed as described in PCT application no. PCT/EP2021/069160 (incorporated herein by reference in its entirety), filed in the name of WisTa Laboratories Ltd., by the creation of the specific binding molecules disclosed therein. The disclosed specific binding molecules are derived from antibodies isolated from sheep immunised with full length tau protein and a truncated tau fragment from the core of the PHF. The use of sheep as a source of specific binding molecules is thought to have contributed to the high affinity of the specific binding molecules of the invention. PCT application no. PCT/EP2021/069160 describes the use of the specific binding molecules in a sample which may be a plasma sample, a whole blood sample, a brain lysate or a cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) sample.

H. Pekeles *et al.* Alzheimer's & Dementia: Diagnosis, Assessment & Disease Monitoring 11 (2019) 53-6054 describe development and validation of a salivary tau biomarker in Alzheimer's disease. The authors report a significant elevation of phosphorylated-tau to total-tau (p-tau/t-tau) ratio for the S396 phosphorylation site. However, the authors acknowledge a large variation in the AD salivary tau levels limits the utility of this test as a clinical biomarker.

The present inventors have developed assays for detecting a tau protein or fragment thereof in a saliva sample comprising contacting the sample with a first specific binding molecule wherein the first specific binding molecule binds to the predominant fragment isolated from proteolytically stable

core of the paired helical filament (PHF) (residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1). The assays may use one or more specific binding molecule described in PCT application no. PCT/EP2021/069160, which may provide advantages including a high affinity leading to increased sensitivity. The present inventors have surprisingly identified that the use of a first specific binding molecule that binds to residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 enables robust detection of salivary tau by a second specific binding molecule, but that the reverse use (a first specific binding molecule binding outside residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and a second specific binding molecule binding within residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1) can fail to detect salivary tau, even when a high affinity specific binding molecule that binds to residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is used.

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Summary of the invention

According to a first aspect, the invention provides an *in vitro* method for detecting a tau protein or fragment thereof in a saliva sample comprising contacting the sample with a first specific binding molecule wherein the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

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According to a second aspect, the invention provides a device for use in a method according to the first aspect.

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According to a third aspect, the invention provides a kit comprising a specific binding molecule suitable for use in a method according to the first aspect and reagents for detecting a tau protein or fragment thereof in a saliva sample wherein the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

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Reference is made to a number of Figures as follows:

FIGURE 1. Alternative CDR definitions for S1D12 according to Kabat, Chothia and Martin.

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FIGURE 2. The sequence of the predominant fragment isolated from the proteolytically stable core of the paired helical filament (PHF; Wischik et al., 1988). This fragment (referred to 'dGAE') comprises residues 296 – 391 of full-length tau and encompasses the fragment identified by cryo-electron-microscopy (residues 308 – 378) as constituting the PHF core (Fitzpatrick et al., 2017) and shown in Fig 3. The locations of the epitopes of the selected antibodies/scAbs are also shown

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FIGURE 3. The PHF core shown in the context of a PHF.

FIGURE 4. The same core sequence and locations of corresponding epitopes in relation to the fundamental C-shaped subunit structure of the core. The 1D12 epitope forms the critical fold or “hairpin” of the C-shaped subunit.

5 **FIGURE 5.** Molecular modelling showing how a new dGAE unit progressively unfolds and becomes aligned with the structure of the existing oligomer.

FIGURE 6. The attachment sequence shown in terms of 3 stages corresponding to progressive binding of key segments of dGAE and their epitopes into the oligomer. As can be seen, the hinge region recognised by 1D12 is the primary site of attachment, followed by
10 progressive symmetrical binding of the other domains.

FIGURE 7. (A) dGAE antigen specific immune response of sheep polyclonal sera after various rounds of immunisation. (B) hT40 antigen specific immune response of sheep polyclonal sera after various rounds of immunisation. MPBS coated wells included as negative control.
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FIGURE 8. ELISA based characterisation of the cross-reactivity of ‘E’ group scAbs using hT40, dGA and dGAE antigens (A) E1E8 scAb, (B) E2B7 scAb, (C) E2C5 scAb, (D) E2E8 scAb, (E) E1B8 scAb. All these scAbs except E1B8 showing specific dGAE binding and therefore requires C terminally accessible ‘391E’ epitope for immunoreactivity. E1B8 cross-reacts with dGA and a detailed mapping of its binding region is shown in Fig.9
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FIGURE 9. Detailed mapping of E1B8 scAb which shows specific binding to the tau peptide representing amino acids from 313-336 on hT40 protein.
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FIGURE 10. ELISA based characterisation of the cross-reactivity of ‘NS’ group scAbs using various short tau fragments with numbers corresponding to hT40 amino acid residues. (A) 337-368, (B) 275-305 (C) 266-359 (R1-3) (D) 360-378 (E) 369-391, (F) 369-390. A summary of specific NS scAb binding to these shorter antigens are shown in Table 16
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FIGURE 11. ELISA based characterisation of the cross-reactivity of ‘S’ group scAbs using various short tau fragments numbered according to their corresponding amino acid residues on hT40 molecule. (A) 186-350, (B) 275-305 (C-D) 266-359 (R1-3), (E-I) 297-391, (J) 360-378 (K-N) 369-391, (O-R) 369-390. A summary of specific ‘S’ scAb binding to these shorter antigens are shown in Table 16
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FIGURE 12. ELISA based characterisation of the cross-reactivity of ‘C’ group scAbs using various short tau fragments numbered according to their corresponding amino acid residues on hT40 molecule. (A) 1-49, (B) 1-155 (C-D) 1-319, (E) 113-251 (F) 113-319, (G) 186-350
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(H) 239-441 (I) 266-359 (R1-3), (J) 297-441, (K) 348-441, (L) 391-441. A summary of specific 'C' scAb binding to these shorter antigens are shown in Table 17

5 **FIGURE 13.** Cross-reactivity of '412' group scAbs to hT40. (A) showing binding of scAbs to biotinylated 412-441 peptide which was used as the antigen for the selection of C terminal binders. (B) binding profiles of four scAbs which were shown to be cross-reactive in hT40 binding ELISA.

10 **FIGURE 14.** ELISA based characterisation of the cross-reactivity of '3a' & '3b' group scAbs using various short tau fragments numbered according to their corresponding amino acid residues on hT40 molecule. (A) 1-49, (B) 1-111 (C) 1-155, (D) 113-251. A summary of specific '3a' & '3b' group scAbs binding to these shorter antigens are shown in Table 18

15 **FIGURE 15.** (A) Immunoreactivity of CE2 scAb to the parent peptide and a series of alanine substituted residues at positions indicated in table 19. (B) Percentage binding of 500 nM scAb to each of these ASM peptides with respect to the parent peptide.

20 **FIGURE 16.** (A-B) Immunoreactivity of S1D12 scAb to the parent peptide and a series of alanine substituted residues at positions indicated in table 20. (C) Percentage binding of 500 nM scAb to each of these ASM peptides with respect to the parent peptide.

25 **FIGURE 17.** (A-B) Immunoreactivity of ME12 scAb to the parent peptide and a series of alanine substituted residues at positions indicated in table 20. (C) Percentage binding of 100 nM scAb to each of these ASM peptides with respect to the parent peptide.

FIGURE 18. (A) Immunoreactivity of CA4 scAb to the parent peptide and a series of alanine substituted residues at positions indicated in table 21. (B) Percentage binding of 500 nM scAb to each of these ASM peptides with respect to the parent peptide.

30 **FIGURE 19.** (A-B) Immunoreactivity of S1G2 scAb to the parent peptide and a series of alanine substituted residues at positions indicated in table 22. (C) Percentage binding of 500 nM scAb to each of these ASM peptides with respect to the parent peptide.

35 **FIGURE 20.** Percentage binding of various 367-379 region scAbs to ASM peptides with respect to the parent peptide. The scAbs tested included (A) S1B1, (B) CA12, (C) CB2, (D) CB8, (E) S1D9, (F) S1G10, (G) S2C6, (H) S1F4, (I) MC5, (J) MD12. The critical binding residues of these scAbs are similar to the representative clone S1G2, where alanine substitution in positions 370, 373, 374, 377 or 378 resulted in reduction in antibody binding.

FIGURE 21. Ranking of the binding affinities of anti-Tau scAbs using hT40. scAbs with known kD values such as NS2A1 and S1D12 were used to rank the relative binding affinities of test scAbs and those with similar binding profiles were shortlisted and selected for Biacore analysis (A) 'S' group clones, (B-C) 'C' clones, (D) '412' clones (E) '3a' clones

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FIGURE 22. Schematic representation of the sandwich ELISA format for calculating the LoDs of various antibody pairs.

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FIGURE 23. Schematic representation of the sandwich ELISA format for calculating the LoDs using S1G2 mAb as the capture antibody and HRP conjugated S1D12 mAb for detection

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FIGURE 24. Sandwich ELISA graph showing the LoD achieved using S1G2 mAb as the capture antibody and HRP labelled S1D12 mAb detection. Antibody binding was measured using chemiluminescence and the LOD for hT40 is ~1 ng/ml for this assay set up.

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FIGURE 25. ELISA#1 hT40 standard curve generated using S1D12 mAb capture and CB7 scAb detection. Concentrations of the four spiked samples – Sample A, B, C and D were determined by plotting their respective absorbance values on this standard curve. Sample C did not generate a binding signal and therefore confirmed the absence of any tau species with N terminal region in this mix. Concentrations and types of tau species deduced from this assay is given in table 29.

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FIGURE 26. ELISA#2 dGAE standard curve generated using S1D12 mAb capture and E2E8 scAb detection. Concentrations of the four spiked samples – Sample A, B, C and D were determined by plotting their respective absorbance values on this standard curve. Samples A, C and D did not generate any binding signals and therefore confirmed the absence of dGAE species within these mixes. Concentrations and types of tau species deduced from this assay is given in table 29.

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FIGURE 27. ELISA#3 Average standard curve generated using S1D12 mAb capture and S1G2 scAb detection. Concentrations of the four spiked samples – Sample A, B, C and D were determined by plotting their respective absorbance values on this standard curve. Concentrations and types of tau species deduced from this assay is given in table 29.

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FIGURE 28. Comparison of the binding profiles of various SDS (+/- Triton X-100) treated dGAE monomer or aggregates in a sandwich ELISA system. S1D12 mAb was used as the capture antibody and S1G2 as the detection scAb. Here the effect of SDS + Triton X-100 in restoring the immunoreactivity of is noticed. This mAb-scAb pairing can detect approximately 2 ng/ml dGAE aggregates in a simple sandwich ELISA.

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FIGURE 29. A) L66 cDNA containing human tau (hT40) and the point mutations P301S and G335D (2N4R Tau, 441 amino acids) B) L1 cDNA codes for human tau amino acid residues 296-390 with a signal sequence and murine Thy1 expression sequences as described in Melis et al., 2015

FIGURE 30. (A) Detection of tau protein in 50 µg brain homogenate isolated from WT, L1, L66 +/- and L66 +/+ mice using S1D12 mAb capture and S-1G2 scAb detection. All four samples have similar tau levels when detected using a core region specific antibody pairing (B) Detection of tau protein in 50 µg brain homogenate isolated from WT, L1, L66 +/- and L66 +/+ mice using S1D12mAb capture and CB7 scAb detection. N' terminally directed CB7 scAb can specifically detect human tau in Line66 homozygous and heterozygous samples and able to differentiate levels of expression between the two groups.

FIGURE 31. Plasma tau levels in WT (5 month: 1.947 ng/ml), (9 month: 2.177 ng/ml); L66 (Both 5 month) (+/-: 0.567 ng/ml), (+/+ : 1.937 ng/ml); and L1 (5 month: 12.355 ng/ml) (9 month 13.661 ng/ml). Data collected using S1D12 mAb capture and S1G2 scAb detection. Tau species concentrations were determined using standard curves of hT40 for WT and L66 and dGA (296-390) for L1.

FIGURE 32. Detection of plasma tau levels in Line66+/+ mouse sample no: 23 at 1.5 months and comparison with age matched wild type mouse plasma using two different sandwich ELISA pairing. (A) Shows the chemiluminescent signal readings for Line66+/+ and wildtype mice using S1D12 mAb capture and CB7 scAb detection. (b) the signal readings for the same samples using S1D12 mAb capture and S1G2 scAb detection. Line66+/+ mouse shows at least 1000-fold increase in signal intensity compared to the wild type when using S1D12 mAb - CB7 scAb pairing which specifically detects N terminal hT40 in this sample.

FIGURE 33. Plasma tau levels in AD samples vs age matched controls using S1D12-S1G12 (core region) and S1D12-CB7 (N terminal) detection pairs.

FIGURE 34. Sandwich ELISA graphs showing the increase in immunoreactivity of core region scAbs to dGAE 'total', 'supernatant' and 'pellet' aggregation inhibition samples prepared in the presence of LMTM. dGAE monomer was included as assay control to indicate the binding profiles of each test scAbs to their corresponding epitopes in non-aggregated samples. (A-C) CA4 scAb, (D-F) CA9, (G-I) CB3 scAb, (J-L) CE2 scAb, (M-O) CE3, (P-R) S1D12 scAb. Lack of antibody binding in some dGAE + LMTM pellet samples corresponds to the absence protein present in this group as confirmed by SDS gel (data not included)

FIGURE 35. mAb capture of dGAE aggregates. Various antibodies, as indicated, were coated on solid-phase ELISA and used to capture aggregates of dGAE. Captured dGAE was detected using S1G2 scAb for all capture antibodies except S1G2 mAb. For S1G2 mAb capture, S1D12 scAb was used as the detector antibody.

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FIGURE 36. Western blot showing brain-derived tau labelled with a human-specific CB7 antibody which binds an N-terminal epitope (residues 13-25) absent in mouse tau. Bands are present in lanes containing 20 µg protein homogenate from 5-month-old L66^{+/+} mouse brain but not in the lanes containing samples from either WT or L1^{+/+} brains. The protein ladder superimposed on the left of the blot provides an approximation of the relative size of proteins on the gel, but it is known that the apparent size of tau is considerably greater than the actual molecular mass.

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FIGURE 37. Western blot showing tau labelled with human-specific CC7 antibody that recognises an epitope within residues 145-157. Human-specific tau is only detected in L66^{+/+} mouse brain and not in samples from either WT or L1^{+/+}. The protein ladder is as described in Fig 36.

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FIGURE 38 Western blot labelled with S1D12 tau core antibody. Bands are present in lanes containing 20 µg protein homogenate from 5-month-old L66^{+/+}, L1 and WT mice brains. Mouse tau (indicated by the lower arrow) appears as a band of approximately 55 kDa in each of the samples. Human tau (indicated by the upper arrow) appears as a protein at 68 kDa that is present only in the L66^{+/+} samples. Protein ladder as for Fig 36.

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FIGURE 39. Western blot labelled with S1G2 core antibody. Bands are present in lanes containing 20 µg protein homogenate from 5-month-old L66^{+/+}, L1^{+/+} and WT mice brains. Mouse tau (indicated by the lower arrow) appears as a band at about 55 kDa in each of the samples. Human tau (indicated by the upper arrow) appears at about 68 kDa but only in the L66^{+/+} samples. Using this antibody, a band at around 10 kDa is visible in the L1^{+/+} samples. Protein ladder as for Fig 36.

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FIGURE 40. Sequence comparison of human and mouse tau. The sequences shown consist of SEQ ID No. 1 for human tau (two gaps introduced to allow sequence alignment) and SEQ ID NO: 589 for mouse tau. The protein regions that contain the epitopes of candidate antibodies are superimposed. Both CB7 and CC7 binding regions in human tau are not present in mouse tau. In contrast, protein regions containing the epitopes for the antibodies S1D12 and S1G2 show 100 % homology between the 2 species.

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FIGURE 41. A) Paired antibody ELISAs with S1D12 capture and CB7 detection show a progressive decrease in signal with advancing age in brain homogenate samples from L66^{+/+}

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mice in. B) When reversing the orientation of the assay, and using CB7 as the capture along with S1G2 as detector for brain homogenate samples, a similar pattern of decreasing signal with age is observed.

5 **FIGURE 42.** Paired antibody ELISA with CB7 capture and HT7 detection shows a progressive increase in signal with advancing age for L66 ^{+/+} mice. This suggests an accumulation of small N-terminally intact fragments created by truncation between the core region and the N-terminal region of tau protein or protein fragments.

10 **FIGURE 43.** (A) Plasma tau levels in healthy control (HC) and patients with a confirmed diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or mild cognitive impairment (AD/MCI). The concentration of the core-proline region measured using S1D12 capture beads paired with BT2 as detector is significantly higher in healthy control than in AD/MCI samples. A total of 12 healthy control plasma samples and 42 AD/MCI samples were analysed using the Simoa® assay. ****
15 p<0.0001 (B) NT1 assay data (Chen et al 2019) reported detecting slightly increased levels of NT-1 plasma tau in AD-MCI (AD biomarker positive – mild cognitive impairment) and AD (AD biomarker positive – clinical AD) patients compared to NC (normal control) using Tau12-BT2 antibodies.

20 **FIGURE 44.** Plasma tau levels in healthy control (HC) and patients with a confirmed diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or mild cognitive impairment (AD/MCI). The concentration of the core-proline region measured using S1D12 capture beads paired with HT7 detector is significantly higher in healthy control than in AD/MCI samples. A total of 4 healthy control plasma samples and 34 AD/MCI samples were analysed using the Simoa® assay. ****
25 p<0.0001

FIGURE 45. S1D12 (capture) / BT2 (detector) plasma tau measured by chemiluminescent ELISA, AD- samples from subjects with a confirmed clinical diagnosis of AD; CU- samples from age-matched, cognitively-unimpaired subjects.

30 **FIGURE 46.** Simoa® calibrator curves generated for various antibody combination assays used in human plasma experiments.

35 **FIGURE 47.** Immunoprecipitation and tryptic digestion LC-MS reveal core region containing tau fragments in human plasma. Tau fragments detected by abundance from the human plasma sample following immunoprecipitation (IP) and LC-MS analysis. Fragments detected from a sample spiked with htau40, without immunoprecipitation, are also given for comparison.

5 **FIGURE 48.** Core tau levels in mouse plasma are increased by S1D12 mAb treatment. Using CA4 (355-367) and S1G2 (367-379) antibodies, core region tau levels were seen to be profoundly elevated in L66 mice treated with S1D12 compared to the vehicle group in L1 (more than 100-fold increase). Individual mouse samples were analysed in duplicate, and values represent mean concentration of the tau fragment detected by CA4-S1G2 antibody pairing. In L66, more than a threefold increase was achieved in the treatment group, whereas in wild-type mice less than a two-fold increase was observed. n= 5 or 6, error bars represent SEM, Unpaired t-test was performed between vehicle and treatment groups, ****P < 0.0001; **P < 0.01

Detailed description of the invention

According to a first aspect, the invention provides an *in vitro* method for detecting a tau protein or fragment thereof in a saliva sample comprising contacting the sample with a first specific binding
 5 molecule wherein the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

All residue numbers of the Tau protein sequence and structure in the present disclosure refer to the residues of SEQ ID NO:1, which is the sequence of the four repeat isoform 2N4R of human Tau
 10 protein (Uniprot ID P10636-8), or homologous positions in other species or variants thereof. Human Tau isoform 2N4R (Uniprot ID P10636-8) corresponds to amino acids 1-124, 376-394 and 461-758 of full length Tau, Uniprot ID P10636 or P10636-1, provided as SEQ ID NO:2. SEQ ID NO: 2 relates to a longer form of Tau found in the peripheral nervous system (PNS) but not the central nervous system (CNS). As used herein, references to "full-length" tau refer to SEQ ID NO: 1 (the relevant
 15 sequence for the CNS) and not to SEQ ID NO: 2 (which is not relevant in the CNS).

SEQ ID NO: 1 (Isoform Tau-F, also known as Tau-4, 2N4R, 441 amino acids):

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>sp|P10636-8|TAU_HUMAN Isoform Tau-F of Microtubule-associated protein tau OS=Homo sapiens OX=9606 GN=MAPT
20 MAEPRQEFVEMDHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGD TDAGLKESPLQTP TEDGSEEPG
SETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPSLEDEAAG
HVTQARMVSKSKDGTGSDDKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPQKGQANATRIPAKTPPAPK
TPPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPTREP KKVAVVRTPPKSPSSAK
SRLQTAPVPM PDLKNVSKIGSTENLKHQPGGGKVQIINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHV
25 PGGGSVQIVYK PVDLSKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLD FKDRVQSKIGSLDNI
THVPGGGNKKIETHKLT FRENAKAKTDHGAEIVYKSPVSGDTS PRHLSNVSS TGSIDMV
DSPQLATLADEV SASLAKQGL
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SEQ ID NO: 2 (Full length human Tau, Isoform PNS-Tau, 758 amino acids);

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>sp|P10636-1|TAU_HUMAN Microtubule-associated protein tau OS=Homo sapiens OX=9606
30 GN=MAPT PE=1 SV=5
MAEPRQEFVEMDHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGD TDAGLKESPLQTP TEDGSEEPG
SETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPSLEDEAAG
HVTQEPESGKV VQEGFLREP GPPGLSHQLMSGMPGAPLLPEGPREATRQPSGTGPEDTEG
35 GRHAPELLKHQL LGDLHQEGPPLKGAGGKERPGSK EEVDED RDVDESS PQDSPSKASPA
QDGRPPQTAAREATS IPGFPAEGAIPLPVD FLSKVSTEIPASEPDGFSVGRAKGQDAPLE
FTFHVEITPNVQKEQAHSEEH LGRAAFPGAPGEGPEARGPSLGEDTKEADLPEPSEKQPA
AAPRGKPVSRVPQLKARMVSKSKDGTGSDDKAKTSTRSSAKTLKNRPCLSPKHPTPGSS
DPLIQPSSPAVCPEPPSSPKYVSSVTSRTGSSGAKEMKLKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPQK
40 GQANATRIPAKTPPAPKTPPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPTREP
KKVAVVRTPPKSPSSAKSRLQTAPVPM PDLKNVSKIGSTENLKHQPGGGKVQIINKKLD
LSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHV PGGGSVQIVYK PVDLSKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEK
LDFKDRVQSKIGSLDNI THVPGGGNKKIETHKLT FRENAKAKTDHGAEIVYKSPVSGDT
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SPRHLSNVSTGSDMVDSPLATLADEVSSASLAKQGL

As used herein "mouse tau" refers to Isoform Tau-A which has the sequence of Uniprot ID P10637-2, provided as SEQ ID NO: 589:

5 MADPRQEFDTMEDHAGDYLLQDQEGDMDHGLKESPPQPPADDGAEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAED
VTAPLVDERAPDKQAAAQPHTEIPEGITAEAGIGDTPNQEDQAAGHVTQARVASKDRTGNDEKK
AKGADGKTGAKIATPRGAASPAQKGTSNATRIKATTPSPKTPPGSGEPPKSGERSGYSSPGSPG
TPGSRSRTPSLPTPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSASKSRLQTAPVPMPLDKNVRISKIGSTENLKHQ
PGGGKVQIINKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGG
10 QVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRENAKAKTDHGAEIVYKSPVVS
DTSPRHLSNVSTGSDMVDSPLATLADEVSSASLAKQGL

dGAE97 refers to the 97 residues fragment of Tau (2N4R) with N-terminus at residue Asp-295 and C-terminus at residue Glu-391, as described in SEQ ID NO: 3, or at homologous positions in other
15 species (the residues mentioned referring to the human or mouse Tau sequence, which are identical in this region). As will be apparent to the skilled person, dGAE97 also corresponds to the fragment of Isoform PNS-Tau (P10636-1) with N-ter at Asp-612 and C-ter at Glu-708.

SEQ ID NO: 3 (dGAE97, human/mouse, 97 amino acids):

20 DNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRENAKAKTDHGAE

dGAE95 refers to the 95 residues fragment of Tau (2N4R) with N-terminus at residue Ile-297 and C-terminus at residue Glu-391, as described in SEQ ID NO: 4, or at homologous positions in other
25 species (the residues mentioned referring to the human or mouse Tau sequence, which are identical in this region). As will be apparent to the skilled person, dGAE95 also corresponds to the fragment of Isoform PNS-Tau (P10636-1) with N-ter at Ile-614 and C-ter at Glu-708. This sequence may sometimes be referred to simply as "dGAE". Residues 297 to 391 of Tau (2N4R) are also known as the predominant fragment isolated from proteolytically stable core of the paired helical filament
30 (PHF). References herein to "residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1" may therefore be substituted for references to SEQ ID NO: 4.

SEQ ID NO: 4 (dGAE95 or "dGAE", human/mouse, 95 amino acids):

35 IKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRENAKAKTDHGAE

"dGA" refers to the 94 residues fragment of Tau (2N4R) with N-terminus at residue Ile-297 and C-terminus at residue Ala-390, as described in SEQ ID NO: 5, or at homologous positions in other
40 species (the residues mentioned referring to the human or mouse Tau sequence, which are identical in this region).

SEQ ID NO: 5 (dGA, human/mouse, 94 amino acids):

IKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDFKDRVQSKIGSLDNITH
VPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRENAKAKTDHGA

- 5 dGAE73 refers to the fragment of Tau (2N4R) with N-terminus at residue Val-306 and C-terminus at residue Phe-378, as described in SEQ ID NO: 6, or at homologous positions in other species (the residues mentioned referring to the human or mouse Tau sequence, which are identical in this region). This fragment corresponds to residues 306-378 of the sequence identified by cryo-EM as being the core of PHFs isolated from AD brain tissue (Fitzpatrick et al, 2017; Nature). The core can
10 extend beyond these residues but is limited by the resolution of the cryo-EM. As will be apparent to the skilled person, dGAE73 also corresponds to the fragment of Isoform PNS-Tau (P10636-1) with N-ter at Val-623 and C-ter at Phe-695.

SEQ ID NO: 6 (dGAE73, human/mouse, 73 amino acids):

- 15 VQIVYKPVDSLKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDFKDRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGNKKI
ETHKLTF

- The PHF core refers to residues 296 to 391 of Tau (2N4R) as described in SEQ ID NO: 3, or at homologous positions in other species (the residues mentioned referring to the human or mouse Tau
20 sequence, which are identical in this region).

- A further fragment of the PHF core is residues 308 to 378 of Tau (2N4R) with N-terminus at residue Ile-308 and C-terminus at residue Phe-378, as described in SEQ ID NO: 7, or at homologous positions in other species (the residues mentioned referring to the human or mouse Tau sequence,
25 which are identical in this region).

SEQ ID NO: 7 (dGAE71, residues 308 to 378 of 2N4R, human/mouse, 71 amino acids):

IVYKPVDSLKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDFKDRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGNKKIET
HKLTF

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First specific binding molecule

- The method comprises contacting the sample with a first specific binding molecule wherein the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The first
35 specific binding molecule may be any specific binding molecule disclosed herein that binds to an epitope within residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, preferably within residues 307 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, more preferably within residues 337 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The following describes the first specific binding molecule. Any references under this sub-heading to a or the specific binding molecule are to the first specific binding molecule.

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The epitope of the first specific binding molecule may be within SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6 or SEQ ID NO: 7.

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

5 Residues 297 to 391 of full-length Tau are also known as the predominant fragment isolated from proteolytically stable core of the paired helical filament (PHF) or the PHF-core fragment. Therefore, the epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within the PHF-core or within the dGAE fragment. Accordingly, the epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within SEQ ID NO 4.

10 The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Residues 297 to 390 of full-length Tau are also known as the dGA fragment. Therefore, the epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within the dGA fragment. Accordingly, the epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within SEQ ID NO: 5. The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within dGAE73 and/or dGAE71. Accordingly, the epitope of the specific binding molecule
15 may be within SEQ ID NO: 6 and/or SEQ ID NO: 7.

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within residues 308 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Residues 308 to 378 of full-length Tau are also known as the PHF core. Therefore, the epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within the PHF core. Accordingly, the epitope of the specific
20 binding molecule may be within SEQ ID NO: 7.

Typically, a specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising its epitope. Therefore, the specific binding molecule may bind to SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof comprising residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific molecule may bind to SEQ ID NO: 3,
25 SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6 and/or SEQ ID NO: 7. The specific molecule may bind to the PHF or the dGAE fragment. the specific binding molecule may bind to the dGA fragment. The specific binding molecule may bind to the PHF core. The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues
30 331 to 360 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 355 to 367 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 369 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 337 to 368 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 1 to 319 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 186 to 350 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 239 to 348 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 266 to 359 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 277 to 319 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 319 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 348 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues
35 348 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 359 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and residues 360 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The first specific binding molecule may bind to an epitope within residues 307 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The first specific binding molecule may bind to an epitope within residues 337 to 379 of SEQ ID
40 NO: 1. The first specific binding molecule may bind to an epitope consisting of residues 337 to 349

of SEQ ID NO: 1. The first specific binding molecule may bind to an epitope consisting of residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "S1D12" herein.

- 5 The first specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16 (NNAVG);
- VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18 (GCSSDGTCCYNSALKS);
- VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21 (GHYSIYGYDYLGTIDY);
- 10 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24 (SGSSSNVGGGNSVG);
- VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26 (DTNSRPS);
- VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 29 (VTGDSTTHDDL);
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
- 15 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

The first specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16 (NNAVG);
- 20 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18 (GCSSDGTCCYNSALKS);
- VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21 (GHYSIYGYDYLGTIDY);
- VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24 (SGSSSNVGGGNSVG);
- VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26 (DTNSRPS); and
- VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 29 (VTGDSTTHDDL).

25

The first specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 435
- 30 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLN);
- VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 436 (WVRQAPGKVPESLV);
- VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 437
- (RLDITRDTSKNQISLSLSSVTDDAAVYYCTR);
- VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 438 (WGPGLLVTVSS);
- 35 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:
- 439(QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);
- VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 440 (WYQHLPGSGLKTIY);
- VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 441
- (GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTINSLQAEDEGDYYC);
- 40 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 442 (VGSCTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

5 The first specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) A VH domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 443 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLNNNAVGWVRQAPGKVPESLVGCSSDGTCY YNSALKSRDLITRDTSKNQISLSLSSVTTDDAAVYYCTRGHYSIYGIDYLGITIDYWGPGLL VTVSS); and/or

10 (b) a VL domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 444 (QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQQRVSITCSGSSSNVGGNSVGWYQHLPGLKTIYDTNSRPSG VPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTINSLQAEDEGDYYCVTGDSTTHDDLVGSGTRTLVLG);

or a humanized variant thereof.

15 The first specific binding molecule may specifically bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 with a K_D of less than around 500 pM, optionally wherein the specific binding is measured by surface plasmon resonance (SPR) and optionally wherein

- i. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 is around 50 pM to around 150 pM, and/or
- 20 ii. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 5 is around 300 pM to around 400 pM.

The first specific binding molecule may bind to an epitope consisting of residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "S1G2" herein.

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The first specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS);

30 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS);

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 73 (GSSDRTPYTGV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- 35 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

The first specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

40 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);

- VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS); and
 5 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 73 (GSSDRTPYTGTV).

The first specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- 10 VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 447
 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);
 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 448 (WVRQAPGKAPEWVA);
 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 449
 (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTSEDVAVYYCGR);
 15 VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 450 (WGPGLLVTVSS);
 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 451
 (QAVVTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);
 VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 452 (WFQQLPGSGLRTIIV);
 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 453
 20 (GVPDRFSMSKSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYFC);
 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 454 (FGSGTRLTVLG);
 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

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The first specific binding molecule may comprise:

- (a) A VH domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 455
 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSNSVGWVRQAPGKAPEWVAGIDTDGEEG
 YNPALNSRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTSEDVAVYYCGRSYRADGLAYGYVQAIDYWGP
 30 LLVTVSS); and/or
 (b) a VL domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 456
 (QAVVTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSFIGISSVGWFQQLPGSGLRTIIVASDGRPSGVPDR
 FMSKSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYFCGSSDRTPYTGTVFGSGTRLTVLG);

or a humanized variant thereof.

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The first specific binding molecule may specifically bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 with a K_D of less than around 500 pM, optionally wherein the specific binding is measured by surface plasmon resonance (SPR) and optionally wherein

- 40 i. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 is around 100 pM to around 200 pM, and/or

- ii. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 5 is around 400 pM to around 500 pM.

The first specific binding molecule may compete for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 with any specific binding molecule disclosed herein that binds to an epitope within residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The first specific binding molecule may compete with S1D12 or S1G2 for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1.

The person skilled in the art can identify competing antibodies without undertaking undue experimentation or the need to exercise inventive ingenuity (e.g., by using routine competition binding assays). As used herein, a specific binding molecule that competes with another specific binding molecule does so by competition that involves specific binding to the same target.

In a preferred embodiment, the first specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs, optionally further comprising the framework regions, optionally comprising the VH and/or VL domains, of a specific binding molecule selected from the group consisting of S1D12, S1G2 and CA4.

The first specific binding molecule may bind to an epitope consisting of residues 355 to 367 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 330 (GSLDNITHVPGGG). This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CA4" herein.

The first specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 83 (SYSVY);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 84 (IMYASGRVDYNPALKS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 89 (GIEN);
 - VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 91 (RTSQSVNNYLS);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 95 (YATRLYT); and
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 97 (LQYDSTPLA);
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

The first specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 83 (SYSVY);
- VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 84 (IMYASGRVDYNPALKS);
- VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 89 (GIEN);
- VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 91 (RTSQSVNNYLS);
- VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 95 (YATRLYT); and
- VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 97 (LQYDSTPLA).

The first specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- 5 VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 555
(QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);
VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 556 (WVRQAPGQALEWIS);
VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 557
(RLSITRDTSKSQFSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCTR);
10 VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 558 (WGPGLLVTVSS);
VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 559
(DIQVTQSPSSLSASLTERVSITC);
VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 560 (WYQQKPGQAPKLLIY);
VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 561
15 (DVPSRFSGSGSGTDYTLTITSLEADDTATYYC);
VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 562 (FGGGTNVEIK);
or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
(i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
(ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

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The first specific binding molecule may comprise:

- (a) A VH domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 563
(QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSYSVYWVRQAPGQALEWISIMYASGRVDY
NPALKSRLSITRDTSKSQFSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCTRGLENWGPGLLVTVSS); and/or
25 (b) a VL domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 564
(DIQVTQSPSSLSASLTERVSITCRTSQSVNNYLSWYQQKPGQAPKLLIYYATRLYTDVPS
RFSGSGSGTDYTLTITSLEADDTATYYCLQYDSTPLAFGGGTNVEIK);
or a humanized variant thereof.

- 30 The first specific binding molecule may compete with CA4 for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1.

The first specific binding molecule may compete with S1D12, S1G2 or CA4 for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1.

- 35 In a preferred embodiment, the first specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs, optionally further comprising the framework regions, optionally comprising the VH and/or VL domains, of a specific binding molecule selected from the group consisting of S1D12 and S1G2.

- 40 The first specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs of S1D12, S1G2 or CA4, or an alternative specific binding molecule with a nearby or overlapping epitope to any one or more of S1D12, S1G2

or CA4. For instance, the first specific binding molecule may be any specific binding molecule disclosed herein that binds to an epitope within or overlapping residues 307 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The first specific binding molecule may be any specific binding molecule disclosed herein that binds to an epitope within or overlapping residues 337 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The first specific binding molecule may comprise the CDR sequences of a clone set out in Table 1, Table 2, Table 3, Table 4, Table 9, Table 10 (wherein the epitope is within or overlapping residues 307 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1) or Table 11.

Second specific binding molecule

The method may further comprise contacting the sample with a second specific binding molecule. The second specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within SEQ ID NO: 1. Contacting the sample with a second specific binding molecule may be a separate step to contacting the sample with the first specific binding molecule. Contacting the sample with the second specific binding molecule is after contacting the sample with the first specific binding molecule. The following describes the second specific binding molecule. Any references under this sub-heading to a or the specific binding molecule (which are not qualified as relating to the first specific binding molecule) are to the first specific binding molecule.

The second specific binding molecule may be any specific binding molecule disclosed herein, such as a specific binding molecule described in PCT application no. PCT/EP2021/069160, wherein the second specific binding molecule is different to the first specific binding molecule. The second specific binding molecule may be a specific binding molecule that binds to an epitope within SEQ ID NO: 1 with a binding affinity greater than the binding affinity with which antibody mAb423 binds to an epitope within SEQ ID NO: 1.

The epitope of the second specific binding molecule may be within SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6 or SEQ ID NO: 7.

With the proviso that the second specific binding molecule is different to the first specific binding molecule, the second specific binding molecule may have any combination of features described for the first specific binding molecule. For instance, the epitope and/or any one or more sequences of the second specific binding molecule may be as described above for the first specific binding molecule. Alternatively, the epitope and/or any one or more sequences of the second specific binding molecule may be different to those as described above for the first specific binding molecule. The epitope of the second specific binding molecule may not be within SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6 or SEQ ID NO: 7.

The second specific binding molecule may be a known specific binding molecule such as HT7, BT2, Tau12 or Tau146. The second specific binding molecule may be HT7 or BT2. BT2 and HT7 are

described in US6010913A and in the article Merken et al 1992 - Affinity Purification of Human tau Proteins and the Construction of a Sensitive Sandwich Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay for Human tau Detection, both of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

- 5 The second specific binding molecule may bind to an epitope within residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The second specific binding molecule may bind to an epitope consisting of residues 194 to 198 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The second specific binding molecule may be BT2.

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The second specific binding molecule may bind to an epitope consisting of residues 159 to 163 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The second specific binding molecule may be HT7.

The second specific binding molecule may compete with BT2 or HT7 for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1.

- 15 The second specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs of HT7, or an alternative specific binding molecule disclosed herein with a nearby or overlapping epitope, such as 3aA6 and 3aD6 which bind to a nearby epitope within residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

- 20 Alternative second specific binding molecules to HT7 and/or BT2 may comprise the CDRs of the specific binding molecules (optionally further comprising the FW regions and optionally the VH and/or VL domains) of the clones set out in Table 8. For example, the second specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs of 3aA6 or 3aD6. The second specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs and FW regions of 3aA6 or 3aD6. The second specific binding molecule may comprise the VH and/or VL domain of 3aA6 or 3aD6.

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The second specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- 30 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 198 (SNAVI);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 200 (LIDVDGDAAYDPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 202 (DYGSWGYVSDIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 204 (SGSDIGGADV);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 206 (DNDNRPS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 208 (GTYSGANYGI);

- 35 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "3aD6" herein.
- 40

The second specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- 5 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 198 (SNAVI);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 200 (LIDVDGDAAAYDPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 202 (DYGSWGYVSDIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 204 (SGSDIGGADVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 206 (DNDNRPS); and
 10 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 208 (GTYSGANYGI).

The second specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- 15 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17 (SNAVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 201 (LIDIDGDTAYNPALES);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 203 (HYDKWGYADSIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 138 (SGSSSNVGYGDYVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 207 (DATTRAS); and
 20 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 209 (ASYQNERSGV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "3aA6" herein.
- 25

- The second specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1 with a K_D of less than around 50 nM. The K_D may be less than around 40 nM, less than around 30 nM, or less than around 20 nM. The K_D may preferably be for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 or to SEQ ID NO: 191. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 10 nM to around 20 nM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 16.5 nM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of 3aD6.
- 30

- 35 The second specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 418 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%,
 40 at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at

least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 418. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 418. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 418 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 418.

- 5 The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 418.

SEQ ID NO: 418 (3aA6 amino acid sequence)

QVRLQESGSSSLVKPSQTLVLCTVSGFPLTSNAVGVWRQAPGKAPEWLGLIDIDGDTAYNPALES
RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVAIEDTAVYYCARHYDKWGYADSIDYWGPGLLVTVSSEGKSSGASG
10 ESKVDDQALLTQPSSVFGSLGQRVISITCSGSSSNVGYGDYVGWYQQVPGSAPKLLIYDATTRASG
VPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTISSLQAEDEADYYCASYQNERSGVFGSGTRLTVLG

- The second specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 419 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 419. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 419. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 419 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 419. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 419.
- 15
20

- 25 SEQ ID NO: 419 (3aD6 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSNAVIWVRQAPGKAPEWVALIDVDGDAAYDPALKS
RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLRSVTEDTAVYYCARDYGSWGYVSDIDYWGPGLLVTVSSEGKSSGASG
ESKVDDQAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVISITCSGSDIGGADVGVWFQQVPGSGLRTLIDNDNRPSGVP
DRFSGSKSGNTATLTISSLQPEDEADYFCGTYSANYGIFGSGTRLTVLG

30

The second specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs of BT2, or an alternative specific binding molecule disclosed herein with a nearby or overlapping epitope.

- Alternative second specific binding molecules to HT7 and/or BT2 may comprise the CDRs of the specific binding molecules (optionally further comprising the FW regions and optionally the VH and/or VL domains) of the clones set out in Table 10. For example, the second specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs of 3bD11, CB11, CA2, CB6, CA7, CA8, CB10, CC7, CB12, CC3, CA1, CA3, CD2, CC4, CD1 or CC5. The second specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs and FW regions of 3bD11, CB11, CA2, CB6, CA7, CA8, CB10, CC7, CB12, CC3, CA1, CA3, CD2, CC4, CD1
- 35

or CC5. The second specific binding molecule may comprise the VH and/or VL domain of 3bD11, CB11, CA2, CB6, CA7, CA8, CB10, CC7, CB12, CC3, CA1, CA3, CD2, CC4, CD1 or CC5.

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises a VHCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 10;
 - VHCDR2 comprises a VHCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 10;
 - VHCDR3 comprises a VHCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 10;
 - VLCDR1 comprises a VLCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 10;
 - VLCDR2 comprises a VLCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 10; and
 - VLCDR3 comprises a VLCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 10;
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within SEQ ID NO: 1. VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3 may be from a single clone set out in table 10. The clone may be selected from the group consisting of 3bD11, CB11, CA2, CB6, CA7, CA8, CB10, CC7, CB12, CC3, CA1, CA3, CD2, CC4, CD1 and CC5.

General features of first and/or second specific binding molecules

The following describes the features of specific binding molecules in general and includes details of the specific binding molecules described in PCT application no. PCT/EP2021/069160. Any references under this sub-heading to a or the specific binding molecule (which are not qualified as relating specifically to either the first specific binding molecule or the second specific binding molecule) are to specific binding molecules in general and are explicitly contemplated in combination with any features of the first specific binding molecule or the second specific binding molecules, with the proviso that the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (therefore references to specific binding molecules disclosed herein that do not bind to an epitope within residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 refer to the second specific binding molecule only).

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Residues 297 to 391 of full-length Tau are also known as the predominant fragment isolated from proteolytically stable core of the paired helical filament (PHF) or the PHF-core fragment. Therefore, the epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within the PHF or within the dGAE fragment. Accordingly, the epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within SEQ ID NO 4.

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Residues 297 to 390 of full-length Tau are also known as the dGA fragment. Therefore, the epitope

of the specific binding molecule may be within the dGA fragment. Accordingly, the epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within SEQ ID NO: 5. The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within dGAE73 and/or dGAE71. Accordingly, the epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within SEQ ID NO: 6 and/or SEQ ID NO: 7.

5

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within residues 308 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Residues 308 to 378 of full-length Tau are also known as the PHF core. Therefore, the epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within the PHF core. Accordingly, the epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within SEQ ID NO: 7.

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The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within residues 297 to 386 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within residues 306 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within residues 306 to 386 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

15 The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of residues 306 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 307 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 331 to 360 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 355 to 367 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 369 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 337 to 368 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 337 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 49 to 111 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 1 to 155 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 1 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 1 to 319 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 13 to 25 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 49 to 113 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 49 to 155 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 49 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 113 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 155 to 227 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 155 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 186 to 263 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 186 to 350 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 239 to 348 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 266 to 359 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 277 to 319 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 319 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 348 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 348 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 359 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and residues 360 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

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The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 331 to 360 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 355 to 367 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 369 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 337 to 368 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 49 to 111 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

35

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 331 to 360 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and residues 355 to 367 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

40

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of residues 341 to 353 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

- 5 The epitope of specific binding molecules of the invention may be any amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 indicated as containing critical binding residues by ELISA or alanine scanning mutagenesis, as described for example in Examples 5 to 12.

Epitopes described herein may be identified as “comprising” a certain amino acid sequence or by
10 the phrase “the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues...”. As will be apparent to the skilled person, when a specific binding molecule binds a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising its epitope, it will also bind a polypeptide or protein molecule consisting of its epitope. As used herein, the phrase “the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid
15 sequence comprising residues...” may therefore alternatively be substituted wherever it occurs for the phrase “the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence consisting of residues...”; the phrase “the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule consisting of an amino acid sequence comprising residues...”; or the phrase “the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule consisting of an
20 amino acid sequence consisting of residues...”.

The skilled person is aware that not all residues within an epitope are always essential. A specific binding molecule may retain binding to an amino acid sequence with at least 70% identity to an epitope. The specific binding molecule may bind to any of the epitopes disclosed herein or an amino
25 acid sequence having at least 70% identity thereto.

A specific binding molecule may retain binding to an amino acid sequence with at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to an epitope. The specific binding molecule may bind to any of the epitopes disclosed herein or an amino acid sequence having
30 at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity thereto.

In embodiments of the invention where specific binding molecule retains binding to an amino acid sequence with less than 100% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 (or any of SEQ ID NOs: 3 to 7 or any other epitope defined herein), the epitope sequence may be altered
35 by substitution, addition or deletion of an appropriate number of amino acids in the sequences of SEQ ID NO: 1 (or any of SEQ ID NOs: 3 to 7 or any other epitope defined herein). In another embodiment of the invention, the epitope may be modified by the substitution, addition or deletion of up to 2 amino acids relative to SEQ ID NO: 1 (or any of SEQ ID NOs: 3 to 7 or any other epitope defined herein), with the proviso that the resultant epitope sequence has at least 85% or 90%
40 sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 1 (or any of SEQ ID NOs: 3 to 7 or any other epitope defined

herein), as set out above. By "substitution, addition or deletion" is included combinations of substitutions, additions and deletions.

When an epitope sequence is modified by substitution of a particular amino acid residue, the substitution may be a conservative amino acid substitution. The term "conservative amino acid substitution", as used herein, refers to an amino acid substitution in which one amino acid residue is replaced with another amino acid residue having a similar side chain. Amino acids with similar side chains tend to have similar properties, and thus a conservative substitution of an amino acid important for the structure or function of a polypeptide may be expected to affect polypeptide structure/function less than a non-conservative amino acid substitution at the same position. Families of amino acid residues having similar side chains have been defined in the art, including basic side chains (e.g. lysine, arginine, histidine), acidic side chains (e.g. aspartic acid, glutamic acid), uncharged polar side chains (e.g. asparagine, glutamine, serine, threonine, tyrosine), non-polar side chains (e.g. glycine, cysteine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, methionine, tryptophan) and aromatic side chains (e.g. tyrosine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, histidine). Thus a conservative amino acid substitution may be considered to be a substitution in which a particular amino acid residue is substituted for a different amino acid in the same family. However, a substitution of an epitope residue may equally be a non-conservative substitution, in which one amino acid is substituted for another with a side-chain belonging to a different family.

The epitope may be at least five, at least six, at least seven, at least eight, at least nine, at least 10, at least 11, at least 12, at least 13, at least 14, at least 15, at least 16, at least 17, at least 18, at least 19 or at least 20 amino acids in length. The epitope may be five to 20 amino acids in length. The epitope may be five to 15 amino acids in length. The epitope may be five to 12 amino acids in length. The epitope may be six to 12 amino acids in length. The epitope may be seven to 12 amino acids in length.

As used herein, the term "within" means "contained within" or "fully within". No residues thought to be essential for the binding of the specific binding molecule to its target are outside of the epitope. Residues outside the epitope do not significantly contribute to binding. For example, where the epitope of the specific binding molecule is within residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues outside of residues 337 to 355 do not significantly contribute to binding.

The epitope may comprise any residues within SEQ ID NO: 1 bound by the specific binding molecule. The epitope may be a continuous epitope or a discontinuous epitope.

A continuous epitope may be any consecutive residues within SEQ ID NO: 1 bound by the specific binding molecule. Consecutive residues are adjacent to one another in the primary structure of a polypeptide.

A discontinuous epitope may be any non-consecutive residues within SEQ ID NO: 1 bound by the specific binding molecule. Discontinuous epitopes are typically formed by non-consecutive residues adopting nearby positions in three-dimensional space due to the folding of a polypeptide.

- 5 Typically, a specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising its epitope. Therefore, the specific binding molecule may bind to SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof. The specific molecule may bind to SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6 and/or SEQ ID NO: 7. The specific molecule may bind to the PHF or the dGAE fragment. the specific binding molecule may bind to the dGA fragment. The specific binding molecule may bind to the PHF
- 10 core. The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 331 to 360 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 355 to 367 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 369 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 337 to 368 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID
- 15 NO: 1, residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 49 to 111 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 1 to 155 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 1 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 1 to 319 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 13 to 25 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 49 to 113 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 49 to 155 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 49 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 113 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 155 to 227 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 155 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues
- 20 186 to 263 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 186 to 350 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 239 to 348 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 266 to 359 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 277 to 319 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 319 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 348 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 348 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 359 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and residues 360 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
- 25 The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence of residues 341 to 353 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

- In the sequences herein, "/" means "or" and denotes residues that the inventors have shown may vary as specified. In this context, "-" means a gap or no amino acid. X is any amino acid. For example,
- 30 "N/S" means a residue which may be either N or S. Likewise, "G/-" means a residue which may be either G or absent. Likewise, "H/F/Y" means a residue may be H, F or Y. Where sequence identity values are specified, sequence identity may be calculated starting from any one of the residues separated by a "/".

- 35 The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The epitope of the specific binding molecule within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 341 to 353 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 (VEVKSEKLDKDR).

40

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1, preferably within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "S1D12" herein. The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 (VEVKSEKLDKDR). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 8 (VEVKSEKLDKDR). Critical residues of the epitope may be residues 343 (K), 346 (F) and/or 349 (R) (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 (XXXXXXXXKXXFXXR, wherein X is any amino acid). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, wherein any one or more residue other than residue number 343 (K), 346 (F) and/or 349 (R) is replaced by a non-conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, wherein any one or more residue other than residue number 343 (K), 346 (F) and/or 349 (R) is replaced by a conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, wherein any one or more residue other than residue number 343 (K), 346 (F) and/or 349 (R) is replaced by a conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1) and any one or more residue other than residue number 343 (K), 346 (F) and/or 349 (R) is replaced by a non-conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1).

20

The epitope may consist of residues 337 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1, preferably residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 (VEVKSEKLDKDR). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 8 (VEVKSEKLDKDR).

25

The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Said specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

30

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 10 (N/S N A V G);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11 (G C S S D G T/K C Y Y/H N S A L K S);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 12 (G H/F/Y Y S/P I/V Y G Y D Y L/S G T I D Y);

35

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 13 (S G S S S N V G/- G G/R N S/D V G/A);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14 (D/N/G T N/T S R P S);

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 15 (V/A T/S G D S T/S T/A H/I D/N D L/I);

40

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

- 5 Said sequence identity is at least about 85% sequence identity and may therefore be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identity. Preferably said sequence identity is at least 90% or at least 95%.
- 10 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16 (NNAVG) or SEQ ID NO: 17 (SNAVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18 (GCSSDGTCTYNSALKS),
 15 SEQ ID NO: 19 (GCSSDGKCYHNSALKS) or SEQ ID NO: 20 (GCSSDGKCYNSALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21 (GHYSIYGYDYLGTIDY), SEQ ID NO: 22 (GFYSIYGYDYSGTIDY), or SEQ ID NO: 23 (GYYPVYGYDYLGTIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24 (SGSSSNVGGGNSVG) or SEQ ID NO: 25 (SGSSSNVGRNDVA);
 20 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26 (DTNSRPS), SEQ ID NO: 27 (NTNSRPS), or SEQ ID NO: 28 (GTTSRPS);
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 29 (VTGDSTTHDDL), SEQ ID NO: 30 (VTGDSSTHDDL), or SEQ ID NO: 31 (ASGDSSAINDI);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 25 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
- 30 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16 (NNAVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18 (GCSSDGTCTYNSALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21 (GHYSIYGYDYLGTIDY);
 35 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24 (SGSSSNVGGGNSVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26 (DTNSRPS);
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 29 (VTGDSTTHDDL);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 40 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "S1D12" (or abbreviated to "1D12") herein.

