enabled by the teaching of the present invention are particularly useful for the treatment of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis including, but not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Lewy body dementia (LBD), Down's syndrome, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis (Dutch type), the Guam Parkinson-Dementia complex, as well as other diseases which are based on or associated with amyloid-like proteins such as progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple sclerosis; Creutzfeld Jacob disease, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis Dutch type, Parkinson's disease, HIV-related dementia, ALS (amyotropic lateral sclerosis), Adult Onset Diabetes; senile cardiac amyloidosis; endocrine tumors, and other diseases, including ocular diseases associated with pathological abnormalities/changes in the tissues of the visual system, particularly associated with amyloid-beta-related pathological abnormalities/changes in the tissues of the visual system, such as neuronal degradation. Said pathological abnormalities may occur, for example, in different tissues of the eye, such as the visual cortex leading to cortical visual deficits; the anterior chamber and the optic nerve leading to glaucoma; the lens leading to cataract due to beta-amyloid deposition; the vitreous leading to ocular amyloidosis; the retina leading to primary retinal degeneration and macular degeneration, for example age-related macular degeneration; the optic nerve leading to optic nerve drusen, optic neuropathy and optic neuritis; and the cornea leading to lattice dystrophy.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0039] In one aspect, the present invention refers to an *in vitro* method for diagnosing an ocular disease, wherein the ocular disease is cortical visual deficits, glaucoma, optic nerve drusen, optic neuropathy, optic neuritis, cataract, ocular amyloidosis, or optic nerve drusen, in a subject comprising detecting the immunospecific binding of a humanized antibody or fragment thereof to beta amyloid in a sample from the subject suspected to contain beta amyloid, which includes the steps of (a) bringing the sample into contact with the humanized antibody or fragment thereof, wherein the humanized antibody or fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain complementarity determining region (CDR) 1 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ

ID NO: 1; a heavy chain CDR2 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; a heavy chain CDR3 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3; a light chain CDR1 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4; a light chain CDR2 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, the amino acid sequence RVSNRFS, or the amino acid sequence KVSSRFS; and a light chain CDR3 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6; (b) allowing the humanized antibody or fragment thereof to bind to beta amyloid to form an immunological complex; (c) detecting the formation of the immunological complex; and (d) correlating the presence or absence of the immunological complex with the presence or absence of beta amyloid in the sample.

In another aspect, the present invention refers to an *in vitro* method for diagnosing a predisposition to an ocular disease, wherein the ocular disease is cortical visual deficits, glaucoma, optic nerve drusen, optic neuropathy, optic neuritis, cataract, ocular amyloidosis, or optic nerve drusen, in a subject comprising detecting the specific binding of a humanized antibody or fragment thereof to beta amyloid in a sample from the subject suspected to contain beta amyloid, which includes the steps of (a) bringing the sample into contact with the humanized antibody or fragment thereof, wherein the humanized antibody or fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain CDR1 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; a heavy chain CDR2 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; a heavy chain CDR3 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3; a light chain CDR1 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4; a light chain CDR2 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, the amino acid sequence RVSNRFS, or the amino acid sequence KVSSRFS; and a light chain CDR3 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6; (b) allowing the humanized antibody or fragment thereof to bind to beta amyloid in the sample to form an immunological complex; (c) detecting the formation of the immunological complex; (d) correlating the presence or absence of the immunological complex with the presence or absence of beta amyloid in the sample; and (e) comparing the amount of said immunological complex to a normal control value,

wherein an increase in the amount of said complex compared to a normal control value indicates that said subject is suffering from or is at risk of developing cortical

visual deficits, glaucoma, optic nerve drusen, optic neuropathy, optic neuritis, cataract, ocular amyloidosis, or optic nerve drusen.

In still another aspect, the present invention refers to an *in vitro* method for monitoring minimal residual ocular disease, wherein the ocular disease is cortical visual deficits, glaucoma, optic nerve drusen, optic neuropathy, optic neuritis, cataract, ocular amyloidosis, or optic nerve drusen, in a subject following treatment with a pharmaceutical composition, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a humanized antibody or fragment thereof that binds to beta amyloid, wherein the humanized antibody or fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain CDR1 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; a heavy chain CDR2 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; a heavy chain CDR3 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3; a light chain CDR1 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4; a light chain CDR2 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, the amino acid sequence RVSNRFS, or the amino acid sequence KVSSRFS; and a light chain CDR3 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6; and wherein said method comprises: (a) bringing a sample from the subject suspected to contain beta amyloid into contact with the humanized antibody or fragment thereof; (b) allowing the humanized antibody or fragment thereof to bind to beta amyloid to form an immunological complex; (c) detecting the formation of the immunological complex; (d) correlating the presence or absence of the immunological complex with the presence or absence of beta amyloid in the sample; and (e) comparing the amount of said immunological complex to a normal control value, wherein an increase in the amount of said complex compared to a normal control value indicates that said subject still suffers from minimal residual ocular disease.

In still another aspect, the present invention refers to an *in vitro* method for predicting responsiveness of a subject being treated with the pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of an ocular disease, wherein the ocular disease is cortical visual deficits, glaucoma, optic nerve drusen, optic neuropathy, optic neuritis, cataract, ocular amyloidosis, or optic nerve drusen, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a humanized antibody or fragment

thereof that binds to beta amyloid, wherein the humanized antibody or fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain CDR1 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; a heavy chain CDR2 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; a heavy chain CDR3 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3; a light chain CDR1 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4; a light chain CDR2 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, the amino acid sequence RVSNRFS, or the amino acid sequence KVSSRFS; and a light chain CDR3 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6; and wherein said method comprises: (a) bringing a sample from the subject suspected to contain beta amyloid into contact with the humanized antibody or fragment thereof; (b) allowing the humanized antibody or fragment thereof to bind to beta amyloid to form an immunological complex; (c) detecting the formation of the immunological complex; (d) correlating the presence or absence of the immunological complex with the presence or absence of beta amyloid in the sample; and (e) comparing the amount of said immunological complex to a normal control value, wherein a decrease in the amount of said immunological complex indicates that said subject has a high potential of being responsive to the treatment. In one ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~ disclosure relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which recognizes and binds to at least one distinct binding site, particularly to a least two distinct binding sites, and more particularly to at least three distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said one, said at least two and said at least three binding sites each comprise at least one or two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody.

[0040] In particular, the chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or the humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the ~~invention~~ disclosure binds to at least two, particularly to at least three distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein at least two of the three distinct binding sites comprise at least two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody and at least one of the three distinct binding sites comprise at least one amino acid residue.

[0041] The at least two distinct binding sites comprising at least two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody are located in close proximity to each other on the antigen, separated and/or flanked by at least one amino acid residue not involved in antibody binding or to a significantly smaller extent as compared to said at least two consecutive amino acid residues, thus forming a conformational discontinuous epitope.

[0042] The at least three distinct binding sites comprising at least two consecutive amino acid residues and at least one amino acid residue, respectively, which are predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody are located in close proximity to each other on the epitope, separated and/or flanked by at least one amino acid residue not involved in antibody binding or to a significantly smaller extent as compared to the amino acid residues, which are predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, thus forming a conformational discontinuous epitope.

