IN THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated antibody, wherein the antibody specifically binds tau and recognizes an epitope within an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, and SEQ ID NO: 8.

2. The isolated antibody of claim 1, wherein the antibody comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 14 and SEQ ID NO: 15.

3. The isolated antibody of claim 1, wherein the antibody is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 12 and SEQ ID NO: 13.

4. An isolated antibody, wherein the antibody specifically binds tau and comprises a light chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18 with zero to two amino acid substitutions.

5. An isolated antibody, wherein the antibody specifically binds tau and comprises a heavy chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21 with zero to two amino acid substitutions.

6. An isolated antibody of any of the preceding claims, wherein the antibody is selected from the group consisting of a single-chain antibody, an antibody fragment, a chimeric antibody, or a humanized antibody.

7. An isolated antibody of any of the preceding claims wherein the antibody is specifically able to block tau seeding activity in a cellular tau aggregation assay.

8. The use of an isolated anti-tau antibody of any of the preceding claims in the manufacture of a medicament for the therapeutic and/or prophylactic treatment to reduce the spread of tau aggregation in the brain of a subject.

9. The use of claim 8, wherein the therapeutic and/or prophylactic treatment additionally improves in the subject at least one symptom associated with tau aggregation.

10. The use of claim 9, wherein the at least one symptom associated with tau aggregation is selected from the group consisting of tau pathology, impaired cognitive function, altered behavior, abnormal language function, emotional dysregulation, seizures, impaired nervous system structure or function, and an increased risk of development of Alzheimer's disease.

11. The use of claim 8, wherein the medicament is formulated for a systemic route of administration.

12. The use of claim 8, wherein the medicament is formulated for a local route of administration, including directly within the central nervous system.

13. An immunoassay comprising at least two isolated antibodies of any of the preceding claims 1-7.

14. The immunoassay of claim 13, wherein the immunoassay comprises at least two captures antibodies and a detection antibody, and wherein each capture antibody is an isolated anti-tau antibody that recognizes a tau epitope distinct from the other.

15. The immunoassay of claim 14, wherein a first capture antibody is an isolated antibody that specifically binds tau and recognizes an epitope within SEQ ID NO: 7, a second capture antibody is an isolated antibody that specifically binds tau and

recognizes an epitope within SEQ ID NO: 8, and a detection antibody is an isolated antibody that specifically binds tau and recognizes an epitope within SEQ ID NO: 8.

16. A method of measuring the amount of tau aggregate in a sample of a biological fluid obtained from a subject, the method comprising measuring the amount of tau aggregate using an immunoassay of any of claims 13-15.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the tau aggregate is immunoprecipitated from the sample using an isolated anti-tau antibody and then the amount of immunoprecipitated tau aggregate is measured.

CLAIMS

1. An isolated antibody, wherein the antibody specifically binds tau and recognizes an epitope within an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 7, and SEQ ID NO: 8.

2. The isolated antibody of claim 1, wherein the antibody comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 14 and SEQ ID NO: 15.

3. The isolated antibody of claim 1, wherein the antibody is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 12 and SEQ ID NO: 13.

4. An isolated antibody, wherein the antibody specifically binds tau and comprises a light chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18 with zero to two amino acid substitutions.

5. An isolated antibody, wherein the antibody specifically binds tau and comprises a heavy chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21 with zero to two amino acid substitutions.

6. An isolated antibody of any of the preceding claims, wherein the antibody is selected from the group consisting of a single-chain antibody, an antibody fragment, a chimeric antibody, or a humanized antibody.

7. An isolated antibody of any of the preceding claims wherein the antibody is specifically able to block tau seeding activity in a cellular tau aggregation assay.

8. The use of an isolated anti-tau antibody of any of the preceding claims in the manufacture of a medicament for the therapeutic and/or prophylactic treatment to reduce the spread of tau aggregation in the brain of a subject.

9. The use of claim 8, wherein the therapeutic and/or prophylactic treatment additionally improves in the subject at least one symptom associated with tau aggregation.

10. The use of claim 9, wherein the at least one symptom associated with tau aggregation is selected from the group consisting of tau pathology, impaired cognitive function, altered behavior, abnormal language function, emotional dysregulation, seizures, impaired nervous system structure or function, and an increased risk of development of Alzheimer's disease.

11. The use of claim 8, wherein the medicament is formulated for a systemic route of administration.

12. The use of claim 8, wherein the medicament is formulated for a local route of administration, including directly within the central nervous system.

13. An immunoassay comprising at least two isolated antibodies of any of the preceding claims 1-7, wherein the at least two isolated antibodies bind distinct epitopes of tau.

14. The immunoassay of claim 13, wherein the immunoassay comprises at least two captures antibodies and a detection antibody, and wherein each capture antibody is an isolated anti-tau antibody that recognizes a tau epitope distinct from the other.

15. The immunoassay of claim 14, wherein a first capture antibody is an isolated antibody that specifically binds tau and recognizes an epitope within SEQ ID NO: 7, a second capture antibody is an isolated antibody that specifically binds tau and recognizes an epitope within SEQ ID NO: 8, and a detection antibody is an isolated antibody that specifically binds tau and recognizes an epitope within SEQ ID NO: 8.

16. A method of measuring the amount of tau aggregate in a sample of a biological fluid obtained from a subject, the method comprising measuring the amount of tau aggregate using an immunoassay of any of claims 13-15.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the tau aggregate is immunoprecipitated from the sample using an isolated anti-tau antibody and then the amount of immunoprecipitated tau aggregate is measured.