5

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16 (NNAVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18 (GCSSDGTCCYNSALKS);

10 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21 (GHYSIYGIDYLGITIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24 (SGSSSNVGGGNSVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26 (DTNSRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 29 (VTGDSTTHDDL).

15 Any specific binding molecule disclosed herein may be further defined by reference to one or more framework region (FR). The framework regions (FRs) are non-CDR sequences which together with the CDR sequences form a variable domain.

20 The VH domain may have the formula: VHFR1 - VHCDR1 - VHFR2 - VHCDR2 - VHFR3 - VHCDR3 - VHFR4.

The VL domain may have the formula: VLFR1 - VLCDR1 - VLFR2 - VLCDR2 - VLFR3 - VLCDR3 - VLFR4.

25 The skilled person is able to identify CDR and framework regions within the amino acid sequence of a variable domain using known methods described elsewhere herein. Accordingly, any specific binding molecule disclosed herein may be defined by reference to its CDRs and FRs. In some instances, some of the FR residues may contribute to the affinity with which a specific binding molecule binds its target. However, without being bound by theory, function is more likely to be preserved when replacing an FR residue than when replacing a CDR residue. FR residues may for example be commonly replaced by corresponding residues from human sequences during the process of humanization. FR sequences may therefore be more tolerant of amino acid substitutions than CDR sequences.

35 The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence from any specific binding molecule disclosed herein; or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or

40 (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and

(b) CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence from any specific binding molecule disclosed herein, or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

5 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

Said sequence identity in a CDR sequence is at least about 85% sequence identity and may therefore be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or
10 at least 99% identity. Preferably said sequence identity is at least 90% or at least 95%.

Said sequence identity in a FR sequence is at least about 50% sequence identity and may therefore be at least 50%, at least 55%, at least 60%, at least 65%, at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at
15 least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identity. Preferably said sequence identity is at least 90% or at least 95%.

Where an FR sequence has at least 50% identity (but less than 100% identity) to an FR sequence disclosed as part of a specific binding molecule disclosed herein, the FR sequence may be a
20 humanized sequence. In other words, the changes to amino acid sequence may be only those needed to humanize the sequence.

Where an FR sequence has one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative to an FR sequence disclosed as part of a specific binding molecule disclosed herein, the FR sequence may
25 be a humanized sequence. In other words, the substitutions may be only those needed to humanize the sequence.

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and
30 VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence from any specific binding molecule disclosed herein; and

(b) CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence from any specific binding molecule disclosed herein.

35

Typically, each of the FRs will be from the same specific binding molecule disclosed herein. Typically, each of the CDRs will be from the same specific binding molecule disclosed herein. Typically, there will be no additional amino acid residues intervening between a defined FR and CDR; each of said FRs and each of said CDRs may therefore be said to consist of an amino acid sequence from any
40 specific binding molecule disclosed herein.

As used herein, the phrase “comprising the CDRs” also encompasses a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs and FRs of a specific binding molecule disclosed herein, including variants of the FRs including those described above, such as humanized FRs. It also encompasses a specific binding molecule comprising the VH and/or VL domains of a specific binding molecule disclosed herein, including variants of the FRs including those described above, such as humanized FRs. It also encompasses a specific binding molecule comprising the heavy chain and/or light chain of a specific binding molecule disclosed herein, including variants of the FRs and constant regions including those described above, such as humanized FRs and humanized constant regions.

10

The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 435
 15 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLN);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 436 (WVRQAPGKVPESLV);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 437
 (RLDITRDTSKNQISLSLSSVTDDAAVYYCTR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 438 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

20 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 439
 (QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 440 (WYQHLPGSGSLKTIY);

VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 441
 (GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTINSLQAEDGDYYC);

25 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 442(VGSGTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

30 The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 435
 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLN);

35 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 436 (WVRQAPGKVPESLV);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 437
 (RLDITRDTSKNQISLSLSSVTDDAAVYYCTR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 438 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

40 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:
 439(QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);

- VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 440 (WYQHLPGSGLKTIHY);
 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 441
 (GVPDFRSGSRSGNTATLTINSLQAEDEGDYYC);
 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 442 (VGSSTRRLTVLG);
 5 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
 an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1. A specific binding
 10 molecule comprising FRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "S1D12" (or
 abbreviated to "1D12") herein.
- The specific binding molecule may comprise:
 (a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4,
 15 wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 435
 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLN);
 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 436 (WVRQAPGKVPESLV);
 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 437
 20 (RLDITRDTSKNQISLSLSSVTDDAAVYYCTR);
 VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 438 (WGPGLLVTVSS);
 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 439
 (QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);
 VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 440 (WYQHLPGSGLKTIHY);
 25 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 441
 (GVPDFRSGSRSGNTATLTINSLQAEDEGDYYC);
 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 442 (VGSSTRRLTVLG);
 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 30 (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and
 (b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said
 CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16 (NNAVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18 (GCSSDGTCCYNSALKS);
 35 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21 (GHYSIYGYDYLGTIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24 (SGSSSNVGGGNSVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26 (DTNSRPS);
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 29 (VTGDSTTHDDL);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 40 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as
5 "S1D12" (or abbreviated to "1D12") herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

10 VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 435
(QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLN);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 436 (WVRQAPGKVPESLV);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 437
(RLDITRDTSKNQISLSLSSVTDDAAVYYCTR);

15 VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 438 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 439
(QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 440 (WYQHLPGSGGLKTIY);

20 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 441
(GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTINSLQAEDEGDYYC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 442 (VGSSTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and

25 (b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16 (NNAVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18 (GCSSDGTCTYNSALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21 (GHYSIYGYDYLGITIDY);

30 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24 (SGSSSNVGGGNSVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26 (DTNSRPS);

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 29 (VTGDSTTHDDL);

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding
35 molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "S1D12" (or abbreviated to "1D12") herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) A VH domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 443
40 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLNNAVGWVRQAPGKVPESLVGCSSDGTCTY

YNSALKSRLDITRDTSKNQISLSLSSVTTDDAAVYYCTRGHYSIYGYDYLGTIDYWGPGLL
VTVSS); and/or

- (b) a VL domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 444
(QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQQRVSITCSGSSSNVGGNSVGWYQHLPGLKTIYDTNSRPSG
5 VPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTINSLQAEDEGDYYCVTGDSTTHDDLVGSGTRLTVLG);
or a humanized variant thereof.

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

- (a) A heavy chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 445
10 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLNNNAVGVWRQAPGKVPESLVGCSSDGTCTY
YNSALKSRLDITRDTSKNQISLSLSSVTTDDAAVYYCTRGHYSIYGYDYLGTIDYWGPGLL
VTVSSAKTTAPSVYPLAPVCGDGTGSSVTLGCLVKGYFPEPVTLTWNSGSLSSGVHTFPA
VLQSDLYTLSSSVTVTSSTWPSQSITCNVAHPASSTKVDKIEPRGPTIKPCPPCKCPAPN
LLGGPSVFIFPPKIKDVLMSLSPIVTCVVVDVSEDDPDVQISWVNNVEVHTAQTQTHRED
15 YNSTLRVVSALPIQHQDWMSGKEFKCKVNNKDLPAPIERTISKPKGSVRAPQVYVLPPE
EEMTKKQVTLTCMVTDMPEDIYVEWTNNGKTELNYKNTEPVLDSGYSFMYSKLRVEK
KNWVERNSYSCSVVHEGLHNHHTTKSFSRTPGK); and/or
(b) a light chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 446
(QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQQRVSITCSGSSSNVGGNSVGWYQHLPGLKTIYDTNSRPSG
20 VPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTINSLQAEDEGDYYCVTGDSTTHDDLVGSGTRLTVLGGQPKSS
PSVTLFPPSSEELETNKATLVCTITDFYPGVTVDWKVDGTPVTQGMETTQPSKQSNNKY
MASSYLTLTARAWERHSSYSCQVTHEGHTVEKSLSRADCS);
or a humanized variant thereof.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDR sequences of a clone set out in Table 1 below. The epitope may be within residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Table 1

Clone name	VH			VL			Epitope
	CDR1	CDR2	CDR3	CDR1	CDR2	CDR3	
S1D12	NNAV G (SEQ ID NO: 16)	GCSSDGT C Y N SALKS (SEQ ID NO: 18)	GHYSIYGYDYL G TIDY (SEQ ID NO: 21)	SGSSSNVGGGNSVG (SEQ ID NO: 24)	DTNSRPS (SEQ ID NO: 26)	VTGDS T THDDL (SEQ ID NO: 29)	337-355
S2C1	NNAV G (SEQ ID NO: 16)	GCSSDGT C Y N SALKS (SEQ ID NO: 18)	NA	NA	NA	NA	337-355
ME12	S NAV G (SEQ ID NO: 17)	GCSSD G KCY H NSALKS (SEQ ID NO: 19)	G EYSIYGYDY S GTIDY (SEQ ID NO: 22)	SGSSSNVGGGNSVG (SEQ ID NO: 24)	N TNSRPS (SEQ ID NO: 27)	VTGDS S THDDL (SEQ ID NO: 30)	337-355
NS3D9	S NAV G (SEQ ID NO: 17)	GCSSD G KCY N SALKS (SEQ ID NO: 20)	G Y P VYGYDYL G TIDY (SEQ ID NO: 23)	SGSSSNV- GR NDVA (SEQ ID NO: 25)	G TISRPS (SEQ ID NO: 28)	A SGDSS A INDI (SEQ ID NO: 31)	337-355

The CDRs specified herein are defined according to Kabat. The skilled person is aware that other methods for identifying CDRs are available, such as Chothia and Martin. The use of an alternative method to define CDRs may on occasion alter the residues defined as belonging to one or more CDRs. For example, alternative CDR definitions for S1D12 according to Chothia and Martin are shown in Figure 1. Any alternative CDR definitions for the specific binding molecule sequences disclosed herein fall within the scope of the invention.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises a VHCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 1;
 - VHCDR2 comprises a VHCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 1;
 - 5 VHCDR3 comprises a VHCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 1;
 - VLCDR1 comprises a VLCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 1;
 - VLCDR2 comprises a VLCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 1; and
 - VLCDR3 comprises a VLCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 1;
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- 10 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

- 15 The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 with a K_D of less than around 500 pM. The K_D may be less than around 400 pM, less than around 300 pM, less than around 200 pM or less than around 150 pM. The K_D may preferably be for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 or to SEQ ID NO: 5. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 50 pM to around 150 pM. The K_D for binding
- 20 to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 101 pM or 122 pM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of S1D12. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 5 may be around 300 pM to around 400 pM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 5 may be around 344 pM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of S1D12.
- 25 The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 32 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%,
- 30 at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 30. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 32. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 30 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 32. The specific
- 35 binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32.

SEQ ID NO: 32 (S1D12 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLNNAVGWVRQAPGKVPESLVGCSSDGTCCYYNSALK
SRLDITRDTSKNQISLSLSSVTDDAAVYYCTRGHYSIYGYDYLGTIDYWGPGLLVTVSSEGEKSSGA

SGESKVDDQAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSSSNVGGGNSVGWYQHLPGSGGLKTIHYDTNSRP
SGVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTINSLQAEDEGDYYCVTGDSTTHDDLVGSGTRLTVLG

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising
5 residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33 (GNKKIETHKLTFR).

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO:
1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "S1G2"
10 herein.

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33 (GNKKIETHKLTFR). The
epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at
least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 33 (GNKKIETHKLTFR). Critical
15 residues of the epitope may be residues 370 (K) and/or 374 (H) (numbering according to SEQ ID
NO: 1). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 34 (XXXXXXXXXXXXX,
wherein X is any amino acid). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:
33, wherein any one or more residue other than residue number 370 (K) and/or 374 (H) is replaced
by a non-conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1). The epitope
20 may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33, wherein any one or more residue other
than residue number 370 (K) and/or 374 (H) is replaced by a conservative amino acid substitution
(numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of
SEQ ID NO: 33, wherein any one or more residue other than residue number 370 (K) and/or 374 (H)
is replaced by a conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1) and
25 any one or more residue other than residue number 370 (K) and/or 374 (H) is replaced by a non-
conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1).

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33 (GNKKIETHKLTFR). The
epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at
30 least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 33 (GNKKIETHKLTFR).

The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino
acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Said specific binding molecule may
comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each
35 of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 35 (S/T N/Y S/A/Y V G);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 36 (G/S/N I/V D/Y T/S D/T G
E/Y/D/R E/T/A G/Y/F Y/F N P A/V L N/K S);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 37 (S/T Y/V/A R/N A/T/G/S D/-
40 G/- L/Y/F/- A/- Y/H G/P Y/D V Q/Y A/Y I D/E Y/R/K) or SEQ ID NO: 265 (GSYYHGGGNGMVDFFDY);

- VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 38 (S G S/R F/Y/D I/L/V G/S I/S/R S S/R/A/G V G) or in SEQ ID NO: 39 (SGSSSNVGYGNYVG)
- VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 40 (A/D S/A D/S/T G/S R P/A S);
- VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 41 (G/S S/I/V S/F/Y/T D/G/A/Q
- 5 R/P/- T/- P/Q/D/G Y/R/H/N T/N G/Y V/I/L);
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.
- 10 Said sequence identity is at least about 85% sequence identity and may therefore be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identity. Preferably said sequence identity is at least 90% or at least 95%.
- 15 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG), SEQ ID NO: 17 (SNAVG), SEQ ID NO: 44 (SYYVG), or SEQ ID NO: 45 (TNSVG);
- VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS),
- 20 SEQ ID NO: 47 (SVDSGDYTYNPALKS), SEQ ID NO: 48 (GIDSDGEEGYNPALNS), SEQ ID NO: 49 (GIDSDGEEGYNPALKS), SEQ ID NO: 50 (SVDSGDYTYNPALKS), SEQ ID NO: 51 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALKS), SEQ ID NO: 52 (NIYSTGRAFYNPALKS), or SEQ ID NO: 53 (GIDTDGEEGFNPVLKS);
- VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY),
- 25 SEQ ID NO: 55 (SYRTDGLAYGYVQAIDY), SEQ ID NO: 56 (SVNGHPDVYYIDR), SEQ ID NO: 57 (TYRTDGYAYGYVQAIDY), SEQ ID NO: 58 (SYRSDGLAYGYVQAIDY), SEQ ID NO: 59 (SANGHPDVYYIDK), SEQ ID NO: 60 (TYRTDGFAYGYVQAIDY), SEQ ID NO: 61 (SYRTDGLAYGYVQAIEY), or SEQ ID NO: 265 (GSYYHGGGNGMVDFFDY);
- VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG); SEQ ID NO:
- 30 64 (SGSYISSSRVG); SEQ ID NO: 65 (SGSDLGSSRVG); SEQ ID NO: 66 (SGSYIGSSAVG); SEQ ID NO: 67 (SGRFIGISSVG); SEQ ID NO: 68 (SGSYIGSSGVG); or SEQ ID NO: 69 (SGSYVSRSRVG);
- VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS); SEQ ID NO: 71 (DSSSRPS); or SEQ ID NO: 72 (AATSRAS);
- 35 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 73 (GSSDRTPYTGV); SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTGV); SEQ ID NO: 75 (GVFGDRNYI); SEQ ID NO: 76 (GIFGDRNYI); SEQ ID NO: 77 (GSTAPTPHTGV); SEQ ID NO: 78 (SSYQRGNTGV); SEQ ID NO: 79 (GSSDRTQYTGL); or SEQ ID NO: 80 (GIYGDRNYI);
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- 40 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS);

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 73 (GSSDRTPYTGTV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "S1G2" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 73 (GSSDRTPYTGTV).

The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 447 (QVQLQESGSPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 448 (WVRQAPGKAPPEWVA);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 449 (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTSED TAVYYCGR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 450 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 451 (QAWVTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 452 (WFQQLPGSGLRTIIV);

VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 453
(GVPDRFMSKSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYFC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 454 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- 5 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
(ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid
10 sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 447
(QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 448 (WVRQAPGKAPEWVA);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 449
15 (RLSITRDTSKSKVSLSLSSVTSEDTAVYYCGR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 450 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 451
(QAWVTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 452 (WFQQLPGSGLRTIIV);

20 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 453
(GVPDRFMSKSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYFC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 454 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- 25 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
(ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. A specific binding molecule comprising FRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "S1G2" herein.

30 The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 447(QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);

35 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 448 (WVRQAPGKAPEWVA);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 449
(RLSITRDTSKSKVSLSLSSVTSEDTAVYYCGR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 450 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

40 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 451
(QAWVTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);

- VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 452 (WFQQLPGSGLRTIIV);
 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 453 (GVPDRFSMSKSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYFC);
 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 454 (FGSGTRLTVLG);
 5 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and
 (b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 10 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS); and
 15 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 73 (GSSDRTPYTGTV).
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
 20 an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "S1G2" herein.
- The specific binding molecule may comprise:
- 25 (a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 447 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);
 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 448 (WVRQAPGKAPEWVA);
 30 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 449 (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTSED TAVYYCGR);
 VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 450 (WGPGLLVTVSS);
 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 451 (QAVWTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);
 35 VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 452 (WFQQLPGSGLRTIIV);
 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 453 (GVPDRFSMSKSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYFC);
 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 454 (FGSGTRLTVLG);
 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 40 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or

- (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and
- (b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);
- 5 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS);
- VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY);
- VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);
- VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS); and
- VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 73 (GSSDRTPYTG).
- 10 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "S1G2" herein.
- 15 The specific binding molecule may comprise:
- (a) A VH domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 455 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSNSVGWVRQAPGKAPEWVAGIDTDGEEGYNPALNSRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTSEDTAVYYCGRSYRADGLAYGYVQAIDYWGPGLLVTVSS); and/or
- 20 (b) a VL domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 456 (QAVVTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSFIGISSVGWFQQLPGSGLRTIIVASDGRPSGVPDRFSMSKSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYFCGSSDRTPYTG VFGSGTRLTVLG);
- or a humanized variant thereof.
- 25 The specific binding molecule may comprise:
- (a) A heavy chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 457 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSNSVGWVRQAPGKAPEWVAGIDTDGEEGYNPALNSRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTSEDTAVYYCGRSYRADGLAYGYVQAIDYWGPGLLVTVSSAKTTAPSVYPLAPVCGD TTGSSVT LGCLVKGYFPEPVTLTWNSGSLSSGVHTFPAVLQSDLYTLSSSVTVTSSTWPSQSITCNVAHPASSTKVDKKIEPRGPTIKPCPPCKCPAPNLLGGPSVFIFPPKIKDVLMI SLSPIVTCVVDVSEDDPDVQISWVNNVEVHTAQTQTHREDYNSTLRVVSALPIQH QDWMSGKEFKCKVNNKDLPAPIERTISKPKG SVRAPQVYVLPPPEEEMTKKQVTLTCMVTD FMPEDIYVEWTNNGKTELNYKNTEPVLDSG SYFMYSKLRV EKKNWVERNSYSCSVVHEGLHNHHTTKSFSRTPGK); and/or
- 30 (b) a light chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 458 (QAVVTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSFIGISSVGWFQQLPGSGLRTIIVASDGRPSGVPDRFSMSKSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYFCGSSDRTPYTG VFGSGTRLTVLGGQPKSSPSVTLFPPSSEETNKATLVCTITDFYPGVVTDWKVDGTPVTQGMETTQPSKQSNNKYMASSYLTLTARAWERHSSYSCQVTHEGHTVEKSLSRADCS);
- 40 or a humanized variant thereof.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- 5 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 55 (SYRTDGLAYGYVQAIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS);
 10 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTGV);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
 15 an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "S1B1" herein.

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 20 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 55 (SYRTDGLAYGYVQAIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);
 25 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS);
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTGV).

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 30 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48 (GIDSDGEEGYNPALNS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 57 (TYRTDGYAYGYVQAIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS);
 35 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTGV);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
 40 an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding

molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "S1D9" herein.

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48 (GIDSDGEEGYNPALNS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 57 (TYRTDGYAYGYVQAIDY);
 - VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS);
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTGV).

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY);
 - VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS);
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTGV);
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "S1F4" herein.

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY);
 - VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS);
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTGV).

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS);
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTGV);
 5 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
 an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding
 10 molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "S1G10"
 herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 15 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS);
 20 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTGV).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);
 25 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 60 (TYRTDGFAYGYVQAIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS);
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTGV);
 30 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
 an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding
 35 molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "S2C6"
 herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 40 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);

- VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALKS);
VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 60 (TYRTDGFAYGYVQAIDY);
VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);
VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS);
5 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTGV).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDR sequences of a clone set out in Table 2 below. The epitope may be within residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Table 2

Clone name	VH				VL				Epitope
	CDR1	CDR2	CDR3		CDR1	CDR2	CDR3		
S1B1	SNSVG (SEQ ID NO: 42)	GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS (SEQ ID NO: 46)	SYRTDGLAYGYVQAIDY (SEQ ID NO: 55)		SGSFIGISSVG (SEQ ID NO: 63)	ASDGRPS (SEQ ID NO: 70)	GSSDRTQYTGV (SEQ ID NO: 74)		367-379
S1D2	SNAVG (SEQ ID NO: 17)	SVDSDGYTYYNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 47)	SVNG---HPDVVYIDR (SEQ ID NO: 56)		SGSYISSSRVG (SEQ ID NO: 64)	DSSSRPS (SEQ ID NO: 71)	GVFG--DRNYI (SEQ ID NO: 75)		367-379
S1D9	SNSVG (SEQ ID NO: 42)	GIDSDGEEGYNPALNS (SEQ ID NO: 48)	TYRIDGYAYGYVQAIDY (SEQ ID NO: 57)		SGSFIGISSVG (SEQ ID NO: 63)	ASDGRPS (SEQ ID NO: 70)	GSSDRTQYTGV (SEQ ID NO: 74)		367-379
S1F4	SNSVG (SEQ ID NO: 42)	GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS (SEQ ID NO: 46)	SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY (SEQ ID NO: 54)		SGSFIGISSVG (SEQ ID NO: 63)	ASDGRPS (SEQ ID NO: 70)	GSSDRTQYTGV (SEQ ID NO: 74)		367-379
S1G2	SNSVG (SEQ ID NO: 42)	GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS (SEQ ID NO: 46)	SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY (SEQ ID NO: 54)		SGSFIGISSVG (SEQ ID NO: 63)	ASDGRPS (SEQ ID NO: 70)	GSSDRTPYTGV (SEQ ID NO: 73)		367-379
S1G10	SNSVG (SEQ ID NO: 42)	GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS (SEQ ID NO: 46)	SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY (SEQ ID NO: 54)		SGSFIGISSVG (SEQ ID NO: 63)	ASDGRPS (SEQ ID NO: 70)	GSSDRTQYTGV (SEQ ID NO: 74)		367-379

S1H6	SNAVG (SEQ ID NO: 17)	SVDSDGYTYNPAKLS (SEQ ID NO: 47)	SVNG----HPDVYIDR (SEQ ID NO: 56)	SGSDLGSSRVG (SEQ ID NO: 65)	DSSSRPS (SEQ ID NO: 71)	GIFG-DRNYI (SEQ ID NO: 76)	367-379
S1H9	SNSVG (SEQ ID NO: 42)	GIDSDGEEGYNPAKLS (SEQ ID NO: 49)	SYRSDGLAYGVVQAIDY (SEQ ID NO: 58)	SGSFIGISSVG (SEQ ID NO: 63)	ASDGRPS (SEQ ID NO: 70)	GSSDRTQYTG (SEQ ID NO: 74)	367-379
S2C3	SNAVG (SEQ ID NO: 17)	SVDSDGDTYYPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 50)	SANG----HPDVYIDK (SEQ ID NO: 59)	SGSYISSSRVG (SEQ ID NO: 64)	DSSSRPS (SEQ ID NO: 71)	GIFG-DRNYI (9)	367-379
S2C6	SNSVG (SEQ ID NO: 42)	GIDTDGEEGYNPAKLS (SEQ ID NO: 51)	TYRIDGEAYGVVQAIDY (SEQ ID NO 60)	SGSFIGISSVG (SEQ ID NO: 63)	ASDGRPS (SEQ ID NO: 70)	GSSDRTQYTG (SEQ ID NO: 74)	367-379
S2D1	SNSVG (SEQ ID NO: 42)	GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS (SEQ ID NO: 46)	SYRIDGLAYGVVQAIDY (SEQ ID NO: 55)	SGSYIGSSAVG (SEQ ID NO: 66)	ASDGRPS (SEQ ID NO: 70)	Incomplete	367-379
S2D4	SNSVG (SEQ ID NO: 42)	GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS (SEQ ID NO: 46)	SYRIDGLAYGVVQAIEY (SEQ ID NO: 61)	SGRFIGISSVG (SEQ ID NO: 67)	ASDGRPS (SEQ ID NO: 70)	GSTAPTPHTGV (SEQ ID NO: 77)	367-379
CA9	SNSVG (SEQ ID NO: 42)	GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS (SEQ ID NO: 46)	SYRSDGLAYGVVQAIDY (SEQ ID NO: 58)	SGSFIGISSVG (SEQ ID NO: 63)	ASDGRPS (SEQ ID NO: 70)	GSSDRTQYTG (SEQ ID NO: 74)	367-379
CA12	SYVVG (SEQ ID NO: 44)	NIYSTGRAFYNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 52)	GSYYHGGGNGMVDFFDY (SEQ ID NO: 265)	SGSSSNVGYGNYVG (14)	AATSRAS (SEQ ID NO: 72)	SSYQR-GNTGV (SEQ ID NO: 78)	367-379

CB2	<u>I</u> NSVG (SEQ ID NO: 45)	GIDTDGEEG <u>E</u> NPVL <u>K</u> S (SEQ ID NO: 53)	SYRIDGLAYGYVQAIDY (SEQ ID NO: 55)	SGSYIGSSGVG (SEQ ID NO: 68)	ASDGRPS (SEQ ID NO: 70)	GSSDRTQYTGL (SEQ ID NO: 79)	367-379
CC12	SNSVG (SEQ ID NO: 42)	GIDSDGEEGYNPALNS (SEQ ID NO: 48)	SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY (SEQ ID NO: 54)	SGRFIGISSVG (SEQ ID NO: 67)	ASDGRPS (SEQ ID NO: 70)	GSSDRTQYTGV (SEQ ID NO: 74)	367-379
MC5	SNA <u>V</u> G (SEQ ID NO: 17)	<u>S</u> VDSDGDTIYNPAL <u>K</u> S (SEQ ID NO: 50)	SVNG----HPDVVYIDR (SEQ ID NO: 56)	SGSYVSRSRVG (SEQ ID NO: 69)	DSSSRPS (SEQ ID NO: 71)	GIYG--DRNYL (SEQ ID NO: 80)	367-379
MD12	SNA <u>V</u> G (SEQ ID NO: 17)	<u>S</u> VDSDGYTYYNPAL <u>K</u> S (SEQ ID NO: 47)	SVNG----HPDVVYIDR (SEQ ID NO: 56)	SGSYISSSRVG (SEQ ID NO: 64)	DSSSRPS (SEQ ID NO: 72)	GVFG--DRNYI (SEQ ID NO: 75)	367-379

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises a VHCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 2;
 - VHCDR2 comprises a VHCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 2;
 - 5 VHCDR3 comprises a VHCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 2;
 - VLCDR1 comprises a VLCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 2;
 - VLCDR2 comprises a VLCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 2; and
 - VLCDR3 comprises a VLCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 2;
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- 10 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

- 15 The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 with a K_D of less than around 500 pM. The K_D may be less than around 400 pM, less than around 300 pM, or less than around 200 pM. The K_D may preferably be for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 or to SEQ ID NO: 5. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 100 pM to around 200 pM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may
- 20 be around 140 pM or 170 pM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of S1G2. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 5 may be around 400 pM to around 500 pM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 5 may be around 447 pM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of S1G2.
- 25 The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 81 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%,
- 30 at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 81. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 81. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 81 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 81. The specific
- 35 binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 81.

SEQ ID NO: 81 (S1G2 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSNSVGWVRQAPGKAPWVAGIDTDGEEGYNPALN
SRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTSEDVAVYYCGRSYRADGLAYGYVQAIDYWGPGLLVTSSEKGS

SGASGESKVDDQAVVTQPSSVSGSLGQQRVSITCSGSFIGISSVGWFQQLPGSGLRTIIVASDGRPS
GVPDRFSMSKSGNTATLTISSLQAEDEADYFCGSSDRTPYTGVFGSGTRLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 412 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 412. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 412. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 412 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 412. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 412.

15

SEQ ID NO: 412 (S1B1 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLSSNSVGWVRQAPGKAPEWVAGIDTDGEEGYNPALN
SRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTSEDTAVYYCVRSYRTDGLAYGYVQAIDYWGPGLLVTVSSEKSS
GASGESKVDDQAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQQRVSITCSGSFIGISSVGWFQQLPGSGLRTVIVASDGRPS
GVPDRFSNSKSGNTATLTISSLQAEDEADYFCGSSDRTQYTGVPFGSGTRLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 413 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 413. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 413. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 413 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 413. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 413.

SEQ ID NO: 413 (S1D9 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSNSVGWVRQAPGKAPEWVAGIDSDGEEGYNPALN
SRLSITRDTSKNQVSLSLSRVTSEDTAVYYCGRTYRTDGYAYGYVQAIDYWGPGLLVTVSSEKKS
SGASGESKVDDRVMILTQPPSVSGSPGQTVSITCSGSFIGISSVGWFQQLPGSGLRTVIFASDGRP
SGVPDRFSNSKSGNTATLTISSLQAEDEADYFCGSSDRTQYTGVPFGSGTRLTVLS

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 414 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 414. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 414. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 414 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 414. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 414.

SEQ ID NO: 414 (S1F4 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLSSNSVGWVRQAPGKAPWVAGIDTDGEEGYNPALN
SRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTSEDVAVYYCVRSYRADGLAYGYVQAIDYWGPGLLLTISSEKSS
GASGESKVDDQAVVTQPSSVSGSLGQQRVSITCSGSFIGISSVGWFQQLPGSGLRTVIVASDGRPS
GVPDRFSNSKSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYFCGSSDRTQYTGVFSGSGLRTLVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 415 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 415. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 415. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 415 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 415. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 415.

SEQ ID NO: 415 (S1G10 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSNSVGWVRQAPGKAPWVAGIDTDGEEGYNPALN
SRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTSEDVAVYYCGRSYRADGLAYGYVQAIDYWGPGLLVTSSEKKS
SGASGESKVDDQAVLTQPSSMSGSLGQQRVSITCSGSFIGISSVGWFQQLPGSGLRTIIVASDGRPS
GVPDRFSMSKSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYFCGSSDRTQYTGVFSGSGLRTLVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 416 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding

- molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 416. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 416. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 416 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 416. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 416.

SEQ ID NO: 416 (S2C6 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLISNSVGWVRQAPGKAPEWVAGIDTDGEEGYNPALKS
QYAASDPDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTSEDVAVYYCGRTYRTDGFAYGYVQAIDYWGPGLLLTISSEGKS
SGASGESKVDDQAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSGFIGISSVGWFQQLPGSGLRTIIVASDGRPS
GVPDRFMSKSGNTATLTISSLQAEDEADYFCGSSDRTQYTGVFSGGTRLTVLG

- The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 368 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 82 (VEVKSEKLDFKDRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGN).

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 368 of SEQ ID NO:

1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "NS2A3" herein.

- The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 82 (VEVKSEKLDFKDRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGN). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 82 (VEVKSEKLDFKDRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGN).

- The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 82 (VEVKSEKLDFKDRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGN). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 82 (VEVKSEKLDFKDRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGN).

- The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 368 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Said specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 83 (S Y S V Y)

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 84 (I M Y A S G R V D Y N P A L K S)

- VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 85 (G I E N/D)

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 86 (R T S/N Q/E S/N V/I N/G/D N/S Y/G L S/A)

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 87 (Y A T Y L Y/H T)

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 88 (L Q Y D/G/E S/T T P L A/T)

5 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

10 Said sequence identity is at least about 85% sequence identity and may therefore be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identity. Preferably said sequence identity is at least 90% or at least 95%.

15 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 83 (SYSVY);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 84 (IMYASGRVDYNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 89 (GIEN) or SEQ ID NO: 90 (GIED);

20 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 91 (RTSQSVNNYLS), SEQ ID NO: 92 (RTNESVGNLYS), SEQ ID NO: 93 (RTSQNIDNGLA), or SEQ ID NO 94 (RTSQSVGSYLS);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 95 (YATRLYT) or SEQ ID NO: 96 (YATRLHT);

25 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 97 (LQYDSTPLA), SEQ ID NO: 98 (LQYDSTPLT), SEQ ID NO: 99 (LQYESTPLA), or SEQ ID NO: 100 (LQYGTTPLA);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

30 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 368 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 83 (SYSVY);

35 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 84 (IMYASGRVDYNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 89 (GIEN);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 91 (RTSQSVNNYLS);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 95 (YATRLYT);

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 97 (LQYDSTPLA);

40 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 368 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding
5 molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "NS2A3" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- 10 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 83 (SYSVY);
VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 84 (IMYASGRVDYNPALKS);
VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 89 (GIEN);
VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 91 (RTSQSVNNYLS);
VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 95 (YATRLYT); and
15 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 97 (LQYDSTPLA).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDR sequences of a clone set out in Table 3 below. The epitope may be within residues 337 to 368 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Table 3

Clone name	VH			VL			Epitope
	<u>CDR1</u>	<u>CDR2</u>	<u>CDR3</u>	<u>CDR1</u>	<u>CDR2</u>	<u>CDR3</u>	
NS2A3	SYSVY (SEQ ID NO: 83)	IMYASGRVDYNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 84)	GIEN (SEQ ID NO: 89)	RTSQSVNNYLS (SEQ ID NO: 91)	YATRLYT (SEQ ID NO: 95)	LQYDSTPLA (SEQ ID NO: 97)	337-368
NS2A8	SYSVY (SEQ ID NO: 83)	IMYASGRVDYNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 84)	GIEN (SEQ ID NO: 89)	RTNESVGNYLS (SEQ ID NO: 92)	YATRLHT (SEQ ID NO: 96)	LQYGTTPLA (SEQ ID NO: 100)	337-368
NS2C5	SYSVY (SEQ ID NO: 83)	IMYASGRVDYNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 84)	GIED (SEQ ID NO: 90)	RTSQNIDNGLA (SEQ ID NO: 93)	YATRLHT (SEQ ID NO: 96)	LQYESTPLA (SEQ ID NO: 99)	337-368
NS2C8	SYSVY (SEQ ID NO: 83)	IMYASGRVDYNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 84)	GIEN (SEQ ID NO: 89)	RTSQSVNNYLS (SEQ ID NO: 91)	YATRLYT (SEQ ID NO: 95)	LQYDSTPLA (SEQ ID NO: 97)	337-368
NS2D3	SYSVY (SEQ ID NO: 83)	IMYASGRVDYNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 84)	GIED (SEQ ID NO: 89)	RTSQSVGSYLS (SEQ ID NO: 94)	YATRLHT (SEQ ID NO: 96)	LQYDSTPLT (SEQ ID NO: 98)	337-368

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises a VHCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 3;
- VHCDR2 comprises a VHCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 3;
- 5 VHCDR3 comprises a VHCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 3;
- VLCDR1 comprises a VLCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 3;
- VLCDR2 comprises a VLCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 3; and
- VLCDR3 comprises a VLCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 3;

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- 10 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 368 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

- 15 The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 368 of SEQ ID NO: 1 with a K_D of less than 25 nM, preferably less than 20 nM, 15 nM or 10 nM. The K_D may preferably be for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 or to SEQ ID NO: 5.

- 20 The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 369 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 101 (KKIETHKLTFRENAKAKTDHGA).

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 369 to 390 of SEQ ID NO:

- 25 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "NS4E3" herein.

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 101 (KKIETHKLTFRENAKAKTDHGA). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at

30 least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 101 (KKIETHKLTFRENAKAKTDHGA).

- The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 101 (KKIETHKLTFRENAKAKTDHGA). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at
- 35 least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 101 (KKIETHKLTFRENAKAKTDHGA).

The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 369 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Said specific binding molecule may

comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 102 (R E S I A);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 103 (G V G I D G T S Y Y S P A
5 L K S);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 104 (N Y I D F E Y);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 105 (S G S S/N/Y S/N/- N/- V/-
G/I Y/S/A/G E/G/S D/N/T Y/G/D V N/S/G)

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 106 (G/R T/N/S T/S N/T/R R P/A
10 S); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 107 (L/A/G S Y D R/T/G/S S/T
G/N S/R/- N/G/S/I F/I/V);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
- 15 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

Said sequence identity is at least about 85% sequence identity and may therefore be at least 85%,
at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at
least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99%
20 identity. Preferably said sequence identity is at least 90% or at least 95%.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 102 (RESIA);

25 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 103 (GVGIDGTSYSPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 104 (NYIDFEY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 108 (SGSSSNVGYEDYVN), SEQ
ID NO: 109 (SGSNIAGNGVG), SEQ ID NO: 110 (SGSSNNGSGDYVS), or SEQ ID NO: 111
(SGSYIGSTDVG);

30 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 112 (GTTNRPS), SEQ ID NO:
113 (GSTRRPS), SEQ ID NO: 114 (RNSNRPS), or SEQ ID NO: 115 (RTTTRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 116 (LSYDRSGSNF), SEQ ID
NO: 117 (ASYDTSNRGI), SEQ ID NO: 118 (GSYDGTNSF), or SEQ ID NO: 119 (ASYDSNNSIV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- 35 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule
comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 369 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

40 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 102 (RESIA);
VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 103 (GVGIDGTSYYSPALKS);
VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 104 (NYIDFEY);
VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 108 (SGSSSNVGYEDYVN);
5 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 112 (GTTNRPS); and
VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 116 (LSYDRSGSNF);
or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
10 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
an amino acid sequence comprising residues 369 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding
molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "NS4E4"
herein.
- 15 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 102 (RESIA);
VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 103 (GVGIDGTSYYSPALKS);
VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 104 (NYIDFEY);
20 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 108 (SGSSSNVGYEDYVN);
VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 112 (GTTNRPS); and
VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 116 (LSYDRSGSNF).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDR sequences of a clone set out in Table 4 below. The epitope may be within residues 369 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Table 4

Clone name	VH			VL			Epitope
	<u>VHCDR1</u>	<u>VHCDR2</u>	<u>VHCDR3</u>	<u>VLCDR1</u>	<u>VLCDR2</u>	<u>VLCDR3</u>	
NS3E5	RESIA (SEQ ID NO: 102)	GVGIDGTSYYSPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 103)	NYIDFEY (SEQ ID NO: 104)	SGSY---IGSTID VG (SEQ ID NO: 111)	GSTRRP S (SEQ ID NO: 113)	ASYD <u>SN</u> SIV (SEQ ID NO: 119)	369-390
NS3H4	RESIA (SEQ ID NO: 102)	GVGIDGTSYYSPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 103)	NYIDFEY (SEQ ID NO: 104)	SGSN---IAGNGVG (SEQ ID NO: 109)	RNSNRPS (SEQ ID NO: 114)	GSYDGTN-SF (SEQ ID NO: 118)	369-390
NS4F2	RESIA (SEQ ID NO: 102)	GVGIDGTSYYSPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 103)	NYIDFEY (SEQ ID NO: 104)	SGSSNNVSGGDYVS (SEQ ID NO: 110)	RTTTRAS (SEQ ID NO: 115)	ASYDTSNRGI (SEQ ID NO: 117)	369-390
NS4E3	RESIA (SEQ ID NO: 102)	GVGIDGTSYYSPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 103)	NYIDFEY (SEQ ID NO: 104)	SGSSSNVGYEDYVN (SEQ ID NO: 108)	GTTNRPS (SEQ ID NO: 112)	LSYDRSGSNE (SEQ ID NO: 116)	369-390

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises a VHCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 4;
 - VHCDR2 comprises a VHCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 4;
 - 5 VHCDR3 comprises a VHCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 4;
 - VLCDR1 comprises a VLCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 4;
 - VLCDR2 comprises a VLCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 4; and
 - VLCDR3 comprises a VLCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 4;
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- 10 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 369 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

- 15 The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 369 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1 with a K_D of less than 25 nM, preferably less than 20 nM, 15 nM or 10 nM. The K_D may preferably be for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 or to SEQ ID NO: 5.

- 20 The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 120 (SSTGSIDMVDSPQLATLADEVASLAKQGL).

- The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "412E10" herein.

- The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 120 (SSTGSIDMVDSPQLATLADEVASLAKQGL). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence
- 30 having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 120 (SSTGSIDMVDSPQLATLADEVASLAKQGL).

- The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 120 (SSTGSIDMVDSPQLATLADEVASLAKQGL). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence
- 35 having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 120 (SSTGSIDMVDSPQLATLADEVASLAKQGL).

- The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Said specific binding molecule may
- 40 comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 121 (S/N D/Y S/G/A V/L A/G);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 122 (A/N S/I G/Y/W S/R S/G G
 N/S/R K/T/I Y/E Y N P A L K S);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 123 (G I/G I/V A/G G/S V D V),
 5 or SEQ ID NO: 124 (SGGD);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 125 (S G S/G S/N N V/I G Y/R G
 N/D/T Y/F V G/D);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 126 (G T/A A/D/T I/S/R R A/P
 S/P); and
 10 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 127 (A S/T Y Q/D S/Y/R N/S
 Y/D/N/E A/G/D/S -/G/M/V -/I F/N/I);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.
 15
 Said sequence identity is at least about 85% sequence identity and may therefore be at least 85%,
 at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at
 least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99%
 identity. Preferably said sequence identity is at least 90% or at least 95%.
 20
 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 128 (SDSVA), SEQ ID NO: 129
 (NYGVG), or SEQ ID NO: 130 (SYALG);
 25 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 131 (ASGSSGNKYYPALKS),
 SEQ ID NO: 132 (NIWRGGRIEYNPALKS), or SEQ ID NO: 133 (NIYSGGSTYYPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 134 (GIIAGVDV), SEQ ID NO:
 135 (GGVGSVDV), or SEQ ID NO: 124 (SGGD);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39 (SGSSSNVGYGNYVG), SEQ
 30 ID NO: 137 (SGGRNIGRGTFVD), and SEQ ID NO: 138 (SGSSSNVGYGDYVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 139 (GTAIRAS), SEQ ID NO: 140
 (GAASRAS), SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS), or SEQ ID NO: 142 (GTDRRPP); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 143 (ASYQSNYAF), SEQ ID NO:
 144 (ASYDRSESVV), SEQ ID NO: 145 (ASYDSSDGGV), or SEQ ID NO 146 (ATYDYSNDMII);
 35 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule
 comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

40

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 128 (SDSVA);
- VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 131 (ASGSSGNKYYPALKS);
- 5 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 134 (GIIAGVDV);
- VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39 (SGSSSNVGYGNYVG);
- VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 139 (GTAIRAS); and
- VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 143 (ASYQSNYAF);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- 10 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "412E10"
- 15 herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 128 (SDSVA);
- 20 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 131 (ASGSSGNKYYPALKS);
- VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 134 (GIIAGVDV);
- VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39 (SGSSSNVGYGNYVG);
- VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 139 (GTAIRAS); and
- VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 143 (ASYQSNYAF).

25

The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 459
- 30 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSVI);
- VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 460 (WVRQAPGKVPEWLG);
- VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 461
- (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCAR);
- VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 462 (WGRGLLVTVSS);
- 35 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 463
- (QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);
- VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 464 (WYQQVPGSAPKLLIY);
- VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 465
- (GVPDRFSGSRSGDTATLTITSLQAEDEADYYC);
- 40 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 466 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

- 5 The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 459(QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSVI);

- 10 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 460 (WVRQAPGKVPEWLG);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 461 (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCAR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 462 (WGRGLLVTVSS);

- 15 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 463 (QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 464 (WYQQVPGSAPKLLIY);

VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 465 (GVPDRFSGSRSGDTATLTITSLQAEDEADYYC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 466 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

- 20 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1. A specific binding molecule comprising FRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "412E10" herein.
- 25

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

- (a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- 30

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 459 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSVI);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 460 (WVRQAPGKVPEWLG);

- 35 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 461 (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCAR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 462 (WGRGLLVTVSS);

VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 463 (QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 464 (WYQQVPGSAPKLLIY);

VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 465
(GVPDRFSGSRSGDTATLTITSLQAEDEADYYC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 466 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

5 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and

(b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 128 (SDSVA);

10 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 131 (ASGSSGNKYYPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 134 (GIIAGVDV);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39 (SGSSSNVGYGNYVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 139 (GTAIRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 143 (ASYQSNYAF);

15 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding
20 molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "412E10" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4,

25 wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 459
(QVQLQESGSPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSVI);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 460 (WVRQAPGKVPEWLG);

30 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 461
(RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCAR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 462 (WGRGLLTVSS);

VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 463
(QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 464 (WYQQVPGSAPKLLIY);

35 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 465
(GVPDRFSGSRSGDTATLTITSLQAEDEADYYC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 466 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or

40 (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and

(b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 128 (SDSVA);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 131 (ASGSSGNKYNPALKS);

5 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 134 (GIIAGVDV);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39 (SGSSSNVGYGNYVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 139 (GTAIRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 143 (ASYQSNYAF);

10 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "412E10" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

15 (a) A VH domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 467 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSVISDSVAWVRQAPGKVPEWLGASGSSGNKY YNPALKSRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCARGIAGVDVWGRGLLVTVSS); and/or

20 (b) a VL domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 468 (QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSSSNVGYGNYVGWYQQVPGSAPKLLIYGTAIRASG VPDRFSGSRSGDTATLTITSLQAEDEADYYCASYQSNYAFFGSGTRLTVLG);

or a humanized variant thereof.

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

25 (a) A heavy chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 469 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSVISDSVAWVRQAPGKVPEWLGASGSSGNKY YNPALKSRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCARGIAGVDVWGRGLLVTVSSAKT TAPSVYPLAPVCGDTTGSSVTLGCLVKGYFPEPVLTWNSGSLSSGVHTFPAVLQSDLYT LSSSVTVTSSTWPSQSITCNVAHPASSTKVDKKIEPRGPTIKPCPPCKCPAPNLLGGPSVFI FPPKIKDVLMISSLPIVTCVVVDVSEDDPDVQISWVNNVEVHTAQTQTHREDYNSTLRVW SALPIQHQQDWMSGKEFKCKVNNKDLPAPIERTISKPKGSVRAPQVYVLPPEEEMTKKQV TLTCMVTDMPEDIYVEWTNNGKTELNYKNTEPVLDSDGSYFMYSKLRVEKKNWVERNS YSCSVVHEGLHNHHTTKSFSRTPGK); and/or

30 (b) a light chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 470 (QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSSSNVGYGNYVGWYQQVPGSAPKLLIYGTAIRASG VPDRFSGSRSGDTATLTITSLQAEDEADYYCASYQSNYAFFGSGTRLTVLGGQPKSSPSV TLFPPSSEETNKATLVCTITDFYPGVVTVDWKVDGTPVTQGMETTQPSKQSNNKYMAS SYLTLTARAWERHSSYSCQVTHEGHTVEKSLSRADCS);

or a humanized variant thereof.

40

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 128 (SDSVA);
- 5 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 131 (ASGSSGNKYYPALKS);
- VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 134 (GIIAGVDV);
- VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 138 (SGSSSNVGYGDYVG);
- VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 140 (GAASRAS); and
- VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 145 (ASYDSSDGGV);
- 10 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 - (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding
- 15 molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "412B9" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- 20 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 128 (SDSVA);
- VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 131 (ASGSSGNKYYPALKS);
- VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 134 (GIIAGVDV);
- VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 138 (SGSSSNVGYGDYVG);
- VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 140 (GAASRAS); and
- 25 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 145 (ASYDSSDGGV).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 129 (NYGVG);
- 30 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 133 (NIYSGGSTYYNPALKS);
- VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 135 (GGVGSVDV);
- VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 137 (SGGRNNIGRGTFVD);
- VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 142 (GTDRRPP); and
- VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 146 (ATYDYSNDMII);
- 35 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 - (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding

molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "412E6" herein.

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 129 (NYGVG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 133 (NIYSGGSTYYNPALKS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 135 (GGVGSVDV);
 - VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 137 (SGGRNNIGRGTFVD);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 142 (GTDRRPP); and
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 146 (ATYDYSNDMII).

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 130 (SYALG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 132 (NIWRGGRIEYNPALKS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 124 (SGGD);
 - VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39 (SGSSSNVGYGNYVG);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS); and
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 144 (ASYDRSESVV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "412G11" herein.

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 130 (SYALG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 132 (NIWRGGRIEYNPALKS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 124 (SGGD);
 - VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39 (SGSSSNVGYGNYVG);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS); and
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 144 (ASYDRSESVV).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDR sequences of a clone set out in Table 5 below. The epitope may be within residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Table 5

Clone name	VH			VL			Epitope
	<u>CDR1</u>	<u>CDR2</u>	<u>CDR3</u>	<u>CDR1</u>	<u>CDR2</u>	<u>CDR3</u>	
412E10	SDSVA (SEQ ID NO: 128)	ASGSSGNKYYPAL KS (SEQ ID NO: 131)	GLIAGVDV (SEQ ID NO: 134)	SGSSSNVGYGNYVG (SEQ ID NO: 39)	GTAIRAS (SEQ ID NO: 139)	ASYQSNYAF (SEQ ID NO: 143)	412-441
412B9	SDSVA (SEQ ID NO: 128)	ASGSSGNKYYPAL KS (SEQ ID NO: 131)	GLIAGVDV (SEQ ID NO: 134)	SGSSSNVGYGDIYVG (SEQ ID NO: 138)	<u>GAAS</u> RAS (SEQ ID NO: 140)	ASY <u>DSSDGGV</u> (SEQ ID NO: 145)	412-441
412E6	<u>NYGVG</u> (SEQ ID NO: 129)	<u>NIYSGGSI</u> YYNPALK S (SEQ ID NO: 133)	<u>GGVGS</u> VDV (SEQ ID NO: 135)	SGGRNNIGRGTFVD (SEQ ID NO: 137)	<u>GTD</u> RRPP (SEQ ID NO: 142)	<u>ATYDYSND</u> MI (SEQ ID NO: 146)	412-441
412G11	<u>SYALG</u> (SEQ ID NO: 130)	<u>NIWRGGRIE</u> YNPALK S (SEQ ID NO: 132)	<u>SGGD</u> (SEQ ID NO: 124)	SGSSSNVGYGNYVG (SEQ ID NO: 39)	<u>GATS</u> RAS (SEQ ID NO: 141)	ASY <u>DRSESV</u> (SEQ ID NO: 144)	412-441

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises a VHCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 5;
 VHCDR2 comprises a VHCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 5;
 5 VHCDR3 comprises a VHCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 5;
 VLCDR1 comprises a VLCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 5;
 VLCDR2 comprises a VLCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 5; and
 VLCDR3 comprises a VLCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 5;
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 10 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

- 15 The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1 with a K_D of less than around 25 nM. The K_D may be less than around 20 nM, less than around 15 nM, or less than around 10 nM. The K_D may preferably be for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 or to SEQ ID NO: 120. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 1 nM to around 10 nM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be
 20 around 3.16 nM or 9.0 nM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of 412E10.