[0043] In particular, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, which recognizes and binds to at least one distinct binding site, particularly to a least two distinct binding sites, more particularly to at least three distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said at least one or said at least two distinct binding sites each comprise at least two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, wherein the at least two consecutive amino acid residues representing a first binding site are – Phe-Phe- embedded within the following core sequence (SEQ ID NO: 9):

Xaa_3 - Phe – Phe – Xaa_4 – Xaa_5 – Xaa_6, wherein:

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

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

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

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

[0044] In another exampleembodiment of the inventiondisclosure, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, wherein:

Xaa_3 is Val or Leu, but particularly Val;

Xaa_4 is Ala or Val, but particularly Ala;

Xaa_5 is Glu or Asp, but particularly Glu;

Xaa_6 is Glu or Asp, but particularly Asp.

[0045] In particular, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, which recognizes and binds to at least one distinct binding site, particularly to a least two distinct binding sites, more particularly to at least three distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said distinct binding sites comprise at least one and at least two consecutive amino acid residues, respectively, predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, wherein the at least two consecutive amino acid residues representing a first binding site are –Phe-Phe- and the at least one amino acid residue is –His- embedded within the following core sequence:

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

Wherein:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[0046] In another exampleembodiment of the disclosureinvention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, wherein:

Xaa_3 is Gln or Asn, but particularly Gln;

Xaa_4 is Lys;

Xaa_5 is Leu;

Xaa_6 is Val or Leu, but particularly Val;

Xaa_7 is Ala or Val, but particularly Ala;

Xaa_8 is Glu or Asp, but particularly Glu; and

Xaa_9 is Asp or Glu, but particularly Asp.

[0047] In another exampleembodiment of the disclosureinvention, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, which recognizes and binds to at least one distinct binding site, particularly to a least two distinct binding sites, more particularly to at least three distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein, wherein said at least one or said at least two distinct binding sites each

comprise at least two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, wherein the at least two consecutive amino acid residues representing a second binding site are –Lys-Leu- embedded within the following core sequence (SEQ ID NO: 10):

Xaa_1 – Xaa_2 - Lys - Leu – Xaa_3 wherein:

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

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

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

[0048] In another example~~embodiment~~ of the disclosure~~invention~~, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, which recognizes and binds to at least one distinct binding site, particularly to a least two distinct binding sites, more particularly to at least three distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said distinct binding sites comprise at least one and at least two consecutive amino acid residues, respectively, predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, wherein the at least one and the at least two consecutive amino acids, which are separated by at least one amino acid residue not involved in antibody binding or to a significantly smaller extent as compared to the amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, are -His- and –Lys-Leu-, respectively, embedded within the following core sequence:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[0049] In another example~~embodiment~~ of the disclosure~~invention~~, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, wherein:

Xaa_2 is Gln or Asn, but particularly Gln;

Xaa_3 is Val or Leu, but particularly Val;

Xaa_4 is Phe;

Xaa_5 is Phe;

Xaa_6 is Ala or Val, but particularly Ala;

Xaa_7 is Glu or Asp, but particularly Glu; and

Xaa_8 is Asp or Glu, but particularly Asp.

[0050] In another example~~embodiment~~ of the disclosure~~invention~~, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, which recognizes and binds to at least two distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said at least two distinct binding sites each comprise at least two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, wherein the at least two consecutive amino acids are separated by at least one amino acid residue not involved in antibody binding or to a significantly smaller extent than said consecutive amino acid residues, which are -Phe-Phe- and -Lys-Leu-, respectively, representing a first and second binding site embedded within the following core sequence:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[0051] In another example~~embodiment~~ of the disclosure~~invention~~, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, which recognizes and binds to at least one distinct binding site, particularly to a least two distinct binding sites, more particularly to at least three distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said distinct binding sites comprise at least one and at least two consecutive amino acid residues, respectively, predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, wherein the at least one and the at least two consecutive amino acids are separated by at least one amino acid residue not involved in antibody binding or to a significantly smaller extent as compared to the amino acid residues, which are predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, and wherein said amino acid residues are -His- and -Phe-Phe- and -Lys-Leu-, respectively, embedded within the following core sequence:

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

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

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

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

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

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

[0052] In another example~~embodiment~~ of the disclosure~~invention~~, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, wherein:

Xaa_2 is Gln or Asn, but particularly Gln;

Xaa_3 is Val or Leu, but particularly Val;

Xaa_4 is Ala or Val, but particularly Ala;

Xaa_5 is Glu or Asp, but particularly Glu; and

Xaa_6 is Asp or Glu, but particularly Asp.

[0053] In another example~~embodiment~~ of the disclosure~~invention~~, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, which recognizes and binds to at least two distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said at least two distinct binding sites each comprise at least two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, wherein the at least two consecutive amino acids are separated by at least one amino acid residue not involved in antibody binding or to a significantly smaller extent than said consecutive amino acid residues, which are –Phe-Phe- and –Lys-Leu-, respectively, representing a first and second binding site embedded within the following core sequence:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[0054] In another example~~embodiment~~ of the disclosure~~invention~~, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, wherein:

Xaa_1 is His or Arg, but particularly His;

Xaa_2 is Gln or Asn, but particularly Gln;

Xaa_3 is Val or Leu, but particularly Val;

Xaa_4 is Ala or Val, but particularly Ala;

Xaa_5 is Glu or Asp, but particularly Glu; and

Xaa_6 is Asp or Glu, but particularly Asp.

[0055] In one example~~embodiment~~ of the disclosure~~invention~~, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided which recognizes and binds to at least two distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said at least two distinct binding sites each comprise at least two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, which are - Phe - Phe - Ala - Glu -, particularly - Phe - Phe - Ala -,but especially - Phe - Phe - and - Lys - Leu -, respectively, and wherein said at least two distinct binding sites exhibit amino acid sequence -Val - Phe - Phe - Ala - Glu - Asp - shown in SEQ ID NO: 7 and amino acid sequence His - Gln - Lys - Leu - Val - shown in SEQ ID NO: 8, respectively.

[0056] In one example~~embodiment~~ of the disclosure~~invention~~, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, which recognizes

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

[0057] In another examplembodiment of the disclosureinvention, the chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof comprises an antigen recognition and binding site which recognizes and binds to at least two distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said at least two distinct binding sites each comprise at least two consecutive amino acid residues within the amino acid sequence given in SEQ ID NOs: 7 and 8, respectively, wherein said consecutive amino acid residues, particularly -Phe- Phe- and -Lys-Leu-, are predominantly involved in the binding of the β-amyloid protein.

[0058] In a further specific embodimentexample of the inventiondisclosure, an antibody or a fragment thereof according to the inventiondisclosure is provided, which binds to 4 distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein wherein said 4 distinct binding sites include 2 binding sites each comprising one amino acid residue and 2 binding sites each comprising two consecutive amino acid residues, which residues are predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody, wherein said 4 distinct binding sites are located in close proximity to each other on the β-amyloid protein, and wherein said 4 binding sites are separated by at least one amino acid residue not involved in antibody binding or involved in binding but to a significantly smaller extent as compared to said one amino acid residue and said two consecutive amino acid residues of the 4 distinct binding sites thus forming a conformational discontinuous epitope.