- The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 147 wherein
 25 the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 147. The CDRs may be 100%
 30 identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 147. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 147 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 147. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 147.

- 35 SEQ ID NO: 147 (412E10 amino acid sequence)
 QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFVSIDSVAVWRQAPGKVPWLGASGSSGNKYYPALK
 SRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCARGIAGVDVWGRGLLVTVSSEGKSSGASGESKVD
 DQAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSSSNVGYGNYVGWYQQVPGSAPKLLIYGTAIRASGVPDRF
 SGRSGDTATLTITSLQAEDEADYYCASYQSNYAFFGSGTRLTVLG

40

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 417 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 417. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 417. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 417 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 417. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 417.

SEQ ID NO: 417 (412B9 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSVISDSVAWVRQAPGKVPEWLGASGSSGNKYYPALK
SRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTEDTAVYYCARGIAGVDVWGRLLVSVSSEGKSSGASGESKVD
DQAVLTQPSSVSGALGQRVSITCSGSSNVGYGDYVGWYQQVPGSAPKLLIYGAAASRASGVPDR
FSGSRSGNTATLTISLQAEDYDYCASDSSDGGVFGSGTRLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 418 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 418. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 418. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 418 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 418. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 418.

SEQ ID NO: 418 (412E6 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSETLSLTCTVSGFSLTNYGVGWVRQAPGKALEWLGNIYSGGSTYYNPALKS
RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLNSVTLEDTAVYYCGRGGVGSVDVWGPGLLVTVSSEGKSSGASGESKVD
DQAVLTQPPSVSGSPGQRVSITCSGGRNNIGRGTTFVDWYQQLPGSGLKTVIYGTDRRPPGVPDR
FSGSKTGNAATLTITSLQAEDYWCATYDYSNDMILGSGTRLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 434 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 412 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding

molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 434. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 434. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 434 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 434. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 434.

SEQ ID NO: 434 (412G11 amino acid sequence)

QVRLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSYALGWVRQAPGRAPEWIGNIWRGGRIEYNPALKS
RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTEDTAVYYCSRSGDWGPGLLTVSSEGKSSGASGESKVDDQAV
LTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSSSNVGYGNYVGWYQQVPGSAPKLLIYGATSRASGVDPDRFSGS
RSENTATLTISLQAEDEADYYCASYDRSESVVFGSGTRLTVLG

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 148 (MAEPRQEFVEMEDHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGDTDAGLKESPLQ). Preferably, the epitope of the specific binding molecule within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1, may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 15 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "3aG3" herein.

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1, preferably within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 15 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "3bG4" herein.

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 148 (MAEPRQEFVEMEDHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGDTDAGLKESPLQ). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 148 (MAEPRQEFVEMEDHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGDTDAGLKESPLQ).

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 148 (MAEPRQEFVEMEDHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGDTDAGLKESPLQ). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 148 (MAEPRQEFVEMEDHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGDTDAGLKESPLQ).

The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Said specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- 5 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149 (S N G V G);
VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 150 (D I S/A S S/V/G G K A/K/V Y A/S/G N/H P A L K S);
VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 151 (C R D G G V S/T Y G Y D I/S D Y);
- 10 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 152 (S G S S/T S/G N I/V G G/S/Y G N/D Y/D L/V S/G);
VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 153 (G A/V T S/N/E R/L A S);
and
VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 154 (A/G S F/Y D T/S/D S/N S G
- 15 G I/V);
or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.
- 20 Said sequence identity is at least about 85% sequence identity and may therefore be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identity. Preferably said sequence identity is at least 90% or at least 95%.
- 25 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149 (SNGVG);
VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 155 (DISSSGKAYANPALKS),
SEQ ID NO: 156 (DISSGKVGYPALPS), SEQ ID NO: 157 (DISSVGKKYANPALKS), or SEQ ID
- 30 NO: 158 (DIASSGKAYSNPALKS);
VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 159 (CRDGGVSYGYDIDY), SEQ ID NO: 160 (CRDGGVSYGYDSY), or SEQ ID NO: 161 (CRDGGVTYGYDIDY);
VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 163 (SGSSSNIGGGNYLS), SEQ ID NO: 138 (SGSSSNVGYGDYVG), SEQ ID NO: 165 (SGSSGNVGYGDYVS), or SEQ ID NO: 166
- 35 (SGSTSNVSGNDVS);
VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS), SEQ ID NO: 168 (GVTERAS), SEQ ID NO: 169 (GATNLAS), or SEQ ID NO: 170 (GATNRAS); and
VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 171 (ASFDTSSGGI), SEQ ID NO: 172 (ASYDDSSGGI), SEQ ID NO: 173 (ASYDSSSGGV), or SEQ ID NO: 174 (GSYDSNSGGI);
- 40 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

5

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149 (SNGVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 155 (DISSSGKAYANPALKS);

10 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 159 (CRDGGVSYGYDIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 163 (SGSSSNIGGGNYLS);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 171 (ASFDTSSGGI);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

15 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "3aG3" herein.

20

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149 (SNGVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 155 (DISSSGKAYANPALKS);

25 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 159 (CRDGGVSYGYDIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 163 (SGSSSNIGGGNYLS);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 171 (ASFDTSSGGI).

30 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149 (SNGVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 156 (DISSSGKVYGHHPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 160 (CRDGGVSYGYDSDY);

35 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 138 (SGSSSNVGYGDYVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 168 (GVTERAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 172 (ASYDDSSGGI);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

40 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as “3aD3” herein.

- 5 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149 (SNGVG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 156 (DISSGGKVYGH PALKS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 160 (CRDGGVSYGYDSY);
 - 10 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 138 (SGSSSNVGYGDYVG);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 168 (GVTERAS); and
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 172 (ASYDDSSGGI).

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, 15 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149 (SNGVG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 157 (DISSVGKKYANPALKS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 161 (CRDGGVTYGYDIDY);
 - 20 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 165 (SGSSGNVGYGDYVS);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 169 (GATNLAS); and
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 173 (ASYDSSSGGV);
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

- 25 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as “3aH6” herein.

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, 30 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149 (SNGVG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 157 (DISSVGKKYANPALKS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 161 (CRDGGVTYGYDIDY);
 - 35 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 165 (SGSSGNVGYGDYVS);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 169 (GATNLAS); and
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 173 (ASYDSSSGGV).

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows: 40
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149 (SNGVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 158 (DIASSGKAYSNPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 161 (CRDGGVTYGYDIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 166 (SGSTSNVGSGNDVS);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 170 (GATNRAS); and
 5 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 174 (GSYDSNSGGI);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino
 10 acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule
 comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "3bG4" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 15 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149 (SNGVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 158 (DIASSGKAYSNPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 161 (CRDGGVTYGYDIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 166 (SGSTSNVGSGNDVS);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 170 (GATNRAS); and
 20 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 174 (GSYDSNSGGI).

The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3,
 VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid
 sequence as follows:
 25 VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 471
 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTISGFSLI);
 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 472 (WVRQAPGKVPPEWVG);
 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 473
 (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLRSVTTEDTAVYYCVR);
 30 VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 474 (WGPGLLVTVSS);
 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 475
 (QAVLTQPSSVSKSLGQSVSITC);
 VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 476 (WFQQVPGSAPKLLFY);
 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 477
 35 (GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTITSLQAEDADYYC);
 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 478 (FGSGTRLTVLG);
 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

40

The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 471
 5 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTISGFSLI);
 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 472 (WVRQAPGKVPEWVG);
 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 473
 (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLRSVTTEDTAVYYCVR);
 VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 474 (WGPGLLVTVSS);
 10 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 475
 (QAVLTQPSSVSKSLGQSVSITC);
 VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 476 (WFQQVPGSAPKLLFY);
 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 477
 (GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTITSLQAEDEADYYC);
 15 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 478 (FGSGTRLTVLG);
 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
 20 an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1. A specific binding molecule
 comprising FRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "3bG4" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

- (a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4,
 25 wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 471
 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTISGFSLI);
 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 472 (WVRQAPGKVPEWVG);
 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 473
 30 (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLRSVTTEDTAVYYCVR);
 VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 474 (WGPGLLVTVSS);
 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:
 475(QAVLTQPSSVSKSLGQSVSITC);
 VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 476 (WFQQVPGSAPKLLFY);
 35 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 477
 (GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTITSLQAEDEADYYC);
 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 478 (FGSGTRLTVLG);
 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 40 (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and

(b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149 (SNGVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 158 (DIASSGKAYSNPALKS);

5 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 161 (CRDGGVTYGYDIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 166 (SGSTSNVGSGNDVS);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 170 (GATNRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 174 (GSYDSNSGGI);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

10 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "3bG4" herein.

15

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

20 VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 471 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTISGFSLI);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 472 (WVRQAPGKVPPEWVG);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 473 (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLRSVTTEDTAVYYCVR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 474 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

25 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 475 (QAVLTQPSSSVSKSLGQSVSITC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 476 (WFQQVPGSAPKLLFY);

VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 477 (GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTITSLQAEDEADYYC);

30 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 478 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and

(b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said

35 CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149 (SNGVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 158 (DIASSGKAYSNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 161 (CRDGGVTYGYDIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 166 (SGSTSNVGSGNDVS);

40 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 170 (GATNRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 174 (GSYDSNSGGI);

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "3bG4" herein.

5

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) A VH domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 479 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTISGFSLSINGVGWVRQAPGKVPEWVGDIASSGKAYS NPALKSRLSITRDTSKSQVLSLSLRSVTTEDTAVYYCVRCRDGGVITYGYDIDYWGPGLLVT

10

VSS); and/or

(b) a VL domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 480 (QAVLTQPSSVSKSLGQSVSITCSGSTSNVGSGNDVSWFQQVPGSAPKLLFYGATNRAS GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTITSLQAEDEADYYCGSYDSNSGGIFGSGTRLTVLG);

or a humanized variant thereof.

15

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) A heavy chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 481 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTISGFSLSINGVGWVRQAPGKVPEWVGDIASSGKAYS NPALKSRLSITRDTSKSQVLSLSLRSVTTEDTAVYYCVRCRDGGVITYGYDIDYWGPGLLVT

20

VSSAKTTAPSVYPLAPVCGDTTGSSVTLGCLVKGYFPEPVTLTWNSGSLSSGVHTFPAVL QSDLYTLSSSVTVTSSTWPSQSITCNVAHPASSTKVDKIEPRGPTIKPCPPCKCPAPNLL GGPSVFIFPPKIKDVLMISSLPIVTCVVVDVSEDDPDVQISWVFNNEVHTAQTQTHREDY NSTLRVVSALPIQHGDWMSGKEFKCKVNNKDLPAPIERTISKPKGSVRAPQVYVLPPEE EMTKKQVTLTCMVTDMPEDIYVEWTNNGKTELNYKNTEPVLDSGYSYFMYSKLRVEKK

25

NWVERNSYSCSVVHEGLHNHHTTKSFSRTPGK); and/or

(b) a light chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 482 (QAVLTQPSSVSKSLGQSVSITCSGSTSNVGSGNDVSWFQQVPGSAPKLLFYGATNRAS GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTITSLQAEDEADYYCGSYDSNSGGIFGSGTRLTVLGGQPKSSP SVTLFPPSSEETNKATLVCTITDFYPGVTVDWKVDGTPVTQGMETTQPSKQSNNKYM ASSYLTLTARAWERHSSYSCQVTHEGHTVEKSLSRADCS);

30

or a humanized variant thereof.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDR sequences of a clone set out in Table 6 below. The epitope may be within residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Table 6

Clone name	VH			VL			Epitope
	CDR1	CDR2	CDR3	CDR1	CDR2	CDR3	
3aD3	SNGVG (SEQ ID NO: 149)	DISSGGKVYGH ¹⁵⁶ P ALKS (SEQ ID NO: 156)	CRDGGVSYGYD ¹⁶⁰ SDY (SEQ ID NO: 160)	SGSSSNVGYG ¹³⁸ DYV G (SEQ ID NO: 138)	GV ¹⁶⁸ TERAS (SEQ ID NO: 168)	ASYD ¹⁷² DSSGGI (SEQ ID NO: 172)	1-49
3aH6	SNGVG (SEQ ID NO: 149)	DISSVGGKKYANP ALKS (SEQ ID NO: 157)	CRDGGV ¹⁶¹ TYGYDIDY (SEQ ID NO: 161)	SGSSGNVGYG ¹⁶⁵ DYV S (SEQ ID NO: 165)	GATN ¹⁶⁹ LAS (SEQ ID NO: 169)	ASYDSSSGGV ¹⁷³ (SEQ ID NO: 173)	1-49
3aG3	SNGVG (SEQ ID NO: 149)	DISSSGKAYANP ALKS (SEQ ID NO: 155)	CRDGGVSYGYDIDY (SEQ ID NO: 159)	SGSSNIGG ¹⁶³ GNYL ¹⁶³ S (SEQ ID NO: 163)	GAT ¹⁴¹ SRAS (SEQ ID NO: 141)	AS ¹⁷¹ FDISSGGI (SEQ ID NO: 171)	1-49
3bG4	SNGVG (SEQ ID NO: 149)	DIASSGKAY ¹⁵⁸ SNP ALKS (SEQ ID NO: 158)	CRDGGV ¹⁶¹ TYGYDIDY (SEQ ID NO: 161)	SGSTSNVGS ¹⁶⁶ GNDV S (SEQ ID NO: 166)	GATN ¹⁷⁰ RAS (SEQ ID NO: 170)	G ¹⁷⁴ SYDSNSGGI (SEQ ID NO: 174)	1-49

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises a VHCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 6;
 - VHCDR2 comprises a VHCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 6;
 - 5 VHCDR3 comprises a VHCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 6;
 - VLCDR1 comprises a VLCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 6;
 - VLCDR2 comprises a VLCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 6; and
 - VLCDR3 comprises a VLCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 6;
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- 10 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

- 15 The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1 with a K_D of less than around 25 nM. The K_D may be less than around 20 nM, less than around 15 nM, or less than around 10 nM. The K_D may preferably be for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 or to SEQ ID NO: 148. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 1 nM to around 20 nM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 1
- 20 nM to around 10 nM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 19.1 nM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of 3aD3. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 3.6 nM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of 3aH6. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 6.1 nM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of 3aG3. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 8.9 nM,
- 25 optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of 3bG4.

- The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 422 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid
- 30 sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 422. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 422. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence
- 35 having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 422 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 422. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 422.

SEQ ID NO: 422 (3aD3 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSNGVGWVRRAPGKVPEWVGDISSGGKVYGHFALK
 SRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSVSSVTSEDVAVYYCVRCRDGGVSYGYDSDYWGPGLLTVTSSEKSSG
 ASGESKVDDQAVVTQPSSVSKSLGQSVSITCSGSSSNVGYGDYVGVWFQQVPGSAPKLLIYGVTE
 5 RASGVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTISSIAEDEADYYCASYDDSSGGIFGSGTRLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 423 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid
 10 sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 423. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 423. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence
 15 having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 423 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 423. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 423.

SEQ ID NO: 423 (3aH6 amino acid sequence)

20 QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLSSNGVGWVRQAPGKVPEWLGDISSVGKKYANPALK
 SRLSFTRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTTEDVAVYYCVKCRDGGVITYGYDIDYWGPGLLVTSSEKSSGA
 SGESKVDDQAVVTQPSSVSGSLGQSVSITCSGSSGNVGYGDYVSWFQQFHGSAPKLLIYGATNL
 ASGVPARFSGSRSGNTATLTISSLHAEDEADYYCASYDSSSGGVFGSGTRLTVLG

25 The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 424 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 424. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 424. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence
 30 having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 424 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 424. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 424.
 35

SEQ ID NO: 424 (3aG3 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLSSNGVGWVRQAPGKVPEWVGDISSSGKAYANPALK
 SRLSITRDTAKTQVFLSLSSVTTEDVAVYYCVRCRDGGVSYGYDIDYWGPGLLTVTSSEKSSGA

SGESKVDDQAVLTQPPSVSGSPGQRV SITCSGSSSNIGGGNYLSWFQQVPGSAPKLLIYGATSRA
SGVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTISLQAEDADYYCASFDTS SGGIFGAGTRLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 425 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 425. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 425. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 425 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 425. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 425.

15

SEQ ID NO: 425 (3bG4 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTISGFSLSINGVGWVRQAPGKVPEWVGDIASSGKAYSNPALKS
RLSITRDTSKSKVSLSLRSVTTEDTAVYYCVRCDGGVTYGYDIDYWGPGLLVTSSEGKSSGAS
GESKVDDQAVLTQPSVSKSLGQSVSITCSGSTSNVSGSNDVSWFQQVPGSAPKLLFYGATNRA
SGVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTITSLQAEDADYYCGSYDSNSGGIFGSGTRLTVLG

20

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 111 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of

SEQ	ID	NO:	175
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(QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAEEAGIGDT).

25

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 111 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "3bF4" herein.

30

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 175 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAEEAGIGDT).

The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 175 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAEEAGIGDT).

35

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 175 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAEEAGIGDT).

The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 175 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAEEAGIGDT).

40

- The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 111 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Said specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each
- 5 of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149 (S N G V G);
- VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 176 (D I/K S S V/A G K K/T Y A/G N P A L K S);
- VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 177 (C R D G G V T Y G Y D I/V
- 10 D Y);
- VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 178 (S G S S S N V G L/Y R/G N/D Y/V V T/S);
- VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 179 (G A/T T S/T R A S); and
- VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 180 (A S A/F D T/S N/D D/S G G
- 15 V/I);
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.
- 20 Said sequence identity is at least about 85% sequence identity and may therefore be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identity. Preferably said sequence identity is at least 90% or at least 95%.
- 25 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149 (SNGVG);
- VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 157 (DISSVGKKYANPALKS), or SEQ ID NO: 182 (DKSSAGKTYGNPALKS);
- 30 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 161 (CRDGGVITYGYDIDY), or SEQ ID NO: 184 (CRDGGVITYGYDIDY);
- VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 185 (SGSSSNVGLRNYVT), or SEQ ID NO: 186 (SGSSSNVGYGDVVS);
- VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS), or SEQ ID NO:
- 35 188 (GTTTRAS); and
- VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 189 (ASADTNDGGV), or SEQ ID NO: 190 (ASFDSDSGGI);
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
- 40 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 111 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149 (SNGVG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 157 (DISSVGKKYANPALKS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 161 (CRDGGVTYGYDIDY);
 - VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 185 (SGSSSNVGLRNYVT);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS); and
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 189 (ASADTNDGGV);
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 111 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as “3bF4” herein.

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149 (SNGVG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 157 (DISSVGKKYANPALKS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 161 (CRDGGVTYGYDIDY);
 - VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 186 (SGSSSNVGYGDVVS);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS); and
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 189 (ASADTNDGGV).

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149 (SNGVG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 182 (DKSSAGKTYGNPALKS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 184 (CRDGGVTYGYDVVDY);
 - VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 186 (SGSSSNVGYGDVVS);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 188 (GTTTRAS); and
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 190 (ASFDSDSGGI);
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 111 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as “3aB7” herein.

- 5 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 149 (SNGVG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 182 (DKSSAGKTYGNPALKS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 184 (CRDGGVTYGYDVDY);
 - 10 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 186 (SGSSSNVGYGDVVS);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 188 (GTTTRAS); and
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 190 (ASFDSDSGGI).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDR sequences of a clone set out in Table 7 below. The epitope may be within residues 49 to 111 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Table 7

Clone name	VH			VL			Epitope
	<u>CDR1</u>	<u>CDR2</u>	<u>CDR3</u>	<u>CDR1</u>	<u>CDR2</u>	<u>CDR3</u>	
3aB7	SNGVG (SEQ ID NO: 149)	DKSSAGKTYGNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 182)	CRDGGVTYGYD ¹ VDY (SEQ ID NO: 184)	SGSSSNVGYGD ¹ WVS (SEQ ID NO: 186)	GTTTRAS (SEQ ID NO: 188)	ASFDS ¹ DSGGI (SEQ ID NO: 190)	49-111
3bF4	SNGVG (SEQ ID NO: 149)	DISSVGKKYANPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 157)	CRDGGVTYGYDIDY (SEQ ID NO: 161)	SGSSSNVGLRNYVT (SEQ ID NO: 185)	GATSRAS (SEQ ID NO: 141)	ASADTNDGGV (SEQ ID NO: 189)	49-111

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises a VHCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 7;
 5 VHCDR2 comprises a VHCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 7;
 VHCDR3 comprises a VHCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 7;
 VLCDR1 comprises a VLCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 7;
 VLCDR2 comprises a VLCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 7; and
 VLCDR3 comprises a VLCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 7;
 10 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 111 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

- 15 The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 111 of SEQ ID NO: 1 with a K_D of less than around 250 nM. The K_D may be less than around 200 nM, less than around 150 nM, or less than around 100 nM. The K_D may preferably be for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 or to SEQ ID NO: 175. The K_D for binding to
 20 SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 1 nM to around 20 nM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 50 nM to around 150 nM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 69 nM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of 3aB7. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 140 nM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of 3bF4.

- 25 The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 420 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 111 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule
 30 may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 420. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 420. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity
 35 to SEQ ID NO: 420 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 420. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 420.

SEQ ID NO: 420 (3aB7 amino acid sequence)

- QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSNGVGWVRQAPGKVP EWGDKSSAGKTYGNPAL
 40 KSRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCVRCRDGGVTYGYDVDYWGPGLLVTVSSEGKSSG

ASGESKVDDQAVLTQPSSVSKSLGQSVSITCSGSSSNVGYGDVSWFQQFPGSAPKLLIFGTTTR
ASGVPDRFSGSRSGNAATLTINSLQAEDEADYYCASFDSDSGGIAGSGTRLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 421 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 111 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 421. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 421. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 421 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 421. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421.

15

SEQ ID NO: 421 (3bF4 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLSSNGVGWVRQAPGKVPEWLGDISSVGKKYANPALK
SRLSFTTRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTEDTAVYYCVKCRDGGVTYGYDIDYWGPGLLVTVSSEKSSGA
SGESKVDDQAVLTQPSSVSKSTGQTVSITCSGSSSNVGLRNYVTWFQQVPGSAPKLLIYGATSRA
SGIPDRFSGSRSGNTATLISSLQAEDEADYYCASADTNDGGVFGSGTRLTVLG

20

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 146 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 191 (GKTKIATPRGA).

25

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "3aD6" herein.

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 191 (GKTKIATPRGA). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 191 (GKTKIATPRGA).

30

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 191 (GKTKIATPRGA). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 191 (GKTKIATPRGA).

35

The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Said specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

40

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 192 (S N A V I/G);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 193 (L I D V/I D G D A/T A Y D/N P A L K/E S);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 194 (D/H Y G/D S/K W G Y V/A S/D D/S I D Y);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 195 (S G S D/S -/S -/N -/V I/G G/Y G A/D D/Y V G);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 196 (D N/A D/T N/T R P/A S); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 197 (G/A T/S Y S/Q G/N A/E N/R Y/S G I/V);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

15

Said sequence identity is at least about 85% sequence identity and may therefore be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identity. Preferably said sequence identity is at least 90% or at least 95%.

20

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 198 (SNAVI), or SEQ ID NO: 17 (SNAVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 200 (LIDVDGDAAYDPALKS), or SEQ ID NO: 201 (LIDIDGDTAYNPALES);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 202 (DYGSWGYVSDIDY), or SEQ ID NO: 203 (HYDKWGYADSIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 204 (SGSDIGGADV), or SEQ ID NO: 138 (SGSSSNVGYGDYVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 206 (DNDNRPS), or SEQ ID NO: 207 (DATTRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 208 (GTYSGANYGI), or SEQ ID NO: 209 (ASYQNERSGV);

35

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

40

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 198 (SNAVI);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 200 (LIDVDGDAAYDPALKS);

5 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 202 (DYGSWGYVSDIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 204 (SGSDIGGADVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 206 (DNDNRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 208 (GTYSGANYGI);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

10 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "3aD6" herein.

15

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 198 (SNAVI);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 200 (LIDVDGDAAYDPALKS);

20 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 202 (DYGSWGYVSDIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 204 (SGSDIGGADVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 206 (DNDNRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 208 (GTYSGANYGI).

25 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17 (SNAVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 201 (LIDIDGDTAYNPALES);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 203 (HYDKWGYADSIDY);

30 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 138 (SGSSSNVGYGDYVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 207 (DATTRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 209 (ASYQNERSGV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

35 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "3aA6" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDR sequences of a clone set out in Table 8 below. The epitope may be within residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

5 Table 8

Clone name	VH			VL			Epitope
	<u>CDR1</u>	<u>CDR2</u>	<u>CDR3</u>	<u>CDR1</u>	<u>CDR2</u>	<u>CDR3</u>	
3aA6	SNAVG (SEQ ID NO: 17)	LIDIDGDTAYNPAL S (SEQ ID NO: 201)	<u>HYDKWGYAD</u> SIDY (SEQ ID NO: 203)	SGSSSNVGYGDYVG (SEQ ID NO: 138)	DATTRAS (SEQ ID NO: 207)	ASYQNERSGV (SEQ ID NO: 209)	147-157
3aD6	SNAVI (SEQ ID NO: 198)	LIDVDGDAAYDPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 200)	DYGSWGYVSDIDY (SEQ ID NO: 202)	SGSD---IGGADV (SEQ ID NO: 204)	DNDNRPS (SEQ ID NO: 206)	GTYSGANYGI (SEQ ID NO: 208)	147-157

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises a VHCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 8;
 VHCDR2 comprises a VHCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 8;
 5 VHCDR3 comprises a VHCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 8;
 VLCDR1 comprises a VLCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 8;
 VLCDR2 comprises a VLCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 8; and
 VLCDR3 comprises a VLCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 8;
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 10 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

- 15 The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1 with a K_D of less than around 50 nM. The K_D may be less than around 40 nM, less than around 30 nM, or less than around 20 nM. The K_D may preferably be for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 or to SEQ ID NO: 191. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 10 nM to around 20 nM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be
 20 around 16.5 nM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of 3aD6.

- The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 418 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid
 25 sequence comprising residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 418. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 418. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino
 30 acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 418 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 418. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 418.

SEQ ID NO: 418 (3aA6 amino acid sequence)

- 35 QVRLQESGSSLVKPSQTLVCTVSGFPLTSNAVGVWRQAPGKAPEWLGLIDIDGDTAYNPALES
 RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVAIEDTAVYYCARHYDKWGYADSIDYWGPGLLVTVSSEGKSSGASG
 ESKVDDQALLTQPSSVFGSLGQQRVSITCSGSSSNVGYGDYVGWYQQVPGSAPKLLIYDATTRASG
 VPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTISLQAEDADYYCASYQNERSGVFGSGTRLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 419 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 419. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 419. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 419 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 419. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 419.

SEQ ID NO: 419 (3aD6 amino acid sequence)
 QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSNAVIWVRQAPGKAPWVALIDVDGDAAYDPALKS
 RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLRSVTEDTAVYYCARDYGSWGYVSDIDYWGPGLLVTSSEKSSGASG
 ESKVDDQAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSDIGGADVGFQVPGSGLRTLIDNDNRPSGVP
 DRFSGSKSGNTATLTISLQPEADYFCGTYSYGANYGIFGSGTRLTVLG

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 221 (RENAKAKTDHGAE).

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 221 (RENAKAKTDHGAE). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 221 (RENAKAKTDHGAE). The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "E2E8" herein. Critical residues of the epitope may be residue 391 (E) (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 222 (XXXXXXXXXXXXXE, wherein X is any amino acid). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, wherein any one or more residue other than residue number 391 (E) is replaced by a non-conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 221, wherein any one or more residue other than residue number 391 (E) is replaced by a conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 221, wherein any one or more residue other than residue number 391 (E) is replaced by a conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1) and any one or more residue other than residue number 391 (E) is replaced by a non-conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1).

40

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 221 (RENAKAKTDHGAE). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 221 (RENAKAKTDHGAE).

- 5 The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 221 (RENAKAKTDHGAE). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 221 (RENAKAKTDHGAE).

- The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Said specific binding molecule may
10 comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 223 (D/S R/W G V A);

- VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 224 (T M R S G G T/G I/T D/E
15 Y/D N P A L K S);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth SEQ ID NO: 225 (G Y L S G D/I/V R/H Y A);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 226 (S G S R/S S D/N I/V G Y/D/A
G N/D/R Y V S/G);

- VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 227 (D/S/G T/A N/R/T T/N/S R A
20 S); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 228 (A N/S I D S/T S/G R/N S/N
H/L L/I);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
25 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

- Said sequence identity is at least about 85% sequence identity and may therefore be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99%
30 identity. Preferably said sequence identity is at least 90% or at least 95%.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 229 (DRGVA), SEQ ID NO: 230
35 (DWGVA), or SEQ ID NO: 231 (SWGVA);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 232 (TMRSGGTIDYNPALKS), SEQ ID NO: 233 (TMRSGGGTEYNPALKS), or SEQ ID NO: 234 (TMRSGGTTDDNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 235 (GYLSGDRYA), SEQ ID NO: 236 (GYLSGIHYA), or SEQ ID NO: 237 (GYLSGVHYA);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 238 (SGSRSDIGYGNVVS), SEQ ID NO: 239 (SGSSSNVGAGNYVG), SEQ ID NO: 240 (SGSSSNVGDGDYVG), or SEQ ID NO: 241 (SGSSSNVGDGRYVS);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 242 (DTNTRAS), SEQ ID NO: 243 (DTTSRAS), SEQ ID NO: 170 (GATNRAS), or SEQ ID NO: 244 (SARNRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 245 (ANIDSSRSHL), SEQ ID NO: 246 (ASIDSGNNLL), or SEQ ID NO: 247 (ASIDTSRSHI);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 229 (DRGVA);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 232 (TMRSGGTIDYNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 235 (GYLSGDRYA);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 238 (SGSRSDIGYGNVVS);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 242 (DTNTRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 245 (ANIDSSRSHL);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "E2E8" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 229 (DRGVA);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 232 (TMRSGGTIDYNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 235 (GYLSGDRYA);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 238 (SGSRSDIGYGNVVS);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 242 (DTNTRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 245 (ANIDSSRSHL).

The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 483
 5 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);
 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 484 (WVRQAPGKALEWVG);
 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 485
 (RLSITRDTSKSQVFLSLSSVTEDMAMYYCAR);
 VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 486 (WGRGLLVTVSS);
 10 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 487
 (QAVLTQPSSVSKSLGQSVSIAC);
 VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 488 (WFQQIPGSAPKLLIY);
 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 489
 (GVPDRFSGARSGNTATLTINSLQAEDEADYYC);
 15 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 490 (FGSGTRLTVLG);
 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto.
- 20 The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 483
 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);
 25 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 484 (WVRQAPGKALEWVG);
 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 485
 (RLSITRDTSKSQVFLSLSSVTEDMAMYYCAR);
 VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 486 (WGRGLLVTVSS);
 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 487
 30 (QAVLTQPSSVSKSLGQSVSIAC);
 VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 488 (WFQQIPGSAPKLLIY);
 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 489
 (GVPDRFSGARSGNTATLTINSLQAEDEADYYC);
 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 490 (FGSGTRLTVLG);
 35 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
 an amino acid sequence comprising residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. A specific binding
 40 molecule comprising FRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "E2E8" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

5 VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 483 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 484 (WVRQAPGKALEWVG);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 485 (RLSITRDTSKSQVFLSLSSVTEDMAMYYCAR);

10 VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 486 (WGRGLLVTVSS);

VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 487 (QAVLTQPSSVSKSLGQSVSIAC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 488 (WFQQIPGSAPKLLIY);

15 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 489 (GVPDRFSGARSGNTATLTINSLQAEDYDYC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 490 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and

20 (b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 229 (DRGVA);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 232 (TMRSGGTIDYNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 235 (GYLSGDRYA);

25 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 238 (SGSRSDIGYGNVYS);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 242 (DTNTRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 245 (ANIDSSRSHL);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

30 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "E2E8" herein.

35

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

40 VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 483 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);

- VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 484 (WVRQAPGKALEWVG);
- VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 485 (RLSITRDTSKSQVFLSLSSVTEDMAMYYCAR);
- VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 486 (WGRGLLTVSS);
- 5 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 487 (QAVLTQPSSVSKSLGQSVSIAC);
- VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 488 (WFQQIPGSAPKLLIY);
- VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 489 (GVPDRFSGARSGNTATLTINSLQAEDEADYYC);
- 10 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 490 (FGSGTRLTVLG);
- or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and
- (b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said
- 15 CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 229 (DRGVA);
- VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 232 (TMRSGGTIDYNPALKS);
- VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 235 (GYLSGDRYA);
- VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 238 (SGSRSDIGYGNYVS);
- 20 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 242 (DTNTRAS); and
- VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 245 (ANIDSSRSHL);
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as
- 25 "E2E8" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

- (a) A VH domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 491 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTDRGVAWVRQAPGKALEWVGTMRSRGGTID
- 30 YNPALKSRLSITRDTSKSQVFLSLSSVTEDMAMYYCARGYLSGDRYAWGRGLLTVSS);
- and/or
- (b) a VL domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 492 (QAVLTQPSSVSKSLGQSVSIACSGSRSDIGYGNYVSWFQQIPGSAPKLLIYDTNTRASGV
- PDRFSGARSGNTATLTINSLQAEDEADYYCANIDSSRSHLFGSGTRLTVLG);
- 35 or a humanized variant thereof.

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

- (a) A heavy chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 493 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTDRGVAWVRQAPGKALEWVGTMRSRGGTID
- 40 YNPALKSRLSITRDTSKSQVFLSLSSVTEDMAMYYCARGYLSGDRYAWGRGLLTVSSA

KTTAPSVYPLAPVCGDTTGSSVTLGCLVKGYFPEPVTLTWNSGSLSSGVHTFPAVLQSDL
 YTLSSSVTVTSSTWPSQSITCNVAHPASSTKVDKKIEPRGPTIKPCPPCKCPAPNLLGGPS
 VFIFPPKIKDVLMSLSPIVTCVVVDVSEDDPDVQISWVFNNEVHTAQTQTHREDYNSTLR
 VVSALPIQHQQDWMSGKEFKCKVNNKDLPAPIERTISKPKGSVRAPQVYVLPPEEEMTKK
 5 QVTLTCMVTDMPEDIYVEWTNNGKTELNYKNTEPVLDSDGSYFMYSKLRVEKKNWVER
 NSYSCSVVHEGLHNHHTTKSFSRTPGK); and/or
 (b) a light chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 494
 (QAVLTQPSSSVSKSLGQSVSIACSGSRSDIGYGNVSWFQQIPGSAPKLLIYDTNTRASGV
 PDRFSGARSGNTATLTINSLQAEDEADYYCANIDSSRSHLFGSGTRLTVLGGQPKSSPSV
 10 TLFPPSSEETNKATLVCTITDFYPGVVTVDWKVDGTPVTQGMETTQPSKQSNNKYMAS
 SYLTLTARAWERHSSYSCQVTHEGHTVEKSLSRADCS);
 or a humanized variant thereof.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
 15 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 230 (DWGVA);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 234 (TMRSGGTTDDNPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 237 (GYLSGVHYA);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 241 (SGSSSNVGDGRYVS);
 20 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 243 (DTTSRAS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 246 (ASIDSGNNLL);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 25 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
 an amino acid sequence comprising residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding
 molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "E1E8"
 herein.

30 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 230 (DWGVA);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 234 (TMRSGGTTDDNPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 237 (GYLSGVHYA);
 35 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 241 (SGSSSNVGDGRYVS);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 243 (DTTSRAS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 246 (ASIDSGNNLL).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
 40 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 230 (DWGVA);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 234 (TMRSGGTTDDNPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 237 (GYLSGVHYA);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 239 (SGSSSNVGAGNYVG);
 5 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (GATNRAS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 247 (ASIDTSRSHI);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 10 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "E2A6" herein.

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
 15 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 230 (DWGVA);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 234 (TMRSGGTTDDNPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 237 (GYLSGVHYA);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 239 (SGSSSNVGAGNYVG);
 20 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (GATNRAS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 247 (ASIDTSRSHI).

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 25 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 231 (SWGVA);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 233 (TMRSGGGTEYNPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 236 (GYLSGIHYA);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 240 (SGSSSNVGDDYVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 244 (SARNRAS); and
 30 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 247 (ASIDTSRSHI);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino
 35 acid sequence comprising residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "E2B7" herein.

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 40 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 231 (SWGVA);

- VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 233 (TMRSGGGTEYNPALKS);
VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 236 (GYLSGIHYA);
VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 240 (SGSSSNVGDGDYVG);
VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 244 (SARNRAS); and
5 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 247 (ASIDTSRSHI).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDR sequences of a clone set out in Table 9 below. The epitope may be within residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Table 9

Clone name	VH			VL			Epitope
	<u>CDR1</u>	<u>CDR2</u>	<u>CDR3</u>	<u>CDR1</u>	<u>CDR2</u>	<u>CDR3</u>	
E1E8	DWGVA (SEQ ID NO: 230)	TMRSGGTTDDNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 234)	GYLSGVHYA (SEQ ID NO: 237)	SGSSNVGDGRVVS (SEQ ID NO: 241)	DTTSRAS (SEQ ID NO: 243)	ASIDSGNNLL (SEQ ID NO: 246)	391'E'
E2A6	DWGVA (SEQ ID NO: 230)	TMRSGGTTDDNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 234)	GYLSGVHYA (SEQ ID NO: 237)	SGSSNVGAGNYVG (SEQ ID NO: 239)	GATNRAS (SEQ ID NO: 70)	ASIDTSRSHI (SEQ ID NO: 247)	391'E'
E2B7	SWGVA (SEQ ID NO: 231)	TMRSGGTEYNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 233)	GYLSGIHYA (SEQ ID NO: 236)	SGSSNVGDGDYVG (SEQ ID NO: 240)	SARNRAS (SEQ ID NO: 244)	ASIDTSRSHI (SEQ ID NO: 247)	391'E'
E2E8	DRGVA (SEQ ID NO: 229)	TMRSGGTIDYNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 232)	GYLSGDRYA (SEQ ID NO: 235)	SGSRSDIGYGNVVS (SEQ ID NO: 238)	DTNTRAS (SEQ ID NO: 242)	ANIDSSRSHL (SEQ ID NO: 245)	391'E'

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises a VHCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 9;
 VHCDR2 comprises a VHCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 9;
 5 VHCDR3 comprises a VHCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 9;
 VLCDR1 comprises a VLCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 9;
 VLCDR2 comprises a VLCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 9; and
 VLCDR3 comprises a VLCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 9;
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 10 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

- 15 The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 with a K_D of less than around 25 nM. The K_D may be less than around 20 nM, less than around 15 nM, or less than around 10 nM. The K_D may preferably be for binding to SEQ ID NO: 4. The specific binding molecule may have no detectable binding to SEQ ID NO: 1. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 4 may be around 300 pM to
 20 around 10 nM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 4 may be around 300 pM to around 500 pM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 4 may be around 1 nM to around 10 nM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 4 may be around 401 pM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of E1E8. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 4 may be around 6.3 nM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of E1E8.

- 25 The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 248 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding
 30 molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 248. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 248. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least
 35 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 248 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 248. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 248.

SEQ ID NO: 248 (E2E8 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTDRGVAVWRQAPGKALEWVGTMRSRGGTIDYNPALK
 40 SRLSITRDTSKSQVFLSLSSVTTEDMAMYYCARGYLSGDRYAWGRGLLVTSSEKSSGASGES

KVDDQAVLTQPSSVSKSLGQSVSIACSGSRSDIGYGNVSWFQQIPGSAPKLLIYDTNTRASGVDP
RFSGARSGNTATLTINSLQAEDEADYYCANIDSSRSHLFGSGTRLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 250 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 250. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 250. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 250 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 250. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 250.

15

SEQ ID NO: 250 (E1E8 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTDWGVAVVRQAPGKALEWLGTMRSGGTTDDNPAL
KSRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTTEDMAMYYCARGYLSGVHYAWGRLLVTVSSEKSSGASGE
SKVDDQAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQSVSITCSGSSSNVGDGRYVSWFQQVPGSAPKLLIYDTTSRASGV
PDRFSGSRSGNTATLIITSLQAEDEADYYCASIDSGNNLLFGSGTRLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 252 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 252. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 252. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 252 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 252. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 252.

SEQ ID NO: 252 (E2A6 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTDWGVAVVRQAPGKALEWLGTMRSGGTTDDNPAL
KSRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTTEDMAMYYCARGYLSGVHYAWGRLLVTVSSEKSSGASGE
SKVDDRVRTQPSSVSKSLGQSVSITCSGSSSNVAGNYVGWFQQVPGSAPKLLIYGATNRASG
VPARFSGSKSGVTATLTITSLQAEDEADYYCASIDTSRSHIFGSGTRLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 254 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 254. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 254. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 254 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 254. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 254.

SEQ ID NO: 254 (E2B7 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSWGVAVWRQAPGKALEWLGTMRSGGGTEYNPAL
 15 KSRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTEDMAMYYCARGYLSGIHYAWGRGLLVSVSSEKSSGSGES
 KVDDQAVLTQLSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSSSNVGDGDYVGWFQQLPGSAPKLLIYSARNRASGV
 PDRFSGSRSGNTATLTITSLQAEDEADYYCASIDTSRSHIFGSGTRLTVLG

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 113 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 255 (SLEDEAAGHVTQARMVSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPQGKGQANATRIP AKTPPAPKTPPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTP PKSPSS).

25 The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 113 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CB11" herein.

30 The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 255 (SLEDEAAGHVTQARMVSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPQGKGQANATRIP AKTPPAPKTPPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTP PKSPSS). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 255
 35 (SLEDEAAGHVTQARMVSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPQGKGQANATRIP AKTPPAPKTPPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTP PKSPSS).

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 255
 40 (SLEDEAAGHVTQARMVSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPQGKGQANATRIP

AKTPPAPKTPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTP
PKSPSS). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%,
at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 255
(SLEDEAAGHVTQARMVSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPQKGQANATRIP
5 AKTPPAPKTPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTP
PKSPSS).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

10 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 198 (SNAVI);
VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 200 (LIDVDGDAAYDPALKS);
VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 202 (DYGSWGYVSDIDY);
VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 256 (SGSNIGSNDVG);
VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 257 (DNNNRPS); and
15 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 258 (GGYAGSSSNFL);
or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
20 an amino acid sequence comprising residues 113 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding
molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as “CB11”
herein

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 198 (SNAVI);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 200 (LIDVDGDAAYDPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 202 (DYGSWGYVSDIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 256 (SGSNIGSNDVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 257 (DNNNRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 258 (GGYAGSSSNFL).

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 155 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence

35	of	SEQ	ID	NO:	293
(MAEPRQEFVEMDHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGDTDAGLKESPLQTPTEDGSEEPGSE					
TSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAAQPHTIEPGTTAEEAGIGDTPSLEDEAAGHVTQARM					
VSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPR).					

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 155 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CA2" herein.

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 293
 5 (MAEPRQEFVEMEDHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGDTDAGLKESPLQTPTEDGSEEPGSE
 TSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAAQPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPSLEDEAAGHVTQARM
 VSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPR). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence
 having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity
 to SEQ ID NO: 293
 10 (MAEPRQEFVEMEDHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGDTDAGLKESPLQTPTEDGSEEPGSE
 TSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAAQPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPSLEDEAAGHVTQARM
 VSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPR).

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 293
 15 (MAEPRQEFVEMEDHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGDTDAGLKESPLQTPTEDGSEEPGSE
 TSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAAQPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPSLEDEAAGHVTQARM
 VSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPR). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence
 having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity
 to SEQ ID NO: 293
 20 (MAEPRQEFVEMEDHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGDTDAGLKESPLQTPTEDGSEEPGSE
 TSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAAQPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPSLEDEAAGHVTQARM
 VSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPR).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
 25 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 259 (SNGVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 157 (DISSVGKKYANPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 161 (CRDGGVTYGYDIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 165 (SGSSGNVGYGDYVS);
 30 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 169 (GATNLAS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 173 (ASYDSSSGGV);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 35 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
 an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 155 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding
 molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CA2" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
 40 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 259 (SNGVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 157 (DISSVGKKYANPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 161 (CRDGGVTYGYDIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 165 (SGSSGNVGYGDYVS);
 5 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 169 (GATNLAS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 173 (ASYDSSSGGV).

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence
 10 of SEQ ID NO: 260
 (MAEPRQEFVMEHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGDTDAGLKESPLQTPTEGSEEPGSE
 TSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAAQPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPSLEDEAAGHVTQARM
 VSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPGQKGQANATRIPAKTPPAPKTPSSGEPPKSG
 DRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSS).

15 The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
 This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CB6" herein.

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 260
 20 (MAEPRQEFVMEHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGDTDAGLKESPLQTPTEGSEEPGSE
 TSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAAQPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPSLEDEAAGHVTQARM
 VSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPGQKGQANATRIPAKTPPAPKTPSSGEPPKSG
 DRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSS). The epitope may comprise
 an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95%
 25 or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 260
 (MAEPRQEFVMEHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGDTDAGLKESPLQTPTEGSEEPGSE
 TSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAAQPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPSLEDEAAGHVTQARM
 VSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPGQKGQANATRIPAKTPPAPKTPSSGEPPKSG
 DRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSS).

30 The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 260
 (MAEPRQEFVMEHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGDTDAGLKESPLQTPTEGSEEPGSE
 TSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAAQPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPSLEDEAAGHVTQARM
 VSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPGQKGQANATRIPAKTPPAPKTPSSGEPPKSG
 35 DRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSS). The epitope may consist of
 an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95%
 or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 260
 (MAEPRQEFVMEHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGDTDAGLKESPLQTPTEGSEEPGSE
 TSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAAQPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPSLEDEAAGHVTQARM

VSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPGQKGQANATRIPAKTPPAPKTPSSGEPKSG
DRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSS).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,

5 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 259 (SNGVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 157 (DISSVGKKYANPALKS):

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 161 (CRDGGVITYGYDIDY):

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 261 (SGSSSNIGTGNYVG);

10 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 262 (GAVTRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 263 (ASYDSTSGGV):

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

15 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as “CB6” herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,

20 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 259 (SNGVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 157 (DISSVGKKYANPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 161 (CRDGGVTYGYDIDY):

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 261 (SGSSSNIGTGNYVG);

25 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 262 (GAVTRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 263 (ASYDSTSGGV).

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 319 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence

30 of SEQ ID NO: 264

(MAEPRQEFVEMEDHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGD TDAGLKESPLQTP TEDGSEEPGSE
TSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAEEAGIGDTPSLEDEAAGHVTQARM
VSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPGQKQGANATRIPAKTPPAPKTPSSGEPKSG
DRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPTREP KKVAVVRTPPKSPSSAKSRLQTAPVPM PDLKNVK
SKIGSTENLKHQPGGGKVQIINKL DLSNVQSKCGSKDN IKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPV DLSKVT).

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 319 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecules referred to as “CA7”, “CA8”, and “CB10” herein.

The epitope within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 319 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may preferably be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 37 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of at least the specific binding molecule referred to as "CA7" herein.

5

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 264 (MAEPRQEFVEMEDHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGD TDAGLKESPLQTP TEDGSEEPGSE TSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAAQPHTEIPEGTTAEEAGIGDTPSLEDEAAGHVTQARM VSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPGQKGQANATRIPAKTPPAPKTPPSSGEPPKSG DRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREP KKVAVVRTPPKSPSSAKSRLQTAPVMPDLKNVK SKIGSTENLKHQPGGGKVQIINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPV DLSKVT). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 264 (MAEPRQEFVEMEDHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGD TDAGLKESPLQTP TEDGSEEPGSE TSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAAQPHTEIPEGTTAEEAGIGDTPSLEDEAAGHVTQARM VSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPGQKGQANATRIPAKTPPAPKTPPSSGEPPKSG DRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREP KKVAVVRTPPKSPSSAKSRLQTAPVMPDLKNVK SKIGSTENLKHQPGGGKVQIINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPV DLSKVT).

20 The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 264 (MAEPRQEFVEMEDHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGD TDAGLKESPLQTP TEDGSEEPGSE TSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAAQPHTEIPEGTTAEEAGIGDTPSLEDEAAGHVTQARM VSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPGQKGQANATRIPAKTPPAPKTPPSSGEPPKSG DRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREP KKVAVVRTPPKSPSSAKSRLQTAPVMPDLKNVK SKIGSTENLKHQPGGGKVQIINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHV PGGGSVQIVYKPV DLSKVT). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 264 (MAEPRQEFVEMEDHAGTYGLGDRKDQGGYTMHQDQEGD TDAGLKESPLQTP TEDGSEEPGSE TSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAAQPHTEIPEGTTAEEAGIGDTPSLEDEAAGHVTQARM VSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPGQKGQANATRIPAKTPPAPKTPPSSGEPPKSG DRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREP KKVAVVRTPPKSPSSAKSRLQTAPVMPDLKNVK SKIGSTENLKHQPGGGKVQIINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPV DLSKVT).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

35 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44 (SYYVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52 (NIYSTGRAFYNPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 265 (GSYYHGGGNGMVDFDY);
 40 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39 (SGSSSNVGYGNYVG);

- VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 72 (AATSRAS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 78 (SSYQRGNTGV);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - 5 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 319 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CA7" herein.
- 10 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44 (SYYVG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52 (NIYSTGRAFYNPALKS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 265
- 15 (GSYYHGGGNGMVDFDY);
- VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39 (SGSSSNVGYGNYVG);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 72 (AATSRAS); and
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 78 (SSYQRGNTGV).
- 20 The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 495 (RVRLQGSGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSFD);
 - 25 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 496 (WVRQAPGKALEWLG);
 - VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 497 (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSVSVTIEDTALYYCVR);
 - VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 498 (WSPGLLVTVSS);
 - VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 499
- 30 (QVVRTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);
- VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 500 (WFQQVPGSAPKLLIY);
 - VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 501 (GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTIDSLQAEDEADYYC);
 - VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 502 (FGSGTRLTVLG);
- 35 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 495
 5 (RVRLQGSGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSFD);
 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 496 (WVRQAPGKALEWLG);
 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 497
 (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSVSSVTIEDTALYYCVR);
 VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 498 (WSPGLLVTVSS);
 10 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 499
 (QVVRTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);
 VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 500 (WFQQVPGSAPKLLIY);
 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 501
 (GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTIDSLQAEDEADYYC);
 15 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 502 (FGSGTRLTVLG);
 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
 20 an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 319 of SEQ ID NO: 1. A specific binding molecule
 comprising FRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CA7" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

- (a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4,
 25 wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 495
 (RVRLQGSGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSFD);
 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 496 (WVRQAPGKALEWLG);
 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 497
 30 (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSVSSVTIEDTALYYCVR);
 VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 498 (WSPGLLVTVSS);
 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 499
 (QVVRTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);
 VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 500 (WFQQVPGSAPKLLIY);
 35 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 501
 (GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTIDSLQAEDEADYYC);
 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 502 (FGSGTRLTVLG);
 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 40 (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and

(b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44 (SYYVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52 (NIYSTGRAFYNPALKS);

5 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 265 (GSYYHGGGNGMVDFFDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39 (SGSSSNVGYGNYVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 72 (AATSRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 78 (SSYQRGNTGV).

10 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 319 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding
15 molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CA7" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4,

20 wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 495 (RVRLQGSGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSD);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 496 (WVRQAPGKALEWLG);

25 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 497 (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSVSSVTIEDTALYYCVR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 498 (WSPGLLVTVSS);

VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 499 (QVVRTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 500 (WFQQVPGSAPKLLIY);

30 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 501 (GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTIDSLQAEDYDYC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 502 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or

35 (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and

(b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44 (SYYVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52 (NIYSTGRAFYNPALKS);

- VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 265 (GSYYHGGGNGMVDFFDY);
- VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39 (SGSSSNVGYGNYVG);
- VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 72 (AATSRAS); and
- 5 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 78 (SSYQRGNTGV).
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 319 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CA7" herein.
- 10 The specific binding molecule may comprise:
- (a) A VH domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 503
(RVRLQGSGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSFDSYYVGWVRQAPGKALEWLGNIYSTGRAFY
NPALKSRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSVSSVTIEDTALYYCVRGSSYYHGGGNGMVDFFDYWSPGL
LTVSS); and/or
- 15 (b) a VL domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 504
(QVVRTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSSSNVGYGNYVGWFQQVPGSAPKLLIYAATSRAS
GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTIDSLQAEDEADYYCSSYQRGNTGVFGSGTRLTVLG);
- or a humanized variant thereof.
- 20 The specific binding molecule may comprise:
- (a) A heavy chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 505
(RVRLQGSGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSFDSYYVGWVRQAPGKALEWLGNIYSTGRAFY
NPALKSRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSVSSVTIEDTALYYCVRGSSYYHGGGNGMVDFFDYWSPGL
LTVSSAKTTAPSVYPLAPVCGDGTGSSVTLGCLVKGYFPEPVTLTWNSGSLSSGVHTFP
25 AVLQSDLYTLSSSVTVTSSTWPSQSITCNVAHPASSTKVDKKIEPRGPTIKPCPPCKCPAP
NLLGGPSVFIFPPKIKDVLMSLSPIVTCVVVDVSEDDPDVQISWVFNNVEVHTAQTQTHRE
DYNSTLRVVSALPIQHQDWMMSGKEFKCKVNNKDLPAPIERTISKPKGSVRAPQVYVLP
EEEMTKKQVTLTCMVTDMPEDIYVEWTNNGKTELNYKNTEPVLDSGYSYFMYSKLRVE
KKNWVERNSYSCSVVHEGLHNHHTTKSFSRTPGK); and/or
- 30 (b) a light chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 506
(QVVRTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSSSNVGYGNYVGWFQQVPGSAPKLLIYAATSRAS
GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTIDSLQAEDEADYYCSSYQRGNTGVFGSGTRLTVLGGQPKSS
PSVTLFPPSSEELETNKATLVCTITDFYPGVTVDWKVDGTPVTQGMETTQPSKQSNNKY
MASSYLTLTARAWERHSSYSCQVTHEGHTVEKSLSRADCS);
- 35 or a humanized variant thereof.
- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 266 (SNAVV);
- VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 267 (AIDKDGDTIYNPALKS);
- 40 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 268 (DPSGWGYPDVDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 269 (SGTYIGSSDVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 270 (GTSSRPS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 271 (ATYESSYHNSV);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

5 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 319 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CA8" herein.

10

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 266 (SNAVV);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 267 (AIDKDGDTIYNPALKS);

15 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 268 (DPSGWGYPDVDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 269 (SGTYIGSSDVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 270 (GTSSRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 271 (ATYESSYHNSV).

20 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 272 (SNTVA);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 273 (EINSGGSTYYPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 274 (GARSTYAAY);

25 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 275 (SGSSSDVGYSTWVY);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 276 (HISNRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 277 (AAYDSSNNVWI);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

30 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 1 to 319 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CB10" herein.

35

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 272 (SNTVA);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 273 (EINSGGSTYYPALKS);

40 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 274 (GARSTYAAY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 275 (SGSSSDVGYSTWVY);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 276 (HISNRAS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 277 (AAYDSSNNVWI).

- 5 The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 13 to 25 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 278 (DHAGTYGLGDRKD).

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 13 to 25 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

- 10 This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CB7" herein.

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 278 (DHAGTYGLGDRKD). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 278 (DHAGTYGLGDRKD).

15

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 278 (DHAGTYGLGDRKD). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 278 (DHAGTYGLGDRKD).

- 20 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 279 (NYRVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 280 (NIRSGGTTWYNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 281 (DSSGDLYAYDY);

- 25 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 282 (SGSSSNVGYGNMYA);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 263 (ASYDSTSGGV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- 30 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 13 to 25 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CB7" herein.

- 35 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 279 (NYRVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 280 (NIRSGGTTWYNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 281 (DSSGDLYAYDY);

- 40 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 282 (SGSSSNVGYGNMYA);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 263 (ASYDSTSGGV).

The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 507 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 508 (WVRQAPGKALEWVS);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 509 (RLSITADTSKQVSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCAR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 510 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 511 (QAVLTQPSSVSRSLGQSVSMTC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 512 (WFQQVPGSAPKLLIY);

VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 513 (GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYYC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 514 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 507 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 508 (WVRQAPGKALEWVS);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 509 (RLSITADTSKQVSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCAR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 510 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 511 (QAVLTQPSSVSRSLGQSVSMTC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 512 (WFQQVPGSAPKLLIY);

VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 513 (GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYYC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 514 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 13 to 25 of SEQ ID NO: 1. A specific binding molecule comprising FRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CB7" herein.

5 The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 507 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);

10 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 508 (WVRQAPGKALEWVS);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 509 (RLSITADTSKSQVSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCAR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 510 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

15 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 511 (QAVLTQPSSVSRSLGQSVSMTC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 512 (WFQQVPGSAPKLLIY);

VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 513 (GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYYC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 514 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

20 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and

(b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

25 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 279 (NYRVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 280 (NIRSGGTTWYNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 281 (DSSGDLYAYDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 282 (SGSSSNVGYGNMYA);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS); and

30 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 263 (ASYDSTSGGV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto

35 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 13 to 25 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CB7" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 507 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);

5 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 508 (WVRQAPGKALEWVS);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 509 (RLSITADTSKQVSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCAR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 510 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

10 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 511 (QAVLTQPSSVSRSLGQSVSMTC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 512 (WFQQVPGSAPKLLIY);

VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 513 (GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTISLQAEDADYYC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 514 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

15 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and

(b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

20 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 279 (NYRVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 280 (NIRSGGTTWYNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 281 (DSSGDLYAYDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 282 (SGSSSNVGYGNMYA);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS); and

25 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 263 (ASYDSTSGGV);

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 13 to 25 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CB7" herein.

30

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) A VH domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 515 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTNYRVGWVRQAPGKALEWVSNIRSGGTTWYNPALKSRLSITADTSKQVSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCARDSSGDLYAYDYWGPGLLVTVS

35 S); and/or

(b) a VL domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 516 (QAVLTQPSSVSRSLGQSVSMTCGSSSNVGYGNMYMAWFQQVPGSAPKLLIYGATSRASGVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTISLQAEDADYYCASYDSTSGGVFGSGTRLTVLG);

or a humanized variant thereof.

40

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

- (a) A heavy chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 517
(QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTNRYRGWVRQAPGKALEWVSNIRSGGTTW
YNPALKSRLSITADTSKSQVSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCARDSSGDLYAYDYWGPGLLVTVS
5 SAKTTAPSVYPLAPVCGDTTGSSVTLGCLVKGYFPEPVTLTWNSGSLSSGVHTFPAVLQS
DLYTLSSSVTVTSSTWPSQSITCNVAHPASSTKVDKKIEPRGPTIKCPPCKCPAPNLLGG
PSVFIFPPKIKDVLMSLSPIVTCVVVDVSEDDPDVQISWVFNNEVHTAQTQTHREDYNST
LRVVSALPIQHQDWMSGKEFKCKVNNKDLPAPIERTISKPKGSRAPQVYVLPPEEEMT
KKQVTLTCMVTDFMPEDIYVEWTNNGKTELNYKNTEPVLDSDGSYFMYSKLRVEKKNWV
10 ERNSYSCSVVHEGLHNHHTTKSFSRTPGK); and/or
(b) a light chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 518
(QAVLTQPSSVSRSLGQSVSMTCSSSSNVGYGNMAWFQQVPGSAPKLLIYGATSRAS
GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTISSLQAEDEADYYCASYDSTSGGVFGSGTRLTVLGGQPKSS
PSVTLFPPSSEELETNKATLVCTITDFYPGVTVDWKVDGTPVTQGMETTQPSKQSNNKY
15 MASSYLTLTARAWERHSSYSCQVTHEGHTVEKSLSRADCS);
or a humanized variant thereof.

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 145 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid
20 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 283 (ADGKTKIATPRGA).

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 145 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CC7"
25 herein.

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 283 (ADGKTKIATPRGA). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 283 (ADGKTKIATPRGA).

30 The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 283 (ADGKTKIATPRGA). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 283 (ADGKTKIATPRGA).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
35 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 198 (SNAVI);
VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 200 (LIDVDGDAAYDPALKS);
VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 202 (DYGSWGYVSDIDY);
VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 292 (SGSYITGSSVG);
40 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 284 (DNNDRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 285 (ASYDTSNIGL);
or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

- 5 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 145 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CC7" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
10 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 198 (SNAVI);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 200 (LIDVDGDAAAYDPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 202 (DYGSWGYVSDIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 292 (SGSYITGSSVG);

15 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 284 (DNNDRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 285 (ASYDTSNIGL).

The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid
20 sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 519
(QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 520 (WVRQAPGKAPEWVA);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 521
25 (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLRSVTTEDTAVYYCAR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 522 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 523
(RVVRTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 524 (WFQQVPGSGLKTVIY);

30 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 525
(GVPDRFSGSKSGDTATLTISLQAEDADYYC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 526 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or

35 (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 519 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);
- VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 520 (WVRQAPGKAPEWVA);
- VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 521 (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLRSVTTEDTAVYYCAR);
- VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 522 (WGPGLLVTVSS);
- VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 523 (RVVVRTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);
- VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 524 (WFQQVPGSGLKTVIY);
- VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 525 (GVPDRFSGSKSGDTATLTISLQAEDEADYYC);
- VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 526 (FGSGTRLTVLG);
- or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 145 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1. A specific binding molecule comprising FRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CC7" herein.
- The specific binding molecule may comprise:
- (a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 519 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 520 (WVRQAPGKAPEWVA);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 521 (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLRSVTTEDTAVYYCAR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 522 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 523 (RVVVRTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 524 (WFQQVPGSGLKTVIY);

VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 525 (GVPDRFSGSKSGDTATLTISLQAEDEADYYC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 526 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

 - (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and
 - (b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 198 (SNAVI);

- VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 200 (LIDVDGDAAYDPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 202 (DYGSWGYVSDIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 292 (SGSYITGSSVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 284 (DNNDRPS); and
 5 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 285 (ASYDTSNIGL);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
 10 an amino acid sequence comprising residues 145 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding
 molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as
 "CC7" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

- 15 (a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4,
 wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 519
 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 520 (WVRQAPGKAPEWVA);

- 20 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 521
 (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLRSVTTEDTAVYYCAR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 522 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 523
 (RVVVRTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);

- 25 VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 524 (WFQQVPGSGLKTVIY);

VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 525
 (GVPDRFSGSKSGDTATLTISLQAEDEADYYC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 526 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

- or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- 30 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and

(b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said
 CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 198 (SNAVI);

- 35 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 200 (LIDVDGDAAYDPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 202 (DYGSWGYVSDIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 292 (SGSYITGSSVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 284 (DNNDRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 285 (ASYDTSNIGL);

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 145 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CC7" herein.

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The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) A VH domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 527 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSSNAVIWVRQAPGKAPEWVALIDVDGDAAY DPALKSRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLRSVTTEDTAVYYCARDYGSWGYVSDIDYWGPGLLVTV SS); and/or

10

(b) a VL domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 528 (RVVVRTQPSSVSGSLGQRVISITCSGSYITGSSVGWFQQVPGSGLKTVIYDNNDRPSGVPD RFSGSKSGDTATLTISLQAEDEADYYCASYDTSNIGLFGSGTRLTVLG);

or a humanized variant thereof.

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The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) A heavy chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 529 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSSNAVIWVRQAPGKAPEWVALIDVDGDAAY DPALKSRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLRSVTTEDTAVYYCARDYGSWGYVSDIDYWGPGLLVTV SSAKTTAPSVYPLAPVCGDTTGSSVTLGCLVKGYFPEPVTLTWNSGSLSSGVHTFPAVLQ SDLYTLSSSVTVTSSTWPSQSITCNVAHPASSTKVDKKIEPRGPTIKCPPCKCPAPNLLG GPSVFIFPPKIKDVLMSLSPIVTCVVVDVSEDDPDVQISWVFNNEVHTAQTQTHREDYN STLRVVSALPIQHQDWMSGKEFKCKVNNKDLPAPIERTISKPKGSVRAPQVYVLPPEEE MTKKQVTLTCMVTDMPEDIYVEWTNNGKTELNYKNTEPVLDSGYSFMYSKLRVEKKN WVERNSYSCSVVHEGLHNHHTTKSFSRTPGK); and/or

20

25

(b) a light chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 530 (RVVVRTQPSSVSGSLGQRVISITCSGSYITGSSVGWFQQVPGSGLKTVIYDNNDRPSGVPD RFSGSKSGDTATLTISLQAEDEADYYCASYDTSNIGLFGSGTRLTVLGGQPKSSPSVTLF PPSSEELETNKATLVCTITDFYPGVTVTDWKVDGTPVTQGMETTQPSKQSNNKYMASSY LTLTARAWERHSSYSQVTHEGHTVEKSLSRADCS);

30

or a humanized variant thereof.

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 155 to 227 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 294 (RGAAPPQGKQGANATRIPAKTPPAPKTPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTP PTREPKKVA).

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The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 155 to 227 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecules referred to as "CB12" and "CC3" herein.

- 5 The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 294 (RGAAPPGQKGQANATRIPAKTPPAPKTPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTP PTREPKKVA). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 294 (RGAAPPGQKGQANATRIPAKTPPAPKTPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTP
10 PTREPKKVA).

- The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 294 (RGAAPPGQKGQANATRIPAKTPPAPKTPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTP PTREPKKVA). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least
15 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 294 (RGAAPPGQKGQANATRIPAKTPPAPKTPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTP PTREPKKVA).

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
20 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 259 (SNGVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 182 (DKSSAGKTYGNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 286 (CRDGGVSYGYDVDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 287 (SGSSSNVGGDYVG);

- 25 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 288 (DTTSRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 289 (ASVDKTTGGV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

- 30 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 155 to 227 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CB12" herein.

- 35 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 259 (SNGVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 182 (DKSSAGKTYGNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 286 (CRDGGVSYGYDVDY);

- 40 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 287 (SGSSSNVGGDYVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 288 (DTTSRPS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 289 (ASVDKTTGGV).

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
 5 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 259 (SNGVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 182 (DKSSAGKTYGNPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 286 (CRDGGVSYGYDVDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 290 (SGSSSNVGYGTYVS);
 10 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 188 (GTTTRAS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 291 (ASYDTGSGGV);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 15 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
 an amino acid sequence comprising residues 155 to 227 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding
 molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CC3" herein.

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
 20 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 259 (SNGVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 182 (DKSSAGKTYGNPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 286 (CRDGGVSYGYDVDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 290 (SGSSSNVGYGTYVS);
 25 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 188 (GTTTRAS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 291 (ASYDTGSGGV).

- The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising
 residues 155 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid
 30 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 295
 (RGAAPPQKQGQANATRIPAKTPPAPKTPSSGEPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTP
 PTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSS).

- The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 155 to 238 of SEQ ID NO:
 35 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CA1"
 herein.

- The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 295
 (RGAAPPQKQGQANATRIPAKTPPAPKTPSSGEPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTP
 40 PTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSS). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least

70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 295

(RGAAPPQGKGQANATRIAPAKTPAPKTPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSS).

5

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 295 (RGAAPPQGKGQANATRIAPAKTPAPKTPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSS). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO:

10 295

(RGAAPPQGKGQANATRIAPAKTPAPKTPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSS).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

15

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 198 (SNAVI);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 296 (DIRADGATNYNAALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 297 (PGNYYYGAGRDVARLAD);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 298 (SGSSSNIGGGNAVG);

20

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 288 (DTTSRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 299 (AAMDSSSLIGV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

25

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 155 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CA1" herein.

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 186 to 263 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid

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sequence of SEQ ID NO: 300 (GEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSSAKSRLQTAPVPMPLKNVKSIGST).

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 186 to 263 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CA3" herein.

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The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 300 (GEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSSAKSRLQT

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APVPMPLKNVKSIGST). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least

70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 300 (GEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSSAKSRLQTAPVPMPDLKKNVKSIGST).

- 5 The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 300 (GEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSSAKSRLQTAPVPMPDLKKNVKSIGST). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 300 (GEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSSAKSRLQT
10 APVPMPDLKKNVKSIGST).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 259 (SNGVG);
15 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 182 (DKSSAGKTYGNPALKS);
VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 184 (CRDGGVTYGYDVDY);
VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 301 (SGSSGNIGYDDYVS);
VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 302 (GATTRSS); and
VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 303 (ASYDSSGGGV);
20 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
an amino acid sequence comprising residues 186 to 263 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding
25 molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CA3" herein.

- The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 186 to 350 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 304
30 (GEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSSAKSRLQTAPVPM
PDLKKNVKSIGSTENLKHQPGGGKVQIINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDL
SKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRV).

- The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 186 to 350 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CD2" herein.
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- The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 304 (GEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLPTPPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSSAKSRLQTAPVPM
40 MPDLKKNVKSIGSTENLKHQPGGGKVQIINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDL

SKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRV). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 304

(GEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRRTPSLPTPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSSAKSRLQTAPVP
 5 MPDLKNVSKIGSTENLKHQPGGGKVQIINKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDL
 SKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRV).

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 304
 (GEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRRTPSLPTPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSSAKSRLQTAPVP
 10 MPDLKNVSKIGSTENLKHQPGGGKVQIINKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDL
 SKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRV). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 304

(GEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRRTPSLPTPTREPKKVAVVRTPPKSPSSAKSRLQTAPVP
 15 MPDLKNVSKIGSTENLKHQPGGGKVQIINKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDL
 SKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRV).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

20 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 198 (SNAVI);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 200 (LIDVDGDAAYDPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 202 (DYGSWGYVSDIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 305 (SGSNIGDADVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 306 (YNENRPS); and
 25 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 307 (GSYAGDTYNHGV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 186 to 350 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CD2" herein.

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 239 to 348 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid
 35 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 308
 (AKSRLQTAPVPMPLKNVSKIGSTENLKHQPGGGKVQIINKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGG
 GSVQIVYKPVDL SKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDV).

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 239 to 348 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CB9" herein.

5 The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of 308 (AKSRLQTAPVPMPDLKNVSKIGSTENLKHQPGGGKVQIINKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGG GSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKFD). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to 308
10 (AKSRLQTAPVPMPDLKNVSKIGSTENLKHQPGGGKVQIINKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGG GSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKFD).

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of 308 (AKSRLQTAPVPMPDLKNVSKIGSTENLKHQPGGGKVQIINKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGG GSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKFD). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to 308
15 (AKSRLQTAPVPMPDLKNVSKIGSTENLKHQPGGGKVQIINKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGG GSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKFD).

20 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);
VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48 (GIDSDGEEGYNPALNS);
25 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY);
VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 67 (SGRFIGISSVG);
VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS); and
VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTGV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
30 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 239 to 348 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CB9" herein.

35 The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 266 to 359 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 309 (LKHQPGGGKVQIINKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSKCGSLGNIHH
40 KPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKFDKRVQSKIGSLDN).

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 266 to 359 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CG11" herein.

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The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 309 (LKHQPGGGKVQIINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSKCGSLGNIHH KPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDN). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to

10	to	SEQ	ID	NO:	309
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(LKHQPGGGKVQIINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSKCGSLGNIHH KPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDN).

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 309 (LKHQPGGGKVQIINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSKCGSLGNIHH KPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDN). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to

15	to	SEQ	ID	NO:	309
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(LKHQPGGGKVQIINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSKCGSLGNIHH KPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDN).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 310 (NYPVG);

25 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 311 (NIENDGSANYASALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 312 (EFGGSDGYTYFVDIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 313 (SGSSSNVGYGNYVS);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 314 (ASYDGSSSGV);

30 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 266 to 359 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CG11" herein.

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 277 to 319 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 315 (IINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSK).

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The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 277 to 319 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CA10" herein.

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The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 315 (IINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDSLKVT). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 315 (IINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDSLKVT).

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The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 315 (IINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDSLKVT). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 315 (IINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDSLKVT).

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The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

20

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 259 (SNGVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 157 (DISSVGKKYANPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 161 (CRDGGVTYGYDIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 316 (SGSSSNVGYGNYVT);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 317 (DATTRVS); and

25

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 318 (AAHDSSSGGV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising

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an amino acid sequence comprising residues 277 to 319 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CA10" herein.

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 (IKHVPGGGSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRENAKAKTDHGA).

35

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CC12" herein.

5 The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 (IKHVPGGGQSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNITH VPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAKAKTDHGA). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to
 10 SEQ ID NO: 5 (IKHVPGGGQSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNITH VPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAKAKTDHGA).

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 (IKHVPGGGQSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNITH
 15 VPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAKAKTDHGA). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to
 SEQ ID NO: 5 (IKHVPGGGQSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNITH VPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAKAKTDHGA).

20

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48 (GIDSDGEEGYNPALNS);
 25 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 67 (SGRFIGISSVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTGV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

30 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CC12" herein.

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The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 319 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 319 (TSKCGSLGNIHHK).

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 319 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CE2" or "E1B8" herein. Critical residues of the epitope may be residues 323 (G), 324 (S), 325 (L), 326 (G), 327 (N) and/or 328 (I) (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 320 (XXXXGSLGNIXXX, wherein X is any amino acid). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 319, wherein any one or more residue other than residue number 323 (G), 324 (S), 325 (L), 326 (G), 327 (N) and/or 328 (I) is replaced by a non-conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 319, wherein any one or more residue other than residue number 323 (G), 324 (S), 325 (L), 326 (G), 327 (N) and/or 328 (I) is replaced by a conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 319, wherein any one or more residue other than residue number 323 (G), 324 (S), 325 (L), 326 (G), 327 (N) and/or 328 (I) is replaced by a conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1) and any one or more residue other than residue number 323 (G), 324 (S), 325 (L), 326 (G), 327 (N) and/or 328 (I) is replaced by a non-conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1).

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 319 (TSKCGSLGNIHHK). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 319 (TSKCGSLGNIHHK).

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 319 (TSKCGSLGNIHHK). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 319 (TSKCGSLGNIHHK).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 310 (NYPVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 311 (NIENDGSANYASALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 312 (EFGGSDGYTYFVDIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 313 (SGSSSNVGYGNVVS);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 314 (ASYDGSSSGV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 319 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CE2" or "E1B8" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 310 (NYPVG);
 5 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 311 (NIENDGSANYASALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 312 (EFGGSDGYTYFVDIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 313 (SGSSSNVGYGNVVS);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 314 (ASYDGSSSGV).

10

The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 531
 15 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);
 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 532 (WVRQAPGKALEWIG);
 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 533
 (RLSITRDTSKNQVSLSLSSATTEDTAVYYCGR);
 VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 534 (WGPGLLVTVSS);
 20 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 535
 (QAVLTQPSSVSKSLGQSVSITC);
 VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 536 (WFQQVPGSAPKILIIY);
 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 537
 (GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTITSLQAEDYDYC);
 25 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 538 (FGSGTRLTVLG);
 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

- 30 The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 531
 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);
 35 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 532 (WVRQAPGKALEWIG);
 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 533
 (RLSITRDTSKNQVSLSLSSATTEDTAVYYCGR);
 VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 534 (WGPGLLVTVSS);
 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 535
 40 (QAVLTQPSSVSKSLGQSVSITC);

- VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 536 (WFQQVPGSAPKILY);
 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: n537
 (GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTITSLQAEDEADYYC);
 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 538 (FGSGTRLTVLG);
- 5 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
 an amino acid sequence comprising residues 319 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1. A specific binding
 10 molecule comprising FRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CE2" herein.
- The specific binding molecule may comprise:
- (a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4,
 wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- 15 VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 531
 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);
 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 532 (WVRQAPGKALEWIG);
 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 533
 (RLSITRDTSKNQVSLSLSSATTEDTAVYYCGR);
- 20 VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 534 (WGPGLLVTVSS);
 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 535
 (QAVLTQPSSSVSKSLGQSVSITC);
 VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 536 (WFQQVPGSAPKILY);
 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 537
 25 (GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTITSLQAEDEADYYC);
 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 538 (FGSGTRLTVLG);
 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and
- 30 (b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said
 CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 310 (NYPVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 311 (NIENDGSANYASALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 312 (EFGGSDGYTYFVDIDY);
- 35 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 313 (SGSSSNVGYGNYVS);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 314 (ASYDGSSSGV);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto
- 40

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 319 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CE2" herein.

5

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 531
10 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 532 (WVRQAPGKALEWIG);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 533
(RLSITRDTSKNQVLSLSSATTEDTAVYYCGR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 534 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

15 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 535
(QAVLTQPSSVSKSLGQSVSITC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 536 (WFQQVPGSAPKILIY);

VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 537
(GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTITSLQAEDADYYC);

20 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 538 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and

(b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said
25 CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 310 (NYPVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 311 (NIENDGSANYASALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 312 (EFGGSDGYTYFVDIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 313 (SGSSSNVGYGNVVS);

30 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 314 (ASYDGSSSGV);

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 319 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as

35 "CE2" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) A VH domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 539
(QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTNYPVGWVRQAPGKALEWIGNIENDGSANY

ASALKSRLSITRDTSKNQVSLSLSSATTEDTAVYYCGREFGGSDGYTYFVDIDYWGPGLL
VTVSS); and/or

- (b) a VL domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 540
(QAVLTQPSSSVKSLGQSVSITCSGSSSNVGYGNYVSWFQQVPGSAPKILYIGATSRAS
5 GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTITSLQAEDEADYYCASYDGSSSGVFGSGTRLTVLG);
or a humanized variant thereof.

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

- (a) A heavy chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 541
10 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTNYPVGWVRQAPGKALEWIGNIENDGSANY
ASALKSRLSITRDTSKNQVSLSLSSATTEDTAVYYCGREFGGSDGYTYFVDIDYWGPGLL
VTVSSAKTTAPSVYPLAPVCGDGTGSSVTGLGCLVKGYFPEPVTLTWNSGSLSSGVHTFPA
VLQSDLYTLSSSVTVTSSTWPSQSITCNVAHPASSTKVDKIEPRGPTIKPCPPCKCPAPN
LLGGPSVFIFPPKIKDVLMIPLSPITCVVVDVSEDDPDVQISWVNNVEVHTAQTQTHRED
15 YNSTLRVVSALPIQHQDWMSGKEFKCKVNNKDLPAPIERTISKPKGSVRAPQVYVLPPE
EEMTKKQVTLTCMVTDMPEDIYVEWTNNGKTELNYKNTEPVLDSGYSFMYSKLRVEK
KNWVERNSYSCSVVHEGLHNHHTTKSFSRTPGK); and/or
(b) a light chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 542
(QAVLTQPSSSVKSLGQSVSITCSGSSSNVGYGNYVSWFQQVPGSAPKILYIGATSRASG
20 VPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTITSLQAEDEADYYCASYDGSSSGVFGSGTRLTVLGGQPKSSP
SVTLFPPSSEETNKATLVCTITDFYPGVTVDWKVDGTPVTQGMETTQPSKQSNNKYM
ASSYLTLTARAWERHSSYSCQVTHEGHTVEKSLSRADCS);
or a humanized variant thereof.

- 25 The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising
residues 331 to 360 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 321 (KPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNI).

- The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 331 to 360 of SEQ ID NO:
30 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CE3"
herein.

- The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 321
(KPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNI). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence
35 having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity
to SEQ ID NO: 321 (KPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNI).

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 321
(KPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNI). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence

having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 321 (KPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNI).

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17 (SNAVIG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20 (GCSSDGKCYNSALKS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23 (GYYPVYGYDYLGITIDY);
 - VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25 (SGSSSNVGRNDVA);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28 (GTTSRPS); and
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 31 (ASGDSSAINDI);
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 331 to 360 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CE3" herein.

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17 (SNAVIG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20 (GCSSDGKCYNSALKS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23 (GYYPVYGYDYLGITIDY);
 - VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25 (SGSSSNVGRNDVA);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28 (GTTSRPS); and
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 31 (ASGDSSAINDI).

- The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 543 (QVRLQESGSPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLI);
 - VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 544 (WVRQAPGKVPESLA);
 - VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 545 (RLDITRDTSKNQISLSLSSVTDDAAVYYCTR);
 - VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 546 (WGPGLLVTVSS);
 - VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 547 (QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);
 - VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 548 (WFQQLPGSGLRTIY);

VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 549
(GIPDRFSGSKSGVTATLTIDSLQAEDEADYFC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 550 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- 5 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
(ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid
10 sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 543
(QVRLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLI);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 544 (WVRQAPGKVPESLA);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 545
15 (RLDITRDTSKNQISLSLSSVTDDAAVYYCTR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 546 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 547
(QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 548 (WFQQLPGSGLRTIY);

20 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 549
(GIPDRFSGSKSGVTATLTIDSLQAEDEADYFC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 550 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- 25 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
(ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 331 to 360 of SEQ ID NO: 1. A specific binding molecule comprising FRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CE3" herein.

30 The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 543
(QVRLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLI);

35 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 544 (WVRQAPGKVPESLA);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 545
(RLDITRDTSKNQISLSLSSVTDDAAVYYCTR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 546 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

40 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 547
(QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);

- VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 548 (WFQQLPGSGLRTIY);
- VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 549 (GIPDRFSGSKSGVTATLTIDSLQAEDEADYFC);
- VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 550 (FGSGTRLTVLG);
- 5 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and
- (b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- 10 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17 (SNAVG);
- VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20 (GCSSDGKCYNSALKS);
- VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23 (GYYPVYGYDYLGTIDY);
- VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25 (SGSSSNVGRNDVA);
- VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28 (GTTSRPS); and
- 15 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 31 (ASGDSSAINDI);
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
- 20 an amino acid sequence comprising residues 331 to 360 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CE3" herein.
- The specific binding molecule may comprise:
- 25 (a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 543 (QVRLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLI);
- VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 544 (WVRQAPGKVPESLA);
- 30 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 545 (RLDITRDTSKNQISLSLSSVTDDAAVYYCTR);
- VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 546 (WGPGLLVTVSS);
- VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 547 (QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);
- 35 VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 548 (WFQQLPGSGLRTIY);
- VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 549 (GIPDRFSGSKSGVTATLTIDSLQAEDEADYFC);
- VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 550 (FGSGTRLTVLG);
- or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- 40 (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or

- (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and
- (b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17 (SNAV G);
- 5 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20 (GCSSDGKCYNSALKS);
- VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23 (GYYPVYGYDYLGTIDY);
- VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25 (SGSSSNVGRNDVA);
- VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28 (GTTSRPS); and
- VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 31 (ASGDSSAINDI);
- 10 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 331 to 360 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CE3" herein.
- 15 The specific binding molecule may comprise:
- (a) A VH domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 551 (QVRLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLISNAVGVWRQAPGKVPESLAGCSSDGKCY NSALKSRDLITRDTSKNQISLSLSSVTDDAAVYYCTRGYYPVYGYDYLGTIDYWGPGLLV TVSS); and/or
- 20 (b) a VL domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 552 (QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSSSNVGRNDVAWFQQLPGSGLRTIYGTTSRPSGIP DRFSGSKSGVTATLTIDSLQAEDEADYFCASGDSSAINDIFGSGTRLTVLG);
- or a humanized variant thereof.
- 25 The specific binding molecule may comprise:
- (a) A heavy chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 553 (QVRLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLISNAVGVWRQAPGKVPESLAGCSSDGKCY NSALKSRDLITRDTSKNQISLSLSSVTDDAAVYYCTRGYYPVYGYDYLGTIDYWGPGLLV TVSSAKTTAPSVYPLAPVCGDTTGSSVTLGCLVKGYFPEPVTLTWNSGSLSSGVHTFPAV
- 30 LQSDLYTLSSSVTVTSSTWPSQSITCNVAHPASSTKVDKKIEPRGPTIKPCPPCKCPAPNL LGGPSVFIFPPKIKDVLMI SLPIVTCVVVDVSEDDPDVQISWVFNNEVHTAQTQTHRED YNSTLRVVSALPIQHQQDWMSGKEFKCKVNNKDLPAPIERTISKPKGSVRAPQVYVLPPE EEMTKKQVTLTCMVTD FMPEDIYVEWTNNGKTELNYKNTEPVLDSDGSYFMYSKLRVEK KNWVERNSYSCSVVHEGLHNHHTTKSFSRTPGK); and/or
- 35 (b) a light chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 554 (QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSSSNVGRNDVAWFQQLPGSGLRTIYGTTSRPSGIP DRFSGSKSGVTATLTIDSLQAEDEADYFCASGDSSAINDIFGSGTRLTVLGGQPKSSPSVT LFPPSSEELETNKATLVCTITDFYPGVTVTDWKVDGTPVTQGMETTQPSKQSNKNYMAS SYLTLTARAWERHSSYSCQVTHEGHTVEKSLSRADCS);
- 40 or a humanized variant thereof.

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 348 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 322 (DRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAAKAKTDHGA).

5

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 348 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CA6" herein.

10 The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 322 (DRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAAKAKTDHGA). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 322 (DRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAAKAKTDHGA).

15

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 322 (DRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAAKAKTDHGA). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 322

20 (DRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAAKAKTDHGA).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 259 (SNGVG);

25 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 323 (DKSSGGKTYGNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 161 (CRDGGVTYGYDIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 324 (SGSRNNIGYGNHVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 207 (DATTRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 325 (ASFDRGSGGI);

30 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 348 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding

35 molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CA6" herein.

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 348 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 326

(DRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAAKTDHGAEIVYKSPVVSGDTSRHLNVSS
TGSIDMVDSPLATLADEVSAASLAKQGL).

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 348 to 441 of SEQ ID NO:

- 5 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CA11" herein.

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 326
(DRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAAKTDHGAEIVYKSPVVSGDTSRHLNVSS
10 TGSIDMVDSPLATLADEVSAASLAKQGL). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence
having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity
to SEQ ID NO: 326
(DRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAAKTDHGAEIVYKSPVVSGDTSRHLNVSS
TGSIDMVDSPLATLADEVSAASLAKQGL).

15 The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 326
(DRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAAKTDHGAEIVYKSPVVSGDTSRHLNVSS
TGSIDMVDSPLATLADEVSAASLAKQGL). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence
having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity
20 to SEQ ID NO: 326
(DRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAAKTDHGAEIVYKSPVVSGDTSRHLNVSS
TGSIDMVDSPLATLADEVSAASLAKQGL).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
25 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 272 (SNTVA);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 273 (EINSGGSTYYNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 274 (GARSTYAAAY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 327 (SGSGSNIGAGNWVS);

30 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 328 (GATSRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 329 (AAYDSGSSIV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

35 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino
acid sequence comprising residues 348 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule
comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CA11" herein.

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 355 to 367 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 330 (GSLDNITHVPGGG).

- 5 The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 355 to 367 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CA4" herein. Critical residues of the epitope may be residues 358 (D), 360 (I), 361 (T), 362 (H) and/or 364 (P) (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 331 (XXXDXITHXPXXX, wherein X is any amino acid). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 330, wherein any one or more residue other than residue number 358 (D), 360 (I), 361 (T), 362 (H) and/or 364 (P) (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1) is replaced by a non-conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 330, wherein any one or more residue other than residue number 358 (D), 360 (I), 361 (T), 362 (H) and/or 364 (P) (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1) is replaced by a conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 330, wherein any one or more residue other than residue number 358 (D), 360 (I), 361 (T), 362 (H) and/or 364 (P) (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1) is replaced by a conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1) and any one or more residue other than residue number 358 (D), 360 (I), 361 (T), 362 (H) and/or 364 (P) (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1) is replaced by a non-conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1).

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 330 (GSLDNITHVPGGG). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 330 (GSLDNITHVPGGG).

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 330 (GSLDNITHVPGGG). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 330 (GSLDNITHVPGGG).

30

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 83 (SYSVY);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 84 (IMYASGRVDYNPALKS);
 35 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 89 (GIEN);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 91 (RTSQSVNNYLS);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 95 (YATRLYT); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 97 (LQYDSTPLA);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- 40 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 355 to 367 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CA4" herein.

5

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 83 (SYSVY);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 84 (IMYASGRVDYNPALKS);

10 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 89 (GIEN);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 91 (RTSQSVNNYLS);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 95 (YATRLYT); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 97 (LQYDSTPLA).

15 The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 555 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);

20 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 556 (WVRQAPGQALEWIS);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 557 (RLSITRDTSKSQFSLSLSSVTEDTAVYYCTR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 558 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

25 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 559 (DIQVTQSPSSLSASLTERVSITC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 560 (WYQQKPGQAPKLLIY);

VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 561 (DVPSRFSGSGSGTDYTLTITSLEADDTATYYC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 562 (FGGGTNVEIK);

30 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

35 The specific binding molecule may comprise framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 555 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 556 (WVRQAPGQALEWIS);

- VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 557
(RLSITRDTSKSQFSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCTR);
- VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 558 (WGPGLLVTVSS);
- VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 559
5 (DIQVTQSPSSLSASLTERVSITC);
- VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 560 (WYQQKPGQAPKLLIY);
- VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 561
(DVPSRFSGSGSGTDYTLTITSLEADDTATYYC);
- VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 562 (FGGGTNVEIK);
- 10 or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
an amino acid sequence comprising residues 355 to 367 of SEQ ID NO: 1. A specific binding
15 molecule comprising FRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CA4" herein.
- The specific binding molecule may comprise:
- (a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4,
wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- 20 VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 555
(QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);
- VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 556 (WVRQAPGQALEWIS);
- VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 557
(RLSITRDTSKSQFSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCTR);
- 25 VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 558 (WGPGLLVTVSS);
- VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 559
(DIQVTQSPSSLSASLTERVSITC);
- VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 560 (WYQQKPGQAPKLLIY);
- VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 561
30 (DVPSRFSGSGSGTDYTLTITSLEADDTATYYC);
- VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 562 (FGGGTNVEIK);
- or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and
- 35 (b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said
CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 83 (SYSVY);
- VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 84 (IMYASGRVDYNPALKS);
- VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 89 (GIEN);
- 40 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 91 (RTSQSVNNYLS);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 95 (YATRLYT); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 97 (LQYDSTPLA);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 5 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 355 to 367 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CA4" herein.

10

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

(a) framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 555
 15 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 556 (WVRQAPGQALEWIS);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 557
 (RLSITRDTSKSQFSLSLSSVTEDTAVYYCTR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 558 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

20 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 559
 (DIQVTQSPSSLSASLTERVSITC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 560 (WYQQKPGQAPKLLIY);

VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 561
 (DVPSRFSGSGSGTDYTLTITSLEADDTATYYC);

25 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 562 (FGGGTNVEIK);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto; and
 (b) the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said
 30 CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 83 (SYSVY);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 84 (IMYASGRVDYNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 89 (GIEN);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 91 (RTSQSVNNYLS);

35 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 95 (YATRLYT); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 97 (LQYDSTPLA);

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 355 to 367 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising FRs and CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as
 40 "CA4" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

- (a) A VH domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 563
(QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSYSVYWVRQAPGQALEWISIMYASGRVDY
5 NPALKSRLSITRDTSKSQFSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCTRG IENWGPGLLVTVSS); and/or
(b) a VL domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 564
(DIQVTQSPSSLSASLTERVSITCRTSQSVNNYLSWYQQKPGQAPKLLIYYATRLYTDVPS
RFGSGSGSDYTLTITSLEADDTATYYCLQYDSTPLAFGGGTNVEIK);

or a humanized variant thereof.

10

The specific binding molecule may comprise:

- (a) A heavy chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 565
(QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSYSVYWVRQAPGQALEWISIMYASGRVDY
NPALKSRLSITRDTSKSQFSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCTRG IENWGPGLLVTVSSAKTTAPSV
15 YPLAPVCGDTTGSSVTLGCLVKGYFPEPVTLTWNSGSLSSGVHTFPAVLQSDLYTLSSSV
TVTSSTWPSQSITCNVAHPASSTKVDKKIEPRGPTIKPCPPCKCPAPNLLGGPSVFIFPPKI
KDVLMISLSPIVTCVVVDVSEDDPDVQISWVFNNEVHTAQTQTHREDYNSTLRVVSALPI
QHGDWMSGKEFKCKVNNKDLPAPIERTISKPKGSVRAPQVYVLPPEEEMTKKQVTLTC
MVTDFMPEDIYVEWTNNGKTELNYKNTEPVLDSGYSYFMYSKLRVEKKNWVERNSYSCS
20 VVHEGLHNHHTTKSFSRTPGK); and/or
(b) a light chain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 566
(DIQVTQSPSSLSASLTERVSITCRTSQSVNNYLSWYQQKPGQAPKLLIYYATRLYTDVPS
RFGSGSGSDYTLTITSLEADDTATYYCLQYDSTPLAFGGGTNVEIKGQPKSSPSVTLFPP
SSEELTNKATLVCTITDFYPGVTVDWKVDGTPVTQGMETTQPSKQSNKYMASSYLTL
25 TARAWEHRHSSYSCQVTHEGHTVEKSLSRADCS);

or a humanized variant thereof.

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 359 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid
30 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 332 (NITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFR ENAKAKTDHGAE).

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 359 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CB2" herein.

35

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 332 (NITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFR ENAKAKTDHGAE). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 332 (NITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFR ENAKAKTDHGAE).

40

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 332 (NITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAAKAKTDHGAE). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 332 (NITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAAKAKTDHGAE).

5

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45 (TNSVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 53 (GIDTDGEEGFNPVLKS);

10 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 55 (SYRTDGLAYGYVQAIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 68 (SGSYIGSSGVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 79 (GSSDRTQYTGL);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

15 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 359 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CB2" herein.

20

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45 (TNSVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 53 (GIDTDGEEGFNPVLKS);

25 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 55 (SYRTDGLAYGYVQAIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 68 (SGSYIGSSGVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 79 (GSSDRTQYTGL).

30 The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 360 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 333 (ITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAAKAKTDHGA).

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 360 to 390 of SEQ ID NO:

35 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CB3" herein.

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 333 (ITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAAKAKTDHGA). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence

having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 333 (ITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAAKAKTDHGA).

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 333
 5 (ITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAAKAKTDHGA). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 333 (ITHVPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAAKAKTDHGA).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
 10 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 334 (SVAVN);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 335 (GIISNGGTGYNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 336 (GVEWEGSMDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 337 (SGSSSNVGAGSYVG);

15 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 338 (GATKRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 339 (VSYQTDFTLV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

20 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 360 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CB3" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
 25 VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 334 (SVAVN);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 335 (GIISNGGTGYNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 336 (GVEWEGSMDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 337 (SGSSSNVGAGSYVG);

30 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 338 (GATKRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 339 (VSYQTDFTLV).

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid
 35 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33 (GNKKIETHKLTFR).

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecules referred to as "CA9" and "CA12" herein. Critical residues of the epitope may be residues 370 (K), and/or 374 (H)
 40 (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of

SEQ ID NO: 34 (XXXXXXHXXXXX, wherein X is any amino acid). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33, wherein any one or more residue other than residue number 370 (K), and/or 374 (H) is replaced by a non-conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33, wherein any one or more residue other than residue number 370 (K), and/or 374 (H) is replaced by a conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1). The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33, wherein any one or more residue other than residue number 370 (K), and/or 374 (H) is replaced by a conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1) and any one or more residue other than residue number 370 (K), and/or 374 (H) is replaced by a non-conservative amino acid substitution (numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 1).

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33 (GNKKIETHKLTFR). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 33 (GNKKIETHKLTFR).

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33 (GNKKIETHKLTFR). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 33 (GNKKIETHKLTFR).

20

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 58 (SYRSDGLAYGYVQAIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTG);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CA9" herein.

35

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 58 (SYRSDGLAYGYVQAIDY);

40

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTGV).

- 5 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44 (SYYVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52 (NIYSTGRAFYNPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 265
 10 (GSYYHGGGNGMVDFFDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39 (SGSSSNVGYGNYVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 72 (AATSRAS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 78 (SSYQRGNTGV);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 15 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
 an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding
 molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CA12"
 20 herein.

- The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44 (SYYVG);
 25 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52 (NIYSTGRAFYNPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 265
 (GSYYHGGGNGMVDFFDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39 (SGSSSNVGYGNYVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 72 (AATSRAS); and
 30 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 78 (SSYQRGNTGV).

- The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising
 residues 49 to 113 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence
 of

SEQ	ID	NO:	340
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 35 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAEEAGIGDTPS
).

- The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 113 of SEQ ID NO:
 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CB5"
 40 herein.

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 340 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAEEAGIGDTPS). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 340 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAEEAGIGDTPS).

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 340 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAEEAGIGDTPS). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 340 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAEEAGIGDTPS).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 259 (SNGVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 341 (DITSGGRITYGNLALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 160 (CRDGGVSYGYDSY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 342 (SGSSSNVSGSDHVN);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 343 (RTTNRAS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 344 (ASHDNNSGGV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 113 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CB5" herein.

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 155 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 345 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAEEAGIGDTPS LEDEAAGHVTQARMVSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPR).

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 155 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecules referred to as "CC4" and "CD1" herein.

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 345 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAAPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPS LEDEAAGHVTQARMVSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPR). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or
 5 at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 345 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAAPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPS LEDEAAGHVTQARMVSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPR).

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 345
 10 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAAPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPS LEDEAAGHVTQARMVSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPR). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 345 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAAPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPS
 15 LEDEAAGHVTQARMVSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPR).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 259 (SNGVG);
 20 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 158 (DIASSGKAYSNPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 161 (CRDGGVTYGYDIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 346 (SGSSSNVGYTNLGYSNLVT);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 170 (GATNRAS); and
 25 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 347 (ASYDSSNGGI);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino
 30 acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 155 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CC4" herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 35 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 259 (SNGVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 182 (DKSSAGKTYGNPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 286 (CRDGGVSYGYDVDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 290 (SGSSSNVGYGTIVS);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 188 (GTTTRAS); and
 40 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 291 (ASYDTGSGGV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 155 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CD1" herein.

The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 348 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPS LEDEAAGHVTQARMVSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPQKGQANATRIPAKTPP APKTPPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLTPPTREP KKVAVVRTPPKSPSS).

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "CC5" herein.

The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 348 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPS LEDEAAGHVTQARMVSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPQKGQANATRIPAKTPP APKTPPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLTPPTREP KKVAVVRTPPKSPSS). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 348 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPS LEDEAAGHVTQARMVSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPQKGQANATRIPAKTPP APKTPPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLTPPTREP KKVAVVRTPPKSPSS).

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 348 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPS LEDEAAGHVTQARMVSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPQKGQANATRIPAKTPP APKTPPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLTPPTREP KKVAVVRTPPKSPSS). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 348 (QTPTEDGSEEPGSETSDAKSTPTAEDVTAPLVDEGAPGKQAAQPHTEIPEGTTAAEEAGIGDTPS LEDEAAGHVTQARMVSKSKDGTGSDDKKAKGADGKTKIATPRGAAPPQKGQANATRIPAKTPP APKTPPSSGEPPKSGDRSGYSSPGSPGTPGSRSRTPSLTPPTREP KKVAVVRTPPKSPSS).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 259 (SNGVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 349 (DISSVGKKYASPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 161 (CRDGGVTYGYDIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39 (SGSSSNVGYGNYVG);
 5 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 141 (GATSRAS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 350 (ASYDSSNGGV);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
 10 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 49 to 238 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "CC5" herein.
- The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising
 15 residues 373 to 385 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 351 (THKLTFRENAKAK).
- The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 373 to 385 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "MD9" or
 20 "MoD9" herein.
- The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 351 (THKLTFRENAKAK). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 351 (THKLTFRENAKAK).
 25
- The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 351 (THKLTFRENAKAK). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 351 (THKLTFRENAKAK).
- 30 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 102 (RESIA);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 103 (GVGIDGTSYSPALKS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 104 (NYIDFEY);
 35 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 352 (SGSSSNVGIYDVS);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 353 (GTNNRPS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 354 (AAGDSSTIAV);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 40 (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 373 to 385 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as “MD9” or “MoD9” herein.

5

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 102 (RESIA);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 103 (GVGIDGTSYSPALKS);

10 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 104 (NYIDFEY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 352 (SGSSSNVGIYDVS);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 353 (GTNNRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 354 (AAGDSSTIAV).

15 The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 275 to 305 and/or residues 337 to 368 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 355 (VQIINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGS) and/or SEQ ID NO: 356 (VEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGN).

20 The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 275 to 305 and/or residues 337 to 368 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as “NS1G7” herein.

25 The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 355 (VQIINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGS) and/or SEQ ID NO: 356 (VEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGN). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 355 (VQIINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGS) and/or SEQ ID NO: 356 (VEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGN).

30

35 The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 355 (VQIINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGS) and/or SEQ ID NO: 356 (VEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGN). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 355 (VQIINKKLDLSNVQSKCGSKDNIKHVPGGGS) and/or SEQ ID NO: 356 (VEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNITHVPGGGN).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

40 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 357 (SYGVG);

- VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 358 (SISSGGTTFYNPALKS);
VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 359 (DVHIYYNDYGAAYGDRDY);
- 5 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 360 (SGSSSNIGGGNYVS);
VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 361 (GTTSRAS); and
VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 362 (ASYDTNSGSV);
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- 10 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 275 to 305 and/or residues 337 to 368 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "NS1G7" herein.
- 15 The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 357 (SYGVG);
VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 358 (SISSGGTTFYNPALKS);
VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 359 (DVHIYYNDYGAAYGDRDY);
- 20 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 360 (SGSSSNIGGGNYVS);
VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 361 (GTTSRAS); and
VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 362 (ASYDTNSGSV).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDR sequences of a clone set out in Table 10 below.