[0059] In particular, the first of the two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody is -Lys-Leu-, and the second of the at least two consecutive amino acid residues is -Phe-Phe-, the first of the single

amino acid residues is -His- and the second of the single amino acid residues is -Asp- embedded within the following core sequence:

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

Wherein:

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

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

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

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

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

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

[0060] In one ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to an antibody or a fragment thereof according to the ~~invention~~disclosure, which binds to 4 distinct binding sites on the β-amyloid protein, wherein said 4 distinct binding sites include two binding sites each comprising one amino acid residue and two binding sites each comprising two consecutive amino acid residues, wherein the first of the two consecutive amino acid residues predominantly involved in the binding of the antibody is -Lys-Leu-, and the second of the at least two consecutive amino acid residues is -Phe-Phe-, the first of the single amino acid residues is -His- and the second of the single amino acid residues is -Asp- embedded within the following core sequence:

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

Wherein:

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

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

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

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

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

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

[0061] In a specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, the recognition and binding sites as defined herein before are forming a conformational discontinuous epitope localized in a region of the β-amyloid protein between amino acid residue 12 to 24, particularly between residues 14 to 23, more particularly between amino acid residues 14 and 20, wherein the at least two distinct recognition and binding sites each comprising at least 2 amino acid residues, are located at position 16 and 17 and at position 19 and 20, respectively, and wherein the at least one distinct recognition and binding site comprising at least 1 amino acid residue is located at position 14, which residues are predominantly involved in the binding of the β-amyloid protein and wherein said distinct recognition and binding sites are at least on one side flanked by amino acid residues, particularly residues 21 and 22, and separated by one amino acid residue located at position 15 and 18, which amino acid residues are not directly involved in the binding of the antigen or, at least, to a substantially smaller extent.

[0062] In still another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure the said at least three distinct recognition and binding sites are flanked on both sides by amino acid residues, particularly residues 12 and 13, and residues 21 and 22 and are separated by one amino acid residue located at position 15 and 18, which amino acid residues are not directly involved in the binding of the antigen or, at least, to a substantially smaller extent.

[0063] In a specific ~~embodiment~~example, said consecutive amino acid residues, particularly –Lys-Leu- at position 16 and 17 and -Phe- Phe- at position 19 and 20, which are predominantly involved in the binding of the β-amyloid protein, are embedded into the following core region:

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

[0064] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example, said amino acid residues, particularly -Lys-Leu- at position 16 and 17 and -Phe- Phe- at position 19 and 20, and -His- at position 14, which are predominantly involved in the binding of the β-amyloid protein, are embedded into the following core region:

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

[0065] In another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided which comprises in the light chain and heavy chain variable region, respectively, at least one CDR of non-human origin, particularly two CDRs of non-human origin, more particularly three CDR of non-human origin, embedded in one or more human- or primate-derived framework regions and, optionally, a constant region derived from a human or primate source antibody, which humanized antibody or fragment thereof is capable of specifically recognizing and binding β-amyloid protein, particularly a β-amyloid monomeric peptide, more particularly a β-amyloid polymeric peptide, even more particularly β-amyloid fibers, fibrils or filaments in isolation or as part of a β-amyloid plaque, at an epitope comprising the following amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 11):

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[0066] In still another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided which comprises in the light chain and heavy chain variable region, respectively, at least one CDR of non-human origin, particularly two CDRs of non-human origin, more particularly three CDR of non-human origin, embedded in one or more human- or primate-derived framework regions and, optionally, a constant region derived from a human or primate source antibody, which humanized antibody or fragment thereof is capable of specifically recognizing and binding β-amyloid protein, particularly a β-amyloid monomeric peptide, more particularly a β-amyloid polymeric peptide, even more particularly β-amyloid fibers, fibrils or filaments in isolation or as part of a β-amyloid plaque, at an epitope comprising the following amino acid sequence:

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

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

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

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

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

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

[0067] In a specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, the CDR of non-human origin is obtained from a donor antibody, but particularly from a murine donor antibody, raised against an antigen fragment which does not contain said distinct binding site. This shift in the epitopic region may have at least partially been caused by the use of a supramolecular antigenic construct comprising an antigenic peptide corresponding to the amino acid sequence of the β-amyloid peptide, particularly of β-amyloid peptide $A\beta_{1-16}$, modified with a hydrophilic moiety such as, for example, polyethylene glycol (PEG), wherein said hydrophilic moiety is covalently bound to each of the termini of the antigenic peptide through at least one, particularly one or two amino acids such as, for example, lysine, glutamic acid and cysteine or any other suitable amino acid or amino acid analogue capable of serving as a connecting device for coupling the hydrophilic moiety to the peptide fragment, as described herein below in the immunization process. When a PEG is used as the hydrophilic moiety, the free PEG termini are covalently bound to phosphatidylethanolamine or any other compound suitable to function as the anchoring element, for example, to embed the antigenic construct in the bilayer of a liposome as described herein.

[0068] In particular, the CDR of non-human origin is obtained from a murine donor antibody which exhibits the characteristic properties of ACI-01-Ab7C2 (also named "mC2" throughout the application) deposited 01 December 2005 with the Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ) in Braunschweig, Mascheroder Weg 1 B, 38124 Branuschweig, under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty under accession no DSM ACC2750).

[0069] In one ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, the CDR of non-human origin is obtained from murine donor antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2 (also named "mC2" throughout the application) deposited 01 December 2005 with the Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ) in Braunschweig, Mascheroder Weg 1 B, 38124 Branuschweig, under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty under accession no DSM ACC2750).

[0070] Also the use of lipid A as part of the immunization protocol may have contributed to a shift in the epitopic region.

[0071] In a specific ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived framework regions at least one peptide with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

[0072] In another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, wherein said humanized antibody comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least one peptide with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

[0073] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, wherein said humanized antibody comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived light chain framework regions a peptide with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

[0074] In particular, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived framework regions at least one peptide with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

[0075] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived framework regions at least one peptide with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

[0076] The ~~invention~~disclosure further relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived framework regions at least two peptides, which peptides are different and exhibit an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) wherein the same CDR cannot be present twice in the antibody. In particular, if the at least two CDRs present are both CDRs of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), at least on of said CDRs must be CDR1 represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

[0077] Also comprised by the ~~invention~~disclosure is a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least two peptides with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR), but particularly a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof wherein the same CDR cannot be present twice in the antibody.

[0078] In particular, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least two peptides with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

[0079] In a further ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived light chain framework regions at least two peptides with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

[0080] In particular, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), which has integrated into human- or primate-derived light chain framework regions at least two peptides with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), wherein the same CDR cannot be present twice in the antibody and, in particular, at least on of said CDRs must be CDR1 represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

[0081] The ~~invention~~disclosure also relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR), particularly in the order indicated above.

[0082] In particular, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR), particularly in the order indicated above.

[0083] Also comprised by the ~~invention~~disclosure is a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived light chain framework regions peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), particularly in the order indicated above.

[0084] In particular, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) comprising integrated into human- or primate-derived light chain framework regions peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), particularly in the order indicated above.

[0085] The ~~invention~~disclosure also relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived framework regions at least three peptides with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1 , SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), but particularly a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof wherein the same CDR cannot be present twice in the antibody.

[0086] In another ~~embodiment~~example the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which antibody comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived framework regions at least four peptides with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1 , SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO:3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR), but particularly a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof wherein the same CDR cannot be present twice in the antibody.

[0087] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived framework regions at least five peptides with an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO:3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain

Variable Region (LCVR), but particularly a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof wherein the same CDR cannot be present twice in the antibody.