Table 10

Clone name	VH			VL			Epitope
	CDR1	CDR2	CDR3	CDR1	CDR2	CDR3	
CB11	SNAVI (SEQ ID NO: 198)	LIDVDGDAAYDPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 200)	DYGSWGYVSDIDY (SEQ ID NO: 202)	SGSNIGSNDVG (SEQ ID NO: 256)	DNNRP S (SEQ ID NO: 257)	GGYAGSSNFL (SEQ ID NO: 258)	113-238
CA2	SNGVG (SEQ ID NO: 259)	DISSVGKKYANPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 157)	CRDGGVTYGYDIDY (SEQ ID NO: 161)	SGSSGNVGYGDYVS (SEQ ID NO: 165)	GATNLAS (SEQ ID NO: 169)	ASYDSSSGGV (SEQ ID NO: 173)	1-155
CB6	SNGVG (SEQ ID NO: 259)	DISSVGKKYANPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 157)	CRDGGVTYGYDIDY (SEQ ID NO: 161)	SGSSSNIGTGNVVG (SEQ ID NO: 261)	GAVTRA S (SEQ ID NO: 262)	ASYDSTSGGV (SEQ ID NO: 263)	1-238
CA7	SYVVG (SEQ ID NO: 44)	NIYSTGRAFYNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 52)	GSYYHGGGNGMVDFFD Y (SEQ ID NO: 265)	SGSSSNVGYGNYVG (SEQ ID NO: 39)	AATSRAS (SEQ ID NO: 72)	SSYQRGNTGV (SEQ ID NO: 78)	1-319
CA8	SNAV (SEQ ID NO: 266)	AIDKDGDTIYNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 267)	DPSGWGYPDVY (SEQ ID NO: 268)	SGTYIGSSDVG (SEQ ID NO: 269)	GTSSRP S (SEQ ID NO: 270)	ATYESSYHNSV (SEQ ID NO: 271)	1-319
CB10	SNTVA (SEQ ID NO: 272)	EINSGGSTYYPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 273)	GARSTYAA (SEQ ID NO: 274)	SGSSSDVGYSTWVY (SEQ ID NO: 275)	HISNRAS (SEQ ID NO: 276)	AAYDSSNNVWI (SEQ ID NO: 277)	1-319

CB7	NYRVG (SEQ ID NO: 279)	NIRSGGTTWYNPALK S (SEQ ID NO: 280)	DSSGDLAYDY (SEQ ID NO: 281)	SGSSSNVGYGNMYA (SEQ ID NO: 282)	GATSRA S (SEQ ID NO: 141)	ASYDSTSGGV (SEQ ID NO: 263)	13-25
CC7	SNAVI (SEQ ID NO: 198)	LIDVDGDAAYDPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 200)	DYGSWGYVSDIDY (SEQ ID NO: 202)	SGSYITGSSVG (SEQ ID NO: 292)	DNNDRP S (SEQ ID NO: 284)	ASYDTSNIGL (SEQ ID NO: 285)	145-157
CB12	SNGVG (SEQ ID NO: 259)	DKSSAGKTYGNPALK S (SEQ ID NO: 182)	CRDGGVSYGYDVDY (SEQ ID NO: 286)	SGSSSNVGGDYVG (SEQ ID NO: 287)	DTTSRPS (SEQ ID NO: 288)	ASVDKTTGGV (SEQ ID NO: 289)	155-227
CC3	SNGVG (SEQ ID NO: 259)	DKSSAGKTYGNPALK S (SEQ ID NO: 182)	CRDGGVSYGYDVDY (SEQ ID NO: 286)	SGSSSNVGYGTYVS (SEQ ID NO: 290)	GTTTRAS (SEQ ID NO: 188)	ASYDTGSGGV (SEQ ID NO: 291)	155-227
CA1	SNAVI (SEQ ID NO: 198)	DIRADGATNYNAALKS (SEQ ID NO: 296)	PGNYYYGAGRDVARLA D (SEQ ID NO: 297)	SGSSSNIGGGNAVG (SEQ ID NO: 298)	DTTSRPS (SEQ ID NO: 288)	AAMDSSSLIGV (SEQ ID NO: 299)	155-238
CA3	SNGVG (SEQ ID NO: 259)	DKSSAGKTYGNPALK S (SEQ ID NO: 182)	CRDGGVTYGYDVDY (SEQ ID NO: 184)	SGSSGNIGYDDYVS (SEQ ID NO: 301)	GATRRS S (SEQ ID NO: 302)	ASYDSSGGGV (SEQ ID NO: 303)	186-263
CD2	SNAVI (SEQ ID NO: 198)	LIDVDGDAAYDPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 200)	DYGSWGYVSDIDY (SEQ ID NO: 202)	SGSNIGDADVG (SEQ ID NO: 305)	YNENRP S (SEQ ID NO: 306)	GSYAGDTYNHG V (SEQ ID NO: 307)	186-350
CB9	SNSVG (SEQ ID NO: 42)	GIDSDGEEGYNPALN S (SEQ ID NO: 48)	SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY (SEQ ID NO: 54)	SGRFIGISSVG (SEQ ID NO: 67)	ASDGRP S (SEQ ID NO: 70)	GSSDRTQYTG (SEQ ID NO: 74)	239-348

CG11	NYPVG (SEQ ID NO: 310)	NIENDGSANYASALKS (SEQ ID NO: 311)	EFGGSDGYTYFVDIDY (SEQ ID NO: 312)	SGSSSNVGYGNYVS (SEQ ID NO: 313)	GATSRA S (SEQ ID NO: 141)	ASYDGSSSGV (SEQ ID NO: 314)	266-359
CA10	SNGVG (SEQ ID NO: 259)	DISSVGKKYANPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 157)	CRDGGVTYGYDIDY (SEQ ID NO: 161)	SGSSSNVGYGNYVT (SEQ ID NO: 316)	DATTRVS (SEQ ID NO: 317)	AAHDSSSGV (SEQ ID NO: 318)	277-319
CC12	SNSVG (SEQ ID NO: 42)	GIDSDGEEGYNPALN S (SEQ ID NO: 48)	SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY (SEQ ID NO: 54)	SGRFIGISSVG (SEQ ID NO: 67)	ASDGRP S (SEQ ID NO: 70)	GSSDRTQYTG (SEQ ID NO: 74)	297-390
CE2/E1B8	NYPVG (SEQ ID NO: 310)	NIENDGSANYASALKS (SEQ ID NO: 311)	EFGGSDGYTYFVDIDY (SEQ ID NO: 312)	SGSSSNVGYGNYVS (SEQ ID NO: 313)	GATSRA S (SEQ ID NO: 141)	ASYDGSSSGV (SEQ ID NO: 314)	319-331
CE3	SNAV (SEQ ID NO: 17)	GCSSDGKCYNSALK S (SEQ ID NO: 20)	GYYPVGYDYLGTIDY (SEQ ID NO: 23)	SGSSSNVGRNDVA (SEQ ID NO: 25)	GTTSRPS (SEQ ID NO: 28)	ASGDSSAINDI (SEQ ID NO: 31)	331-360
CA6	SNGVG (SEQ ID NO: 259)	DKSSGGKTYGNPALK S (SEQ ID NO: 323)	CRDGGVTYGYDIDY (SEQ ID NO: 161)	SGSRNNIGYGNHVG (SEQ ID NO: 324)	DATTRAS (SEQ ID NO: 207)	ASFDRGSGGI (SEQ ID NO: 325)	348-390
CA11	SNTVA (SEQ ID NO: 272)	EINSGGSTYYNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 273)	GARSTYAAY (SEQ ID NO: 274)	SGSGSNIGAGNWWVS (SEQ ID NO: 327)	GATSRP S (SEQ ID NO: 328)	AAYDSGSSIV (SEQ ID NO: 329)	348-441
CA4	SYSVY (SEQ ID NO: 83)	IMYASGRVDYNPALK S (SEQ ID NO: 84)	GLEN (SEQ ID NO: 89)	RTSQSVNNYLS (SEQ ID NO: 91)	YATRLYT (SEQ ID NO: 95)	LQYDSTPLA (SEQ ID NO: 97)	355-367

CB2	TNSVG (SEQ ID NO: 45)	GIDTDGEEGFNPVLK S (SEQ ID NO: 53)	SYRTDGLAYGYVQAIDY (SEQ ID NO: 55)	SGSYIGSSSGVG (SEQ ID NO: 68)	ASDGRP S (SEQ ID NO: 70)	GSSDRTQYTGL (SEQ ID NO: 79)	359-391
CB3	SVAVN (SEQ ID NO: 334)	GIISNGGTGYNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 335)	GVEWEGSMDY (SEQ ID NO: 336)	SGSSSNVAGAGSYVG (SEQ ID NO: 337)	GATKRA S (SEQ ID NO: 338)	VSYQTDFTLV (SEQ ID NO: 339)	360-390
CA9	SNSVG (SEQ ID NO: 42)	GIDTDGEEGYNPALN S (SEQ ID NO: 46)	SYRSDGLAYGYVQAIDY (SEQ ID NO: 58)	SGSFIGISSVG (SEQ ID NO: 63)	ASDGRP S (SEQ ID NO: 70)	GSSDRTQYTGV (SEQ ID NO: 74)	367-379
CA12	SYVVG (SEQ ID NO: 44)	NIYSTGRAFYNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 52)	GSYYHGGGNGMVDFFD Y (SEQ ID NO: 265)	SGSSSNVGYGNYVG (SEQ ID NO: 39)	AATSRAS (SEQ ID NO: 72)	SSYQQRGNTGV (SEQ ID NO: 78)	367-379
CB5	SNGVG (SEQ ID NO: 259)	DITSGGRTYGNLALKS (SEQ ID NO: 341)	CRDGGVSYGYDSDY (SEQ ID NO: 160)	SGSSSNVGS GDHVN (SEQ ID NO: 342)	RTTNRAS (SEQ ID NO: 343)	ASHDNNSGGV (SEQ ID NO: 344)	49-113
CC4	SNGVG (SEQ ID NO: 259)	DIASSGKAYSNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 158)	CRDGGVTYGYDIDY (SEQ ID NO: 161)	SGSSSNVGYTNLGYSNLV T (SEQ ID NO: 346)	GATNRA S (SEQ ID NO: 170)	ASYDSSNGGI (SEQ ID NO: 347)	49-155
CD1	SNGVG (SEQ ID NO: 259)	DKSSAGKTYGNPALK S (SEQ ID NO: 182)	CRDGGVSYGYDVDY (SEQ ID NO: 286)	SGSSSNVGYGTYVS (SEQ ID NO: 290)	GTTTRAS (SEQ ID NO: 188)	ASYDTGSGGV (SEQ ID NO: 291)	49-155
CC5	SNGVG (SEQ ID NO: 259)	DISSVGKKYASPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 349)	CRDGGVTYGYDIDY (SEQ ID NO: 161)	SGSSSNVGYGNYVG (SEQ ID NO: 39)	GATSRA S (SEQ ID NO: 141)	ASYDSSNGGV (SEQ ID NO: 350)	49-238

MD9/MoD 9	RESIA (SEQ ID NO: 102)	GVGIDGTSYYSPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 103)	NYIDFEY (SEQ ID NO: 104)	SGSSSNVGIYDVS (SEQ ID NO: 352)	GTNNRP S (SEQ ID NO: 353)	AAGDSSTIAV (SEQ ID NO: 354)	373-385
NS1G7	SYGVG (SEQ ID NO: 357)	SISGGTTTFYNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 358)	DVHIYYNDYGAAYGDRD Y (SEQ ID NO: 359)	SGSSSNIGGGNYVS (SEQ ID NO: 360)	GTTSRAS (SEQ ID NO: 361)	ASYDTNSGSV (SEQ ID NO: 362)	275-305, 337-368
3bD11	SYVVG (SEQ ID NO: 44)	NIYSTGRAFYNPALKS (SEQ ID NO: 52)	GSYYHGGGNGMVDFFD Y (SEQ ID NO: 265)	SGSSSNVGYGNYVG (SEQ ID NO: 39)	AATSRAS (SEQ ID NO: 72)	SSYQRGNTGV (SEQ ID NO: 78)	37-49

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

- VHCDR1 comprises a VHCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 10;
 - VHCDR2 comprises a VHCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 10;
 - 5 VHCDR3 comprises a VHCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 10;
 - VLCDR1 comprises a VLCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 10;
 - VLCDR2 comprises a VLCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 10; and
 - VLCDR3 comprises a VLCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 10;
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- 10 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within SEQ ID NO: 1, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule has a K_D of less than around 25 nM.

- 15 The K_D may be less than around 20 nM, less than around 15 nM, or less than around 10 nM. The K_D may preferably be for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 or to SEQ ID NO: 5. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 1 nM to around 20 nM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 1 nM to around 10 nM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 1.23 nM to 6.9 nM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of CC7. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID
- 20 NO: 1 may be around 1.3 nM to 3.61 nM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of CA4. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 3.79 nM to 16.7 nM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of CE3. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 5.03 nM to 11 nM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of CE2. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 3.7 nM to 5.19 nM, optionally
- 25 wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of CB7.

- The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 363 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid
- 30 sequence comprising residues 1-155 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 363. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 363. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence
 - 35 having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 363 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 363. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 363.

SEQ ID NO: 363 (CA2 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLSSVAVNWVRQAPGKVPEWLGGIISNGGTGYNPALKS
RLSITRDTSKSQVSLALHTVTEDTAVYYCGRGVEWEGSMDYLGPGLLVTVSSEKSSGSGSETK
VDDQSVLTQPSSVSGFLGQRVITCSGSSSNVGAGSYVGWYQQVPGSGLRILYGATKRASGLPD

5 RFSGSRSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYYCVSYQTDFTLVFGSGTRTLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 364 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid
10 sequence comprising residues 13-25 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 364. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 364. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence
15 having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 364 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 364. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 364.

SEQ ID NO: 364 (CB7 amino acid sequence)

20 QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTNRYVGWVRQAPGKALEWVSNIRSGGTTWYNPALK
SRLSITADTSKSQVSLSLSSVTEDTAVYYCARDSSGDLAYDYWGPGLLVTVSSEKSSGASGE
SKVDDQAVLTQPSSVSRSLGQSVSMTCGSSSNVGYGNMAWFQQVPGSAPKLLIYGATSRAS
GVPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYYCASYDSTSGGVFGSGTRTLTVLG

25 The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 365 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 145 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%,
30 at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 365. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 365. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 365 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 365.
35 The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 365.

SEQ ID NO: 365 (CC7 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSNAVIWVRQAPGKAPEWVALIDVDGDAAYDPALKS
RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLRSVTEDTAVYYCARDYGSWGYVSDIDYWGPGLLVTVSSEKSSGASG

ESKVDDRVVRTQPSSVSGSLGQRV SITCSGSYITGSSVGVWFQQVPGSGLKTVIYDNND RPSGVP
DRFSGSKSGDTATLTISLQA EDEADYYCASYDTSNIGLFGSGTRTLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 366 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 319 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 366. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 366. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 366 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 366. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 366.

15

SEQ ID NO: 366 (CE2/E1B8 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTNYPVGWVRQAPGKALEWIGNIENDGSANYASALKS
RLSITRDTSKNQVSLSLSSATTEDTAVYYCGREFGGSDGYTYFVDIDYWGPGLLVTVSSEGKSSG
ASGESKVDDQAVLTQPSSVSKSLGQSVSITCSGSSSNVGYGNYVSWFQQVPGSAPKILIYGATSR
ASGVDPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTITSLQA EDEADYYCASYDGSSSGVFGSGTRTLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 367 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 331 to 360 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 367. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 367. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 367 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 367. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 367.

SEQ ID NO 367: (CE3 amino acid sequence)

QVRLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLISNAVGVWRQAPGKVPESLAGCSDGKCYNSALKS
RLDITRDTSKNQISLSLSSVTDDAAVYYCTRGYYPVYGYDYLGTIDYWGPGLLVTVSSEGKSSGA
SGESKVDDQAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRV SITCSGSSSNVGRNDVAWFQQLPGSGLRTIYGTTSRPS
GIPDRFSGSKSGVTATLTIDSLQA EDEADYFCASGDSSAINDIFGSGTRTLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 368 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 355 to 367 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 368. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 368. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 368 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 368. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 368.

SEQ ID NO: 368 (CA4 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSYSVYVWRQAPGQALEWISIMYASGRVDYNPALKS
 RLSITRDTSKSQFSLSLSSVTEDTAVYYCTRGIEHWGPGLLVTSSEKSSGASGESKVDDDIQV
 TQSPSSLSASLTERVSITCRISQSVNNYLSWYQKPGQAPKLLIYYATRLYTDVPSRFSGSGSGTD
 YTLTITSLEADDTATYYCLQYDSTPLAFGGGTNVEIK

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 369 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 359 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 369. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 369. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 369 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 369. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 369.

SEQ ID NO: 369 (CB2 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLSTNSVGWVRQAPGKAPEWVAGIDTDGEEGFNPVLK
 SRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSNVTSEDVAVYYCGRSYRTDGLAYGYVQAIDYWGPGLLVTSSEKSS
 GASGESKVDDQSVLTQPSSVSGSPGQTVSITCSGSYIGSSGVGWVQQLPGSGLRITIVASDGRPS
 GVPDRFMSKSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYFCGSSDRTQYTGLFGSGTRLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 370 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 360 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding

- molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 370. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 370. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 370 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 370. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 370.

SEQ ID NO: 370 (CB3 amino acid sequence)

10 QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLSSVAVNWVRQAPGKVPEWLGGIISNGGTGYNPALKS
RLSITRDTSKSQVSLALHTVTTEDTAVYYCGRGVEWEGSMDYLGPGLLVTVSSEGKSSGSGSETK
VDDQSVLTQPSSVSGFLGQRVTITCSGSSSNVAGSYVGWYQQVPGSGLRILIYGATKRASGLPD
RFGSGRSGNTATLTISSLQAEDEADYYCVSYQTDFTLVFGSGTRTLTVLG

- 15 The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 371 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%,
20 at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 371. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 371. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 371 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 371.
25 The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 371.

SEQ ID NO: 371 (CA9 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSNSVGWVRQAPGKAPWVAGIDTDGEEGYNPALN
SRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTSEDVAVYYCGRSYRSDGLAYGYVQAIDYWGPGLLVTVSSEGKS
30 SGASGESKVDQAVLTQPASVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSGFIGISSVGWFQQLPGSGLRITIVASDGRPS
GVPDRFSMSKSGNTATLTISSLQAEDEADYFCGSSDRTQYTG VFGSGTRTLTVLG

- The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 372 wherein
35 the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 372. The CDRs may be 100%
40 identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 372. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino

acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 372 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 372. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 372.

5 SEQ ID NO: 372 (CA12 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQGSGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSFDSYYVGWVRQAPGKALEWLGNIYSTGRAFYNPALK
SRLSITRDTSKSQVSLSVSSVTIEDTALYYCVRGSYYHGGNGMVDFFDYWSPGLLVTVSSEGKS
SGASGESKVDDQVVRTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSSSNVGYGNYVGWVFQVPGSAPKLLIYAA
TSRASGVDPDRFSGSRSGNTATLTIDSLQAEDADYYCSSYQRGNTGVFGSGTRLTVLG

10

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 373 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 373 to 385 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding
15 molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 373. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 373. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least
20 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 373 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 373. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 373.

SEQ ID NO: 373 (MD9/MoD9 amino acid sequence)

QVRLQESGPSLVKSSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTRESIAWVRQAPGKVPEWLGGVGIDGTSYYSPALKS
25 RLSITRDTSKSQASLSLSSVATEDTAMYYCARNYIDFEYWGPGLLVTVSSEGKSSGASGESKVDD
QAVLTQLSSVSGSLGQRISITCSGSSSNVGIYDVSWFQQLPGSGLRTVIYGTNNRPSGVDPDRFSG
SRSGNTATLTISLQSEDAIYYCAAGDSSTIAVFGSGTRLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least
30 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 637 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 37 to 49 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%,
35 or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 637. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 637. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 637 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 637. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 637.

40

SEQ ID NO: 637 (3bD11 amino acid sequence)

RVRLQGSGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSFDSYYVGWVRQAPGKALEWLGNIYSTGRAFYNPALKS
 RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSVSSVTIEDTALYYCVRGSYYHGGGNGMVDFFDYWSPGLLVTVSSEKSS
 GASGESKVDDQVVRTQPSSVSGSLGQQRVSITCSGSSSNVGYGNYVGWFQQVPGSAPKLLIYAAT
 5 SRASGVPDFRSGSRSGNTATLTIDSLQAEDEADYYCSSYQRGNTGVFGSGTRTLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 374 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid
 10 sequence comprising residues 275 to 305 and/or 337 to 368 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 374. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 374. The specific binding molecule may comprise an
 15 amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 374 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 374. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 374.

SEQ ID NO: 374 (NS1G7 amino acid sequence)
 20 QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSYGVGWVRQAPGKTLEWISSISSGGTTFFYNPALKS
 RLSITRDTSESQVSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCTRDVHIYYNDYGAAYGDRDYWGPGLLVTVSSEKKS
 SGASGESKVDDQAVVTQPPSVSGSPGQQRVSITCSGSSSNIGGGNYVSWYQQLPGSGRLTLIYGT
 TSRASGVPDFRSGSGSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYYCASYDTNSGSGVFGSGTRTLTVLG

25 The epitope of the specific binding molecule may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the epitope may be within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5
 (IKHVPGGGQSVQIVYKPVDLKVTSCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNITH
 VPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAKAKTDHGA).

30

The epitope may be within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This epitope may be bound by the CDRs of the specific binding molecule referred to as "S1E12" herein.

35 The epitope may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5
 (IKHVPGGGQSVQIVYKPVDLKVTSCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNITH
 VPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAKAKTDHGA). The epitope may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity
 to SEQ ID NO: 5

(IKHVPGGGQSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNITH
VPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAKAKTDHGA).

The epitope may consist of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5
5 (IKHVPGGGQSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNITH
VPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAKAKTDHGA). The epitope may consist of an amino acid sequence
having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity
to SEQ ID NO: 5
(IKHVPGGGQSVQIVYKPVDSLKVTSKCGSLGNIHHKPGGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSKIGSLDNITH
10 VPGGGNKKIETHKLTFRNAKAKTDHGA).

The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino
acid sequence comprising residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Said specific binding molecule may
comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each
15 of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 136 (S/R/D/T N/E/Y/H S/G V/I
G/A);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 162 (G I/V D/G/N T/I/Y/S D G
E/T/R E/S/T G/Y/E Y/F N/S P/S A/V L N/K S);

20 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 164 (S/N/D/T Y/-/S R/-/K A/-
/G/S/T D/- G/- L/-/Y A/-/G Y/-/W G/- Y/-/H V/Y Q/I/Y A/D/Q I/F D/E Y);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 167 (S G S F/N/S/Y I/S G/N I/S/V
S/A/G S/Y/G -/G -/D -/Y V G/T/S);

25 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 181 (A/R/D S/N/A D/R/T G/N R
P/A S); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 183 (G/A S S/Y/H D/- R/Q/D
T/S/N Q/W/R Y/G/I T/S G/A V/L);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- 30 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

Said sequence identity is at least about 85% sequence identity and may therefore be at least 85%,
at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at
least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99%
35 identity. Preferably said sequence identity is at least 90% or at least 95%.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

40 VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG), SEQ ID NO: 187
(SHSVG), SEQ ID NO: 45 (TNSVG), SEQ ID NO: 102 (RESIA), or SEQ ID NO: 199 (DYGIG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS), SEQ ID NO: 205 (GINYDGRTEYNSALKS), SEQ ID NO: 103 (GVGIDGTSYYSALKS), SEQ ID NO: 53 (GIDTDGEEGFNPVLKS), or SEQ ID NO: 48 (GIDSDGEEGYNPALNS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY),
 5 SEQ ID NO: 55 (SYRTDGLAYGYVQAIDY), SEQ ID NO: 210 (TYRSDGYAYGYVQAIDY), SEQ ID NO: 104 (NYIDFEY), or SEQ ID NO: 211 (DSKGGWGHVYQFDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG), SEQ ID NO: 68 (SGSYIGSSGVG), SEQ ID NO: 212 (SGSNIGSASVT), or SEQ ID NO: 213 (SGSSNVGYGDYVS);

10 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS), SEQ ID NO: 214 (RNRNRPS), or SEQ ID NO: 215 (DATNRAS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTGV), SEQ ID NO: 79 (GSSDRTQYTGL), SEQ ID NO: 216 (ASHDNRISAV), or SEQ ID NO: 217 (GSYQSWGSGV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

15 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

20 The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Said specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 426 (S/T N/H S V G);

25 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 427 (G I D T/S D G E E G Y/F N P A/V L N/K S);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 428 (S/T Y R A/T/S D G L/Y G Y V Q A I D Y);

30 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 429 (S G S F/Y I G I/S S S/G V G);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (A S D G R P S); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 432 (G S S D R T Q Y T G V/L);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

35 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

Said sequence identity is at least about 85% sequence identity and may therefore be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99%
 40 identity. Preferably said sequence identity is at least 90% or at least 95%.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG), SEQ ID NO: 187
5 (SHSVG) or SEQ ID NO: 45 (TNSVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS),
SEQ ID NO: 53 (GIDTDGEEGFNPVLKS), or SEQ ID NO: 48 (GIDSDGEEGYNPALNS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY),
SEQ ID NO: 55 (SYRTDGLAYGYVQAIDY), or SEQ ID NO: 210 (TYRSDGYAYGYVQAIDY);

10 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG), or SEQ ID
NO: 68 (SGSYIGSSGVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTGTV), or SEQ
ID NO: 79 (GSSDRTQYTGL);

15 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule
comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

20

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS);

25 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTGTV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

30 (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising
an amino acid sequence comprising residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding
molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "S1E12"

35 herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,
VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);

40 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 74 (GSSDRTQYTGV).

5

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45 (TNSVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 53 (GIDTDGEEGFNPVLKS);

10 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 55 (SYRTDGLAYGYVQAIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 68 (SGSYIGSSGVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 79 (GSSDRTQYTGL);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

15

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule comprising CDRs having 100% identity to those given above is referred to as "NS2A1"

20

herein.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45 (TNSVG);

25

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 53 (GIDTDGEEGFNPVLKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 55 (SYRTDGLAYGYVQAIDY);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 68 (SGSYIGSSGVG);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 79 (GSSDRTQYTGL).

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDR sequences of a clone set out in Table 11 below. The epitope may be within residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Table 11

Clone name	VH		VL			Epitope	
	<u>CDR1</u>	<u>CDR2</u>	<u>CDR3</u>	<u>CDR1</u>	<u>CDR2</u>	<u>CDR3</u>	
NS2B6	<u>RESIA</u> (SEQ ID NO: 102)	<u>GVGIDGTSYYSPALK</u> S (SEQ ID NO: 103)	<u>N-----YIDFEY</u> (SEQ ID NO: 104)	<u>SGSNIGSAS---VT</u> (SEQ ID NO: 212)	<u>RNRNRPS</u> (SEQ ID NO: 214)	<u>GSY-</u> <u>QSWGSGV</u> (SEQ ID NO: 217)	297-390
NS1B2	<u>DYGIG</u> (SEQ ID NO: 199)	<u>GINYDGRTEYNSALK</u> S (SEQ ID NO: 205)	<u>DSKG---</u> <u>GWGHVYQFDY</u> (SEQ ID NO: 211)	<u>SGSSSNVGYGDYV</u> <u>S</u> (SEQ ID NO: 213)	<u>DATNRAS</u> (SEQ ID NO: 215)	<u>ASH-DNRISAV</u> (SEQ ID NO: 216)	297-390
S1A5	<u>SNSVG</u> (SEQ ID NO: 42)	<u>GIDTDGEEGYNPALN</u> S (SEQ ID NO: 46)	<u>TYRSDGYAYGYVQAID</u> Y (SEQ ID NO: 210)	NA	NA	NA	297-390
S1A12	<u>SNSVG</u> (SEQ ID NO: 42)	<u>GIDTDGEEGYNPALN</u> S (SEQ ID NO: 46)	<u>TYRSDGYAYGYVQAID</u> Y (SEQ ID NO: 210)	<u>SGSFIGISS---VG</u> (SEQ ID NO: 63)	<u>ASDGRPS</u> (SEQ ID NO: 70)	<u>GSSDRTQYTG</u> V (SEQ ID NO: 74)	297-390
S1E12	<u>SNSVG</u> (SEQ ID NO: 42)	<u>GIDTDGEEGYNPALN</u> S (SEQ ID NO: 46)	<u>SYRADGLAYGYVQAID</u> Y (SEQ ID NO: 54)	<u>SGSFIGISS---VG</u> (SEQ ID NO: 63)	<u>ASDGRPS</u> (SEQ ID NO: 70)	<u>GSSDRTQYTG</u> V (SEQ ID NO: 74)	297-390
S1D5	<u>SHSVG</u> (SEQ ID NO: 187)	<u>GIDSDGEEGYNPALN</u> S (SEQ ID NO: 48)	<u>SYRADGLAYGYVQAID</u> <u>Y</u> (SEQ ID NO: 54)	<u>SGSFIGISS---VG</u> (SEQ ID NO: 63)	<u>ASDGRPS</u> (SEQ ID NO: 70)	<u>GSSDRTQYTG</u> V (SEQ ID NO: 74)	297-390

NS2A1	TNSVG (SEQ ID NO: 45)	GIDTDGEEGFNPVLK S (SEQ ID NO: 53)	SYRTDGLAYGYVQAID Y (SEQ ID NO: 55)	SGSYIGSSG—VG (SEQ ID NO: 68)	ASDGRPS (SEQ ID NO: 70)	GSSDRTQYTG L (SEQ ID NO: 79)	297-390
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The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises a VHCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 11;

VHCDR2 comprises a VHCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 11;

VHCDR3 comprises a VHCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 11;

VLCDR1 comprises a VLCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 11;

VLCDR2 comprises a VLCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 11; and

VLCDR3 comprises a VLCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 11;

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The specific binding molecule may bind to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1 with a K_D of less than around 25 nM. The K_D may be less than around 20 nM, less than around 15 nM, or less than around 10 nM. The K_D may preferably be for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 5. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 500 pM to around 15 nM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 500 pM to around 1 nM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 829 pM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of S1E12. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 1 nM to around 15 nM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 2.9 nM to 10 nM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of NS2A1. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 5 may be around 1 nM to around 15 nM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 3 nM to 8 nM. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 may be around 5.4 nM, optionally wherein the specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of NS2A1.

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 218 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 218. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 218. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 218 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 218. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 218.

SEQ ID NO: 218 (S1E12 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLGSNSVGWVRQAPGKAPEWVAGIDTDGEEGYNPALNSR
LSITRDTSKSQVLSLSSVTSEDVAVYYCGRSYRADGLAYGYVQAIDYWGPGLLVTVSSEKSSGAS
GESKVDDRVVRTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSGFIGISSVGWFQQLPGSGLRTIIVASDGRPSGVPDR
FSMSKSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYFCGSSDRTQYTGVFSGSTRLTVLG

The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 220 wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 297 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 220. The CDRs may be 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 220. The specific binding molecule may comprise an amino acid sequence having at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95% or at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO: 220 wherein CDRs are 100% identical to the CDRs of SEQ ID NO: 220. The specific binding molecule may comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 220.

SEQ ID NO: 220 (NS2A1 amino acid sequence)

QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLSTNSVGWVRQAPGKAPEWVAGIDTDGEEGFNPVLKSR
LSITRDTSKSQVLSLSNVTSEDVAVYYCGRSYRTDGLAYGYVQAIDYWGPGLLVTVISSEKSSGASG
ESKVDDQSVLTQPSSVSGSPGQTVSITCSGSGYIGSSGVGWFQQLPGSGLRTIIVASDGRPSGVPDGF
SMKSGNTATLTISLQAEDEADYFCGSSDRTQYTGFLFGSGSTRLTVLG

CDRs disclosed herein in connection with different clones may be combined into a specific binding molecule.

The specific binding molecule may comprise one or more CDR sequences disclosed herein in connection a clone identified in any one of tables 1 to 11 wherein the remaining CDR sequences are disclosed herein in connection one or more other clones identified in any one of tables 1 to 11. The specific binding molecule may comprise CDRs from two, three, four, five or six clones identified in any one of tables 1 to 11.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises a VHCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in any one of tables 1 to 11;

VHCDR2 comprises a VHCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in any one of tables 1 to 11;

VHCDR3 comprises a VHCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in any one of tables 1 to 11;

VLCDR1 comprises a VLCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in any one of tables 1 to 11;

VLCDR2 comprises a VLCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in any one of tables 1 to 11; and

VLCDR3 comprises a VLCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in any one of tables 1 to 11;

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within SEQ ID NO: 1.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs of a clone selected from the group consisting of S1D12, E2E8, E1E8, E2A6, E2B7, NS2A1, S1E12, S1B1, S1D9, S1F4, S1G2, S1G10, S2C6, MD9, 412E10, 412B9, 412E6, 412G11, CA2, CA4, CA9, CA12, CB2, CB3, CB7, CC7, CE2, CE3, 3aA6, 3aD6, 3aB7, 3bF4, 3aD3, 3aH6, 3aG3, 3bG4 and NS1G7;

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within SEQ ID NO: 1.

The specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs of a clone selected from the group consisting of S1D12, E2E8, E1E8, E2A6, E2B7, NS2A1, S1E12, S1B1, S1D9, S1F4, S1G2, S1G10, S2C6, MD9, 412E10, 412B9, 412E6, 412G11, CA2, CA4, CA9, CA12, CB2, CB3, CB7, CC7, CE2, CE3, 3aA6, 3aD6, 3aB7, 3bF4, 3aD3, 3aH6, 3aG3, 3bG4 and NS1G7.

Without being bound by theory, the specific binding molecule is thought to bind to its target monovalently. The specific binding molecule may be a monovalent binder.

The specific binding molecule may bind to SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof with a K_D of less than 25 nM, less than 20 nM, less than 15 nM, less than 10 nM, less than 8 nM, less than 6 nM, less than 5 nM, less than 4 nM, less than 3 nM, less than 2 nM, less than 1 nM, less than 0.5 nM, less than 0.4 nM, less than 0.3 nM, less than 0.2 nM or less than 0.15 nM.

The specific binding molecule may bind to SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof with a K_D of less than 10 nM.

The specific binding molecule may have a K_D of 5 to 25 nM. The specific binding molecule may have a K_D of 5 to 20 nM. The specific binding molecule may have a K_D of 6 to 25 nM. The specific binding molecule may have a K_D of 6 to 20 nM.

The specific binding molecule may compete for binding to the same epitope as the epitope bound by mAb423. Without being bound by theory, the epitope of mAb423 is thought to be DHGAE, corresponding to residues 387-391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. It is thought that the binding of mAb423 is Glu-391 specific. Accordingly, mAb423 does not bind to DHGA, corresponding to residues 387-390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The specific binding molecule may therefore compete for binding to DHGAE, corresponding to residues 387 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Any specific binding molecule disclosed herein with an epitope comprising one or more of residues 387 to 391 of SEQ ID NO:1 may therefore compete for binding to

the same epitope as the epitope bound by mAb423. For example, a specific binding molecule with an epitope within an amino acid sequence comprising residues 369 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete for binding to the same epitope as the epitope bound by mAb423. Preferably, the specific binding molecules that compete for binding to the same epitope as the epitope bound by mAb423 are Glu-391 specific. The specific binding molecule that competes for binding to the same epitope as the epitope bound by mAb423 may therefore be selected from the group consisting of E1E8, E2A6, E2B7, E2E8 and E1B8.

The epitopes of clones directed to the dGAE fragment may include residues thought to be involved in the formation of the "C shaped" architecture of the PHF core (see Figures 2 to 4). The binding of such clones may impair the formation of the "C shaped" architecture of the PHF core or inhibit binding of subunits to existing oligomers by steric hinderance and/or inhibiting the association of key residues.

The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first region within residues 296 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second region within residues 296 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first region within the dGAE fragment to a second region within the dGAE fragment.

The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first region within residues 296 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second region within residues 296 to 390 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first region within the dGA fragment to a second region within the dGA fragment.

The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first region within residues 308 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second region within residues 308 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Accordingly, the specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first region within dGAE73 and/or dGAE71 to a second region within dGAE73 and/or dGAE71.

The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first region within residues 296 to 386 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second region within residues 296 to 386 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first region within residues 306 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second region within residues 306 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first region within residues 306 to 386 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second region within residues 306 to 386 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The first and second region may be within the same polypeptide molecule. Accordingly, the specific binding molecule may inhibit the formation of a hairpin structure of the PHF core. The specific binding molecule may inhibit the folding of the PHF core.

The PHF core is composed of eight β -sheets (β 1–8) that run along the length of the protofilament, adopting a C-shaped architecture.

Starting from the termini of the PHF, there is a heterotypic cross- β interface formed between β 1–2 and β 8. The N-terminal end of the ordered core is formed by the hexapeptide ₃₀₆VQIVYK₃₁₁, (SEQ ID NO: 430) which forms a complementary packing interface with residues 373–378 from the opposing β 8 by face-to-face packing of hydrophobic groups. The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of residues 306 to 311 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to residues 373 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Any specific binding molecule disclosed herein with an epitope overlapping either 306 to 311 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or residues 373 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of residues 306 to 311 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to residues 373 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1. For example, a specific binding molecule with an epitope within residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of residues 306 to 311 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to residues 373 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1. For instance, a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of S1G2 (or a derivative thereof) may compete with the binding of residues 306 to 311 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to residues 373 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Strands β 2 (residues 313–322 of SEQ ID NO: 1) and β 8 (residues 368–378 of SEQ ID NO: 1) pack against each other through a polar-zipper motif. The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of residues 313 to 322 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to residues 368 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Any specific binding molecule disclosed herein with an epitope overlapping either 313 to 322 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or residues 368 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of residues 313 to 322 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to residues 368 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1. For example, a specific binding molecule with an epitope within residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of residues 313 to 322 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to residues 368 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1. For instance, a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of S1G2 (or a derivative thereof) may compete with the binding of residues 313 to 322 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to residues 368 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

A hydrophobic cluster of L324, I326 and V363 stabilizes the region immediately after a turn in the PHF core and the cross- β interface between β 3 and β 7 is further cemented by hydrogen bonds between the sidechains of H328 and T361. The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of residues 327 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to residues 356 to 363 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Any specific binding molecule disclosed herein with an epitope overlapping either 324 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or residues 356 to 363 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of residues 327 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to residues 356 to 363 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

For example, a specific binding molecule with an epitope within residues 319 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of residues 327 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to residues 356 to 363 of SEQ ID NO: 1. For instance, a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of CE2 (or a derivative thereof)

may compete with the binding of residues 327 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to residues 356 to 363 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

As a further example, a specific binding molecule with an epitope within residues 355 to 367 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of residues 327 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to residues 356 to 363 of SEQ ID NO: 1. For instance, a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of CA4 (or a derivative thereof) may compete with the binding of residues 327 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to residues 356 to 363 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The two “sides” of the PHF core meet through a β -helix structure that is defined by three β -strands in residues 337 to 368 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (β 4–6). The “hinge” region of the PHF core may be defined as residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and may alternatively be defined as the “critical abnormal fold”. Two-residue (E342, K343) and three-residue (³⁴⁷KDR₃₄₉) β -arc corners punctuate the triangular β -helix geometry, which is closed with a pivotal $\sim 70^\circ$ glycine conformation (G355). Hydrophobic clustering, aliphatic stacking (V339, L344, V350 and I354) and aromatic stacking (F346) stabilize the interior of the β -helix. Any specific binding molecule disclosed herein with an epitope overlapping residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1. For example, a specific binding molecule with an epitope within residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1. For instance, a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of S1D12 (or a derivative thereof) may compete with the binding of residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Specific binding molecules competing for binding of regions described above may have utility in preventing the formation of the PHF core structure and therefore inhibiting tau aggregation. A combination of specific binding molecules competing for binding of multiple regions described above may have increased utility in preventing the formation of the PHF core structure and therefore inhibiting tau aggregation.

Alternatively, the first and second region may be within different polypeptide molecules. Accordingly, the specific binding molecule may inhibit the binding of a first polypeptide to a second polypeptide. The first and second polypeptides may comprise the PHF core.

As illustrated in Figures 5 and 6, a new dGAE unit progressively unfolds and becomes aligned with the structure of an existing oligomer. This attachment sequence may be understood in terms of 3 stages corresponding to progressive binding of key segments of dGAE and their epitopes into the oligomer. As can be seen, the hinge region recognised by S1D12 is the primary site of attachment, followed by progressive symmetrical binding of the other domains.

The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence GGGQVEVKSEKLDKDRVQSK (SEQ ID NO: 375 – corresponding to residues 333 to 353 of SEQ ID NO: 1) to a second polypeptide comprising the PHF core. The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 333 to 353 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising residues 333 to 353 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Any specific binding molecule disclosed herein with an epitope overlapping residues 333 to 353 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 333 to 353 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising the PHF core and/or residues 333 to 353 of SEQ ID NO: 1. For example, a specific binding molecule with an epitope within residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 333 to 353 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising the PHF core and/or residues 333 to 353 of SEQ ID NO: 1. For instance, a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of S1D12 (or a derivative thereof) may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 333 to 353 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising the PHF core and/or residues 333 to 353 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence CGSLGNIHHKPG (SEQ ID NO: 376 – corresponding to residues 322 to 333 of SEQ ID NO: 1) to a second polypeptide comprising the PHF core. The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 322 to 333 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising residues 322 to 333 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Any specific binding molecule disclosed herein with an epitope overlapping residues 322 to 333 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 322 to 333 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising the PHF core and/or residues 322 to 333 of SEQ ID NO: 1. For example, a specific binding molecule with an epitope within residues 319 to 331 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 322 to 333 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising the PHF core and/or residues 322 to 333 of SEQ ID NO: 1. For instance, a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of CE2 (or a derivative thereof) may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 322 to 333 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising the PHF core and/or residues 322 to 333 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence SLDNITHVP (SEQ ID NO: 377 – corresponding to residues 356 to 364 of SEQ ID NO: 1) to a second polypeptide comprising the PHF core. The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 356 to 364 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising residues 356 to 364 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Any specific binding molecule disclosed herein with an epitope overlapping residues 356 to 364 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 356 to 364 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising the PHF core and/or residues 356 to 364 of SEQ ID NO: 1. For example, a specific binding molecule with an epitope within residues 355 to 367 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 356 to 364 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising

the PHF core and/or residues 356 to 364 of SEQ ID NO: 1. For instance, a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of CA4 (or a derivative thereof) may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 356 to 364 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising the PHF core and/or residues 356 to 364 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence VQIVYKPVD (SEQ ID NO: 378 – corresponding to residues 306 to 314 of SEQ ID NO: 1) to a second polypeptide comprising the PHF core. The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 306 to 314 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising residues 306 to 314 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Any specific binding molecule disclosed herein with an epitope overlapping residues 306 to 314 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 306 to 314 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising the PHF core and/or residues 306 to 314 of SEQ ID NO: 1. For example, a specific binding molecule with an epitope comprising residues 306 to 314 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 306 to 314 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising the PHF core and/or residues 306 to 314 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence KKIETHKLTF (SEQ ID NO: 379 – corresponding to residues 369 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1) to a second polypeptide comprising the PHF core. The specific binding molecule may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 369 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising residues 369 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Any specific binding molecule disclosed herein with an epitope overlapping residues 369 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 369 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising the PHF core and/or residues 369 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1. For example, a specific binding molecule with an epitope within residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 369 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising the PHF core and/or residues 369 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1. For instance, a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of S1G2 (or a derivative thereof) may compete with the binding of a first polypeptide comprising residues 369 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second polypeptide comprising the PHF core and/or residues 369 to 378 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Without being bound by theory, in any embodiment where the binding of a specific binding molecule competes with the binding of a first region within residues 296 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second region within residues 296 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (or within the other ranges or residues of SEQ ID NO: 1 set out above), the specific binding molecule may inhibit the tau aggregation. This applies whether the first and second region are within the same or different polypeptide molecules. Any suitable test for determining competitive binding or for screening inhibitors of tau aggregation may therefore be used to confirm that a specific binding molecule competes with the binding of a first region within residues 296 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 to a second region within residues 296 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Suitable screening methods include a thioflavin T-assay, a tau-tau immunoassay and an assay for assessing the effects of aggregated tau in cell culture. A suitable assay for assessing the effects of aggregated tau in cell culture is disclosed in UK application no. GB2010620.9 filed on 10 July 2020, and in international (PCT) application no. PCT/EP2021/069138 filed on 9 July 2021 and claiming priority to UK application no. GB2010620.9, both of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety. The invention relates to specific binding molecules with high affinities for their ligands. A specific binding molecule with high affinity for its ligand is advantageous in the present invention, as, generally, less of a specific binding molecule with high affinity for its ligand is required to achieve a particular effect than of a specific binding molecule with lower affinity for the same ligand. For instance, if the specific binding molecule is for therapeutic use, it can be expected that a lower dosage would be required of a specific binding molecule with high affinity for its ligand than of a specific binding molecule with lower affinity for the same ligand. This may be advantageous for the patient, who might require fewer or smaller doses of the specific binding molecule, e.g. antibody, and would also be more economical, as less of the specific binding molecule would be required for the therapy.

The affinity of a binding molecule for its ligand (or binding partner), such as the affinity of an antibody for its target antigen, can be quantitatively defined by the dissociation constant (K_D) for a complex of the binding molecule and ligand. The K_D value of a specific binding molecule, e.g. an antibody, corresponds to the ratio of the binding molecule dissociation rate (i.e. how quickly it dissociates from its ligand) to the binding molecule association rate (i.e. how quickly it binds its ligand). A lower K_D value corresponds to a higher binding affinity of the binding molecule for its ligand. K_D may be measured under any suitable conditions for binding of specific binding molecule to its ligand, preferably under conditions identified as optimal. Methods as described in the Examples may be used. Alternatively, any other conditions identified as promoting the binding of the specific binding molecule to a peptide comprising the epitope within SEQ ID NO: 1 bound by the specific binding molecule may be used. A number of methods by which the K_D of an interaction between a specific binding molecule and its ligand may be calculated are well-known in the art. Known techniques include SPR (e.g. Biacore) and polarization-modulated oblique-incidence reflectivity difference (OI-RD).

The specific binding molecule may be an isolated specific binding molecule.

As indicated, the specific binding molecule comprises 6 CDRs consisting of polypeptide sequences. As used herein, "protein" and "polypeptide" are interchangeable, and each refer to a sequence of 2 or more amino acids joined by one or more peptide bonds. Thus, the specific binding molecule may be a polypeptide. Alternatively, the specific binding molecule may comprise one or more polypeptides which comprise the CDR sequences. Preferably, the specific binding molecule is an antibody or an antibody fragment.

When a CDR sequence is modified by substitution of a particular amino acid residue, the substitution may be a conservative amino acid substitution. However, a substitution of a CDR residue may equally

be a non-conservative substitution, in which one amino acid is substituted for another with a side-chain belonging to a different family.

Wherever the present application describes a CDR sequence comprising one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative to a specified CDR sequence, said one, two, or three amino acid substitutions may be conservative amino acid substitutions. Preferably the CDR sequence comprises two conservative amino acid substitutions. More preferably the CDR sequence comprises one conservative amino acid substitution.

When a FR sequence is modified by substitution of a particular amino acid residue, the substitution may be a conservative amino acid substitution. However, a substitution of a FR residue may equally be a non-conservative substitution, in which one amino acid is substituted for another with a side-chain belonging to a different family.

Wherever the present application describes a FR sequence comprising one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative to a specified FR sequence, said one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions may be conservative amino acid substitutions. Preferably the FR sequence comprises four conservative amino acid substitutions. Preferably the FR sequence comprises three conservative amino acid substitutions. Preferably the FR sequence comprises two conservative amino acid substitutions. More preferably the FR sequence comprises one conservative amino acid substitution.

Amino acid substitutions or additions in the scope of the invention may be made using a proteinogenic amino acid encoded by the genetic code, a proteinogenic amino acid not encoded by the genetic code, or a non-proteinogenic amino acid. Preferably any amino acid substitution or addition is made using a proteinogenic amino acid. The amino acids making up the sequence of the CDRs may include amino acids which do not occur naturally, but which are modifications of amino acids which occur naturally. Providing these non-naturally occurring amino acids do not alter the sequence and do not affect specificity, they may be used to generate CDRs described herein without reducing sequence identity, i.e. are considered to provide an amino acid of the CDR. For example derivatives of the amino acids such as methylated amino acids may be used. The specific binding molecule may be a non-natural molecule, i.e. not a molecule found in nature.

Modifications to the amino acid sequences of the CDRs set out in herein may be made using any suitable technique, such as site-directed mutagenesis of the encoding DNA sequence or solid state synthesis.

Specific binding molecules disclosed herein comprise CDRs as described herein. Additionally, such molecules may contain linker moieties or framework sequences to allow appropriate presentation of the CDRs. Additional sequences may also be present which may conveniently confer additional properties,

e.g. peptide sequences which allow isolation or identification of the molecules containing the CDRs such as those described hereinbefore. In such cases a fusion protein may be generated.

The CDRs of the specific binding molecule may be defined as having a certain percentage sequence identity to one or more SEQ ID NOs described herein. Sequence identity may be assessed by any convenient method. However, for determining the degree of sequence identity between sequences, computer programmes that make pairwise or multiple alignments of sequences are useful, for instance EMBOSS Needle or EMBOSS stretcher (both Rice, P. et al., Trends Genet., 16, (6) pp276-277, 2000) may be used for pairwise sequence alignments while Clustal Omega (Sievers F et al., Mol. Syst. Biol. 7:539, 2011) or MUSCLE (Edgar, R.C., Nucleic Acids Res. 32(5):1792-1797, 2004) may be used for multiple sequence alignments, though any other appropriate programme may be used. Whether the alignment is pairwise or multiple, it must be performed globally (i.e. across the entirety of the reference sequence) rather than locally.

Sequence alignments and % identity calculations may be determined using for instance standard Clustal Omega parameters: matrix Gonnet, gap opening penalty 6, gap extension penalty 1. Alternatively, the standard EMBOSS Needle parameters may be used: matrix BLOSUM62, gap opening penalty 10, gap extension penalty 0.5. Any other suitable parameters may alternatively be used.

For the purposes of this application, where there is dispute between sequence identity values obtained by different methods, the value obtained by global pairwise alignment using EMBOSS Needle with default parameters shall be considered valid.

Wherever the disclosure provides a CDR sequence with at least 85% identity to a specified CDR sequence, said sequence identity is at least about 85% sequence identity and may therefore be at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, or at least 99% identity. Preferably said sequence identity is at least 90% or at least 95%.

As stated above, the specific binding molecule is preferably an antibody or an antibody fragment. An "antibody" is an immunoglobulin having the features described hereinbefore. Also contemplated are variants of naturally occurring antibodies which retain the CDRs but are presented in a different framework, as discussed hereinafter and which function in the same way, i.e. retain specificity for the antigen. Thus, antibodies include functional equivalents or homologues in which naturally occurring domains have been replaced in part or in full with natural or non-natural equivalents or homologues which function in the same way.

The first and/or second specific binding molecule may be an immunoglobulin, an immunoglobulin Fab region, a Fab', a Fv, a Fv-Fc, a single chain Fv (scFv), scFv-Fc, (scFv)₂, a diabody, a triabody, a

tetrabody, a bispecific t-cell engager (BiTE), an intein, a VNAR domain, a single domain antibody (sdAb) or a VH domain.

When the specific binding molecule is an antibody, it is preferably a monoclonal antibody. By "monoclonal antibody" is meant an antibody preparation consisting of a single antibody species, i.e. all antibodies in the preparation have the same amino acid sequences, including the same CDRs, and thus bind the same epitope on their target antigen (by "target antigen" is meant the antigen containing the epitope bound by a particular antibody, i.e. the target antigen of an anti-2N4R antibody is 2N4R) with the same effect. In other words, the antibody is preferably not part of a polyclonal mix of antibodies.