[0088] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, which comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived framework regions peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1, SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

[0089] In a specific ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a humanized antibody, a Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR), or a fragment thereof, wherein said humanized antibody, Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) or fragment thereof comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least a peptide with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

[0090] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a humanized antibody, a Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) or a fragment thereof, wherein said humanized antibody, Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) or fragment thereof comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least a peptide with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

[0091] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a humanized antibody, Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) or a fragment thereof, which antibody, Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) or fragment thereof comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least two peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1 and SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

[0092] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a humanized antibody, a Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) or a fragment thereof, which antibody, Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) or fragment thereof comprises

integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least two peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 representing CDR1 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

[0093] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a humanized antibody, a Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) or a fragment thereof, which antibody, Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) or fragment thereof comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least two peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 representing CDR2 and SEQ ID NO: 3 representing CDR3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

[0094] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a humanized antibody, a Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) or a fragment thereof, which antibody, Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) or fragment thereof comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least two peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1 and SEQ ID NO: 5 representing CDR2 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

[0095] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a humanized antibody, a Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) or a fragment thereof, which antibody, Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) or fragment thereof comprises integrated into human- or primate-derived heavy chain framework regions at least two peptides with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 representing CDR1 and SEQ ID NO: 6 representing CDR3 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

[0096] Further comprised by the ~~invention~~disclosure is a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, wherein both the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) and the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) of the mouse C2 antibody each contributes at least one of its CDR regions to the at least two CDR regions of the humanized antibody. The resulting humanized antibody or a fragment thereof thus may comprise

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[0097] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof as described herein before, which antibody comprises a light chain and/or a heavy chain constant region of human or primate origin.

[0098] In a further ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, wherein at least one, particularly at least one but not more than 5, more particularly at least one but not more than 4, even more particularly at least one but not more than 3, but especially at least one but not more than 2, of the amino acids representative of the light chain and/or heavy chain CDR regions as given in SEQ ID NOs: 1 – 6 is changed through a conservative substitution such that the antibody maintains its full functionality.

[0099] In particular, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, wherein in CDR2 of the light chain variable region (LCVR) as given in SEQ ID NO: 5, the Lys at Kabat position 50 is replaced by an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Arg, Gln and Glu, particularly by Arg.

[0100] In particular, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a light chain variable region (LCVR) wherein in CDR2 as given in SEQ ID NO: 5, the Lys at Kabat position 50 is replaced by an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Arg, Gln and Glu, particularly by Arg.

[0101] In another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof, wherein in CDR2 of the light chain variable region (LCVR) as given in SEQ ID NO: 5, the Ser at Kabat position 53 is replaced by an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Asn or Thr, but particularly by Asn.

[0102] In particular, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a light chain variable region (LCVR) wherein in CDR2 as given in SEQ ID NO: 5, the Ser at Kabat position 53 is replaced by an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Asn or Thr, but particularly by Asn.

[0103] In one ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, wherein the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) has an amino acid sequence that is 90%, particularly 95%, more particularly 98% identical to the sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 15 and 16, respectively.

[0104] In another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, wherein the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) has an amino acid sequence that is 90%, particularly 95%, more particularly 98% identical to the sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 12 and 13, respectively.

[0105] In still another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, wherein at least two, but especially three, of the CDR regions of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) have an amino acid sequence that is 90%, particularly 95%, more particularly 98% identical to the corresponding CDR region as given in SEQ ID NO: 1 – 3.

[0106] In a further ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided, wherein at least two, but especially three, of the CDR regions of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) have an amino acid sequence that is 90%, particularly 95%, more particularly 98% identical to the corresponding CDR region as given in SEQ ID NO: 4-6.

[0107] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the present ~~invention~~disclosure as described herein before wherein the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) has an amino acid sequence that is 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% identical to the sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 15 and 16, respectively.

[0108] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the present ~~invention~~disclosure as described herein before wherein the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) has an amino acid sequence that is 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% identical to the sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 12 and 13, respectively.

[0109] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the present ~~invention~~disclosure as described herein before, wherein at least one, particularly at least

two, but especially three, of the CDR regions of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR) have an amino acid sequence that is 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% identical to the corresponding CDR region as given in SEQ ID NO: 1-3.

[0110] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the present ~~invention~~disclosure as described herein before, wherein at least one, particularly at least two, but especially three, of the CDR regions of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR) have an amino acid sequence that is 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% identical to the corresponding CDR region as given in SEQ ID NO: 4-6.

[0111] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a humanized antibody according to the present ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein before, wherein at least one of the amino acids representative of the acceptor framework sequences obtained from human germline V_H and V_K sequences, respectively is changed through a substitution to an amino acid from the corresponding region of murine antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2 or a substitution conservative thereto.

[0112] In particular, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Leu, norleucine, Ile, Val, Met, Ala, and Phe, particularly Leu and Ile, but especially Leu such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15.

[0113] The ~~invention~~disclosure further relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Arg in Kabat position 94 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ser and Thr, but especially by Ser such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15.

[0114] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Leu, norleucine, Ile, Val, Met, Ala, and Phe, particularly Leu and Ile, but especially Leu and the Arg in Kabat position 94 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ser and Thr, but especially by Ser such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15.

[0115] The ~~invention~~disclosure further relates to a Light Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Light Chain Variable Region, respectively,, wherein the Gln in Kabat position 45 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_K sequences of KABAT subgroup V_KII of the Light Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Lys, Arg, Gln, and Asn, particularly by Lys and Arg, but especially by Lys.

[0116] The ~~invention~~disclosure further relates to a Light Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Light Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Tyr in Kabat position 87 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_K sequences of KABAT subgroup V_KII of the Light Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Phe, Leu, Val, Ile, and Ala, particularly by Leu and Phe, but especially by Phe.

[0117] The ~~invention~~disclosure further relates to a Light Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Light Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Lys in Kabat position 50 in the CDR2 region obtained from a mouse monoclonal antibody, particularly murine antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2, such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 12 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Arg, Gln, His, and Asn, but especially by Arg.

[0118] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a Light Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Light Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Asn in Kabat position 53 in the CDR2 region obtained from

a mouse monoclonal antibody, particularly murine antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2, such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 12 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, Ser and Ile; but especially Ser.

[0119] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a humanized antibody, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Leu, norleucine, Ile, Val, Met, Ala, and Phe, particularly Leu and Ile, but especially Leu and the Arg in Kabat position 94 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ser and Thr, but especially by Ser as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15, and the Tyr in Kabat position 87 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_K sequences of KABAT subgroup V_KII of the Light Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Phe, Leu, Val, Ile, and Ala, particularly by Leu and Phe, but especially by Phe.

[0120] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 is replaced by Leu.

[0121] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Arg in Kabat position 94 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by Ser such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15.

[0122] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively,, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the acceptor framework

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

[0123] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a Light Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Tyr in Kabat position 87 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_K sequences of KABAT subgroup V_KII of the Light Chain Variable Region is replaced by Phe.

[0124] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively,, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by Leu and Ile, but especially Leu and the Arg in Kabat position 94 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by Ser such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 and the Tyr in Kabat position 87 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_K sequences of KABAT subgroup V_KII of the Light Chain Variable Region is replaced by Phe.

[0125] In one ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Leu, norleucine, Ile, Val, Met, Ala, and Phe, particularly Leu and Ile, but especially Leu and the Arg in Kabat position 94 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ser and Thr, but especially by Ser such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 and wherein the Lys in Kabat position 50 in the CDR2 region obtained from a mouse monoclonal antibody, particularly murine antibody

ACI-01-Ab7C2, is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Arg, Gln, His, and Asn, but especially by Arg.

[0126] In one ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a Heavy Chain Variable Region and to a humanized antibody comprising this Heavy Chain Variable Region, respectively, wherein the Trp in Kabat position 47 in the acceptor framework sequence obtained from human germline V_H sequences of KABAT subgroup V_HIII of the Heavy Chain Variable Region is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Leu, norleucine, Ile, Val, Met, Ala, and Phe, particularly Leu and Ile, but especially Leu and the Arg in Kabat position 94 is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ser and Thr, but especially by Ser such as shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 and wherein the Asn in Kabat position 53 in the CDR2 region obtained from a mouse monoclonal antibody, particularly murine antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2, is replaced by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ala, Val, Leu, Ser and Ile; but especially Ser.