In an antibody, as described above, the CDR sequences are located in the variable domains of the heavy and light chains. The CDR sequences sit within a polypeptide framework, which positions the CDRs appropriately for antigen binding. Thus, the remainder of the variable domains (i.e. the parts of the variable domain sequences which do not form a part of any one of the CDRs) constitute framework regions. The N-terminus of a mature variable domain forms framework region 1 (FR1); the polypeptide sequence between CDR1 and CDR2 forms FR2; the polypeptide sequence between CDR2 and CDR3 forms FR3; and the polypeptide sequence linking CDR3 to the constant domain forms FR4. In an antibody the variable region framework regions may have any appropriate amino acid sequence such that the antibody binds to SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof via its CDRs. The constant regions may be the constant regions of any mammalian (preferably human) antibody isotype.

In certain embodiments of the invention the specific binding molecule may be multi-specific, e.g. a bi-specific monoclonal antibody. A multi-specific binding molecule contains regions or domains (antigen-binding regions) which bind to at least two different molecular binding partners, e.g. bind to two or more different antigens or epitopes. In the case of a bi-specific antibody, the antibody comprises two heavy and light chains, in the formation as described above, except that the variable domains of the two heavy chains and the two light chains, respectively, are different, and thus form two different antigen-binding regions. In a multi-specific (e.g. bi-specific) binding molecule, e.g. monoclonal antibody, one of the antigen-binding regions has the CDR sequences of a specific binding molecule as defined herein, and thus binds SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof. The other antigen-binding region(s) of the multi-specific binding molecule are different to the antigen-binding regions formed by CDRs, e.g. have CDRs with sequences different to those defined herein for the specific binding molecule. The additional (e.g. second) antigen-binding region(s) of the specific binding molecule, e.g. in the bi-specific antibody, may also bind SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof, but at a different epitope to the first antigen-binding region which binds to SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof (which has the CDRs of the specific binding molecule). Alternatively, the additional (e.g. second) antigen-binding region(s) may bind additional (e.g. a second), different antigen(s) which is(are) not SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof. In an alternative embodiment, the two or more antigen-binding regions in the specific binding molecule, e.g. in an antibody, may each bind to the same antigen, i.e. provide a multivalent (e.g. bivalent) molecule.

The specific binding molecule may be an antibody fragment or synthetic construct capable of binding human SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof. Antibody fragments are discussed in Rodrigo et al., *Antibodies*, Vol. 4(3), p. 259-277, 2015. Antibody fragments are preferably monoclonal (i.e. they are not part of a polyclonal mix of antibody fragments). Antibody fragments include, for example, Fab, F(ab')₂, Fab' and Fv fragments. Fab fragments are discussed in Roitt et al, *Immunology* second edition (1989), Churchill Livingstone, London. A Fab fragment consists of the antigen-binding domain of an antibody, i.e. an individual antibody may be seen to contain two Fab fragments, each consisting of a light chain and its conjoined N-terminal section of the heavy chain. Thus, a Fab fragment contains an entire light chain and the VH and CH1 domains of the heavy chain to which it is bound. Fab fragments may be obtained by digesting an antibody with papain.

F(ab')₂ fragments consist of the two Fab fragments of an antibody, plus the hinge regions of the heavy domains, including the disulphide bonds linking the two heavy chains together. In other words, a F(ab')₂ fragment can be seen as two covalently joined Fab fragments. F(ab')₂ fragments may be obtained by digesting an antibody with pepsin. Reduction of F(ab')₂ fragments yields two Fab' fragments, which can be seen as Fab fragments containing an additional sulfhydryl group which can be useful for conjugation of the fragment to other molecules.

Fv fragments consist of just the variable domains of the light and heavy chains. These are not covalently linked and are held together only weakly by non-covalent interactions. Fv fragments can be modified to produce a synthetic construct known as a single chain Fv (scFv) molecule. Such a modification is typically performed recombinantly, by engineering the antibody gene to produce a fusion protein in which a single polypeptide comprises both the VH and VL domains. scFv fragments generally include a peptide linker covalently joining the VH and VL regions, which contributes to the stability of the molecule. The linker may comprise from 1 to 20 amino acids, such as for example 1, 2, 3 or 4 amino acids, 5, 10 or 15 amino acids, or other intermediate numbers in the range 1 to 20 as convenient. The peptide linker may be formed from any generally convenient amino acid residues, such as glycine and/or serine. One example of a suitable linker is Gly₄Ser. Multimers of such linkers may be used, such as for example a dimer, a trimer, a tetramer or a pentamer, e.g. (Gly₄Ser)₂, (Gly₄Ser)₃, (Gly₄Ser)₄ or (Gly₄Ser)₅. However, it is not essential that a linker be present, and the VL domain may be linked to the VH domain by a peptide bond. An scFv is herein defined as an antibody fragment.

The specific binding molecule may be an analogue of an scFv. For example, the scFv may be linked to other specific binding molecules (for example other scFvs, Fab antibody fragments and chimeric IgG antibodies (e.g. with human frameworks)). The scFv may be linked to other scFvs so as to form a multimer which is a multi-specific binding protein, for example a dimer, a trimer or a tetramer. Bi-specific scFvs are sometimes referred to as diabodies, tri-specific scFvs as triabodies and tetra-specific scFvs as tetrabodies. In other embodiments the scFv may be bound to other, identical scFv molecules, thus forming a multimer which is mono-specific but multi-valent, e.g. a bivalent dimer or a trivalent trimer may be formed. Synthetic constructs that can be used include CDR peptides. These are synthetic

peptides comprising antigen-binding determinants. Peptide mimetics can also be used. These molecules are usually conformationally-restricted organic rings that mimic the structure of a CDR loop and that include antigen-interactive side chains.

The specific binding molecule may be a scAb (single-chain antibody). A scAb may comprise an scFv. The scFv may comprise a variable heavy domain and a variable light domain optionally joined by a flexible protein linker as described above. A scAb may further comprise a light chain constant domain. The light chain constant domain may be human, such as a human C κ domain.

The antibody or antibody fragment may be a chimeric antibody, or preferably may be humanised. This is particularly the case for monoclonal antibodies and antibody fragments. Humanised or chimeric antibodies or antibody fragments are desirable when the molecule is to be used as a human therapeutic. Therapeutic treatment of humans with murine antibodies can be ineffective for a number of reasons, e.g. a short *in vivo* half-life of the antibody; weak effector functions mediated by the mouse heavy chain constant region due to low recognition of the murine heavy chain constant region by Fc receptors on human immune effector cells; patient sensitisation to the antibody, and generation of a human anti-mouse antibody (HAMA) response; and neutralisation of the mouse antibody by HAMA leading to loss of therapeutic efficacy.

As detailed above, the isotype of an antibody is defined by the sequence of its heavy chain constant regions. The chimeric antibody may have the constant regions of any human antibody isotype, and any sub-class within each isotype. For instance, the chimeric antibody may have the Fc regions of an IgA, IgD, IgE, IgG or IgM antibody (i.e. the chimeric antibody may comprise the constant domains of heavy chains α , δ , ϵ , γ , or μ , respectively), though preferably the antibody is of the IgG isotype. Thus, the chimeric antibody may be of any isotype. The light chain of the chimeric antibody may be either a κ or λ light chain, i.e. it may comprise the constant region of a human λ light chain or a human κ light chain. A chimeric antibody fragment is, correspondingly, an antibody fragment comprising constant domains (e.g. an Fab, Fab' or F(ab')₂ fragment). The constant domains of a chimeric antibody fragment may be as described above for a chimeric monoclonal antibody.

Chimeric antibodies may be generated using any suitable technique, e.g. recombinant DNA technology in which the DNA sequence of the murine variable domain is fused to the DNA sequence of the human constant domain(s) so as to encode a chimeric antibody. A chimeric antibody fragment may be obtained either by using recombinant DNA technology to produce a DNA sequence encoding such a polypeptide, or by processing a chimeric antibody to produce the desired fragments, as described above. Chimeric antibodies can be expected to overcome the problems of a short *in vivo* half-life and weak effector functions associated with using a murine antibody in human therapy, and may reduce the probability of patient sensitisation and HAMA occurring. However, patient sensitisation and HAMA may still occur when a chimeric antibody is administered to a human patient, due to the presence of murine sequences in the variable domains.

Preferably the antibody or antibody fragment is therefore fully humanised. A humanised antibody is an antibody derived from another species, e.g. a mouse, in which not only are the constant domains of the antibody chains replaced with human constant domains, but the amino acid sequences of the variable regions are modified, in particular to replace the foreign (e.g. murine) framework sequences with human framework sequences, such that, preferably, the only non-human sequences in the antibody are the CDR sequences. A humanised antibody can overcome all the problems associated with therapeutic use of a non-human antibody in a human, including avoiding or minimising the probability of patient sensitisation and HAMA occurring.

Antibody humanisation is generally performed by a process known as CDR grafting, though any other technique in the art may be used. CDR grafting is well described in Williams, D.G. et al., *Antibody Engineering* Vol. 1, edited by R. Kontermann and S. Dübel, Chapter 21, pp. 319-339. In this process, a chimeric antibody as described above is first generated. Subsequent humanisation of the foreign, e.g. murine, variable domains involves intercalating the murine CDRs from each immunoglobulin chain within the FRs of the most appropriate human variable region. This is done by aligning the murine variable domains with databases of known human variable domains (e.g. IMGT or Kabat). Appropriate human framework regions are identified from the best aligned variable domains, e.g. domains with high sequence identity between the human and murine framework regions, domains containing CDRs of the same length, domains having the most similar structures (based on homology modelling), etc. The murine CDR sequences are then grafted into the lead human framework sequences at the appropriate locations using recombinant DNA technology, and the humanised antibodies then produced and tested for binding to the target antigen. The process of antibody humanisation is known and understood by the skilled individual, who can perform the technique without further instruction. Antibody humanisation services are also offered by a number of commercial companies, e.g. GenScript (USA/China) or MRC Technology (UK). Humanised antibody fragments can be easily obtained from humanised antibodies, as described above.

Thus, the antibody or antibody fragment may be derived from any species, e.g. it may be a murine antibody or antibody fragment. It is preferred, however, that the antibody or antibody fragment is a chimeric antibody or antibody fragment, i.e. that only the variable domains of the antibody or antibody fragment are non-human, and the constant domains are all human. Optimally, the antibody or antibody fragment is a humanised antibody or antibody fragment.

Tauopathies

Aggregation of the tau protein is a hallmark of diseases referred to as “tauopathies”. Various tauopathy disorders that have been recognized which feature prominent tau pathology in neurons and/or glia and this term has been used in the art for several years. The similarities between these pathological inclusions and the characteristic tau inclusions in diseases such as AD indicate that the structural

features are shared and that it is the topographic distribution of the pathology that is responsible for the different clinical phenotypes observed. In particular, cryo-electron microscope structures of aggregated Tau in AD, Pick's disease (a subtype of Frontotemporal Dementia), chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) and cortico-basal degeneration (CBD) have been obtained previously, and all show common conformational features, indicating that compounds that have the ability to modulate Tau aggregation in e.g. PHFs (as observed in AD), may also modulate aggregation of Tau in other tauopathies. In addition to specific diseases discussed below, those skilled in the art can identify tauopathies by combinations of cognitive or behavioural symptoms, plus additionally through the use of appropriate ligands for aggregated tau as visualised using PET or MRI, such as those described in WO02/075318.

Aspects of the present invention relate to "tauopathies". As well as Alzheimer's disease (AD), the pathogenesis of neurodegenerative disorders such as Pick's disease and Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) appears to correlate with an accumulation of pathological truncated tau aggregates in the dentate gyrus and stellate pyramidal cells of the neocortex, respectively. Relevant dementias include fronto-temporal dementia (FTD); behavioral frontotemporal dementia (bvFTD), frontotemporal dementia with parkinsonism linked to chromosome 17 (FTDP-17); disinhibition-dementia-parkinsonism-amyotrophy complex (DDPAC); pallido-ponto-nigral degeneration (PPND); Guam-ALS syndrome; pallido-nigro-lusian degeneration (PNLD); cortico-basal degeneration (CBD); Dementia with Argrophilic grains (AgD); Dementia pugilistica (DP) wherein despite different topography, NFTs are similar to those observed in AD (Bouras et al., 1992); Chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a tauopathy including DP as well as repeated and sports-related concussion (McKee, et al., 2009). Others are discussed in Wischik et al. 2000, for detailed discussion - especially Table 5.1).

Abnormal tau in NFTs is found also in Down's Syndrome (DS) (Flament et al., 1990), and in dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) (Harrington et al., 1994). Tau-positive NFTs are also found in Postencephalitic parkinsonism (PEP) (Charpiot et al., 1992). Glial tau tangles are observed in Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE) (Ikeda et al., 1995). Other tauopathies include Niemann-Pick disease type C (NPC) (Love et al., 1995); Sanfilippo syndrome type B (or mucopolysaccharidosis III B, MPS III B) (Ohmi, et al., 2009); myotonic dystrophies (DM), DM1 (Sergeant, et al., 2001 and references cited therein) and DM2 (Maurage et al., 2005). Additionally, there is a growing consensus in the literature that a tau pathology may also contribute more generally to cognitive deficits and decline, including in mild cognitive impairment (MCI) (see e.g. Braak, et al., 2003, Wischik et al., 2018).

All of these diseases, which are characterized primarily or partially by abnormal tau aggregation, are referred to herein as "tauopathies" or "diseases of tau protein aggregation". In aspects of the invention relating to tauopathies, the tauopathy may be selected from any tauopathy defined herein. Without wishing to be bound by theory, the present inventors believe that all structures solved for tauopathies encompass the dGAE region of Tau. As such, specific binding molecules that stabilise a conformation of dGAE that is not prone to assembly by binding to dGAE can reasonably be expected to apply to all tau diseases including but not limited to AD.

The tauopathy may be selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer's disease, Primary age-related tauopathy (PART), Neurofibrillary tangle-predominant senile dementia, Chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), Progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), Corticobasal degeneration (CBD), Frontotemporal dementia (FTD), behavioral variant frontotemporal dementia (bvFTD), Frontotemporal dementia with parkinsonism linked to chromosome 17 (FTDP-17), Pick disease, disinhibition-dementia-parkinsonism-amyotrophy complex (DDPAC), pallido-ponto-nigral degeneration (PPND), Guam-ALS syndrome; pallido-nigro-lusian degeneration (PNLD), Dementia with Argyrophilic grains (AgD), Down's Syndrome (DS), dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB), Postencephalitic parkinsonism (PEP), Dementia pugilistica (DP), traumatic brain injury (TBI), stroke, ischemia, Lytico-bodig disease (Parkinson-dementia complex of Guam), Ganglioglioma, Gangliocytoma, Meningioangiomas, Postencephalitic parkinsonism, Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE), Lead encephalopathy, tuberous sclerosis, Pantothene kinase-associated neurodegeneration, lipofuscinosis and mild cognitive impairment (MCI).

The tauopathy may be selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer's disease, Frontotemporal dementia (FTD), behavioral variant FTD (bvFTD) and mild cognitive impairment (MCI).

The tauopathy may be Alzheimer's disease.

Tau protein fragments include SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6 and SEQ ID NO: 7.

By "contacting" is meant "exposing to". It does not require directionality; the tau protein or a fragment thereof may be exposed to the specific binding molecule or the specific binding molecule may be exposed to the tau protein or a fragment thereof. The contacting occurs under conditions permissive for binding of the specific binding molecule to the tau protein or fragment thereof.

Samples

The sample may be defined as a "patient sample" or a "biological sample". The sample may be from a subject suffering from or at risk of a tauopathy. The sample may be from any subject, including an asymptomatic subject. The sample may be from a human.

Samples are typically obtained prior to the methods of the invention being performed. The methods of the invention are *in vitro* or *ex vivo* methods accordingly. In some alternative embodiments, the method may further comprise a step or steps of sample collection.

The sample is a saliva sample. The sample may be unstimulated saliva. The sample may be whole saliva or saliva supernatant. Preferably, the sample is saliva supernatant. The sample may be from a

subject who has fasted for at least 15 minutes, at least 30 minutes, at least 1 hour, at least 2 hours or at least 5 hours prior to sample collection. The sample may be from a subject who has fasted for at least 30 minutes prior to sample collection. The sample may be from a subject who washed their mouth out prior to sample collection, for example with water. The sample may have been collected in at least 0.5 ml, at least 1 ml, at least 1.5 ml, at least 2 ml or at least 5 ml of saliva. The sample may have been collected in at least 1 ml of saliva. The sample may have been centrifuged after collection. For example, the sample may have been centrifuged at around 10,000 x g for around 5 min or any other suitable centrifugation parameter to separate the saliva supernatant from any debris. The sample may have been stored under any suitable conditions, for example the sample may have been aliquoted and/or stored at - 80 °C.

The sample may be processed in any suitable way prior to detecting the tau protein or a fragment thereof in a sample. The tau protein or fragment thereof may be isolated, extracted and/or purified from the sample. The isolation, extraction and/or purification may be performed by any suitable technique.

The method of the invention may further comprise an initial step of isolating, extracting and/or purifying the tau protein or fragment thereof from the sample. The method may therefore further comprise isolating the tau protein or fragment thereof from the sample. The method may further comprise extracting the tau protein or fragment thereof from the sample. The method may further comprise purifying the tau protein or fragment thereof from the sample.

The step of obtaining the sample and/or the step of isolating, extracting and/or purifying the tau protein or fragment thereof from the sample may occur in a different location to the subsequent steps of the method. Accordingly, the method may further comprise a step of transporting the sample and/or transporting the tau protein or fragment thereof.

The sample (the term "sample" includes the tau protein or fragment thereof isolated and/or purified therefrom) may be denatured, for example by treatment with sodium dodecyl sulphate (SDS). The method may further comprise a step of denaturing the tau protein or fragment thereof prior to contacting the sample with the specific binding molecule. The denaturing may preferably be by contacting the sample with sodium dodecyl sulphate (SDS). The sample may therefore comprise denatured protein. The tau protein or a fragment thereof may be denatured.

Detection

The term "detecting" as used herein encompasses quantitative or qualitative detection. "Detecting" may include measuring and/or quantifying the amount (or level) of a tau protein or a fragment thereof in a sample.

The tau protein or fragment thereof may be detected using an immunoassay. Immunoassays have the potential to be miniaturised to run on a microfluidics device or test-strip and may be more suited for clinical point-of-care applications. Embodiments of the invention which incorporate an immunoassay may therefore be used *in situ* by a primary healthcare provider for assistance in prescribing a treatment for an individual patient.

The amount (or level) of a tau protein or a fragment thereof in a sample may be measured using a homogeneous or heterogeneous immunoassay.

Thus, in some embodiments, the amount (or level) of a tau protein or a fragment thereof may be measured in solution by binding to specific binding molecules of the invention that are present in excess, whereby binding alters detectable properties of the label. The amount of tau protein or a fragment thereof present will therefore affect the amount of the label with a particular detectable property. As is well known in the art, the label may comprise a radioactive label, a fluorescent label or an enzyme having a chromogenic or chemiluminescent substrate that is coloured or caused or allowed to fluoresce when acted on by the enzyme.

Alternatively, a heterogeneous format may be used in which the at least one tau protein or a fragment thereof is captured by surface-bound antibodies for separation and quantification. In some embodiments, a sandwich assay may be used in which a surface-bound tau protein or a fragment thereof is quantified by binding a labelled secondary antibody.

Suitably, the immunoassay may comprise an enzyme immunoassay (EIA) in which the label is an enzyme such, for example, as horseradish peroxidase (HRP). Suitable substrates for HRP are well known in the art and include, for example, ABTS, OPD, AmplexRed, DAB, AEC, TMB, homovanillic acid and luminol. In some embodiments, an ELISA immunoassay may be used; a sandwich ELISA assay may be particularly preferred.

The immunoassay may be competitive or non-competitive. Thus, in some embodiments, the amount of a tau protein or a fragment thereof may be measured directly by a homogeneous or heterogeneous method, as described above. Alternatively, the amount of a tau protein or a fragment thereof in the sample may be sequestered in solution with a specific binding molecule which is present in excess, and the amount of specific binding molecule remaining then determined by binding to surface-bound tau protein or a fragment thereof to give an indirect read-out of the amount of tau protein or a fragment thereof in the original sample. In another variant, the tau protein or a fragment thereof may be caused to compete for binding to a surface bound specific binding molecule with a known amount of a labelled tau protein or a fragment thereof.

The surface bound specific binding molecule or tau protein or a fragment thereof may be immobilised on any suitable surface of the kind known in the art. For instance, the specific binding molecule or tau

protein or a fragment thereof may be immobilised on a surface of a well or plate or on the surface of a plurality of magnetic or non-magnetic beads.

In some embodiments, the immunoassay may be a competitive assay, further comprising a known amount of the tau protein or a fragment thereof, which is the same as the one to be quantified in the sample, but tagged with a detectable label. The labelled tau protein or a fragment thereof may be affinity-bound to a suitable surface by a specific binding molecule to the tau protein or a fragment thereof. Upon adding the sample, a proportion of the labelled tau protein or a fragment thereof may be displaced from the surface-bound specific binding molecule, thereby providing a measure of the level of tau protein or a fragment thereof in the sample.

In some embodiments, the immunoassay may comprise surface-bound tau protein or a fragment thereof, which is the same as the tau protein or a fragment thereof that is to be quantitated in the sample, and a known amount of specific binding molecule to the tau protein or a fragment thereof in solution in excess. The sample is first mixed with the specific binding molecule in solution such that a proportion of the specific binding molecules bind with the tau protein or a fragment thereof in the sample. The amount of unbound specific binding molecules remaining can then be measured by binding to the surface-bound tau protein or a fragment thereof.

In some embodiments, the immunoassay may comprise a labelled secondary antibody to the tau protein or a fragment thereof or to a primary antibody to the tau protein or a fragment thereof for quantifying the amount of the tau protein or a fragment thereof bound to surface-bound antibodies or the amount of primary antibody bound to the tau protein or a fragment thereof immobilised on a surface.

Measuring the level of a tau protein or a fragment thereof may be by equipment for measuring the level of a tau protein or a fragment thereof in a sample comprising a sample collection device and an immunoassay. The equipment may further comprise a detector for detecting labelled tau protein or a fragment thereof or labelled antibodies to the tau protein or a fragment thereof in the immunoassay. Suitable labels are mentioned above, but in a preferred embodiment, the label may be an enzyme having a chromogenic or chemiluminescent substrate that is coloured or caused or allowed to fluoresce when acted on by the enzyme.

The immunoassay or equipment may be incorporated into a miniaturised device for measuring the level of a tau protein or a fragment thereof in a biological sample. Suitably, the device may comprise a lab-on-a-chip.

Measuring levels of tau protein or a fragment thereof may be by a device for measuring the level of at least one tau protein or a fragment thereof in a sample obtained from a patient, the device comprising one or more parts defining an internal channel having an inlet port and a reaction zone, in which a tau protein or a fragment thereof in a sample may be reacted with an immobilised primary antibody for the

tau protein or a fragment thereof for capturing the tau protein or a fragment thereof, or a primary antibody for the tau protein or a fragment thereof in excess in solution after mixing with the sample upstream of the reaction zone may be reacted with tau protein or a fragment thereof, which is the same as the one to be measured in the sample, but immobilised on a surface within the reaction zone, for quantifying directly or indirectly the amount of the tau protein or a fragment thereof in the sample.

The captured tau protein or a fragment thereof or primary antibody may then be detected using a secondary antibody to the tau protein or a fragment thereof or primary antibody, which is tagged with an enzyme.

As described above, the enzyme may have a chromogenic or chemiluminescent substrate that is coloured or caused or allowed to fluoresce when acted on by the enzyme. Suitably, the one or more parts of the device defining the channel, at least adjacent the reaction zone, may be transparent to light, at least in a range of wavelengths encompassing the colour or fluorescence of the substrate to allow detection of a reaction between the tau protein or a fragment thereof or primary antibody and the secondary antibody using a suitable detector such, for example, as a photodiode, positioned outside the channel or further channel.

In some embodiments, the device may comprise a plurality of channels, each with its own inlet port, for measuring the levels of a plurality of different tau protein or a fragments thereof in the sample in parallel. Therefore, each channel may include a different respective immobilised primary antibody or tau protein or a fragment thereof.

Suitably, the device may comprise one or more selectively operable valves associated with the one or more inlet ports for controlling the admission of a sequence of different reagents into to the channels such, for example, as the sample, wash solutions, primary antibody, secondary antibody and enzyme substrate.

The device therefore may comprise a microfluidics device. The channel may include a reaction zone. Microfluidics devices are known to those skilled in the art. A review of microfluidic immunoassays or protein diagnostic chip microarrays is provided by Chin et al. 2012. *Lab on a Chip*. 2012; 12:2118-2134. A microfluidics device suitable for carrying out an ELISA immunoassay at a point-of-care is disclosed by Chan CD, Laksanasopin T, Cheung YK, Steinmiller D et al. "Microfluidics-based diagnostics of infectious diseases in the developing world". *Nature Medicine*. 2011;17(8):1015-1019, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

The tau protein or fragment thereof may be detected using a method comprising mass spectrometry, for example immunoprecipitation followed by mass spectrometry. The mass spectrometry may be LC-MS.

First and second specific binding molecules

. The method may comprise contacting the sample with a first specific binding molecule that binds to an epitope within residues 296 to 391, preferably within residues 307 to 391, of SEQ ID NO: 1 and contacting the sample with a second specific binding molecule that binds to an epitope within SEQ ID NO: 1, preferably within residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Any and all combinations of a first specific binding molecule disclosed herein that binds to an epitope within residues 296 to 391, preferably within residues 307 to 391, of SEQ ID NO: 1 and contacting the sample with a second specific binding molecule disclosed herein that binds to an epitope within SEQ ID NO: 1, preferably within residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1, are explicitly contemplated herein.

The first specific binding molecule may bind to SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof with a K_D of less than 25 nM, less than 20 nM, less than 15 nM, less than 10 nM, less than 8 nM, less than 6 nM, less than 5 nM, less than 4 nM, less than 3 nM, less than 2 nM, less than 1 nM, less than 0.5 nM, less than 0.4 nM, less than 0.3 nM, less than 0.2 nM or less than 0.15 nM. A high affinity first specific binding molecule may be especially advantageous in embodiments where the first specific binding molecule is a surface bound specific binding molecule. A preferred high affinity first specific binding molecule is a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of S1D12. A preferred high affinity first specific binding molecule is a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs and FWs of S1D12. A preferred high affinity first specific binding molecule is a specific binding molecule comprising the VH and/or VL domains of S1D12.

The first specific binding molecule may bind to an epitope within residues 296 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Preferably, the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 307 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Preferably, the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or within residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The first specific binding molecule may bind to an epitope within residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. A preferred first specific binding molecule is a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of S1G2. A preferred high affinity first specific binding molecule is a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs and FWs of S1G2. A preferred high affinity first specific binding molecule is a specific binding molecule comprising the VH and/or VL domains of S1G2.

The first specific binding molecule may bind to an epitope within residues 355 to 367 of SEQ ID NO: 1. A preferred first specific binding molecule is a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of CA4. A preferred high affinity first specific binding molecule is a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs and FWs of CA4. A preferred high affinity first specific binding molecule is a specific binding molecule comprising the VH and/or VL domains of CA4.

The second specific binding molecule may bind to the same epitope or to a different epitope than the first specific binding molecule. The skilled person will understand that an appropriate pair of antibodies may permit detection of particular tau fragments of interest. For instance, where the epitope of the first specific binding molecule and the second specific binding molecule are widely spaced across the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 (such as binding to an N-terminal region and to a C-terminal region respectively), the method may selectively detect full length and longer fragments of tau; shorter fragments of tau that are only bound by one of the specific binding molecules (or by neither) will not be detected.

The second specific binding molecule may be a known specific binding molecule such as HT7, BT2, Tau12 or Tau146. The second specific binding molecule may be HT7 or BT2.

In preferred configurations, the first specific binding molecule may be S1D12, S1G2 or CA4 and the second specific binding molecule may be BT2 or HT7.

In preferred configurations, the first specific binding molecule may be S1D12 and the second specific binding molecule may be BT2 or HT7. The first specific binding molecule may be S1D12 and the second specific binding molecule may be BT2. The first specific binding molecule may be S1D12 and the second specific binding molecule may be HT7.

In preferred configurations, the first specific binding molecule may be S1G2 and the second specific binding molecule may be BT2 or HT7. The first specific binding molecule may be S1G2 and the second specific binding molecule may be BT2. The first specific binding molecule may be S1G2 and the second specific binding molecule may be HT7.

In preferred configurations, the first specific binding molecule may be CA4 and the second specific binding molecule may be BT2 or HT7. The first specific binding molecule may be CA4 and the second specific binding molecule may be BT2. The first specific binding molecule may be CA4 and the second specific binding molecule may be HT7.

In preferred configurations, the first specific binding molecule may be S1D12 or S1G2 and the second specific binding molecule may be BT2 or HT7.

Alternative second specific binding molecules to HT7 and/or BT2 described elsewhere herein may be substituted for HT7 and/or BT2 in any of the preferred configurations identified above. For example, references to HT7 and/or BT2 may be substituted with references to a second specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs (optionally further comprising the FW regions and optionally the VH and/or VL domains) of 3aA6, 3aD6, 3bD11, CB11, CA2, CB6, CA7, CA8, CB10, CC7, CB12, CC3, CA1, CA3, CD2, CC4, CD1 or CC5. References to S1D12, S1G2 or CA4 in the preferred configurations identified

above include first specific binding molecules comprising the CDRs (optionally further comprising the FW regions and optionally the VH and/or VL domains) of S1D12, S1G2 or CA4.

The ability to interrogate and determine the levels of various tau species or fragments in patient samples is crucial in early diagnosis of tauopathies. The invention provides a method for determining the concentrations of different tau species accordingly. The method may use spiked samples. The method may use pairings of specific binding molecules directed towards selected epitopes of the tau protein. Accordingly, the method may be a sandwich ELISA assay.

When the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and the second specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1, the method may detect SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6 and SEQ ID NO: 7. Since cleavage within the from proteolytically stable core of the paired helical filament (PHF) is thought to be uncommon, this embodiment may therefore detect total tau comprising the PHF.

The second specific binding molecule may bind to an epitope within residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. A preferred second specific binding molecule is a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of E2E8.

As described herein, specific binding molecules that bind to an epitope within residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may be "E-specific"; that E391 may be critical for binding. When the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and the second specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, the method may detect SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 4. Since E-specific specific binding molecules do not detect SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6 or SEQ ID NO: 7, this embodiment may therefore detect dGAE and full length tau but not fragments lacking E391 such as dGA.

The second specific binding molecule may bind to an epitope within residues 13 to 25 of SEQ ID NO: 1. A preferred second specific binding molecule is a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of CB7.

When the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and the second specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 13 to 25 of SEQ ID NO: 1, the method may detect SEQ ID NO: 1. However, this embodiment will not detect isolated SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6 and SEQ ID NO: 7 as these fragments omit residues 13 to 25 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Since the epitopes used in this embodiment are spaced widely apart, this embodiment may therefore detect full-length tau.

The method may comprise contacting the sample with at least one pair of first and second specific binding molecules, wherein the pair of first and second specific binding molecules may be any two specific binding molecules of the invention. Preferred pairs of first and second specific binding molecule include:

- A first specific binding molecule that binds to an epitope within residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and a second specific binding molecule that binds to an epitope within residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- A first specific binding molecule that binds to an epitope within residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and a second specific binding molecule that binds to an epitope within residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
- A first specific binding molecule that binds to an epitope within residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and a second specific binding molecule that binds to an epitope within residues 13 to 25 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The method may comprise contacting the sample with at least two or at least three pairs of first and second specific binding molecules. For instance, the method may comprise contacting the sample with:

- A first specific binding molecule that binds to an epitope within residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and a second specific binding molecule that binds to an epitope within residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- A first specific binding molecule that binds to an epitope within residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and a second specific binding molecule that binds to an epitope within residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
- A first specific binding molecule that binds to an epitope within residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and a second specific binding molecule that binds to an epitope within residues 13 to 25 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Where the method comprises contacting the sample with two or more pairs of specific binding molecules, each pair of specific binding molecules is typically contacted to the sample separately and/or in parallel. The sample may therefore be aliquoted prior to contacting the sample with the pairs of specific binding molecules. A separate aliquot may be contacted with each pair of specific binding molecules. Contacting in parallel may be contacting at the same time or simultaneously. Contacting in parallel may be contacting at essentially the same time or essentially simultaneously. Contacting in parallel may be not contacting sequentially or contacting one after another. Contacting in parallel typically means each pair of specific binding molecules is contacted to the sample in a separate vessel. Contacting in parallel typically means that each pair of specific binding molecules may independently interact with the sample.

Each pair of specific binding molecules may be configured to detect a different tau protein or a fragment thereof. For example:

- A first pair of specific binding molecules that bind to an epitope within residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and to an epitope within residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1, respectively, may be configured to detect total tau comprising the PHF;
- A second pair of specific binding molecules that bind to an epitope within residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and to an epitope within residues 379 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, respectively, may be configured to detect dGAE and full-length tau but not fragments lacking E391 such as dGA; and
- A third pair of specific binding molecules that bind to an epitope within residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and to an epitope within residues 13 to 25 of SEQ ID NO: 1, respectively, may be configured to detect full-length tau.

The method may further comprise a step of determining the levels of the different tau proteins or a fragment(s) thereof. The method may further comprise a step of comparing the levels of the different tau proteins or a fragment(s) thereof.

In a specific embodiment, the method comprises detecting a tau protein or a fragment thereof in a sample comprising:

- a) contacting the sample with a first pair of specific binding molecules comprising a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of S1D12 and a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of S1G2;
- b) contacting the sample with a second pair of specific binding molecules comprising a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of S1D12 and a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of E2E8; and
- c) contacting the sample with a third pair of specific binding molecules comprising a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of S1D12 and a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of CB7;

wherein each pair of specific binding molecules is contacted to the sample in parallel.

The invention provides distinguishing and/or determining the levels of hT40, dGAE and dGA in a sample accordingly.

Tau fragments

The method may be an *in vitro* method for detecting a tau protein fragment. The amino acid sequence of the fragment may consist of amino acid residues within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The present inventors have identified tau fragments which can be detected by core binding specific binding molecules in plasma. The inventors have identified that the fragment may omit certain N-terminal and C-terminal amino acid residues, specifically the fragments do not include residues 1 to 112 or residues 380 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, at least 100, at least 105, at least 110, at least 115, at least 120, at least 125, at least 130, at least 135, at least 140, at least 145, at least 150, at least 155, at least 160, at least 165, at least 170, or at least 175 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

As used herein, the term “consecutive” may be substituted for the term “contiguous”, each referring to amino acid residues found adjacent to one another in a primary amino acid sequence. Accordingly, the fragment may consist of consecutive or contiguous amino acid residues within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, at least 100, at least 105, at least 110, at least 115, at least 120, at least 125, at least 130, at least 135, at least 140, at least 145, at least 150, at least 155, at least 160, at least 165, at least 170, at least 175, at least 180, at least 185, at least 190, at least 195, at least 200, at least 205, at least 210, at least 215, at least 220, at least 225, at least 230, at least 235, at least 240, at least 245, at least 250, at least 255, at least 260, at least 261, at least 262, at least 263, at least 264, at least 265, at least 266 or 267 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 155, at least 160, at least 165, at least 170, at least 175, at least 180, at least 185, at least 190, at least 195, at least 200, at least 205, at least 210, at least 215, at least 220, at least 225, at least 230, at least 235, at least 240, at least 245, at least 250, at least 255, at least 260, at least 261, at least 262, at least 263, at least 264, at least 265, at least 266 or 267 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may be defined by any one or more of the number of consecutive amino acids from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1, the number of consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1; the number of consecutive amino acid residues from residues 244 to 296 of SEQ ID NO: 1; the number of consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or the number of consecutive amino acid residues from residues 113 to 150 of SEQ ID NO: 1. In any embodiment comprising amino acid residues from 151 to 243 and from 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, residues 244 to 296 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may additionally be present and will typically be present in between the residues from 151 to 243 and from 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 such that the fragment comprises consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243, residues 244 to 296 and residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 which are consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 4, at least 5, at least 6, at least 7, at least 8, at least 9, at least 10, at least 11, at least 12, at least 13, at least 14, at least 15, at least 16, at least 17, at least 18, at least

19, at least 20, at least 21, at least 22, at least 23 at least 24, at least 25, at least 26, at least 27, at least 28, at least 29 or at least 30 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (see also SEQ ID NO: 4) correspond to the predominant fragment isolated from proteolytically stable core of the paired helical filament (PHF).

The fragment may comprise at least 4, at least 5, at least 6, at least 7, at least 8, at least 9, at least 10, at least 11, at least 12, at least 13, at least 14, at least 15, at least 16, at least 17, at least 18, at least 19, at least 20, at least 21, at least 22, at least 23 at least 24, at least 25, at least 26, at least 27, at least 28, at least 29, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 91, at least 92, at least 93, at least 94, or 95 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Wherein the fragment comprises at least 4 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, the at least 4 consecutive amino acid residues may comprise amino acid residues 337 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or amino acid residues 370 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The fragment may comprise the epitope of S1D12 and/or S1G2.

The fragment may comprise at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 91, at least 92, at least 93, at least 94, or 95 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise 38 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The 38 consecutive amino acids may be from residues 337 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The fragment may comprise the epitopes of S1D12 and S1G2. The fragment may comprise the epitopes of S1D12 and S1G2 and the intervening consecutive amino acid residues.

The fragment may comprise at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 91, at least 92, at least 93, at least 94, or 95 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 91, at least 92, at least 93, at least 94, or 95 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise 53 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The 53 consecutive amino acids may be from residues 297 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The fragment may comprise consecutive amino acid residues from residue 297 to the C-terminal end of the epitope of S1D12.

The fragment may comprise 78 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The 78 consecutive amino acids may be from residues 297 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The fragment may comprise consecutive amino acid residues from residue 297 to the C-terminal end of the epitope of S1G2.

The fragment may comprise at least 4, at least 5, at least 6, at least 7, at least 8, at least 9, at least 10, at least 11, at least 12, at least 13, at least 14, at least 15, at least 16, at least 17, at least 18, at least 19, at least 20, at least 21, at least 22, at least 23 at least 24, at least 25, at least 26, at least 27, at least 28, at least 29 or at least 30 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Two proline rich domains span between amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The fragment may comprise at least 4, at least 5, at least 6, at least 7, at least 8, at least 9, at least 10, at least 11, at least 12, at least 13, at least 14, at least 15, at least 16, at least 17, at least 18, at least 19, at least 20, at least 21, at least 22, at least 23 at least 24, at least 25, at least 26, at least 27, at least 28, at least 29 or at least 30 consecutive amino acid residues from at least one proline rich domain.

Wherein the fragment comprises at least 4 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1, the at least 4 consecutive amino acid residues may comprise amino acid residues 194 to 198 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or amino acid residues 159 to 163 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The fragment may comprise the epitope of BT2 and/or HT7.

The fragment may comprise 48 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The 48 consecutive amino acids may be from residues 159 to 198 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The fragment may comprise the epitopes of BT2 and HT7. The fragment may comprise the epitopes of BT2 and HT7 and the intervening consecutive amino acid residues.

The fragment may comprise at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 91, at least 92, at least 93, at least 94, or 95 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 159 to 198 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 91, at least 92, at least 93, at least 94, or 95 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 159 to 198 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise 50 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The 50 consecutive amino acids may be from residues 194 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The fragment may comprise consecutive amino acid residues from the N-terminal start of the epitope of BT2 to residue 243.

The fragment may comprise 85 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The 85 consecutive amino acids may be from residues 159 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The fragment may comprise consecutive amino acid residues from the N-terminal start of the epitope of HT7 to residue 243.

The fragment may comprise at least 4, at least 5, at least 6, at least 7, at least 8, at least 9, at least 10, at least 11, at least 12, at least 13, at least 14, at least 15, at least 16, at least 17, at least 18, at least 19, at least 20, at least 21, at least 22, at least 23 at least 24, at least 25, at least 26, at least 27, at least 28, at least 29, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 91, at least 92, or 93 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Two proline rich domains span between amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The fragment may comprise at least 4, at least 5, at least 6, at least 7, at least 8, at least 9, at least 10, at least 11, at least 12, at least 13, at least 14, at least 15, at least 16, at least 17, at least 18, at least 19, at least 20, at least 21, at least 22, at least 23 at least 24, at least 25, at least 26, at least 27, at least 28, at least 29, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 91, at least 92, or 93 consecutive amino acid residues from at least one proline rich domain.

The fragment may comprise at least 4, at least 5, at least 6, at least 7, at least 8, at least 9, at least 10, at least 11, at least 12, at least 13, at least 14, at least 15, at least 16, at least 17, at least 18, at least 19, at least 20, at least 21, at least 22, at least 23 at least 24, at least 25, at least 26, at least 27, at least 28, at least 29, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 51, at least 52, at least 53 or 54 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 244 to 296 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Typically the consecutive amino acid residues from residues 244 to 296 of SEQ ID NO: 1 will include residue 244 and/or residue 296 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The fragment may comprise all 54 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 244 to 296 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 1, at least 2, at least 3, at least 4, at least 5, at least 6, at least 7, at least 8, at least 9, at least 10, at least 11, at least 12, at least 13, at least 14, at least 15, at least 16, at least 17, at least 18, at least 19, at least 20, at least 21, at least 22, at least 23 at least 24, at least 25, at least 26, at least 27, at least 28, at least 29, at least 30, at least 31, at least 32, at least 33, at least 34, at least 35, at least 36, at least 37 or 38 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 113 to 150 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Typically the consecutive amino acid residues from residues 113 to 150 of SEQ ID NO: 1 will include residue 150 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The fragment may comprise all 38 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 113 to 150 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 30 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and

(a) at least 4 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
and/or

(b) at least 4 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 156 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and

(a) at least 4 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1,
optionally comprising residues 337 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and/or

(b) at least 4 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1,
optionally comprising residues 194 to 198 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 181 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and

(a) at least 4 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1,
optionally comprising residues 370 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and/or

(b) at least 4 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1,
optionally comprising residues 194 to 198 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 191 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and

(a) at least 4 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1,
optionally comprising residues 337 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and/or

(b) at least 4 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1,
optionally comprising residues 159 to 163 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 216 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and

(a) at least 4 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1,
optionally comprising residues 370 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and/or

(b) at least 4 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1,
optionally comprising residues 159 to 163 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 156 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and

(a) at least 53 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1,
optionally comprising residues 337 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and/or

(b) at least 50 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1,
optionally comprising residues 194 to 198 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 181 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and

(a) at least 78 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, optionally comprising residues 370 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and/or

(b) at least 50 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1, optionally comprising residues 194 to 198 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 191 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and

(a) at least 53 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, optionally comprising residues 337 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and/or

(b) at least 85 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1, optionally comprising residues 159 to 163 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 216 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and

(a) at least 78 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, optionally comprising residues 370 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and/or

(b) at least 85 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1, optionally comprising residues 159 to 163 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 30 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or at least 30 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 50 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or at least 50 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 75 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or at least 75 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 38 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or at least 48 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 53 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or at least 50 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 78 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or at least 85 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise amino acid residues 337 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or amino acid residues 370 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise amino acid residues 194 to 198 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or amino acid residues 159 to 163 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 140 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and

(a) at least 50 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and/or

(b) at least 50 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment may comprise at least 160 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and

(a) at least 60 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and/or

(b) at least 60 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The N-terminal residue of the fragment may be a residue selected from the group consisting of all residues from the 113th residue of SEQ ID NO: 1 to the 193rd residue of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The N-terminal residue of the fragment may be a residue selected from the group consisting of all residues from the 113th residue of SEQ ID NO: 1 to the 159th residue of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The N-terminal residue of the fragment may be a residue selected from the group consisting of all residues from the 159th residue of SEQ ID NO: 1 to the 193rd residue of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The N-terminal residue of the fragment may be a residue selected from the group consisting of all residues from the 163rd residue of SEQ ID NO: 1 to the 193rd residue of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The N-terminal residue of the fragment may be residue 113 of SEQ ID NO: 1

The C-terminal residue of the fragment may be a residue selected from the group consisting of all residues from the 350th residue of SEQ ID NO: 1 to the 379th residue of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The C-terminal residue of the fragment may be a residue selected from the group consisting of all residues from the 350th residue of SEQ ID NO: 1 to the 370th residue of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The C-terminal residue of the fragment may be a residue selected from the group consisting of all residues from the 350th residue of SEQ ID NO: 1 to the 374th residue of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The fragment consisting of amino acid residues within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may comprise amino acid residues:

- (a) 194 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (b) 159 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (c) 194 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (d) 159 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (e) 195 to 370 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (f) 159 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (g) 113 to 224 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (h) 113 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1; or
- (i) 113 to 370 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Taken together, the data disclosed herein indicate that in human plasma using S1D12 as a first specific binding molecule and BT2 as a second specific binding molecule detects a fragment consisting of amino acid residues within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 comprising amino acid residues 194 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Taken together, the data disclosed herein indicate that in human plasma using S1D12 as a first specific binding molecule and HT7 as a second specific binding molecule detects a fragment consisting of amino acid residues within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 comprising amino acid residues 159 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Taken together, the data disclosed herein indicate that in human plasma using S1G2 as a first specific binding molecule and BT2 as a second specific binding molecule detects a fragment consisting of amino acid residues within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 comprising amino acid 194 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Taken together, the data disclosed herein indicate that in human plasma using S1G2 as a first specific binding molecule and HT7 as a second specific binding molecule detects a fragment consisting of amino acid residues within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 comprising amino acid 159 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The inventors have performed multiple Simoa® assays to detect human plasma tau levels, together with mass spectrometry, which together suggest that the release of “extended core” fragments of tau (within a consensus plasma tau sequence residues 113 - 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1) into plasma appears to be part of normal processing of tau protein. Such fragments have been shown by the inventors to be significantly reduced in Alzheimer’s Disease plasma samples compared to cognitively unimpaired controls. The folding of extended core fragments may occlude core epitopes leading to advantages for detection of core fragments for high affinity specific binding molecules described in PCT application no. PCT/EP2021/069160, such as S1D12 and S1G2.

The amino acid sequence of the fragment may consist of amino acid residues within residues:

- (a) 113 to 370 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (b) 113 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (c) 113 to 224 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (d) 159 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (e) 195 to 370 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (f) 194 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (g) 159 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (h) 194 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1; or
- (i) 159 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

The fragment may consist of amino acid residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

In an alternative statement of the first aspect of the invention, for any fragment defined herein with reference to one or more amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO: 1, one or more amino acid residues may be alternatively stated as “about” the same amino acid residue. For instance, an alternative statement of the phrase “The fragment may consist of amino acid residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1” is “The fragment may consist of amino acid residues about 113 to about 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1”. The term “about” in this context means plus or minus 10, or more preferably, plus or minus 9, plus or minus 8, plus or minus 7, plus or minus 6, plus or minus 5, plus or minus 4, plus or minus 3, plus or minus 2, or plus or minus 1. Instead of alternatively stating a residue number using the word “about”, a range of residue numbers centred on the residue number may be stated. For example, an alternative statement of the phrase “The fragment may consist of amino acid residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1” is “The fragment may consist of amino acid residues from 103-123 to 369-389 of SEQ ID NO: 1”.

The sequence of tau may vary between individuals due to differences in their genetic code and/or somatic mutation. Any fragment defined herein may be a sequence variant of the amino acid residues within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Such sequence variants may be described as variant fragments accordingly and the fragment with amino acid residues corresponding to those within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 may be described as the wild type or canonical fragment. A variant fragment may for instance, have at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98% or at least 99%

identity to the wild type or canonical fragment. A variant fragment may for instance, have at least one, at least two, at least three, at least four, at least five, at least six, at least seven, at least eight, at least nine or at least ten amino acid substitutions relative to the wild type or canonical fragment. The amino acid substitutions may be conservative amino acid substitutions.

The method may further comprise confirming the identity of the fragment. Confirming the identity of the fragment may for instance be by analysing the fragment by mass spectrometry. The mass spectrometry may be liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry analysis (LC-MS). Confirming the identity of the fragment may alternatively be by assaying for one or more further tau fragments, wherein the fragment whose identity is to be confirmed may be referred to as the first fragment. Assaying for one or more further tau fragments may comprise assaying for a shorter tau fragment and/or assaying for a longer tau fragment. Appropriate such assays will be apparent to the skilled person based on the content of this disclosure and depending on the length of the first fragment. For example, using a more N-terminally targeted antibody (such as Tau12 which binds to residues 6-18 of SEQ ID NO: 1) or a more C-terminally targeted antibody (such as Tau46 which binds to residues 404-441). Assaying for one or more further tau fragments may further comprise comparing the levels of the shorter tau fragment and/or the longer tau fragment with the levels of the first fragment. Where substantially no shorter tau fragment and/or longer tau fragment is detected, the identity of the first tau fragment may be confirmed. Where the shorter tau fragment and/or longer tau fragment is below the lower limit of quantification, the identity of the first tau fragment may be confirmed.

The method may comprise detecting two or more fragments of tau disclosed herein.

The method may further comprise determining a concentration of the tau protein fragment in the sample.

Diagnostics

According to a further aspect, the invention provides a diagnostic method comprising contacting a saliva sample with a specific binding molecule wherein the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The diagnostic method may comprise the *in vitro* method for detecting a tau protein or a fragment thereof in a sample according to the first aspect.

The method may further comprise diagnosing a tauopathy if a tau protein or a fragment thereof is detected.

The method may further comprise treating a tauopathy if a tau protein or a fragment thereof is detected and/or if a tauopathy is diagnosed.

The method may further comprise determining a concentration of the tau protein or a fragment thereof in the sample, and optionally comparing the concentration of the tau protein or a fragment thereof in the sample to a concentration of the tau protein or a fragment thereof in a sample from a healthy control or to a predetermined concentration of the tau protein or a fragment thereof indicative of a healthy subject.

Further advantages and embodiments

An advantage of the present invention is the provision of an assay for detecting a tau protein or fragment thereof which can be performed using a saliva sample. Saliva samples are easier, faster and safer to obtain than plasma or CSF samples. However, very limited published data are available supporting a diagnostic test for a tauopathy, particularly Alzheimer's disease, in a saliva sample. The complexities of extracellular tau and the limited progress towards developing a blood-based screen for Alzheimer's disease are reviewed in Chen *et al* (2019) *Alzheimers Dement.* 15(3): 487–496. Chen *et al* concluded that “most plasma tau is full length”. None of the antibodies described targeted residues 297 to 391 of full-length Tau (see Figure 1A). The authors suggest using N-terminal assays in a diagnostic context. Two N-terminal assays are described:

- NT1 requires a minimal sequence of residues 6 to 198 of full-length tau.
- NT2 requires a longer sequence of residues 6 to 224 of full-length tau.

Chen *et al* suggest use of the NT1 assay, rather than the NT2 assay, in a diagnostic context. Chen *et al* therefore teach away from using a specific binding molecule that binds to an epitope within residues 296 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least in the context of blood-based screening.

Moreover, in plasma samples, core – proline assays performed by the present inventors are more sensitive than the NT1 assay. The NT1 assay is reported as detecting around 2.13 pg/ml plasma tau in healthy controls and around 5.12 pg/ml plasma tau in AD patients (Chen *et al* (2018)), although both are detected at less than 1 pg/ml in the hands of the present inventors. In contrast, using S1D12 as capture and HT7 as detector detects around 4,200 pg/ml plasma tau in healthy controls and around 520 pg/ml plasma tau in AD patients. Moreover, using S1D12 as capture and BT2 as detector (BT2 is also used in the NT1 assay) detects around 12,800 pg/ml plasma tau in healthy controls and around 1,030 pg/ml plasma tau in AD patients. Without being bound by theory, the release of “extended core” fragments into plasma appears to be part of normal processing of tau protein, leading to higher levels of core – proline fragments than of N-terminal fragments. Such processing of tau protein may be disrupted in AD patients, so that the assays for core – proline fragments of tau in plasma samples disclosed herein represent a surprisingly advantageous diagnostic tool for AD.

The levels of tau measured when using our core capture antibody S1D12 as part of an antibody pair is 1,000-fold more than the typical values seen for the existing NT1 assay in human plasma. In contrast to the reported NT1 assay, where AD/MCI patients typically show higher assay values than healthy controls, for assays using S1D12 capture this pattern is surprisingly reversed with health control

samples showing higher tau fragment values than AD/MCI patients. The levels of tau detected using the core capture antibody are significantly greater than previously reported and suggests that the use of S1D12 reveals large amounts of previously undetected tau fragments in biological samples. The use of a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of S1D12 therefore provides a surprisingly sensitive AD / MCI diagnostic assay with improved performance over the existing NT1 assay in human plasma samples. These findings translate to higher levels of core-proline fragments in healthy control and form the basis of a regular monitoring test to identify patients worthy of additional screening, i.e. a potential predictor of early onset of disease.

H. Pekeles *et al.* Alzheimer's & Dementia: Diagnosis, Assessment & Disease Monitoring 11 (2019) 53-6054 describe development and validation of a salivary tau biomarker in Alzheimer's disease. The tau-4 antibody was used to measure t-tau, and all t-tau measures reported in this article used this antibody. Phosphospecific antibodies targeting Thr181, Ser396, and Ser404 and a combination Ser400/Thr403/Ser404 site antibody were used for the analysis of phosphorylation levels at tau sites T181, S396, and S404 and the combination S400, T403, and T404 site, respectively. None of the antibodies described targeted residues 297 to 391 of full-length Tau. The authors therefore make no suggestion to use a first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and instead suggest using a p-tau/t-tau ratio for the S396 phosphorylation site.

The method may comprise contacting the sample with a pair of specific binding molecules that bind to an epitope within residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and to an epitope within residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1, respectively.

Preferably, the method comprises contacting the sample with a pair of specific binding molecules comprising a first specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of S1D12 and a second specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of S1G2.

A second specific binding molecule used in the method of the invention may be a specific binding molecule comprising the CDRs of CB7 and/or CC7. The epitopes of CB7 and CC7 fall in regions of tau with no homology between the human and mouse tau sequences. The diagnostic utility of these specific binding molecules is demonstrated by their ability to recognise the presence of pathologic human tau in a transgenic mouse brain against a background of endogenous mouse tau protein. These specific binding molecules may therefore be utilised to track the fragmentation patterns of pathologic tau species during aging and in relation to any pharmacologic treatments that may affect the (human) tau protein, its aggregation, movement between compartments in the body (e.g. between brain and blood) and its pattern of fragmentation.

The *in vitro* method of the invention may comprise contacting the sample with a pair of first and second specific binding molecules, wherein the pair of first and second specific binding molecules wherein the first specific binding molecule binds within the core region of tau (such as to an epitope within residues 337 to 355 or 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1) and the second specific binding molecule binds to an epitope

within residues 13 to 25 of SEQ ID NO: 1. The first specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs of S1D12 or S1G2. The second specific binding molecule may comprise the CDRs of CB7. Such pairings have the advantage of detecting tau fragments that contain the amino acids spanning from 13-379 of SEQ ID NO:1. The inventors have shown that such fragments decrease with aging in plasma from L66^{+/+} mice, suggesting that either a truncation or epitope occlusion event is occurring or that multiple events of this nature are occurring during the aging of L66^{+/+} mice. Methods enabling detection of tau fragments that contain the amino acids spanning from 13-379 of SEQ ID NO:1 may therefore provide an early marker for pathology associated events.

Diagnostic device

According to a second aspect, the invention provides a diagnostic device for use in a method according to the first aspect of the invention.

The device may comprise any suitable components described herein. The device may comprise equipment for measuring the level of a tau protein or a fragment thereof in a sample comprising a sample collection device and an immunoassay. The equipment may further comprise a detector for detecting labelled tau protein or a fragment thereof or labelled antibodies to the tau protein or a fragment thereof in the immunoassay.

The immunoassay or equipment may be incorporated into a miniaturised device for measuring the level of a tau protein or a fragment thereof in a biological sample. Suitably, the device may comprise a lab-on-a-chip.

The device may comprise one or more parts defining an internal channel having an inlet port and a reaction zone.

In some embodiments, the device may comprise a plurality of channels, each with its own inlet port, for measuring the levels of a plurality of different tau protein or a fragment(s) thereof in the sample in parallel. Therefore, each channel may include a different respective immobilised primary antibody or tau protein or a fragment thereof.

Suitably, the device may comprise one or more selectively operable valves associated with the one or more inlet ports for controlling the admission of a sequence of different reagents into to the channels such, for example, as the sample, wash solutions, primary antibody, secondary antibody and enzyme substrate.

The device therefore may comprise a microfluidics device. The channel may include a reaction zone. Microfluidics devices are known to those skilled in the art. A review of microfluidic immunoassays or protein diagnostic chip microarrays is provided by Chin et al. 2012. *Lab on a Chip*. 2012; 12:2118-2134.

A microfluidics device suitable for carrying out an ELISA immunoassay at a point-of-care is disclosed by Chan CD, Laksanasopin T, Cheung YK, Steinmiller D et al. "Microfluidics-based diagnostics of infectious diseases in the developing world". *Nature Medicine*. 2011;17(8):1015-1019, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Kit

According to a third aspect, the invention provides a kit comprising a specific binding molecule suitable for use in a method according to the first aspect and reagents for detecting a tau protein or fragment thereof in a saliva sample wherein the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

The kit may comprise a first specific binding molecule that binds to an epitope within residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and a second specific binding molecule that binds to an epitope within SEQ ID NO: 1.

The kit may comprise any suitable components described herein. For example, the kit may further comprise reagents suitable for confirming the identity of the fragment.

The kit may comprise an enzyme such, for example, as horseradish peroxidase (HRP). Suitable substrates for HRP are well known in the art and include, for example, ABTS, OPD, AmplexRed, DAB, AEC, TMB, homovanillic acid and luminol.

The kit may comprise one or more specific binding molecules or tau protein or a fragment thereof immobilised on a surface of a well or plate or on the surface of a plurality of magnetic or non-magnetic beads.

The kit may comprise a labelled secondary antibody to the tau protein or a fragment thereof or to a primary antibody to the tau protein or a fragment thereof for quantifying the amount of the tau protein or a fragment thereof bound to surface-bound antibodies or the amount of primary antibody bound to the tau protein or a fragment thereof immobilised on a surface.

Preferred features for the second and subsequent aspects of the invention are as for the first aspect of the invention *mutatis mutandis*.

The present invention will now be described by way of reference to the following Examples and accompanying Drawings which are present for the purposes of illustration only and are not to be construed as being limiting on the invention.

Example 1: Sheep Immunisation using tau protein antigens and analysis of antigen specific immune response

Two Welsh bred sheep were hyperimmunised with full length tau protein (2N4R, referred as hT40 in this study) and truncated tau (dGAE, representing the core repeat region corresponding to amino acids 297-391 of hT40) separately to generate antigen specific immune response. For primary immunisation, 500 µg of hT40 or dGAE was mixed with Freund's complete adjuvant in a final volume of up to 2 ml and administered per sheep. For subsequent boosts at 4 weeks intervals, 250 µg of each antigen was mixed with Freund's incomplete adjuvant and administered per sheep. The immune responses were monitored by performing binding ELISA using polyclonal sera collected after 10-14 days of subsequent boosts (Figure 7).

ELISA plates were coated with 1 µg/ml hT40 or dGAE by incubation at 37°C for 1 h or 4°C overnight, followed by blocking with PBS containing 2% Marvel (MPBS) at 37°C for 1 h. After each step the plates were washed three times with PBS containing 0.1% tween 20 (PBST) and three times with PBS. Sheep polyclonal sera was added to designated wells (pre-immune and subsequent boost samples), double diluted in PBS across the plate and incubated at room temperature for 1 h. Anti-sheep IgG HRP conjugated secondary antibody (Sigma A3415,) was added to the wells and incubated as before. The resulting immunoreaction was developed by adding SureBlue TMB substrate solution, the reaction was stopped using 1 M H₂SO₄ and the absorbance values measured using a microplate reader at absorbance 450 nm.

Antigen specific immune response was achieved after the first boost for both hT40 and dGAE immunised sheep (Figure 7a and 7b) and the levels peaked at boost 2, 3 and 4 without any further improvement in antibody titre. Therefore after 4th boost immunisation, approx. 350 ml of blood was collected from each sheep, PBLs separated using standard techniques and stored in RNA later solution for the extraction of mRNA and further amplification of antibody genes for library construction.

Example 2: Construction of phage display antibody libraries from the immunorepertoire of sheep

Peripheral blood lymphocytes (PBLs) were prepared from sheep blood using Accuspin system Histopaque 1077 columns (Sigma, Cat No: A7054) according to manufacturer's instructions. Total RNA was extracted using RNeasy midi kit (QIAGEN) and cDNA was synthesised by RT-PCR using sheep antibody constant region-specific primers (OvCHFOR 5'-GAC TTT CGG GGC TGT GGT GGA GGC-3', OvCKFOR 5'-GA TGG TTT GAA GAG GGA GAC GGA TGG CTG AGC-3', OvCLFOR 5'-A CAG GGT GAC CGA GGG TGC GGA CTT GG-3'). Sheep IgG VH and V_H/V_k repertoires were created by PCR amplification as per published methods using V region specific primers (Charlton et al., 2000). For joining of antibody genes, PCR products were enzymatically digested and ligated using the restriction sites Ascl for heavy chain and Mlul for light chain at the 15 amino acid cellulase linker region incorporated through PCR design. The cloning sites NcoI and NotI were incorporated to the ligated

DNA through PCR and the resultant scFv DNA fragments were cloned into a phagemid vector pHEN 2a (Hoogenboom et al 1991). Separate VH-V λ and VH-V κ antibody phage display libraries were created by transformation of electrocompetent E. coli TG1 cells (Lucigen Corp).

Two separate phage display libraries were constructed for dGAE and hT40 immunisation hereby referred to as tau antibody library 1 and library 2 respectively. These resultant VH-V λ and VH-V κ libraries were rescued separately through helper phage infection following published methods (Charlton et al., 2001) and subjected to biopanning including forced epitope selection for the isolation of phage binders with desired specificity and binding affinity.

Example 3: Selection and screening of dGAE and hT40 phage display antibody libraries

Several biopanning strategies were employed to isolate tau protein specific binders from Library 1 and Library 2.

Helper phage rescued Library 1 was subjected to three selection campaigns as outlined in Table 11. Screening of phage monoclonals using ELISA identified several phage binders, which showed specific binding to the antigens used for selection namely dGA (representing amino acid sequences 297-390 of hT40) and dGAE. These phage binders were grouped into two – (1) dGAE specific binders - (2) dGAE cross reactive binders which recognised dGAE, dGA and hT40. DNA sequencing revealed rich diversity in the selected positive phage population and unique phage clones were reformatted into single chain antibodies (scAbs) by cloning the respective scFv gene (VH-linker-VL) into the bacterial expression vector pMS147 (reference) using NcoI and NotI restriction enzymes. Unique sequences from these selections were given in a separate document along with sequence IDs.

In order to distinguish between positive clones arising from different selection strategies, the following nomenclature was used.

All positive clones from Library 1 selection 1 were given a prefix 'E' (dGAE panning)

All positive clones from Library 1 selection 2 were given a prefix 'NS' (non-stringent dGA panning)

All positive clones from Library 1 selection 2 were given a prefix 'S' (stringent dGA panning)

All positive clones from Library 1 where a repeat of selection 2 strategy was performed were given a prefix 'M'

Table 12: Showing the three different selection strategies for Library 1 and the concentrations of dGA or dGAE antigen used for different rounds of panning.

Library 1 Selection 1	Pan 1 - 50 µg/ml dGAE	Pan 2 - 10 µg/ml dGAE	Pan 2 - 1 µg/ml dGAE
Library 1 Selection 2	Pan 1 - 100 µg/ml dGA	Pan 2 - 50 µg/ml dGAE	Pan 2 - 10 µg/ml dGAE
Library 1 Selection 3	Pan 1 - 100 µg/ml dGAE	Pan 2 - 10 µg/ml dGAE	Pan 2 - 1 µg/ml dGAE

Similarly, helper phage rescued Library 2 was subjected to five different selection campaigns using the following antigens as outlined in Table 2 and unique phage binders to respective antigens were reformatted into scAbs as described previously. Antigens used for selection are - hT40, R1-3 (representing amino acids in the region 266-359 on hT40) and biotinylated 412-441 (representing amino acids in the region 412-441 on hT40). In selection strategies 4 and 5, a step to deselect dGA binding phage population was introduced to encourage the enrichment of clones outside of 297-390 region on the tau protein.

Table 13: Showing the five different selection strategies for Library 2 and the concentrations of various antigens used for different rounds of panning.

Library 2 Selection 1	Pan 1 - 100 µg/ml hT40	Pan 2 - 10 µg/ml hT40	Pan 2 - 1 µg/ml hT40
Library 2 Selection 2	Pan 1 - 100 µg/ml R1-3	Pan 2 - 50 µg/ml R1-3	Pan 2 - 10 µg/ml R1-3
Library 2 Selection 3	Pan 1 - 100 µg/ml 412-441	Pan 2 - 10 µg/ml 412-441	Pan 2 - 1 µg/ml 412-441
Library 2 Selection 4	Pan 1 - 100 µg/ml hT4Z	Pan 2 - 50 µg/ml hT40 dGA deselection	Pan 2 - 10 µg/ml hT40
Library 2 Selection 5	Pan 1 - 100 µg/ml hT40	Pan 2 - 10 µg/ml hT40 dGA deselection	Pan 2 - 0.1 µg/ml hT40

In order to distinguish between positive clones arising from different selection strategies, the following nomenclature was used.

All positive clones from Library 2 selection 1 and selection 2 were given a prefix 'C'

All positive clones from Library 2 selection 3 were given a prefix '412'

All positive clones from Library 2 selection 4 and selection 5 were given prefixes '3a' and '3b' respectively

Example 4: Expression of reformatted scAbs in bacterial system and purification using affinity chromatography

Bacterial stocks of positive clones were grown in Terrific Broth (TB) medium supplemented with PO₄ salts, 100 µg/ml ampicillin and 1% w/v glucose to reach desired cell density, induced with 1 mM IPTG and expressed scAbs in the periplasm was released using the osmotic shock solution (100 ml 200 mM Tris-HCl-20% sucrose, 200 µl 0.5 M EDTA and 0.5 mg lysozyme followed by 5Mm MgSO₄) and incubating on ice for 15 minutes each. Recombinant anti-tau scAbs present in crude periplasmic extracts were purified using IMAC columns via binding of hexa Histidine tagged protein to activated Ni-sepharose beads and elution using 200 mM Imidazole. Eluted protein samples were dialysed against 1 x PBS pH 7.4 and purity analysed on 4-12% Bis-Tris gels using SDS-PAGE. All expressed scAbs were found to be 90% pure. Protein concentrations were determined by running a standard scAb of known concentration alongside unknown samples using SDS-PAGE and comparing the intensities of the protein bands using ImageJ. Alternatively, absorbance values at 280 nm were measured using

Ultraspec 6300 pro UV/Visible spectrophotometer (Amersham, Biosciences) and final scAb concentrations determined from the values obtained.

Example 5: Mapping of specific binding regions and affinity ranking of anti-tau scAbs

A series of binding ELISA was performed using various truncated versions of the tau protein and 13mer peptide libraries spanning the entire hT40 molecule for mapping the epitopes of anti-tau scAbs (Full list of protein antigens used is given in Table 14). In general, ELISA plates were coated with 1 µg/ml hT40 or dGA or dGAE or other truncated versions of the protein and in the case of biotinylated peptides, plates were coated with 5 µg/ml Streptavidin followed by 1 µg/ml biotinylated peptide. The plates were blocked with 2% MPBS and scAb samples added at desired starting concentrations and double diluted across the plate. Binding was detected using anti-Human C Kappa HRP conjugated secondary antibody and the resulting immunoreaction was developed and absorbance values measured as described above.

For affinity ranking ELISA, plates were coated with 1 µg/ml hT40 or dGA or dGAE as before and blocked as normal. Anti-tau scAbs at a starting concentration of 25 µg/ml or 1 µg/ml was added to designated wells and a serial dilution in 1 x PBS was performed for each sample. Binding reaction was determined as before, and the scAbs were ranked based on their absorbance values and top binding scAbs were selected for affinity studies using Surface Plasmon Resonance technology.

Table 14: Listing various truncated versions of hT40 and biotinylated peptide antigens used for epitope mapping of anti-tau scAbs.

Tau 1-49	m186-350	m268-391	N biotin 306-323
Tau 1-201	C2 -186-319	m352-441	N biotin 301-325
Tau 1-227	42a- 186-350	m348-441	N biotin 331-360
B1- 1-391	m113-319	Tau 275-305	N biotin 301-359
Tau 1-251	m113-201	Tau 323-335	N biotin 337-355
Tau 1-319	m113-251	Tau 297-315	C biotin 337-355
Tau 1-155	m186-251	dGAE (297-391)	N biotin 339-351
Tau 1-286	m186-390+D/GA/S	dGA (297-390)	N biotin 341-353

Tau 1-391	m186-319/+GAE/DHGAE	Tau 337-368	N biotin 379-390
Tau 1-238	m221-441	Tau 377-390	N biotin 390-414
m113-238	m239-441	Tau 306-336	hT40 13mer library N terminal biotinylated
m113-155	m221-319	Tau 377-391	
m186-441	m239-319	Tau 360-378	
m186-391	m268-441	N biotin 412-441	

Example 6: Detailed mapping of core region binding anti-tau scAbs

Positive scAbs from Library 1 selections - 'E', 'NS', 'S' and 'M' clones (as described previously) were checked for hT40, dGA and dGAE binding using direct binding ELISA. scAbs specifically binding to dGAE were grouped as 'E' dependant and showed no cross reactivity towards hT40. Selected E specific scAbs and their specific binding to dGAE is shown below (Fig 8 A-E).

Table 15: A summary of specific scAb binding to various tau truncations and protein fragments representing regions of the tau molecule. A further narrowing down of binding regions was achieved for some scAbs, including those showing positive reactivity to shorter epitopes within 13mer peptides is also shown

scAb clones	Tau proteins/fragments with positive scAb reactivity	Shortest region bound on hT40
E1E8	297-391 (dGAE)	391'E'
E2A6	297-391 (dGAE)	391'E'
E2B7	297-391 (dGAE)	391'E'
E2E8	297-391 (dGAE)	391'E'
E1B8	297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 313-336	313-336

Similarly, dGA binding 'NS', 'S' and 'M' group scAbs were subjected to further antigen binding ELISA using shorter tau proteins and biotinylated 13mer peptides as shown below (Fig 10 A-F) and (Fig 11 A-R).

Table 16: A summary of specific scAb binding to various tau truncations and protein fragments representing regions of the tau molecule. A further narrowing down of epitopes was achieved for some scAbs, including those showing positive reactivity to shorter epitopes, contained within 13mers, or recognising two epitopes are shown.

scAb clones	Tau proteins/fragments with positive scAb reactivity	Shortest region bound on hT40
NS3E5	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391	369-390
NS3H4	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391	369-390
NS4F2	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391	369-390
NS4E3	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391	369-390
NS3D9	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 266-359, 337-368	337-355
NS1G7	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 275-305, 337-368	275-305, 337-368
NS2A3	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 337-368	337-368
NS2A8	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 337-368	337-368
NS2C5	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 337-368	337-368
NS2C8	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 337-368	337-368
NS2D3	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 337-368	337-368
NS2A1	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE)	No binding to 13mer peptides
NS2B6	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE)	297-390
NS1B2	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE)	297-390
S1A5	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE)	297-390
S1A12	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE)	297-390
S1E12	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE)	297-390
S1D5	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE)	297-390
S1D12	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 186-350, 266-359, 337-368	337-355
S2C1	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 186-350, 266-359, 337-368	337-355
S1B1	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE)	367-379
S1D2	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391	367-379
S1D9	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE)	367-379
S1F4	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391	367-379
S1G2	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391	367-379
S1G10	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391	367-379
S1H6	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391	367-379
S1H9	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391	367-379
S2C3	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391	367-379

S2C6	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391	367-379
S2C7	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391	367-379
S2D1	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391	367-379
S2D4	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391	367-379
S2D3	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391, 275-305	367-379, 275-305
MD9/MoD9	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391	373-385
ME12	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 341-353, 337-349, 339-351	337-355
MC5	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391	367-379
MD12	hT40, 297-390 (dGA), 297-391 (dGAE), 369-390, 369-391	367-379

Example 7: Detailed mapping of binding of 'C', '412', '3a' and '3b' series clones

'C', '412', '3a' and '3b' group scAbs were subjected to further antigen binding ELISA using shorter tau proteins and biotinylated 13mer peptides as shown below (Fig 12 A-F) and (Fig 13 A-R).

Table 17: A summary of 'C' group scAb binding to various tau truncations and protein fragments representing regions of the tau molecule. A further narrow down of binding regions achieved for some scAbs, including those showing positive reactivity to shorter epitopes and 13mers peptide libraries are shown.

scAb clones	Tau proteins/fragments with positive scAb reactivity	Shortest region bound on hT40
CA1	hT40, 1-238, 1-319, 1-155, 155-238	155-238
CA2	hT40, 1-49, 1-319, 1-155, 186-350, 348-441	1-155
CA3	hT40, 1-319, 186-350	186-263
CA4	hT40, 239-441, 297-390 (dGA)	355-367
CA6	hT40, 239-441, 348-441	348-390
CA7	hT40, 1-319	1-319
CA8	hT40, 1-319	1-319
CA9	hT40, 239-441, 348-441, 297-390 (dGA)	367-379
CA10	hT40, 1-319	227-319
CA11	hT40, 239-441, 348-441	348-441
CA12	hT40, 297-390 (dGA)	367-379
CB2	hT40, 348-441	359-391
CB3	hT40, 297-390 (dGA)	360-390
CB5	hT40, 1-319	49-113

CB6	hT40, 1-49, 1-155, 1-319, 113-251	1-238
CB7	hT40, 1-49, 1-155, 1-319	13-25
CB9	hT40, 239-441	239-348
CB10	hT40, 1-49, 1-319	1-319
CB11	hT40, 1-319	113-238
CB12	hT40, 1-49, 1-155, 1-319, 113-251, 186-350, 266-359 (R1-3), 297-441	115-227
CC3	hT40, 1-49, 1-155, 1-319, 186-350	155-227
CC4	hT40, 1-155, 1-319	49-155
CC5	hT40, 1-49, 1-155, 1-319, 113-251, 186-350	49-238
CC7	hT40, 1-319	145-157
CC12	hT40, 239-441, 297-390 (dGA)	297-390
CD1	hT40, 1-49, 1-155, 1-319, 113-251, 186-350, 239-441, 266-359 (R1-3), 297-441	49-155
CD2	hT40, 1-319, 113-319, 113-251, 186-350	186-350
CE2	hT40, 266-359 (R1-3)	319-331
CE3	hT40, 266-359 (R1-3)	331-360
CG11	hT40, 186-350, 266-359 (R1-3)	266-359

Table 18: A summary of '3a' & '3b' series scAbs binding to various tau truncations and protein fragments representing regions of the tau molecule. A further narrow down of binding regions achieved for some scAbs, including those showing positive reactivity to shorter epitopes and 13mers peptide libraries are also shown.

scAb clones	Tau proteins/fragments with positive scAb reactivity	Short epitope on hT40
3aD3	1-155, 1-111, 1-49	1-49
3aH6	1-155, 1-111, 1-49	1-49
3aG3	1-155, 1-111, 1-49	1-49
3bG4	1-155, 1-111, 1-49	1-49
3aB7	1-155, 1-111	49-111
3bF4	1-155, 1-111	49-111
3aA6	1-155, 113-251, 145-157	147-157
3aD6	1-155, 113-251, 145-157	147-157

Example 8: Determination of critical binding residues on selected scAbs using Alanine Scanning Mutagenesis (ASM)

To further elucidate epitopes of the scAb panel, and identify the critical amino acids needed for binding, alanine scanning mutagenesis of the parent 13 aa peptides for scAbs CE2, S1D12, CA4 and S1G2 was performed. For clones CE2 and CA4, no reactivity was observed for the first and last three overlapping amino acids in the 13mer peptide library which was used for epitope mapping and therefore only the 7 core amino acid sequences were subjected to alanine substitution for these antibodies. Briefly, 5 µg/ml streptavidin (Thermo Fisher) was adsorbed to Nunc 96-well MaxiSorp plates and following incubation at 37 °C for 1 h, the plates were washed as normal and blocked with 2 % MPBS. N-terminally biotinylated peptides (ProlImmune Ltd) were added to the plates and incubated for 1 h at 37 °C. Subsequently, test scAbs at starting concentrations of 100-500 nM was added and double diluted across the plate for each peptide and incubated for 1 h at 37°C. Rest of the ELISA was conducted as described above and the plates were read at absorbance 450 nm. Immunoreactivity of the scAb of interest was quantified as the % of scAb was bound for each peptide at a chosen concentration (Figure 15-20).

Example 9: CE2 Binding region on hT40: 319-331

Table 19 Amino acid sequences of the parent peptide and alanine substituted peptides for identifying the critical binding sequences for CE2 scAb

ASM positions	Peptide Sequences
Parent	TSKCGSLGNIHHK
322A	TSKAGSLGNIHHK
323A	TSKCA ^A SLGNIHHK
324A	TSKCGA ^A LGNIHHK
325A	TSKCGS ^A AGNIHHK
326A	TSKCGSL ^A NIHHK
327A	TSKCGSLGA ^A IHHK
328A	TSKCGSLGNA ^A HHK

Example 10: S1D12 & ME12 Binding region on hT40: 341-353

Table 20: Amino acid sequences of the parent peptide and alanine substituted peptides for identifying the critical binding sequences for S1D12 scAb and ME12 scAb

ASM positions	Peptide Sequences
Parent	SEKLDFKDRVQSK

341A	AEKLD A FKDRVQSK
342A	SAKLD S FKDRVQSK
343A	SEALD E FKDRVQSK
344A	SEK L ADFKDRVQSK
345A	SEKL A FKDRVQSK
346A	SEKLD A KDRVQSK
347A	SEKLD F ADRVQSK
348A	SEKLD F KARVQSK
349A	SEKLD F KD A VQSK
350A	SEKLD F KD R AQSK
351A	SEKLD F KDRV A SK
352A	SEKLD F KDRVQ A K
353A	SEKLD F KDRVQ S A

Example 11: CA4 Binding region on hT40: 355-367

Table 21: Amino acid sequences of the parent peptide and alanine substituted peptides for identifying the critical binding sequences for CA4 scAb

Peptide	Sequence
Parent	GSLDN I THVPGGG
358A	GSL A DNITHVPGGG
359A	GSLD A ITHVPGGG
360A	GSLDN A THVPGGG
361A	GSLDN I AHVPGGG
362A	GSLDNIT A VPGGG
363A	GSLDNITH A PGGG
364A	GSLDNITHV A GGG

Example 12: Clones with binding region 367-379 on hT40

Several antibody clones were shown to bind to the region 367-379 on hT40 molecule (Table 16 & 17) and were grouped together and subjected to detailed analysis of critical binding residues using ASM peptides as described above. Amino acid sequences of the parent peptide and alanine substituted mutants are given in Table 22. Binding profiles of S1G2 scAb to the parent peptide and mutants are shown in Fig 19 A-C. Similarly, percentage binding of other scAbs in the same group recognising hT40 367-379 to various alanine substituted mutants and the parent peptide are shown in Fig 20 A-J

Table 22 Amino acid sequences of the parent peptide and alanine substituted peptides for identifying the critical binding sequences for S1G2 and related scAbs binding to 367-379 region

Peptide	Sequence
Parent	GNKKIETHKLTFR
367A	<u>A</u> NKKIETHKLTFR
368A	G <u>A</u> KKIETHKLTFR
369A	GN <u>A</u> KIETHKLTFR
370A	GNK <u>A</u> IETHKLTFR
371A	GNKK <u>A</u> ETHKLTFR
372A	GNKKI <u>A</u> THKLTFR
373A	GNKKIE <u>A</u> HKLTFR
374A	GNKKIET <u>A</u> KLTFR
375A	GNKKIETH <u>A</u> LTFR
376A	GNKKIETHK <u>A</u> TFR
377A	GNKKIETHKLA <u>F</u> R
378A	GNKKIETHKLT <u>A</u> R
379A	GNKKIETHKLT <u>F</u> A

Example 13: Ranking of relative binding affinities of anti-tau scAbs using hT40 binding ELISA

The relative binding affinities of anti-tau scAbs were ranked by performing hT40 antigen binding ELISA as described previously.

Example 14: Analysis of the binding kinetics of anti-tau scAbs using Biacore X100™

Surface plasmon resonance (SPR) is widely regarded as the gold standard for real time measurement of protein-protein interactions such as antibody binding. All SPR experiments were carried out using a Biacore X100 machine and HBS EP+ running buffer (GE Healthcare). A 'capture' method was followed for affinity measurements, where an anti-human constant kappa chain (HuCk) antibody was conjugated to the surface of a CM5 sensor chip using an amine coupling kit and scAb molecules were immobilised via their HuCk domain. Amine coupling is a very common approach for immobilising the ligand to the chip surface. The chip surface has a dextran matrix derivatised with carboxyl groups, which after activation with N-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS) and 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide (EDC), form reactive succinimide esters which allows the covalent capturing of the ligand via any

available primary amine groups (e.g. Lysine) on the ligand (in this case anti-HuCk antibody). The capture antibody was diluted 1/100 in 10 mM Sodium acetate buffer pH 5.0 and passed over the activated chip surface for a period of at least 420 s. Final ligand immobilisation levels over 12,000 RU were deemed to be satisfactory.

Following immobilisation, the level of each scAb to be captured was identified using the standard SPR equation with a theoretical R_{Max} of 100 RU. Analyte MW refers to the molecular weight of hT40 or dGA/ dGAE molecules, while ligand MW refers to the molecular weight of the scAbs tested. R_L is the desired capture level and S refers to the stoichiometric ratio:

$$R_{\text{max}} = \frac{\text{Analyte MW}}{\text{ligand MW}} \times R_L \times S$$

The scAb to be tested was added only to flow cell 2 so that flow cell 1 could act as a control to subtract any interaction with the analyte and the chip surface. Both single and multi-cycle runs were utilised using wizards developed in the Biacore X100 control software which are both accepted methods of kinetic analysis (Karlsson, R., et al. Analyzing a kinetic titration series using affinity biosensors (2006) Analytical Biochemistry 349 :136-47). The multi-cycle protocol was as follows - Three start-up cycles composed of an initial capture, to the desired level, of the scAb to be tested was performed followed by a 30 s injection of glycine buffer pH 2.0 after each cycle to regenerate the chip surface. The regeneration step removed any captured scAb whilst leaving the capture antibody intact and able to repeat the capture for the next cycle. Following three start-up cycles increasing concentrations (0.15625 nM- 100 nM) of the target to be tested were added to the chip surface after the desired scAb capture. The target was added for a 120 s association period and 420 s dissociation period followed by another regeneration, 30 s injection of glycine buffer pH 2.0 in between each cycle.

The single cycle kinetics protocol was similar and utilised the same level of scAb capture. Three start-up cycles were used followed by 5 increasing concentrations of the analyte (6.25 nM - 100 nM) for an association period of 120 s followed by a dissociation period of 420 s for each concentration. In single cycle kinetics the regeneration step was performed only after the final analyte concentration was added. Binding responses were analysed in Biacore X100 evaluation software and data fitted to a 1:1 binding model to obtain kinetic and affinity characterisation. Kinetic rates and equilibrium binding constants of lead scAbs are given in Table No: 23-26.

Table 23 Kinetic rates and equilibrium binding constants of lead scAbs for T441

Top clones (scAbs)	k_a (1/Ms)	k_d (1/s)	k_D (M) for hT40 binding
S1D12	1.252×10^6	1.5×10^{-4}	122 pM
S1G2	1.057×10^6	1.8×10^{-4}	170 pM
S1E12	3.85×10^5	3.19×10^{-4}	829 pM
CC7	2.957×10^5	3.659×10^{-4}	1.23 nM
NS2A1	2.521×10^5	7.393×10^{-4}	2.9 nM

CA4	4.581×10^5	1.654×10^{-3}	3.61 nM
CE3	1.745×10^5	6.620×10^{-4}	3.79 nM
412-E10	2.71×10^5	8.5×10^{-4}	3.16 nM
CE2	2.137×10^5	1.077×10^{-3}	5.03 nM
CB7	1.334×10^5	6.936×10^{-4}	5.19 nM
E1B8	To be determined		
E2E8	No T441 binding		
MoD9	To be determined		

Table 24 - Kinetic rates and equilibrium binding constants of lead scAbs for dGA or dGAE

Top clones (scAbs)	k_a (1/Ms)	K_d (1/s)	k_D (M) for truncated tau binding
S1D12	1.21×10^6	4.18×10^{-4}	344 pM (dGA)
S1G2	7.83×10^5	3.499×10^{-4}	447 pM (dGA)
S1E12	2.99×10^6	1.627×10^{-3}	543 pM (dGA)
NS2A1	1.88×10^5	1.02×10^{-3}	5.4 nM (dGA)
E1B8	1.37×10^5	2.42×10^{-3}	17.7 nM (dGA)
E2E8	4.77×10^5	1.915×10^{-4}	401 pM (dGAE)
E1E8	1.535×10^5	1.4×10^{-3}	6.3 nM (dGAE)
MoD9	To be determined		
CE2	To be determined		

Table 25 - Kinetic rates and equilibrium binding constants of '3a' and '3b'scAbs for hT40

scAb clones	k_a (1/Ms)	k_d (1/s)	k_D (nM) for htau40 binding
3aA6	1.900×10^4	1.880×10^{-2}	989 nM
3aB7	2.072×10^5	1.435×10^{-2}	69 nM
3aD3	5.444×10^5	1.038×10^{-2}	19.1 nM
3aD6	4.021×10^5	6.641×10^{-3}	16.5 nM
3aH6	2.757×10^6	9.868×10^{-3}	3.6 nM
3aG3	6.294×10^4	3.869×10^{-4}	6.1 nM
3bA3	1.472×10^4	4.643×10^{-3}	315 nM
3bC1	3.056×10^4	4.231×10^{-3}	138 nM
3bF4	1.093×10^5	1.532×10^{-2}	140 nM
3bG4	6.669×10^6	5.966×10^{-2}	8.9 nM

Table 26 - Summary of equilibrium binding constants and binding regions of top anti-tau scAbs

Top clones (scAbs)	Epitope	kD for hT40 binding
CB7	13-25	5.19 nM
CC7	145-157	1.23 nM
NS2A1	297-390	2.9 nM
S1E12	297-390	829 pM
E1B8	316-336	Not available
CE2	319-331	5.03 nM
CE3	331-360	3.79 nM
S1D12	337-349	122 pM
CA4	355-367	3.61 nM
S1G2	367-379	170 pM
MoD9	373-385	
E2E8	391	No hT40 binding
412-E10	412-441	3.16 nM

Example 15: IgG Reformating

Top anti-tau scAbs were reformatted into sheep-mouse (IgG2a) chimeric mAbs by inserting respective VH and VL genes into our dual plasmid eukaryotic vector system (pEE2a) encoding constant heavy and light chain genes of mouse IgG2a separately and expressing recombinant mAbs in a mammalian expression system. Based on the DNA sequencing data, VH and VL genes of shortlisted anti-tau scAbs were custom synthesised separately by introducing the cloning sites BssHII and BstEII (for VH genes) and BssHII and XhoI (for VL genes) at their 5' and 3' end respectively (GeneArt custom gene synthesis service by ThermoFisher). Custom synthesised VH and VL genes of respective scAbs and the eukaryotic expression vectors pEE2aMH (encoding mouse IgG2a constant regions) and pEE2aML (mouse λ /k constant domain) were digested with restriction enzymes mentioned above. DNA bands corresponding to antibody variable regions and pEE2a heavy and light chain vector backbones were isolated and purified using DNA gel extraction and purification following QIAquick gel extraction kit manufacturer's instructions. Purified DNA fragments were ligated and used to transform electrocompetent E. coli TG1 cells for plasmid propagation. DNA sequencing of extracted plasmid confirmed successful reformating into sheep-mouse chimeric mAbs. Large scale preparation of heavy and light chain plasmids for each anti-tau mAb clone was performed (Qiagen Plasmid Mega kit) and used to transfect Human Embryonic Kidney (HEK293F) cells grown in suspension using polyethylenimine (PEI). The transfected cells were grown for 8 days before harvesting cell culture supernatants which were then purified using Protein A beads following standard protocols. Purified mAbs were confirmed for T40 binding using ELISA and their affinities (kD) values obtained by running Biacore assays as described previously, with changes as described below.

Example 16: Analysis of the binding kinetics of anti-tau mAbs using Biacore X100™

For anti-tau mAb SPR measurements, htau40 was conjugated to the surface of a CM5 sensor chip using amine coupling as explained previously. Briefly, 2 µg/mL htau40 in 10 mM Sodium acetate buffer (pH 4.0) was passed over the activated chip surface (EDC/NHS) in flow cell 2 for a period for 45 s followed by blocking with 1 M ethanolamine-HCl pH 8.5. Flow cell 1 was set up as reference control and blocked simultaneously. Final immobilisation level of htau40 (R_{max}) was approximately 250 RU. Following a minimum of three start-up cycles, increasing concentrations (0.78 nM - 25 nM) of the mAb in HBS-EP+ buffer was added at a rate of 30 µL/min to the chip. The mAb was added for a 120 s association period and 600 s dissociation period followed by a regeneration cycle of 30 s injection of glycine buffer pH 1.5 in between each cycle. Binding responses were analysed in Biacore X100 evaluation software and data fitted to a 1:1 binding model to obtain kinetic and affinity characterisation. Kinetic rates and equilibrium binding constants of lead anti-tau mAbs are given in the table below

Table 27 - Kinetic rates and equilibrium binding constants of lead anti-tau mAbs for hT40 (TBD, to be determined)

Top clones (mAbs)	k _a (1/Ms)	k _d (1/s)	k _D (M) for hT40 binding
S1D12	4.058 x 10 ⁵	4.093 x 10 ⁻⁵	101 pM
S1G2	3.398 x 10 ⁵	4.748 x 10 ⁻⁵	140 pM
S1E12	TBD	TBD	TBD
CC7	4.576 x 10 ⁶	3.164 x 10 ⁻²	6.9 nM
NS2A1	8.937 x 10 ⁵	2.621 x 10 ⁻³	10 nM
CA4	1.020 x 10 ⁶	1.276 x 10 ⁻³	1.3 nM
CE3	1.030 x 10 ⁵	1.718 x 10 ⁻³	16.7 nM
412-E10	1.658 x 10 ⁶	1.497 x 10 ⁻²	9.0 nM
CE2	4.579 x 10 ⁵	5.218 x 10 ⁻³	11 nM
CB7	2.568 x 10 ⁶	9.451 x 10 ⁻³	3.7 nM

Example 17: Determination of Limits of detection (LoD) for high affinity anti-tau antibody pairs

The diverse panel of high affinity anti-tau antibodies (scAb and mAb formats) were paired in various combinations and tested in a Sandwich (or Capture) ELISA format to calculate their limits of detection (LoD) and their ability to differentiate between different tau species. Biologically, tau exists in 6 different isoforms and is subjected to numerous post translational modifications, some of them playing a significant role in the progression of neurodegeneration.

For Sandwich ELISA using colourimetric detection, 96 well Maxisorp plates were coated with the capture antibody S1D12 mAb at 1 µg/ml for 1 h at RT followed by blocking with 2% MPBS as normal. Full length tau (hT40), at 1 µg/ml starting concentration was added to designated wells and double diluted across rest of the plates and left to incubate at R/T for 1 h. A series of detection scAbs with varying epitope recognition properties were added at 10 µg/ml to designated wells (Figure 22). For colourimetric detection HRP conjugated anti-HuCK secondary antibody was used and the resulting immunoreaction was developed and absorbance at 450 nm measured as described previously. Cut-off point for a positive binding event was an absorbance value of 0.3 following background subtraction. In order to enhance the assay sensitivity, a chemiluminescent detection method was adopted where 50 µL SuperSignal ELISA Femto Substrate (Thermo Scientific) was added to each well following incubation with anti-HuCK HRP antibody and subsequent washing. The luminescence was read using Clariostar Plus microplate reader. A further modification to this protocol was done where various detection scAbs were directly conjugated with HRP and detected using chemiluminescent protocol as before. The lowest levels of detection achieved using different detection scAbs and a comparison of colourimetric and chemiluminescent methods of detection are shown in Table 28

Table 28. The LoDs achieved using S1D12 mAb capture and various detection scAbs and a comparison of colourimetric and chemiluminescent methods of detection

Detection scAb (Epitope)	Tau-441 affinities (Biacore)	LoD (ng/ml) colourimetric detection	LoD (ng/ml) chemiluminescence detection	LoD (ng/ml) direct conjugation of detection scAb & chemiluminescence
CB7 (13-25)	5.2 (nM)	15	3.33	
CA2 (100-155)	-	6	0.37	
CC7 (145-157)	1.2 (nM)	6	3.33	
CA4 (355-367)	3.6 (nM)	6	0.37	
S1G10 (367-379)	0.4 (nM)	2	0.12	
CB8 (367-379)	0.6 (nM)	2	1.11	
S1G2 (367-379)	0.6 (nM)	2	0.12	0.04
412E10 (412-441)	3.3 (nM)	20	0.37	

E2E8 (E dependant)	0.4 (nM) (dGAE)	-		
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Similarly, a sandwich ELISA format was set up using S1G2 mAb at 1 µg/ml as the capture antibody and HRP conjugated S1D12 mAb for detection. The assay was conducted using chemiluminescent protocol described above. The assay setup and quantification of the limit of detection are shown in Fig 23 and 24

Example 18: Interrogation of mixed samples and their quantification using antibody pairs

The ability to interrogate and determine the levels of various tau species or fragments in patient samples is crucial in early AD diagnosis. To this end, an experiment was set up to assess whether the concentrations of different tau species could be determined in spiked samples using various antibody pairings directed towards specific regions of the tau protein. Four spiked samples were prepared with varying concentrations and types of tau species - sample A with 5 nM full length human tau (hT40), sample B with 3.3 nM dGA, 3.3 nM dGAE and 3.3 nM hT40 (9.9 nM total protein), sample C with 2 nM dGA, and sample D with 1 nM hT40 and 4 nM dGA (5 nM total protein). These samples were analysed by performing three separate 'blind' sandwich ELISAs using S1D12 mAb to capture the different species in the mixture and detection using scAbs with specific epitopes.

For ELISA #1, wells were coated with S1D12 mAb, blocked and 20 nM hT40 was added to the first well for standard curve plotting. Four spiked samples were added to the first wells of designated rows and all samples were double diluted in PBS across the plate including the standard. The samples were incubated at RT for 1 h, washed as normal and 1 µg/ml CB7 scAb was added to each well and incubated as before. Secondary antibody anti HuCk HRP was added and the reaction was developed and read as described previously. For ELISA #2, 20 nM dGAE was added to the first well and double diluted across the plate for standard curve plotting. As for ELISA #1, spiked samples of unknown protein concentrations were added to respective wells in doubling dilutions. The detection antibody used was 'E' specific E2E8 scAb and rest of the ELISA was performed as described above. For ELISA #3, a standard curve was plotted using average absorbance values obtained from binding events of hT40, dGA and dGAE all at starting concentration of 20 nM. As before, four spiked samples were tested for binding using S1D12 capture mAb and core binding S1G2 detection scAb. Based on ELISA signals of unknown spiked samples, the types of tau fragments present in the mixture and their individual concentrations were determined as shown in Figures 25, 26 and 27. A summary of tau types and their concentrations used to spike these samples and the deduced concentrations from ELISAs are given in Table 29.

Table 28 Summary of various tau species and their concentrations in the spiked samples and their deduced concentrations and reactivity using three different antibody pairings in a sandwich ELISA format.

Samples	Concentrations of various tau species in the sample mix	ELISA #1 S1D12-CB7 Reactivity & deduced concentration of samples	ELISA #2 S1D12-E2E8 Reactivity & deduced concentration of samples	ELISA #3 S1D12-S1G2 Reactivity & deduced concentration of samples
A	5 nM hT40	5 nM N terminal	None	3 nM core
B	3.3 nM hT40 + 3.3 nM dGA + 3.3 nM dGAE	4 nM N terminal	3.2 nM 'E' specific	~9 nM core
C	2 nM dGA	None	None	1 nM
D	1 nM hT40 + 4 nM dGA	1.5 nM N terminal	None	3.2 nM core

Example 19: SDS treatment of dGAE aggregates and restoration of immunoreactivity

The immunoreactivity of core region scAbs is lost when dGA/dGAE fragments are aggregated which could be due to the non-availability of respective epitopes in this conformation. We have noticed Sodium dodecyl sulphate (SDS) can break apart dGA/dGAE aggregates and separate them into smaller fragments by performing an SDS-PAGE. This has been replicated and tested using an ELISA as described below.

For aggregation, 1000 μ L 100 μ M dGAE + 10 μ L 10 mM DTT was added to a 'LoBind' microfuge tubes and agitated at 700 RPM /37 °C for 24 hours. Resulting sample centrifuged at 17,000 x g / 4 ° C for 60 min and supernatant discarded to remove left over monomer. Pellet resuspended in half the original volume for future experiments and hereafter referred to as 'aggregates'. 1 μ L of aggregates was added to 1 ml of PBS and SDS was added to a final concentration of 1 % (w/v). This was left to incubate on lab bench for 1 h with gentle agitation every 15 minutes. In order to neutralise the SDS effect on ELISA, Triton X-100 added to a final concentration of 3 % (v/v) and mixed gently by pipetting to prevent any bubble formation. 200 μ L added of this mix was to the first well of an ELISA plate coated with 1 μ g/ml S1D12 mAb and blocked with 2 % MPBS. Similarly aggregates treated with only SDS or Triton X-100, untreated aggregates, dGAE monomers treated with only SDS or SDS+Triton X-100 were also added to designated wells as controls. All samples were then double diluted across the plate in final volumes

of 100 µl. The final column was left with no protein to act as a blank. This was allowed to stand at room temperature for 1 hour followed by the addition of detection scAb – S1G2 at 10 µg/ml. Anti-HuCk HRP labelled secondary antibody was added as described previously and ELISA data generated was represented using the graph below. In addition, limits of detection (LoD) of various core binding antibody pairing for SDS Triton X-100 treated dGAE aggregates were calculated using the above describe ELISA method and substituting capture mAbs and detection scAbs as shown in Table 30.

Table 30 shows the limits of detection (LoD) of various capture mAb-detection scAb pairing for SDS Triton X-100 treated dGAE aggregates in a sandwich ELISA system. NB denotes no binding

	<u>Capture System</u>					
	S1D12 mAb		423 mAb		Direct immobilisation of dGAE aggregates	
	Untreated dGAE agg.	+SDS Triton dGAE agg.	Untreated dGAE agg.	+SDS Triton dGAE agg.	Untreated dGAE agg.	+SDS Triton dGAE agg.
Detection scAb						
S1G2 scAb	250 ng/ml	2 ng/ml	NB	30 ng/ml	NB	16 ng/ml
CA9 scAb		4 ng/ml				40 ng/ml
CA12 scAb		2 ng/ml				16 ng/ml
CB8 scAb		4 ng/ml				30 ng/ml

Example 19: Antibody based detection of various tau fragments in transgenic mice brain lysate collection.

Mouse brain lysates were prepared from wildtype, Line 1, Line 66 +/+ and Line 66 +/- (Melis et al., 2015, all surplus from Charles River, part of study R0144). All animals were female, 7-8 months old except Line 66 +/+ which were 5 months old. The Line 66 mouse construct (Fig. 23) contains human tau cDNA coding for the longest human tau isoform (2N4R tau; 441 amino acids) with two point mutations at P301S and G335D. The L1 cDNA construct (Fig. 23) contains human tau cDNA coding for amino acid residues 296-390 with a signal sequence and related sequences in a murine Thy-1 expression cassette. For brain lysate preparation, half brains were sectioned into four and the individual sections were homogenised in 400 µl of ice cold RIPA buffer (Cell signalling Technology) containing protease and phosphatase inhibitors. Total protein concentrations for individual samples were established by BCA-assay and each sample was subsequently diluted to 1 mg/ml for future experiments.

For capture ELISA, 100 µL S1D12 capture mAb was used to coat a nunc 96 well Maxisorp plate at 1 µg/ml and incubated for 1 hour at 37 °C. Plate was washed as previously and then blocked for 1 hour at 37 °C in 2 % MPBS. Brain homogenate samples (50 ng total protein) from each mouse type were added to the first wells and double diluted across the plate in PBS. These samples were left to incubate at RT for 1 hour. Various detection scAbs encompassing epitopes of interest were then added to the plate at 1 µg/ml and incubated for 1 h at RT. Secondary antibody used was anti-HuCK HRP and the assays were developed as described previously. Using S1D12 mAb capture and two separate scAb detectors, S-1G2 (Fig. 24A) and C-B7 (Fig. 24B), it was possible to differentiate between L1 and L66 samples and the wild type. When s1G2 scAb was used, tau protein was detected in 50 µg of total brain protein in all four different sample types. However, with C-B7 scAb, hT40 tau was specifically detected in L66 samples and an increase was observed in L66 homozygous group compared to L66 heterozygous samples. Therefore S1D12-CB7 pair was able to differentiate L66 from L1 and wild type with the use of an N' terminally directed detection scAb which is due to a difference in sequence homology between mouse and human tau (Hernandez et al., 2019). Over the whole protein there is approximately 77% homology at the amino acid level, but the proteins differ significantly in the N'-terminal region.

Example 20: Antibody based detection of tau fragments in transgenic mice plasma collection

Plasma samples from WT, L1, L66 +/- and L66 +/+ of various ages (1.5 – 9 months) were taken as described. Mice were terminally anaesthetized using an overdose of sodium pentobarbital and blood was collected through cardiac puncture through a Plastipak syringe pre-rinsed with heparinised saline heparin (10 U/ml) (Heparin sodium salt; Sigma-Aldrich) and transferred into a plastic vial containing lithium heparin anticoagulant (Sarstedt Ltd.) Blood samples, kept on ice for no more than 30 minutes, were centrifuged to obtain plasma at 2000 x g for 5 minutes at 6 °C. Plasma samples were stored at -20 °C.

For mouse plasma capture ELISA, 100 µL capture mAb was coated to the bottom of a black nunc 96 well 'maxisorp' plate at 2.5 µg/ml and incubated for 1 hour at 37 °C. After washing and blocking as normal, several known standard solutions were set up in triplicate starting at 20 ng/ml of the desired protein before double diluted in the remaining wells. Mouse samples were added to wells in duplicate with a blank in between each sample group. Line1 plasma was diluted 1:10 before addition to plate to account for its high concentration while other samples were diluted 1:2 to account for potential matrix effects. These samples were left to incubate at RT for 1 hour. HRP-conjugated secondary scAb (conjugation carried out according to manufacturer's guidelines, Abcam) was added to each well and left to incubate at RT for 1 hour. The ELISA was developed using SuperSignal ELISA Femto Substrate (Thermo Scientific) and total luminescence was read on Clariostar Plus plate reader (BMG Labtech). Tau concentrations were established using a 4-parameter fit on concentration curves generated from recombinant tau protein spiked into samples at known concentration. For WT and L66 hT40 was used as a calibrator while dGA was used for L1 calibration.