[0127] In a specific ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to the light chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 12.

[0128] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, a humanized antibody is provided, which comprises the light chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 12.

[0129] In a specific ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to the light chain variable region including signal sequences as shown in SEQ ID NO: 13.

[0130] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, a humanized antibody is provided, which comprises the complete light chain variable region including signal sequences as shown in SEQ ID NO: 13.

[0131] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, a humanized antibody is provided, which comprises the light chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 12 and the light chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 14.

[0132] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, a humanized antibody is provided, which comprises the complete light chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 13 and the light chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 14.

[0133] In a specific ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to the heavy chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 15.

[0134] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, a humanized antibody is provided, which comprises the heavy chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 15.

[0135] In a specific ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to the heavy chain variable region including signal sequences as shown in SEQ ID NO: 16.

[0136] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, a humanized antibody is provided, which comprises the complete heavy chain variable region including signal sequences as shown in SEQ ID NO: 16.

[0137] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, a humanized antibody is provided, which comprises the heavy chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 15 and the heavy chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 17.

[0138] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, a humanized antibody is provided, which comprises the heavy chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 16 and the heavy chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 17.

[0139] In one ~~embodiment~~example the humanized antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein, upon co-incubation with an Aβ monomeric peptide having at least 30, particularly at least 35, more particularly at least 38, even more particularly at least 40 amino acid residues and/or an Aβ polymeric soluble amyloid peptide comprising a plurality of said Aβ monomeric units, but especially with an $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric and/or an Aβ polymeric soluble amyloid peptide comprising a plurality of said $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric units, particularly at a molar concentration ratio of antibody to Aβ1-42 of up to 1:1000, particularly of up to 1:500, more particularly of up to 1:300, even more particularly of up to 1:200, but especially at a molar concentration ratio of between 1:10 and 1:100, inhibits the aggregation of the Aβ monomers to high molecular polymeric fibrils.

[0140] In particular, the co-incubation of the antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure with amyloid monomeric and/or polymeric soluble amyloid peptides is carried out for 24 hours to 60 hours, particularly for 30 hours to 50 hours, more particularly for 48

hours, but especially 24 hours, at a temperature of between 28°C and 40°C, particularly of between 32°C and 38°C, more particularly at 37°C.

[0141] In a specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, co-incubation with amyloid monomeric and/or polymeric soluble amyloid peptides is accomplished for 24 hours at a temperature of 37°C.

[0142] In particular, the antibody, particularly the humanized antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof binds to $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric peptide and/or Aβ polymeric soluble amyloid peptide comprising a plurality of said $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric units and, upon co-incubation with $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric peptide and/or Aβ polymeric soluble amyloid peptide comprising a plurality of said $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric units inhibits the aggregation of the Aβ monomers and/or polymers to high molecular polymeric fibrils.

[0143] In one ~~embodiment~~example, the antibody, particularly the humanized antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof inhibits the aggregation of the Aβ monomers and/or Aβ soluble polymers comprising a plurality of said Aβ monomeric units to high molecular polymeric fibrils by at least 50%, particularly by at least 60%, particularly by at least 65%, more particularly by at least 75%, even more particularly by at least 80%, but especially by at least 85%-90%, or more as compared to the respective amyloid peptide monomers incubated in buffer (control), at a molar concentration ratio of antibody to Aβ1-42 of up to 1:1000, particularly at a molar concentration ratio of between 1:10 and 1:100, but especially at a molar concentration ratio of 1:10.

[0144] In a specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, the antibody, particularly the humanized antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof inhibits the aggregation of the Aβ monomers and/or Aβ soluble polymers comprising a plurality of said Aβ monomeric units to high molecular polymeric fibrils by at least 30% at a molar concentration ratio of antibody to Aβ1-42 of 1:100.

[0145] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, the antibody, particularly the humanized antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure including any functionally

equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof inhibits the aggregation of the Aβ monomers and/or Aβ soluble polymers comprising a plurality of said Aβ monomeric units to high molecular polymeric fibrils by at least 80% at a molar concentration ratio of antibody to Aβ1-42 of 1:10.

[0146] Binding of the antibodies according to the ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein to amyloidogenic monomeric and/or polymeric peptides but, particularly, to the amyloid form (1-42) leads to inhibition of the aggregation of monomeric and/or polymeric amyloidogenic peptides to high molecular fibrils or filaments. Through the inhibition of the aggregation of amyloidogenic monomeric and/or polymeric peptides the antibodies according to the present ~~invention~~disclosure are capable of preventing or slowing down the formation of amyloid plaques, particularly the amyloid form (1-42), which is know to become insoluble by change of secondary conformation and to be the major part of amyloid plaques in brains of diseased $_{subject}$s or humans.

[0147] The aggregation inhibition potential of the antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure may be determined by any suitable method known in the art, particularly by density-gradient ultracentrifugation followed by a SDS-PAGE sedimentation analysis on a preformed gradient and/or by a thioflavin T (Th-T) fluorescent assay.

[0148] In one ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to an antibody, particularly a humanized antibody as described herein including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof, which antibody, upon co-incubation, particularly at a molar concentration ratio of between 1:5 and 1:1000, particularly of between 1:10 and 1:500, more particularly at a ratio of 1:10 to 1:300, even more particularly at a ratio of between 1:10 and 1:100, with preformed high molecular polymeric amyloid fibrils or filaments formed by the aggregation of Aβ monomeric peptides having at least 30, particularly at least 35, more particularly at least 38, even more particularly at least 40 amino acid residues and, but especially $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric peptides, is capable of disaggregating the preformed polymeric fibrils or filaments by at least 20%, particularly by at least 30%, more particularly by at least 35%%, even more particularly by at least 40%, but especially by at least 50% or more.

[0149] In a specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, the aggregation inhibition and the disaggregation potential of the antibody, respectively, is determined by density-gradient ultracentrifugation followed by a SDS-PAGE sedimentation analysis on a preformed gradient.

[0150] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, the aggregation inhibition and the disaggregation potential of the antibody, respectively, is determined by thioflavin T (Th-T) fluorescent assay.

[0151] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example, the antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure is co-incubated with amyloid preformed high molecular polymeric amyloid fibrils or filaments for 12 hours to 36 hours, particularly for 18 hours to 30 hours, more particularly for 24 hours at a temperature of between 28°C and 40°C, particularly of between 32°C and 38°C, more particularly at 37°C.

[0152] In particular, the co-incubation with preformed high molecular polymeric amyloid fibrils or filaments is done for 24 hours at a temperature of 37°C.

[0153] In a specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, the antibody, particularly the humanized antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof is capable of disaggregating the preformed polymeric fibrils or filaments by at least 24% at a molar concentration ratio of antibody to Aβ1-42 of 1:100.

[0154] In another specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, the antibody, particularly the humanized antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof is capable of disaggregating the preformed polymeric fibrils or filaments by at least 32% at a molar concentration ratio of antibody to Aβ1-42 of 1:10.

[0155] Through the disaggregation of amyloidogenic polymeric fibrils or filaments the antibodies according to the present ~~invention~~disclosure are capable of preventing or slowing down the formation of amyloid plaques which leads to an alleviation of the symptoms associated with the disease and a delay or reversal of its progression.