Using S1D12 capture and S1G2 detection we were able to detect varying levels of 'core region' containing tau fragments in samples from WT, L1, L66 +/- and L66 +/+. In WT and L66, the levels detected were in low ng/ml (WT at 5 month: 1.947 ng/ml, WT at 9 month: 2.177 ng/ml); (L66+/- at 5 month: 0.567 ng/ml), L66+/+ at 5 month: 1.937 ng/ml). However higher concentrations of core region tau species were detected in L1 samples (5 month: 12.355 ng/ml, 9 month 13.661 ng/ml). This is in agreement with the genetic makeup of L1 mouse which contains a truncated 3 repeat fragment corresponding residues 296-390 of hT40 and a signal sequence that drives this towards the endoplasmic reticulum. This could explain the presence of elevated levels of repeat domain core containing fragments in L1 mouse plasma that was detected using our core region pair, S1D12 mAb and S1G2 scAb. This region also shares sequence homology with mouse tau protein which is reflected by base level detection of the core in WT, L66+/+ and L66+/- plasma samples.

In addition, using a second capture-detection antibody pairing, we have successfully shown the detection of human specific tau fragments in Line66 mice which express the longest tau isoform (hT40, 441 amino acids) containing 4 repeat regions with point mutations P301S and G335D (Melis et al., 2014). Using S1D12 mAb as the capture antibody and CB7 scAb detection, Line 66+/+ mouse plasma at 1.5 months showed the presence of detectable levels of human tau as compared to the wild type mouse of same age (Fig 32A). The detection scAb CB7 (epitope 13-25 on hT40) does not cross react with endogenous mouse tau protein in Line66 transgenic model since the N terminal amino acid sequences differs considerably with between human and mouse tau. In addition, using S1D12-S1G2 pairing we have shown similar levels of core repeat region tau fragments which share close sequence homology in transgenic and wild type animals (Fig 32B) This demonstrates the utility of our panel of antibody pairs in detecting various tau fragments and truncations in transgenic mice samples which can be translated into a diagnostic setting to interrogate the presence of different tau species in diseased vs cognitively normal human samples.

Example 21: Antibody based detection of tau fragments in plasma samples from AD patients

Six plasma samples from individuals with an AD diagnosis and 6 samples from aged matched controls were sourced (Logical Biological, Kent UK), divided into 100 µl aliquots and stored at – 80 °C (Table 31)

Table 31 Demographic characteristics of human plasma samples used in this study including the age, sex and ethnicity of cognitively normal controls and patients with confirmed AD diagnosis. Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) scores of AD patients are also shown.

	<u>Donor Number</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>MMSE</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Ethnicity</u>
Age-Matched Control	PL 361	64	-	F	Caucasian
	PL 362	61	-	M	Caucasian
	PL 363	61	-	M	Caucasian
	PL 364	63	-	M	African American
	PL 365	61	-	F	Caucasian
	PL 366	66	-	F	African American
AD	PL 505	62	27	F	Caucasian
	PL 506	63	25	F	Caucasian Italian
	PL 507	64	26	M	Hispanic
	PL 508	57	25	M	African American
	PL 509	64	21	M	African American
	PL 510	63	27	F	Caucasian

For sandwich ELISA, 100 µl S1D12 capture mAb was coated to the bottom of a black nunc 96 well 'maxisorp' plate at 2.5 µg/ml and incubated for 1 hour at 37 °C. Plate was washed as previously and then blocked for 1 hour at 37 °C in 2 % MPBS. Several known hT40 standard solutions were set up in triplicate starting at 8 ng/ml and diluted 2-fold in the remaining wells using 50 % sheep plasma as a diluent to account for any plasma matrix effects. 100 µl of each human sample diluted 1:2 in PBS were added to wells in duplicate with a blank in between each sample group. Samples were diluted 1:2 to account for potential matrix effects. These samples were left to incubate at 4 °C overnight. HRP-conjugated secondary scAb ((S-1G2 and C-B7) (conjugation carried out according to manufacturer's guidelines, Abcam)) was added to each well and left to incubate at RT for 1 hour. The ELISA was developed using SuperSignal ELISA Femto Substrate (Thermo Scientific) and total luminescence was read on a plate reader (BMG Labtech). Tau concentrations were established using a 4-parameter fit on concentration curves generated from recombinant human tau protein spiked into samples at known concentration.

Tau was detected in both patient groups (Figure 33). Interestingly different levels were detected depending on the combination of capture/detection antibody used. This data provides a proof of concept that using different pairs of antibodies depending on their epitopes will allow us to detect different fragments of tau within plasma.

Table 32 Summarises plasma tau levels of individual samples in AD and control groups using the capture-detection pairs as shown (*Below assay limit of detection, **Above assay limit of detection)

	<u>Donor Number</u>	<u>S1G2-HRP Detection (ng/ml)</u>	<u>CB7-HRP Detection (ng/ml)</u>
Age-Matched Control	PL 361	*	1.89
	PL 362	*	1.04
	PL 363	0.036	1.89
	PL 364	0.565	1.93
	PL 365	*	*
	PL 366	0.74	1.84
AD	PL 505	*	*
	PL 506	*	6.75
	PL 507	2.13	2.7
	PL 508	1.83	**
	PL 509	0.63	*
	PL 510	1.38	1.96

Example 22: LMT mediated inhibition of dGAE aggregates and restoration of immunoreactivity

The truncated core repeat domain dGAE (297-391), is the predominant fragment that constitutes bulk of the PHF core in AD (Wischik et al, 1988). During dGAE aggregation in vitro, scAb binding regions on dGA/dGAE are 'hidden' or 'occluded' which leads to a loss of immunoreactivity in aggregation samples. Here we have shown the occlusion of binding regions in aggregated dGAE samples and the recovery of immunoreactivity in the presence of LMTM, a tau-aggregation inhibitor. The scAbs tested for binding are core region specific S1D12, CA4, CB3, CE2, CE3 and CA9 (binding regions given in Table 22). For preparing the aggregates, 10 µl 10 mM DTT was added to 1000 µl 100 µM dGAE and agitated with/without LMTM (1:5 ratio) at 700 rpm for 24 h at 37 °C. Following overnight agitation, one third of each sample was kept aside as 'total' and the rest was spun down at 16000 x g for 30 min and separated into 'supernatant' and 'pellet'. The pellet was then resuspended in half the original volume for further experiments. The immunoreactivities of core region specific scAbs towards dGAE aggregates formed with/without LMTM was tested using a sandwich ELISA format using a 'E' specific monoclonal antibody 423 mAb. This mAb has been shown to specifically bind to the Pronase resistant core structure in the PHFs (Wischik et al, 1988). ELISA plates were coated with 10 µg/ml 423 mAb and blocked as normal. Doubling dilutions of dGAE aggregate 'total', 'supernatant' and 'pellet' samples at 10 µg/ml starting concentration were added to designated wells in doubling dilutions in 1 x PBS. dGAE monomer (non-aggregated) was included as assay control. All double dilutions were done in final volumes of 100 µl. This was left to incubate on lab bench for 1 h followed by the addition of test scAbs at 10 µg/ml. Anti-HuCK HRP labelled secondary antibody was added as described previously and ELISA data generated is represented using the graph below.

Table 33 Core binding scAbs tested in epitope occlusion assays and their specific binding regions on Ht40

scAbs tested	Binding regions on hT40
S-1D12	337-355
CA4	355-367
C-B3	360-390
C-E2	319-331
C-E3	297-356
C-A9	367-379

All scAbs tested showed increased binding to aggregated dGAE 'total' and 'supernatant' samples, when aggregation was conducted in the presence of LMTM. This proves the opening or revealing of occluded antibody binding regions on dGAE where LMTM is preventing the aggregation event, leading to an increased immunoreactivity (Fig 34).

Example 23: Ranking of Tau mAbs based on their ability to capture dGAE aggregates

The aggregation cascade of natively unfolded tau into insoluble filaments is a defining pathological feature of AD. Therefore, it is logical to target aggregated tau filaments for both therapeutic and diagnostic purposes. The following experiment was performed to assess the ability of our dGA mAb panel to bind aggregated dGAE using a capture ELISA method. Aggregates were prepared by incubating 100 μ M dGAE and 10 mM DTT for 24 h at 37 °C with shaking at 700 RPM. The following day, dGAE aggregates were centrifuged at 17,000 x g for 20 min and the supernatant was removed. The remaining pellet was washed with 10 mM phosphate buffer and centrifuged as above. Washing was repeated a further two times to remove any remaining dGAE monomer. The dGAE pellet was resuspended in 100 μ l of 10 mM phosphate buffer. (Using a separate capture ELISA based quantification, we have worked out the efficiency of our dGAE aggregation as 80%)

For assessing the mAb panel for aggregate binding, designated rows of a maxisorp plate were coated with 1 μ g/ml of each of the capture mAbs (S1D12, S1G2, CA4, NS2A1, CE2, E2E8 and CB7) and blocked as before. Following washing, 800 nM aggregated dGAE was added to the designated wells, double diluted across the plate and incubated for 1 h at RT. The plate was washed again and 1 μ g/ml S1G2 scAb was added as detection antibody and incubated for 1 h at RT. To the row where S1G2 mAb was used for capture, 1 μ g/ml s1D12 scAb was added as capture antibody instead of S1G2. The assay was developed using HRP labelled HuCK as described previously.

Capture ELISA graph indicates that S1D12 and S1G2 mAbs are most efficient at capturing aggregated dGAE, along with E2E8 mAb which like the 423 mAb is a '391E' binder (see Figure 35).

Example 24: Epitope mapping and binding affinities of reformatted anti-tau mAbs

For anti-tau mAb SPR measurements (Biacore X100™) and epitope mapping, the same methodologies described above (see Example 16) were followed. Kinetic rates and equilibrium binding constants of additional anti-tau mAbs and the regions recognised on hT40 are given in the Table 25 below

Clones (mAbs)	ka (1/Ms)	kd(1/s)	kD (M) for hT40 binding	hT40 binding region
3aH6	3.128×10^{-6}	1.522×10^{-4}	49 pM	1-15
3bG4	4.540×10^{-6}	2.964×10^{-4}	65 pM	1-15
3aG3	1.532×10^{-7}	4.751×10^{-3}	310 pM	1-15
3bD11	2.671×10^{-6}	3.979×10^{-3}	1.490 nM	37-49
E1B8	3.238×10^{-5}	1.367×10^{-3}	4.22 nM	319-331
MD9	6.620×10^{-4}	1.462×10^{-3}	22 nM	373-385
*Tau12	1.030×10^5	1.718×10^{-3}	1.44 nM	6-18

Table 25 - Kinetic rates, equilibrium binding constants and binding regions of newly converted anti-tau mAbs. *Commercially sourced Tau12 mAb binding kinetics and an affinity value was also measured and included in the table.

Example 25: Antibodies show Specificity to Human Tau in L66^{+/+} Brain Homogenates

Western blots with brain homogenates prepared from 3 animals of each genotype: wild-type (WT) mice; L66^{+/+} mouse; and L1^{+/+} mouse brain (all 5 months old) show specificity for human tau using CB7 (hT40 13-26) and CC7 (hT40 145-157) antibodies (*Genotype and phenotype descriptions for L1 and L66^{+/+} are provided in the initial filing document*). Protein equivalent to 20 µg from each brain extract was separated using 4-20% bis-tris gels and run in 1X MES buffer. Figure 36 shows a blot stained with CB7 antibody. A clear band is visible in the lanes containing L66^{+/+} samples, but no other bands are detectable (WT or L1^{+/+}). Figure 37 shows a similar outcome when a blot containing the same sample preparations is interrogated with the CC7 antibody. Once again, a band having relative mobility of 65 kDa is visible in the L66 sample with no other reactive bands present.

When these results are compared with western blots obtained with the core domain antibody binders S1D12 (hT40 337-355) (Fig. 38) and S1G2 (hT40 367-379) (Fig. 39) the results are very different with numerous bands visible in each mouse sample. A band is detected in each sample (WT, L66^{+/+} and L1^{+/+}) with an apparent molecular weight of approximately 55 kDa. This band most likely corresponds to endogenous mouse tau which is of a similar size. In the L66^{+/+} samples, a second band running at approximately 68 kDa is also detected. The presence of numerous other bands indicates proteolytic truncation of tau within brain homogenates. In addition, in Fig. 39 the S1G2 antibody is able to detect the pathologic 10-kDa tau fragment that is capable of seeding disease in other cells.

The amino acid sequences of the human and mouse tau regions that contain the epitopes of CB7, CC7, S1D12 and S1G2 are superimposed for comparison (Fig 40). It is clear that both CB7 and CC7 epitopes fall in areas with no homology between the human and mouse tau sequences; however, in the core region, the sequences are identical. Together these blots and sequence analysis (Figs 36 – 40) highlight the diagnostic utility of these antibodies as they are able to recognise the presence of pathologic human tau in a transgenic mouse brain against a background of endogenous mouse tau protein. These antibodies could be utilised to track the fragmentation patterns of pathologic tau species during aging and in relation to any pharmacologic treatments that may affect the (human) tau protein, its aggregation, movement between compartments in the body (e.g. between brain and blood, between blood and saliva or between brain and blood and saliva) and its pattern of fragmentation.

Example 26: Core and N-terminal antibody pairings detect age-related tau protein truncations or occlusion of core regions in brain homogenates of ageing L66 mice

Brains from L66^{+/+} mice of various ages (1.5-month, n=11; 3-month, n=11; and 5-month, n=8) were homogenised as previously described and protein content quantified by BCA assay. These brain homogenates were then screened in paired antibody ELISAs to assess age-related changes in the tau fragmentation pattern. Brain homogenates were included in a sandwich ELISA in duplicate and tau values were determined against the linear section of an hTau40 standard curve.

When using S1D12 antibody to capture tau from these brain homogenates and CB7 as the detector antibody, a marked decrease in tau signals was observed with increasing age (Figure 41A). This finding was confirmed by changing the orientation of the assay and using CB7 as the capture antibody and S1G2 as detector (Figure 41B). Since the pairings used in this assay detect tau fragments that contain the amino acids spanning from 13-379, any truncation or occlusion of epitopes as a result of pathology-related aggregation that masks the core will result in lower tau detection. The progressive loss of signal that is observed here suggests that either a truncation or epitope occlusion event is occurring or that multiple events of this nature are occurring during the aging of L66^{+/+} mice.

In order to gain further insights into the protein fragmentation state of the tau matrix in the samples investigated above, the levels of a smaller N'-terminal fragment were determined using the CB7

antibody capture paired with HT7, a commercial antibody with an epitope in the region tau159-163. Interestingly, there was a trend towards an increase in signal as the L66^{+/+} mice aged. So, as the longer core to N'-terminal tau fragment decreases with age (Fig. 41), the levels of smaller, truncated fragments of human tau increase in this transgenic mouse line (Fig 42).

Example 27: Ultrasensitive Assays for the Detection of Tau fragments in Biological Fluids

Utilising Single Molecule Array (Simoa®) technology we have lowered the limit of detection of our assays substantially, in some instances to below 1 pg/ml tau protein (or protein fragment). Simoa® is a bead-based technology where a capture antibody is coated on to magnetic beads which can then be concentrated out of solution using a magnet. A biotinylated detector is added which binds to the captured molecule of interest. Streptavidin β -D-Galactosidase (SBG) binds to the detector and subsequently hydrolyses resorufin β -D-galactopyranoside (RPG) into a fluorescent product that is used for detection of the immunocomplex. Table 26 summarises the antibody pairings and limits of detection for assays successfully transferred to the Simoa® system.

Assay	Capture antibody	Detector antibody	Simoa® limit of detection (pg/ml)
Core (<i>Tau 337-379</i>)	S1D12 (<i>Binding region hT40 337-355</i>)	S1G2 (<i>Binding region hT40 367-379</i>)	0.75
Core – proline (<i>Tau 159-379</i>)	S1G2	HT7 (<i>Binding region hT40 159-163</i>)	0.32
	S1D12	HT7	0.32
	S1D12	BT2 (<i>Binding region hT40 194-198</i>)	0.32
Core - N' (<i>Tau 1-379</i>)	S1D12	Tau12 (<i>Binding region hT40 6-18</i>)	0.75
	S1G2	Tau12	1.6
	S1G2	3bG4 (<i>Binding region hT40 1-15</i>)	20
Full-length (<i>Tau 1-441</i>)	CB7 (<i>Binding region hT40 13-25</i>)	Tau46 (<i>Binding region hT40 409-441</i>)	2.2
N' – proline (<i>Tau 6-198</i>)	CB7	BT2	0.75
	CB7	HT7	2.2
	Tau12	HT7	2.2
Core – C' (<i>Tau 337-441</i>)	S1G2	Tau46	2.2

Table 26: Assays that have successfully been transferred to Simoa®. Capture antibody is coated to magnetic beads and the detector antibody is biotinylated. Limits of detection for each assay are included.

Example 28: Measuring tau fragment levels in AD and healthy control plasma samples

Human plasma samples were sourced from the commercial supplier Logical Biological Ltd. Healthy control (HC, n=12) and samples from individuals with a diagnosis of AD or mild cognitive impairment (AD/MCI, n=42) were aliquoted into low bind microfuge tubes and stored at – 80 °C.

The Simoa® experiments used for plasma screening utilised a 3-step protocol optimised for use with plasma samples. A standard curve (540 pg/ml - 0.7 pg/ml) was created by spiking recombinant hTau40 into Tau 2.0 diluent and triple diluting. Plasma samples were diluted 1:100 and added in duplicate to the Simoa® plate followed by the addition of respective capture beads. Different antibody pairings used for plasma screening is explained in Table 28. In general, the capture antibody coated beads are mixed with diluted plasma samples, added to the plates and incubated for 30 min at 30 °C with shaking. Following the incubation, the plates were washed using the Simoa® plate washer before the addition of 0.2 µg/ml biotinylated detector antibody which was left to incubate as before for 10 min. The plates were then washed again before the addition of SBG and a final 10 min incubation. After the final incubation and wash steps the plates were transferred to the Simoa® reader and plasma tau concentrations generated against a 4-parameter fit curve.

Assay	Capture Antibody	Detector Antibody	Tau Protein Fragment Measured (numbers refer to amino acids in the tau protein)
Core	S1D12	S1G2	337-379
NT1	BT2	Tau12	6-198
Core-Tau12	S1D12	Tau12	6-349
Core - HT7	S1D12	HT7	159-349
Core - BT2	S1D12	BT2	194-359
BT2 - HT7	BT2	HT7	159-198
Core - C'	S1D12	Tau46	337-441
BT2 - S1G2	BT2	1G2	194 - 379

Table 28: Table summarises the antibody pairings used for Simoa® assays for human plasma sample screening. The capture and detector antibodies used in each assay are stated along with the tau fragment each assay (the numbers refer to the amino acid positions in the full-length human tau protein hT40).

Human plasma screening data were subsequently analysed in Graphpad Prism v5. Interestingly, we have observed significantly higher levels of plasma tau fragments in age-matched, healthy control group compared to the AD group as detected using various capture-detector antibody pairings (Table 29).

Category	n	Average Age (yr)	Average Sex (M)	Average MMSE score	NT1 (6-198) (pg/ml)	Core (337-379) (pg/ml)	Core -Tau12 (6-349) (pg/ml)	Core -HT7 (194-359) (pg/ml)	Core -BT2 (159-349) (pg/ml)	BT2 -HT7 (159-198) (pg/ml)	Core -C (337-441) (pg/ml)	BT2 -S1G2 (192-379) (pg/ml)
AD/MCI	12	62	44.4 %	21	0.19	n.d.	0.67	30.24	899.6	44.51	n.d.	n.d.
Healthy Control	9	56	41.6%	NA	0.145	n.d.	0.67	1,802	13,619	123.8	n.d.	n.d.
Assay limit of detection (pg/ml)					0.25	2.2	0.25	0.25	0.75	0.25	2.2	2.2

Table 29: Results of Simoa® experiments utilising 8 different pairings detecting tau fragments in human plasma samples. Assay antibody pairings are as follows; NT1 (BT2-Tau12), Core (S1D12-S1G2), Core-Tau12 (S1D12-Tau12), Core-HT7 (S1D12-HT7), Core-BT2 (S1D12-BT2), BT2-HT7 (BT2-HT7), Core-C' (S1D12-Tau46), BT2-S1G2 (BT2-S1G2). There is a significant decrease in core-proline tau levels (measured using core-HT7 and core-BT2 assays where S1D12 is the capture antibody) in patients with an AD diagnosis (AD/MCI) compared with health control (HC) plasma. The levels of tau measured when using our core capture antibody S1D12 as part of an antibody pair is 1,000-fold more than the typical values seen for the existing NT1 assay in human plasma. In contrast to the reported NT1 assay, where AD/MCI patients typically show higher assay values than healthy controls, for assays using S1D12 capture this pattern is reversed with health control samples showing higher tau fragment values than AD/MCI patients. Data presented as mean. n.d. – not detected (signals below blank)

Example 29: Core capture antibody S1D12 can measure ng levels of tau in human plasma

When S1D12-BT2 or S1D12-HT7 pairings are used in Simoa® assay, nanogram levels of tau fragments are detected in human plasma (Table 29). All studies reported so far have measured pg/ml concentration of tau fragments in plasma with highest levels ~ 850 pg/ml (Sparks et al 2012; Rani et al 2017). Interestingly, and contrary to the NT1 assay, this core-BT2 assay measures 1,000- to 10,000-fold more tau fragments and the levels are higher in healthy controls compared to AD patients (Fig 43). Similarly, with the core-HT7 assay, ng/ml concentration of tau was detected in healthy control plasma and the levels were lower in AD/MCI plasma. Both findings translate to higher levels of core-proline fragments in healthy control and form the basis of a regular monitoring test to identify patients worthy of additional screening, i.e. a potential predictor of early onset of disease. The levels of tau detected using the core capture antibody is significantly greater than previously reported and suggests that the use of S1D12 reveals large amounts of previously undetected tau fragments in biological samples which can be considered as a tau protein mixture (full-length tau protein and populations of tau protein fragments) that can be referred to as a 'tauosome'. The decrease in tau levels in the plasma of AD/MCI patients suggests that perhaps defective clearance of tau from the brain is a critical factor in the pathogenesis of AD.

Example 30: FTD Sample Analysis using Simoa®

Three frontotemporal dementia (FTD) plasma samples kindly donated by Re:Cognition Health (London) were screened using the S1D12/BT2 assay in a 3-step format. Samples were diluted in Tau 2.0 buffer and 100 µl was added to the wells of a 96-well assay plate in duplicate. Samples were run against a standard curve made using a threefold dilution of hTau40 from 540-0.74 pg/ml.

Paramagnetic beads (Quanterix #103612) were prepared and activated by the following method provided by the manufacturer. Beads (4.2×10^8 , approximately 150 µl of vortexed stock beads) were washed using the wash buffer and treated with bead conjugation buffer following manufacturer's instructions. 1-Ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide (EDC) (Thermo Scientific #A35391) was prepared in bead conjugation buffer and added to the beads to achieve a final concentration of 0.3 mg/ml. The beads were subsequently incubated for 30 min on a Thermomixer™ at 1,000 rpm to activate. Following washing as before, the activated beads were mixed with 300 µl of S1D12 antibody at a concentration of 0.2 mg/ml by vortexed for 10 s and subsequently incubating for 2 h at 1,000 rpm on a Thermomixer at 4 °C.

25 µl of S1D12 capture bead solution containing approximately 500,000 beads was added to each well of the assay plate and incubated on the Simoa® shaker for 30 minutes at 30 °C and 800 rpm. Following this incubation, the plate was washed on the Simoa® SR-X washer and 100 µl of biotin-BT2 detector antibody (Thermofisher # MN1010B) at a concentration of 200 ng/ml was added to each well. The plate was subsequently transferred to the Simoa® plate shaker and incubated for 10

minutes at 800 rpm and 30 °C. 100 µL of Streptavidin β-galactosidase (SBG, Quanterix #103397) diluted to 150 pM in Simoa® SBG diluent (Quanterix #100376) was added to each well, incubated for 10 min at 800 rpm at 30 °C, washed and left on the magnet for 10 min to dry. The plate was then transferred to the Simoa® SR-X instrument for analysis. Fluorogenic resorufin β-d-galactopyranoside (RPG, Quanterix #103159) substrate resuspended for at least 30 min with shaking at 800 rpm and 30 °C was also added to the instrument for each assay along with the assay plate.

Tau levels were determined from a 4-parameter-fit standard curve, multiplied by the dilution factor and reported in Table 30. High levels of plasma tau (ng/ml that can be detected by S1D12-BT2 pairing) was seen in this group of FTD samples which is similar to our observation in AD samples and has not been reported previously.

Sample	S1D12/BT2 plasma tau (ng/ml)
FTD Sample 1	1.074
FTD Sample 2	0.957
FTD Sample 3	1.283

Table 30: Plasma S1D12/BT2 tau values for 3 frontotemporal dementia patients

Example 31: Human plasma analysis using chemiluminescent ELISA

Human plasma from individuals with an AD diagnosis and those from cognitively unimpaired individuals were sourced (Logical Biological, Kent UK), divided into 100 µl aliquots and stored at – 80 °C.

ELISA assays to detect tau fragments in these samples were carried out as follows. A black Nunc Maxisorp™ plate was immobilised with 2.5 µg/ml of S1D12 mAb (100 µl). The plate was incubated at 37 °C for 1h, washed 3 times with 200 µl/well PBST (0.05 % Tween20) and blocked with 2 % (w/v) milk powder in PBS by incubating for 1 h at 37 °C. Following washing as before, 100 µl/well human plasma samples (diluted 1:6, 1:10, or 1:20 in PBST) was added to the assay plate in duplicate. Simultaneously, a calibrator curve was generated by triple diluting hTau40 from 10 ng/ml to 14 pg/ml and the plate was incubated for 1 h at room temperature. The plate was washed 5 times in PBST and biotinylated BT2 detector (Thermofisher # MN1010B) diluted to 200 ng/ml in PBST was added (100 µl/well) and incubated for 1h at room temperature. 100 µl of streptavidin poly-HRP (Thermofisher # 21140) (1:10,000 in PBST) was added to the washed plate, incubated for 1 h at room temperature and developed using 50 µl SuperSignal ELISA Femto Substrate (Thermo

Scientific, # 37075). The plate was read for total luminescence using Clariostar Plus microplate reader (BMG Labtech).

Tau concentrations were derived from a 4-parameter fit curve and presented as the average across each dilution tested (Figure 45). As with the Simoa®-based analysis, higher levels of plasma tau fragments were observed in age-matched, healthy control group compared to the AD group.

Example 32: Ultrasensitive core antibodies are required to detect Core/Proline tau fragments in human plasma

Various 3-step Simoa® assays were set up as previously described using antibody pairs outlined in Table 1.4 to assess the effects of using a proline region antibody as the capturing molecule alongside a core antibody as a detector for the measurement of tau fragments in human plasma.

The use of S1D12 as a capture molecule with the proline binders BT2 and HT7 promotes the recovery of higher levels of tau than have previously been reported in human plasma. Furthermore, the levels of these fragments appear to decrease in Alzheimer's disease. With a small subset of patient samples this has now been replicated using S1G2 as a capturing molecule. Both high affinity core antibodies detect high levels of Core/Proline Tau that decrease in AD. Interestingly, when using CA4 (core antibody binding to the region corresponding to amino acids 355-367 of hT40) as capture and BT2 as the detector, high levels of Core/Proline tau is detected in cognitively unimpaired (CU) samples only. The functional lower limit of quantification of the assay is around 1 ng/ml due to the comparatively lower affinity of CA4 antibody (3 nM vs 120 pM for S1D12 and 170 pM for S1G2) which makes it difficult to detect any core/proline tau in AD samples (Table 31).

When attempts were made to reverse the format of these assays (i.e. using BT2 or HT7 as the capture molecules with S1D12 or S1G2 as detectors), no tau was detected in these plasma samples. This was despite the assays having excellent calibrator curve characteristics (Figure 46) and using more concentrated plasma, 1:20 as opposed to the 1:50 dilution required for when core binders are used as the capture molecule.

		Plasma Tau (pg/ml)								
	Assay	<u>S1D12</u> <u>/BT2</u>	<u>S1D12</u> <u>/HT7</u>	<u>S1G2</u> <u>/BT2</u>	<u>S1G2</u> <u>/HT7</u>	<u>BT2</u> <u>/S1D12</u>	<u>BT2</u> <u>/S1G2</u>	<u>HT7</u> <u>/S1D12</u>	<u>HT7</u> <u>/S1G2</u>	<u>CA4</u> <u>/BT2</u>
	Dilution	1:50	1:50	1:50	1:50	1:20	1:20	1:20	1:20	1:6
AD	PL 2222	716.6	355.8	113.0	57.3	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
	PL 2224	806.4	460.6	79.9	37.8	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
	PL 2226	843.9	389.4	96.7	61.0	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
	PL 2228	527.2	412.7	67.7	49.8	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
CU	PL 2457	6327.7	2714.9	1771.4	453.4	nd	nd	nd	nd	4963
	PL 2458	23486.1	4987.3	4257.9	1184.8	nd	nd	nd	nd	12590.9
	PL 2459	12543.6	2725.8	2712.2	657.2	nd	nd	nd	nd	4098.57
	PL 2460	2225.3	903.6	705.8	207.2	nd	nd	nd	nd	1484.8

Table 31: Plasma tau levels detected in 4 AD and 4 CU patients using various assays. nd = not detected

Example 33: Immunoprecipitation and tryptic digestion LC-MS reveal core region containing tau fragments in human plasma

To determine the identities of tau fragments detected using our antibody pairings, human plasma sample from a cognitively unimpaired (CU) individual was subjected to immunoprecipitation (IP) using S1D12 and BT2/HT7 antibodies followed by trypsin digestion and liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry analysis (LC-MS). A control sample was also included where 1xPBS was spiked with 50 ng hT40. Samples were immunoprecipitated with S1D12 antibody alone or double immunoprecipitated using S1D12 and BT2/HT7 antibodies. For immunoprecipitation, 10 µg of S1D12 antibody was covalently conjugated to 1.4×10^7 magnetic beads and 2 ml of cognitively unimpaired human plasma or hT40 spiked sample was mixed with antibody coated beads for 1 h at room temperature. Using a magnetic separator, beads were washed with 1 ml of 0.1 % PBST for 4 times and the tau fragments eluted using 30 µl of 0.1 M glycine (pH 3.0). After pH neutralisation with 6 µl of 1M Tris HCl (pH 8.0), the final volume was brought up to 1 ml by adding 1xPBS and magnetic beads conjugated with BT2/HT7 antibody (prepared as above) was added to the mixture (for double immunoprecipitation). Following 4 wash steps, the final elution was performed as previously described.

The samples were diluted using 50 mM ammonium bicarbonate and reduced with 200 mM dithiothreitol for 25 min at 60 °C. Alkylation of cysteine residues was achieved by adding 200 mM iodoacetamide and incubation for 30 min at 25 °C in the dark. Trypsin digestion was performed by adding 40 µg sequencing grade trypsin (porcine, Promega V5111) and overnight incubation at 37 °C. The sample was freeze dried by vacuum centrifugation (SpeedVac) and dissolved in 10 µl of

0.1% trifluoroacetic acid by mixing on an orbital shaker and centrifugation at 14,000 rpm for 2 min. Digested sample was analysed by injecting 9 µl of the solution on to a Q Exactive Plus LC-MS system. The liquid chromatography system UltiMate 3000 RSLCnano (Thermo Scientific Dionex) was configured for pre-concentration onto a nano column PepMap RSLC C18 75 µm i.d. x 25 cm (Thermo Scientific P/N ES801). This was coupled with Q Exactive Plus hybrid quadrupole – Orbitrap mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific) with EASY-Spray nano electrospray source. A 60-min liquid-chromatography (LC) gradient was applied with an increasing percentage of buffer B (acetonitrile: UHQ water: formic acid at a ratio of 80: 20: 0.1) for peptide elution; at the flow rate of 300 nL/min. Full MS1 scan was acquired from 375 to 1750 m/z in the Orbitrap at a resolution of 70,000, followed by the MS2 scan on the top 10 precursor ions at a resolution of 17,500 in a data-dependent acquisition (DDA) mode.

The raw files were processed using Proteome Discoverer version 2.2 (Thermo Scientific) and database search conducted with Mascot Server (version 2.6)

Shown in Figure 47 are the tau fragments detected by abundance from the human plasma sample following immunoprecipitation and LC-MS analysis. Fragments detected from the spiked sample are also given for comparison.

Example 34: S1D12 immunotherapy – 6-week repeat-dose mouse study

A total of 12 wildtype, 12 Line 1 and 12 Line 66 female mice were used in this study - Line 1 and Line 66 are transgenic mouse models of tauopathy (Melis *et al.*, 2015). Animals were 2 months old at the beginning of the study. Mice of each genotype were injected intraperitoneally (i.p.) with either vehicle or S1D12 mAb (30 mg/kg), once per week, for six consecutive weeks. This study design is summarised in Table 32 below

Number of Mice	Genotype	Gender	Dose Route	6 x Weekly Doses (S1D12)	Dose Volume
6	NMRI	F	i.p	30 mg/kg	5 mL/kg
6	NMRI	F	i.p	Vehicle (PBS)	5 mL/kg
6	Line 66	F	i.p	30 mg/kg	5 mL/kg
6	Line 66	F	i.p	Vehicle (PBS)	5 mL/kg
6	Line 1	F	i.p	30 mg/kg	5 mL/kg
6	Line 1	F	i.p	Vehicle (PBS)	5 mL/kg

Table 32: Study design for S1D12 mAb 6-week repeat dosing in mice

Seven days post final dose, cardiac puncture blood sampling was performed. mice were anaesthetised using an overdose of sodium pentobarbital (i.p.) and blood was collected *via* cardiac puncture through a Plastipak syringe pre-rinsed with heparinised saline (10 U/mL) and transferred into a plastic vial containing lithium heparin anticoagulant. Blood samples were centrifuged to obtain plasma at 2,000 x g for 5 min at 6 °C.

Example 35: S1D12 Immunotherapy – Assessment of plasma tau via core-core Simoa® assay

In order to monitor the ‘treatment effect’ of S1D12 mAb, plasma tau of vehicle control and antibody treated L66^{+/+} mice were assessed via a core-core homebrew Simoa® assay to investigate changes in core tau pools in these mice. A three-step assay was performed and analysed by following the previously described plasma screening methods using CA4 antibody capture beads, S1G2 detector (10 ng/mL) and the plasma samples added in 1:8 dilution.

A highly significant increase in the level of plasma tau was detected in mice treated with S1D12 mAb when using a core and core antibody pairing (CA4-S1G2) in L1 mouse in the Simoa® assay (L1 with S1D12 treatment >100 ng/ml) vs L1 without S1D12 treatment (3.43 (0.45) ng/ml). This assay can detect both human and mouse tau and a statistically significant increase in the tau levels was observed in L66^{+/+} mice receiving the antibody treatment (L66^{+/+} with S1D12 treatment 3.52 (0.20) ng/ml) vs L66^{+/+} without S1D12 treatment (0.76 (0.21) ng/ml). To some extent a statistically significant increase in the tau levels was also seen in wildtype mice with SD12 treatment vs no treatment (3.57 (0.22) ng/ml) vs (1.91 (0.28) ng/ml) (Fig 48). However, a profound increase was seen in L1 group, which was above the upper limit of detection of the current assay.

Example 36: Measuring tau fragments in saliva

Saliva samples were acquired from volunteers using the following protocol. Participants were instructed to fast for at least 30 min prior to giving the sample and, 10 min before sampling, were instructed to wash their mouths with water. Participants then produced at least 1 ml of unstimulated saliva into a 50 ml tube. 1 ml from each participant was transferred into a separate microfuge tube and centrifuged at 10,000 x g for 5 min. The supernatant fraction was collected, aliquoted and stored at – 80 °C.

3-step Simoa® assays using various antibody pairings were run as described previously using assays described in Table 33 and the results summarised in Table 34.

Beads (epitope)	S1D12 (337-349)	S1D12 (337- 349)	S1G2 (367-379)	S1G2 (367-379)	BT2 (194-198)	BT2 (194-198)
Detector (epitope)	BT2 (194-198)	HT7 (159-163)	BT2 (194-198)	HT7 (159-163)	S1D12 (337- 349)	S1G2 (367-379)
Detector concentration (ng/ml)	200	200	200	200	50	50
Sample Dilution	1:50	1:50	1:50	1:50	1:6	1:6

Table 33: 3-step Simoa® assays used for saliva sample measurements

		<u>S1D12/BT2</u> <u>(pg/ml)</u>	<u>S1D12/HT7</u> <u>(pg/ml)</u>	<u>S1G2/BT2</u> <u>(pg/ml)</u>	<u>S1G2/HT7</u> <u>(pg/ml)</u>	<u>BT2/S1D12</u> <u>(pg/ml)</u>	<u>BT2/S1G2</u> <u>(pg/ml)</u>
Sample	1	186.0	32.6	nd	14.02	nd	nd
	2	75.6	43.4	22.9	63.84		
	3	252.0	60.5	146.2	72.7		
	4	277.9	91.0	585.8	61.4		
	5	84.5	25.5	37.48	49.1		
	6	21.2	nd	65.2	119.6		
	7	22242.7	98623.6	6271.1	147.33		
	8	14.8	nd	53.6	54.74		
	9	367.2	81.2	192	27.94		
	10	52.2	nd	27.06	37.09		
	11	242.3	37.6	134.98	52.42		

Table 34: Saliva tau values from various 3-Step Simoa® assays. nd = not detected

Surprisingly, reversal of the antibody pairings to use BT2 as the capture antibody and either S1D12 or S1G2 as the detector antibody, abolished detection. This contrasts with the data presented in Example 26 and Figure 41, where core and N-terminal pairings detected tau in brain homogenate samples irrespective of whether S1D12/S1G2 (core binders) and CB7 (which binds to hT40 13-26) were used as the capture or the detector antibody. This suggests that using a capture antibody that binds to an epitope within residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is advantageous in saliva samples.

CLAIMS

1. An *in vitro* method for detecting a tau protein or fragment thereof in a saliva sample comprising contacting the sample with a first specific binding molecule wherein the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 307 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
3. The method of any one of claims 1 to 2 wherein the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 337 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope consisting of residues 337 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope consisting of residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
6. The method of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the first specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 - VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16 (NNAVG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18 (GCSSDGTCCYNSALKS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21 (GHYSIYGYDYLGTIDY);
 - VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24 (SGSSSNVGGGNSVG);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26 (DTNSRPS);
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 29 (VTGDSTTHDDL);
 or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
 - (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.
7. The method of any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the first specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
 - VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16 (NNAVG);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18 (GCSSDGTCCYNSALKS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21 (GHYSIYGYDYLGTIDY);
 - VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24 (SGSSSNVGGGNSVG);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26 (DTNSRPS); and
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 29 (VTGDSTTHDDL).

8. The method of any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the first specific binding molecule comprises framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 435 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLN);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 436 (WVRQAPGKVPESLV);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 437 (RLDITRDTSKNQISLSLSSVTDDAAVYYCTR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 438 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 439 (QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 440 (WYQHLPGSGSLKTIY);

VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 441 (GVPDFSGSRSGNTATLTINSLQAEDEGDYYC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 442 (VGSSTRLLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

9. The method of any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the first specific binding molecule comprises:

(a) A VH domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 443 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLNNNAVGVWRQAPGKVPESLVGCSSDGTCTYNSA LKSRLDITRDTSKNQISLSLSSVTDDAAVYYCTRGHYSIYGYDYLGTIDYWGPGLLVTVSS); and/or

(b) a VL domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 444 (QAVLTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSSSNVGGGNSVGWYQHLPGSGSLKTIYDTNSRPSGVDPDR FSGSRSGNTATLTINSLQAEDEGDYYCVTGDSTTHDDLVGSGSTRLLTVLG);

or a humanized variant thereof.

10. The method of any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein the first specific binding molecule specifically binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 337 to 355 of SEQ ID NO: 1 with a K_D of less than around 500 pM, optionally wherein the specific binding is measured by surface plasmon resonance (SPR) and optionally wherein

- i. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 is around 50 pM to around 150 pM, and/or
- ii. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 5 is around 300 pM to around 400 pM.

11. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope consisting of residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

12. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 or 11 wherein the first specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS);
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 73 (GSSDRTPYTGTV);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

13. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 or 11 to 12 wherein the first specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42 (SNSVG);
 VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 (GIDTDGEEGYNPALNS);
 VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54 (SYRADGLAYGYVQAIDY);
 VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 63 (SGSFIGISSVG);
 VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 70 (ASDGRPS); and
 VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 73 (GSSDRTPYTGTV).

14. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 or 11 to 13 wherein the first specific binding molecule comprises framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 447 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);
 VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 448 (WVRQAPGKAPPEWVA);
 VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 449 (RLSITRDTSKSQVSLSLSSVTSEDVAVYYCGR);
 VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 450 (WGPGLLVTVSS);
 VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 451 (QAVVTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITC);
 VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 452 (WFQQLPGSGLRTIIV);
 VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 453 (GVPDRFMSKSGNTATLTISSLQAEDYFC);
 VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 454 (FGSGTRLTVLG);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- (i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

15. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 or 11 to 14 wherein the first specific binding molecule comprises:

(a) A VH domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 455 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSNSVGWVRQAPGKAPPEWVAGIDTDGEEGYNPA

LNSRLSITRDTSKQVSLSLSSVTSEDTAVYYCGRSYRADGLAYGYVQAIDYWGPGLLVTVSS);

and/or

(b) a VL domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 456 (QAVVTQPSSVSGSLGQRVSITCSGSFIGISSVGWFQQLPGSGLRTIIVASDGRPSGVPDRFSMS KSGNTATLTISSLQAEDEADYFCGSSDRTPYTGVFSGSGLTLTVLG);

or a humanized variant thereof.

16. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 or 11 to 15 wherein the first specific binding molecule specifically binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 367 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 with a K_D of less than around 500 pM, optionally wherein the specific binding is measured by surface plasmon resonance (SPR) and optionally wherein

- i. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1 is around 100 pM to around 200 pM, and/or
- ii. The K_D for binding to SEQ ID NO: 5 is around 400 pM to around 500 pM.

17. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope consisting of residues 355 to 367 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

18. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 or 17 wherein the first specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 83 (SYSVY);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 84 (IMYASGRVDYNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 89 (GIEN);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 91 (RTSQSVNNYLS);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 95 (YATRLYT); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 97 (LQYDSTPLA);

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
- (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

19. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 or 17 to 18 wherein the first specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 83 (SYSVY);

VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 84 (IMYASGRVDYNPALKS);

VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 89 (GIEN);

VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 91 (RTSQSVNNYLS);

VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 95 (YATRLYT); and

VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 97 (LQYDSTPLA).

20. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 or 17 to 19 wherein the first specific binding molecule comprises framework regions (FRs) VHFR1, VHFR2, VHFR3, VHFR4, VLFR1, VLFR2, VLFR3 and VLFR4, wherein each of said FRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 555 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLT);

VHFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 556 (WVRQAPGQALEWIS);

VHFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 557 (RLSITRDTSKSQFSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCTR);

VHFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 558 (WGPGLLVTVSS);

VLFR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 559 (DIQVTQSPSSLSASLTERVSITC);

VLFR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 560 (WYQQKPGQAPKLLIY);

VLFR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 561 (DVPSRFSGSGSGTDYTLTITSLEADDTATYYC);

VLFR4 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 562 (FGGGTNVEIK);

or for each FR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 50% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, three, four or five amino acid substitutions relative thereto.

21. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3 or 17 to 20 wherein the first specific binding molecule comprises:

(a) A VH domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 563 (QVQLQESGPSLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSLTSYSVYWVRQAPGQALEWISIMYASGRVDYNPAL KSRSLITRDTSKSQFSLSLSSVTTEDTAVYYCTRGIENTWGPGLLVTVSS); and/or

(b) a VL domain comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 564 (DIQVTQSPSSLSASLTERVSI CRTSQSVNNYLSWYQQKPGQAPKLLIYATR LYTDVPSRFSGS GSGTDYTLTITSLEADDTATYYCLQYDSTPLAFGGGTNVEIK);

or a humanized variant thereof.

22. The method of any preceding claim wherein the first specific binding molecule competes with S1D12, S1G2 or CA4 for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1.

23. The method of any preceding claim further comprising contacting the sample with a second specific binding molecule.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the second specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

25. The method of any one of claims 23 to 24 wherein the second specific binding molecule binds to an epitope consisting of residues 194 to 198 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

26. The method of any one of claims 23 to 25 wherein the second specific binding molecule is BT2.

27. The method of any one of claims 23 to 24 wherein the second specific binding molecule binds to an epitope consisting of residues 159 to 163 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
28. The method of any one of claims 23, 24 or 27 wherein the second specific binding molecule is HT7.
29. The method of any one of claims 23 to 25 or 27 wherein the second specific binding molecule competes with BT2 or HT7 for binding to SEQ ID NO: 1.
30. The method of any one of claims 23 to 28 wherein the first specific binding molecule is S1D12 or S1G2 and the second specific binding molecule is BT2 or HT7.
31. The method of claim 23 wherein the second specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 198 (SNAVI);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 200 (LIDVDGDAAYDPALKS);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 202 (DYGSWGYVSDIDY);
 - VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 204 (SGSDIGGADVG);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 206 (DNDNRPS); and
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 208 (GTYSGANYG I);
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
32. The method of claim 23 wherein the second specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3,
- VHCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17 (SNAV G);
 - VHCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 201 (LIDIDGDTAYNPALES);
 - VHCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 203 (HYDKWGYADSIDY);
 - VLCDR1 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 138 (SGSSSNVGYGDYVG);
 - VLCDR2 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 207 (DATTRAS); and
 - VLCDR3 comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 209 (ASYQNERSGV);
- or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with
- (i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or
 - (ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,
- wherein the specific binding molecule binds to a polypeptide or protein molecule comprising an amino acid sequence comprising residues 147 to 157 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

33. The method of claim 23 wherein the second specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2 and VLCDR3, wherein each of said CDRs comprises an amino acid sequence as follows:

VHCDR1 comprises a VHCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 10;

VHCDR2 comprises a VHCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 10;

VHCDR3 comprises a VHCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 10;

VLCDR1 comprises a VLCDR1 amino acid sequence set forth in table 10;

VLCDR2 comprises a VLCDR2 amino acid sequence set forth in table 10; and

VLCDR3 comprises a VLCDR3 amino acid sequence set forth in table 10;

or for each CDR sequence, an amino acid sequence with

(i) at least 85% identity thereto, and/or

(ii) one, two, or three amino acid substitutions relative thereto,

wherein the specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within SEQ ID NO: 1.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein the second specific binding molecule comprises the CDRs of a clone selected from the group consisting of 3bD11, CB11, CA2, CB6, CA7, CA8, CB10, CC7, CB12, CC3, CA1, CA3, CD2, CC4, CD1 and CC5.

35. The method of any preceding claim wherein the first and/or second specific binding molecule is an immunoglobulin, an immunoglobulin Fab region, a Fab', a Fv, a Fv-Fc, a single chain Fv (scFv), scFv-Fc, (scFv)₂, a diabody, a triabody, a tetrabody, a bispecific t-cell engager (BiTE), an intein, a VNAR domain, a single domain antibody (sdAb) or a VH domain.

36. The method of any preceding claim wherein the fragment consists of amino acid residues within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

37. The method of any preceding claim wherein the fragment comprises at least 4, at least 5, at least 6, at least 7, at least 8, at least 9, at least 10, at least 11, at least 12, at least 13, at least 14, at least 15, at least 16, at least 17, at least 18, at least 19, at least 20, at least 21, at least 22, at least 23 at least 24, at least 25, at least 26, at least 27, at least 28, at least 29, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 91, at least 92, at least 93, at least 94, or 95 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

38. The method of any preceding claim wherein the fragment comprises at least 4, at least 5, at least 6, at least 7, at least 8, at least 9, at least 10, at least 11, at least 12, at least 13, at least 14, at least 15, at least 16, at least 17, at least 18, at least 19, at least 20, at least 21, at least 22, at least 23 at least 24, at least 25, at least 26, at least 27, at least 28, at least 29, at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 91, at least 92, or 93 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

39. The method of any preceding claim wherein the fragment comprises at least 30 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and
- (a) at least 4 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and/or
 - (b) at least 4 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
40. The method of any preceding claim wherein the fragment comprises at least 30 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or at least 30 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
41. The method of any preceding claim wherein the fragment comprises amino acid residues 337 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or amino acid residues 370 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
42. The method of any preceding claim wherein the fragment comprises amino acid residues 194 to 198 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or amino acid residues 159 to 163 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
43. The method of any preceding claim wherein the fragment comprises at least 30, at least 35, at least 40, at least 45, at least 50, at least 55, at least 60, at least 65, at least 70, at least 75, at least 80, at least 85, at least 90, at least 95, at least 100, at least 105, at least 110, at least 115, at least 120, at least 125, at least 130, at least 135, at least 140, at least 145, at least 150, at least 155, at least 160, at least 165, at least 170, at least 175, at least 180, at least 185, at least 190, at least 195, at least 200, at least 205, at least 210, at least 215, at least 220, at least 225, at least 230, at least 235, at least 240, at least 245, at least 250, at least 255, at least 260, at least 261, at least 262, at least 263, at least 264, at least 265, at least 266 or 267 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
44. The method of any one of claims 1 to 43 wherein the fragment comprises at least 156 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and
- (a) at least 53 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, optionally comprising residues 337 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and/or
 - (b) at least 50 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1, optionally comprising residues 194 to 198 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
45. The method of any one of claims 1 to 43 wherein the fragment comprises at least 181 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and
- (a) at least 78 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, optionally comprising residues 370 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and/or
 - (b) at least 50 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1, optionally comprising residues 194 to 198 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
46. The method of any one of claims 1 to 43 wherein the fragment comprises at least 191 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and
- (a) at least 53 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, optionally comprising residues 337 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and/or

- (b) at least 85 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1, optionally comprising residues 159 to 163 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
47. The method of any one of claims 1 to 43 wherein the fragment comprises at least 216 consecutive amino acid residues from within residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and
- (a) at least 78 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1, optionally comprising residues 370 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and/or
 - (b) at least 85 consecutive amino acid residues from residues 151 to 243 of SEQ ID NO: 1, optionally comprising residues 159 to 163 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
48. The method of any preceding claim wherein the fragment comprises amino acid residues:
- (a) 194 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (b) 159 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (c) 194 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (d) 159 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (e) 195 to 370 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (f) 159 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (g) 113 to 224 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (h) 113 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1; or
 - (i) 113 to 370 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
49. The method of any preceding claim wherein the amino acid sequence of the fragment consists of amino acid residues within residues:
- (a) 113 to 370 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (b) 113 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (c) 113 to 224 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (d) 159 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (e) 195 to 370 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (f) 194 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (g) 159 to 349 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (h) 194 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1; or
 - (i) 159 to 374 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
50. The method of any preceding claim wherein the amino acid sequence of the fragment consists of amino acid residues 113 to 379 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
51. The method of any preceding claim, further comprising determining a concentration of the tau protein fragment in the sample.
52. A device for use in a method according to any preceding claim.

53. A kit comprising a specific binding molecule suitable for use in a method according to any preceding claim and reagents for detecting a tau protein or fragment thereof in a saliva sample wherein the first specific binding molecule binds to an epitope within residues 297 to 391 of SEQ ID NO: 1.