[0156] Accordingly, it is a further ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure to provide an antibody, particularly a humanized antibody, including any functionally equivalent antibody or functional parts thereof as described herein, which antibody is capable of decreasing the total amount of Aβ in the brain of a subject, particularly a mammal, but especially a human suffering from a disease or condition leading to increased concentration of Aβ in the brain.

[0157] In another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a humanized antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein before, which antibody is bi-effective in that it exhibits both an aggregation inhibition property as well as a disaggregation property, particularly paired with a high degree of conformational sensitivity.

[0158] In particular, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein before, which antibody, upon co-incubation with amyloid monomeric and/or polymeric soluble amyloid peptides, particularly with β-amyloid monomeric peptides such as, for example, Aβ monomeric peptides 1-39; 1-40, 1-41, or 1-42, and/or a polymeric soluble β-amyloid peptide comprising a plurality of said Aβ monomeric units, but especially with an $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric and/or an Aβ polymeric soluble amyloid peptide comprising a plurality of said $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric units,, inhibits the aggregation of the Aβ monomers into high molecular polymeric fibrils or filaments and, in addition, upon co-incubation with preformed high molecular polymeric amyloid fibrils or filaments formed by the aggregation of amyloid monomeric peptides, particularly β-amyloid monomeric peptides such as, for example, Aβ monomeric peptides 1-39; 1-40, 1-41, or 1-42, but especially $A\beta_{1-42}$ monomeric peptides, is capable of disaggregating the preformed polymeric fibrils or filaments.

[0159] In another ~~aspect~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the present ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein before, which antibody is capable of inducing a transition of the β-sheet conformation towards an α-helix and/or a random coil conformation, but particularly a random coil conformation, even more particularly a

random coil conformation at a given location in the molecule, especially in the environment of Tyr 10 and Val12 of the Aβ protein, which leads to an increase of the random coil conformation at the expense of the β-sheet conformation and an improved solubilization of the preformed high molecular polymeric amyloid fibrils or filaments. In particular the decrease of the β-sheet conformation amounts to at least 30%, particularly to at least 35%, and more particularly to at least 40% and more as compared to the respective preformed amyloid polymeric fibrils or filaments incubated in buffer (control).

[0160] The antibody's potential in inducing a transition in the secondary structure is determined by solid state 13C NMR spectroscopy but, in particular, by measuring the integral intensities of the conformations of Tyr 10 and Val 12 Cβ in the $A\beta_{1-42}$ peptide.

[0161] In a further ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the present ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein before, is provided comprising at least one light chain or a fragment thereof or at least one heavy chain or a fragment thereof, wherein said antibody or fragment binds to an Aβ monomer with a high binding affinity with a K_D in a range of between at least about 1 x 10^{-7} M to at least about 1 x 10^{-12} M, particularly of at least about 1 x 10^{-8} M to at least about 1 x 10^{-11} M, more particularly of at least about 1 x 10^{-9} M to at least about 1 x 10^{-10} M, even more particularly of at least about 1 x 10^{-8} M to at least about 2 x 10^{-8} M but, preferably, does not show any significant cross-reactivity with amyloid precursor protein (APP).

[0162] In another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the present ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein before, is provided comprising at least one light chain or a fragment thereof or at least one heavy chain or a fragment thereof, wherein said antibody or fragment binds to an Aβ fiber, fibril or filament with a high binding affinity with a K_D in a range of between at least about 1 x 10^{-7} M to at least about 1 x 10^{-12} M, particularly of at least about 1 x 10^{-8} M to at least about 1 x 10^{-11} M, more

particularly of at least about 1 x 10^{-9} M to at least about 1 x 10^{-10} M, even more particularly of at least about 2 x 10^{-9} M to at least about 5 x 10^{-9} M, but, preferably, does not show any significant cross-reactivity with amyloid precursor protein (APP).

[0163] In another ~~embodiment~~example, the antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein before or a fragment thereof, exhibits an binding affinity to an Aβ fiber, fibril or filament which is at least 2 times, particularly at least 4 times, particularly at least 10 times, particularly at least 15 times, more particularly at least 20 times, but especially at least 25 times higher than the binding affinity to an Aβ monomer.

[0164] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided as described herein before, which antibody substantially binds to aggregated Aβ, including Aβ plaques, in the mammalian, particularly the human brain but, preferably, does not show any significant cross-reactivity with amyloid precursor protein (APP).

[0165] In another ~~aspect~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, the chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof is provided as described herein before, which antibody substantially binds to soluble polymeric amyloid, particularly amyloid β (Aβ), including Aβ monomers, in the mammalian, particularly the human brain but, preferably, does not show any significant cross-reactivity with amyloid precursor protein (APP).

[0166] Further provided is a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein before, which antibody significantly reduces Aβ plaque burden in the mammalian, particularly the human brain. This can be achieved by either binding of the antibody to the plaque or by shifting the equilibrium between amyloid, particularly amyloid β (Aβ), in its insoluble and aggregated state towards its soluble form by disaggregating fibers to soluble poly- and monomeric forms by inducing a shift in conformation and binding and stabilizing the disaggregated and solubilized amyloid forms, particularly amyloid β (Aβ) forms, in the tissue and/or body fluids, particularly the brain. Through the activity of the antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure the peripheral clearing and catabolism is thus favored rather than deposition within

the tissue and/or body fluids, particularly the brain. The beneficial effect of the antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure can thus be obtained without binding of the antibody to the plaque.

[0167] Through this stabilizing activity, the antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure is able to neutralize the toxic effects of the polymeric and less aggregated soluble amyloid protein, particularly amyloid β (Aβ) protein, in the tissue and/or body fluids. In a specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure the antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure may thus achieve its beneficial effects without necessarily binding aggregated amyloid beta in the brain.

[0168] In a further ~~aspect~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the present ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein before, is provided comprising at least one light chain or a fragment thereof or at least one heavy chain or a fragment thereof incorporating at least one, particularly two and more particularly three CDR regions obtained form a mouse donor antibody, particularly from mouse antibody ACI-01-Ab7C2 (named "mC2" and hC2 for the humanized C2 antibody, throughout the application) deposited 01 December 2005 with the Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ) in Braunschweig, Mascheroder Weg 1 B, 38124 Braunschweig, under accession no DSM ACC2750, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof has an affinity to the Aβ antigen which is at least 5 times, particularly at least 8 times, more particularly at least 10 times, but especially at least 15 times higher than that of the mouse donor antibody.

[0169] The antibody of this ~~invention~~disclosure can be, in one ~~embodiment~~example, a whole antibody (e.g., with two full length light chains and two full length heavy chains) of any isotype and subtype (*e.g.*, IgM, IgD, IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4, IgE, IgA1 and IgA2); but especially an antibody of the IgG4 isotype; alternatively, in another ~~embodiment~~example, it can be an antigen-binding fragment (e.g., Fab, $F(ab')_2$, and Fv) of a whole antibody.

[0170] The ~~invention~~disclosure thus also relates to antigen-binding fragments of the antibodies described herein. In one ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, the fragment is selected from the group consisting of a Fab fragment, a Fab'' fragment, a $F(ab)_2$ fragment, and a F_v fragment, including the products of an Fab immunoglobulin

expression library and epitope-binding fragments of any of the antibodies and fragments mentioned above.

[0171] In another ~~embodiment~~example, the antibody or antigen-binding fragment of the ~~invention~~disclosure is conjugated to polyethylene glycol. In yet another ~~embodiment~~example, the constant region of the antibody of the ~~invention~~disclosure is modified to reduce at least one constant region-mediated biological effector function relative to an unmodified antibody. In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the antibody or antigen-binding fragment of the ~~invention~~disclosure comprises a Fc region having an altered effector function.

[0172] The ~~invention~~disclosure further relates to a nucleotide molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the ~~invention~~disclosure and as disclosed herein before.

[0173] In particular, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a nucleotide molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a stretch of contiguous amino acid molecules as given in SEQ ID NO: 2 and 3, respectively, or the complementary sequence, representing the Complementarity Determining Regions (CDRs) 2 and 3 of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

[0174] More particularly, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a nucleotide molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a stretch of contiguous amino acid molecules as given in SEQ ID NO: 4, or the complementary sequence, representing the Complementarity Determining Regions (CDRs) 1 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

[0175] In another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure a nucleotide molecule is provided comprising a nucleotide sequence as given in SEQ ID NO: 18 and SEQ ID NO: 19, or the complementary sequence, encoding the amino acid sequence of CDR 2 and CDR 3, respectively, of the Heavy Chain Variable Region (HCVR).

[0176] In another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure a nucleotide molecule is provided comprising a nucleotide sequence as given in SEQ ID NO: 20, or the complementary sequence, encoding the nucleotide sequence of CDR 1 of the Light Chain Variable Region (LCVR).

[0177] In another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure a nucleotide molecule is provided comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21, or the complementary sequence, encoding the light chain variable region.

[0178] In another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure a nucleotide molecule is provided comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22, or the complementary sequence, encoding the complete light chain variable region including signal sequences.

[0179] In another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure a nucleotide molecule is provided comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the light chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 22 and the light chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 23. The ~~invention~~disclosure also comprises the complementary strand of said nucleotide molecule.

[0180] In another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure a nucleotide molecule is provided comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 24 encoding the heavy chain variable region. The ~~invention~~disclosure also comprises the complementary strand of said nucleotide molecule.

[0181] In another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure a nucleotide molecule is provided comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 25 encoding the complete heavy chain variable region including signal sequences. The ~~invention~~disclosure also comprises the complementary strand of said nucleotide molecule.

[0182] In another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure a nucleotide molecule is provided comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the heavy chain variable region of SEQ ID NO: 25 and the heavy chain constant region of SEQ ID NO: 26 . The ~~invention~~disclosure also comprises the complementary strand of said nucleotide molecule.

[0183] Also comprised by the present ~~invention~~disclosure is a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to one of the above-described antibody-encoding nucleotide sequences of the ~~invention~~disclosure, particularly to the complementary strand thereof, either in isolation or as part of larger nucleotide molecule.

[0184] In particular, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under conventional hybridization conditions, particularly under stringent

hybridization conditions, to any of the nucleotide sequences given in SEQ ID NOs: 18-26 and 29 - 32, particularly to the complementary strand thereof.

[0185] In another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure an expression vector is provided comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to the ~~invention~~disclosure and as mentioned herein before.

[0186] In another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure a cell is provided comprising an expression vector comprising the nucleic acid according to the ~~invention~~disclosure and as mentioned herein before.

[0187] In still another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a composition comprising the antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure, but particularly a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein before, including any functionally equivalent antibody or any derivative or functional parts thereof, in a therapeutically effective amount, in particular a composition which is a pharmaceutical composition optionally further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

[0188] In another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, said composition comprises the antibody in a therapeutically effective amount.

[0189] Further comprised by the ~~invention~~disclosure is a composition or mixture comprising an antibody, particularly a monoclonal antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure, but particularly a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein before including any functionally equivalent antibody or any derivative or functional parts thereof, in a therapeutically effective amount and, optionally, a further biologically active substance and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or a diluent and/or an excipient.

[0190] In particular, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a composition or mixture, wherein the further biologically active substance is a compound used in the medication of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid or amyloid-like protein such as the Aβ protein involved in Alzheimer's disease.

[0191] In another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, the other biologically active substance or compound may also be a therapeutic agent that may be used in the treatment of amyloidosis caused by amyloid β or may be used in the medication of other neurological disorders.

[0192] The other biologically active substance or compound may exert its biological effect by the same or a similar mechanism as the antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure or by an unrelated mechanism of action or by a multiplicity of related and/or unrelated mechanisms of action.

[0193] Generally, the other biologically active compound may include neutron-transmission enhancers, psychotherapeutic drugs, acetylcholine esterase inhibitors, calcium-channel blockers, biogenic amines, benzodiazepine tranquillizers, acetylcholine synthesis, storage or release enhancers, acetylcholine postsynaptic receptor agonists, monoamine oxidase-A or –B inhibitors, N-methyl-D-aspartate glutamate receptor antagonists, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, antioxidants, and serotonergic receptor antagonists.

[0194] More particularly, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a composition or mixture comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of compounds effective against oxidative stress, anti-apoptotic compounds, metal chelators, inhibitors of DNA repair such as pirenzepin and metabolites, 3-amino-1-propanesulfonic acid (3APS), 1,3-propanedisulfonate (1,3PDS), α-secretase activators, β- and γ-secretase inhibitors, tau proteins, neurotransmitter, β-sheet breakers, attractants for amyloid beta clearing/depleting cellular components, inhibitors of N-terminal truncated amyloid beta including pyroglutamated amyloid beta 3-42, anti-inflammatory molecules, or cholinesterase inhibitors (ChEIs) such as tacrine, rivastigmine, donepezil, and/or galantamine, M1 agonists and other drugs including any amyloid or tau modifying drug and nutritive supplements, and nutritive supplements, together with an antibody according to the present ~~invention~~disclosure and, optionally, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or a diluent and/or an excipient.

[0195] The ~~invention~~disclosure further relates to a composition or a mixture, wherein the compound is a cholinesterase inhibitor (ChEIs), particularly a mixture, wherein the

compound is one selected from the group consisting of tacrine, rivastigmine, donepezil, galantamine, niacin and memantine.

[0196] In a further ~~embodiment~~example, the compositions according to the ~~invention~~disclosure may comprise niacin or memantine together with an antibody according to the present ~~invention~~disclosure and, optionally, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or a diluent and/or an excipient.

[0197] In still another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure compositions are provided that comprise "atypical antipsychotics" such as clozapine, ziprasidone, risperidone, aripiprazole or olanzapine, for the treatment of positive and negative psychotic symptoms, including hallucinations, delusions, thought disorders (manifested by marked incoherence, derailment, tangentiality), and bizarre or disorganized behavior, as well as anhedonia, flattened affect, apathy, and social withdrawal, together with an antibody, particularly a monoclonal antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure, but particularly a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein and, optionally, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or a diluent and/or an excipient.

[0198] In a specific ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, the compositions and mixtures according to the ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein before comprise the antibody and the biologically active substance, respectively, in a therapeutically effective amount.

[0199] Other compounds that can be suitably used in mixtures in combination with the antibody according to the present ~~invention~~disclosure are described in WO 2004/058258 (see especially pages 16 and 17) including therapeutic drug targets (page 36-39), alkanesulfonic acids and alkanolsulfuric acids (pages 39-51), cholinesterase inhibitors (pages 51-56), NMDA receptor antagonists (pages 56-58), estrogens (pages 58-59), non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (pages 60-61), antioxidants (pages 61-62), peroxisome proliferators-activated receptor (PPAR) agonists (pages 63-67), cholesterol-lowering agents (pages 68-75); amyloid inhibitors (pages 75-77), amyloid formation inhibitors (pages 77-78), metal chelators (pages 78-79), anti-psychotics and anti-depressants (pages 80-82), nutritional supplements (pages 83-89) and compounds increasing the availability of biologically active substances in the brain (see pages 89-

93) and prodrugs (pages 93 and 94), which document is incorporated herein by reference.

[0200] In another ~~embodiment~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a composition comprising the antibody, particularly a monoclonal antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure, more particularly a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein before and/or the biologically active substance in a therapeutically effective amount.

[0201] The ~~invention~~disclosure further relates to the use of an antibody, particularly a monoclonal antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure, more particularly a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein before, and/or a functional part thereof and/or a pharmaceutical composition, or a mixture comprising said antibody, for the preparation of a medicament for treating or alleviating the effects of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis such as diseases including, but not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Lewy body dementia (LBD), Down's syndrome, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis (Dutch type); the Guam Parkinson-Dementia complex; as well as other diseases which are based on or associated with amyloid-like proteins such as progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple sclerosis; Creutzfeld Jacob disease, Parkinson's disease, HIV-related dementia, ALS (amyotropic lateral sclerosis), Adult Onset Diabetes; senile cardiac amyloidosis; endocrine tumors, and other diseases, including ocular diseases associated with pathological abnormalities/changes in the tissues of the visual system, particularly associated with amyloid-beta-related pathological abnormalities/changes in the tissues of the visual system, such as neuronal degeneration. These pathological abnormalities may occur, for example, in different tissues of the eye, such as the visual cortex leading to cortical visual deficits, the anterior chamber and the optic nerve leading to glaucoma, the lens leading to cataract due to beta-amyloid deposition, the vitreous leading to ocular amyloidosis, the retina leading to primary retinal degeneration and macular degeneration, for example age-related macular degeneration, the optic nerve leading to optic nerve

drusen, optic neuropathy and optic neuritis, and the cornea leading to lattice dystrophy.

[0202] Also comprised by the present ~~invention~~disclosure is a method for the preparation of an antibody, particularly a monoclonal antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure, more particularly a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein, and/or a functional part thereof and/or a pharmaceutical composition, or a mixture comprising said antibody and/or a functional part thereof, particularly in a therapeutically effective amount, for use in a method of preventing, treating or alleviating the effects of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis such as diseases including, but not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Lewy body dementia (LBD), Down's syndrome, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis (Dutch type), the Guam Parkinson-Dementia complex, as well as other diseases which are based on or associated with amyloid-like proteins such as progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple sclerosis; Creutzfeld Jacob disease, Parkinson's disease, HIV-related dementia, ALS (amyotropic lateral sclerosis), Adult Onset Diabetes; senile cardiac amyloidosis; endocrine tumors, and other diseases, including ocular diseases associated with pathological abnormalities/changes in the tissues of the visual system, particularly associated with amyloid-beta-related pathological abnormalities/changes in the tissues of the visual system, such as neuronal degradation, comprising formulating an antibody, particularly a monoclonal antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure, more particularly a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the ~~invention~~disclosure in a pharmaceutically acceptable form.. The pathological abnormalities may occur, for example, in different tissues of the eye, such as the visual cortex leading to cortical visual deficits; the anterior chamber and the optic nerve leading to glaucoma; the lens leading to cataract due to beta-amyloid deposition; the vitreous leading to ocular amyloidosis; the retina leading to primary retinal degeneration and macular degeneration, for example age-related macular degeneration; the optic nerve

leading to optic nerve drusen, optic neuropathy and optic neuritis, and the cornea leading to lattice dystrophy.

[0203] Further comprised by the present ~~invention~~disclosure is a method for preventing, treating or alleviating the effects of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis in a subject in need thereof, by administering an antibody and/or a functional part thereof, more particularly a humanized antibody and/or a functional part thereof, or a composition or mixture comprising such an antibody and/or a functional part thereof, as described herein, to a subject, in particular a mammal, more particularly a human affected by such a disorder. These diseases include, but are not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Lewy body dementia (LBD), Down's syndrome, hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis (Dutch type), the Guam Parkinson-Dementia complex; as well as other diseases which are based on or associated with amyloid-like proteins such as progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple sclerosis, Creutzfeld Jacob disease, Parkinson's disease, HIV-related dementia, ALS (amyotropic lateral sclerosis), Adult Onset Diabetes; senile cardiac amyloidosis; endocrine tumors, and other diseases, including ocular diseases associated with pathological abnormalities/changes in the tissues of the visual system, particularly associated with amyloid-beta-related pathological abnormalities/changes in the tissues of the visual system, such as neuronal degradation, wherein the pathological abnormalities may occur, for example, in different tissues of the eye, such as the visual cortex leading to cortical visual deficits; the anterior chamber and the optic nerve leading to glaucoma; the lens leading to cataract due to beta-amyloid deposition; the vitreous leading to ocular amyloidosis; the retina leading to primary retinal degeneration and macular degeneration, for example age-related macular degeneration; the optic nerve leading to optic nerve drusen, optic neuropathy and optic neuritis; and the cornea leading to lattice dystrophy.

[0204] It is also an object of the ~~invention~~disclosure to provide a method for the treatment of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis including,

but not limited to, neurological disorders, such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), and other diseases, including ocular diseases associated with pathological abnormalities/changes in the tissues of the visual system, particularly associated with amyloid-beta-related pathological abnormalities/changes in the tissues of the visual system, such as neuronal degradation. The pathological abnormalities may occur, for example, in different tissues of the eye, such as the visual cortex leading to cortical visual deficits; the anterior chamber and the optic nerve leading to glaucoma; the lens leading to cataract due to beta-amyloid deposition; the vitreous leading to ocular amyloidosis; the retina leading to primary retinal degeneration and macular degeneration, for example age-related macular degeneration; the optic nerve leading to optic nerve drusen, optic neuropathy and optic neuritis; and the cornea leading to lattice dystrophy.

[0205] In a specific ~~embodiment~~example the ~~invention~~disclosure provides a method for retaining or increasing cognitive memory capacity but, particularly, for restoring the cognitive memory capacity of a subject, particularly a mammal or a human, suffering from memory impairment by administering to a subject, particularly a mammal or a human, an antibody, particularly a pharmaceutical composition according to the ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein before.

[0206] It is a further object of the ~~invention~~disclosure to provide a therapeutic composition and a method of producing such a composition as well as a method for the treatment of amyloidosis, a group of diseases and disorders associated with amyloid plaque formation including secondary amyloidosis and age-related amyloidosis, in a subject, particularly a mammal, more particularly a human. These diseases and disorders include, but are not limited to, neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), and other diseases, including ocular diseases associated with pathological abnormalities/changes in the tissues of the visual system, particularly associated with amyloid-beta-related pathological abnormalities/changes in the tissues of the visual system, such as neuronal degradation. The pathological abnormalities may occur, for example, in different tissues of the eye, such as the visual cortex leading to cortical visual deficits; the anterior chamber and the optic nerve leading to glaucoma; the lens leading to cataract due to beta-amyloid deposition; the vitreous leading to ocular

amyloidosis; the retina leading to primary retinal degeneration and macular degeneration, for example age-related macular degeneration, the optic nerve leading to optic nerve drusen, optic neuropathy and optic neuritis; and the cornea leading to lattice dystrophy.

[0207] The ~~invention~~disclosure further relates to a method of diagnosis of an amyloid-associated disease or condition in a subject in need thereof, comprising detecting the immunospecific binding of an antibody or an active fragment thereof to an epitope of the amyloid protein in a sample or *in situ* which includes the steps of

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

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

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

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

[0208] Also comprised is a method of determining the extent of amyloidogenic plaque burden in a tissue and/or body fluids in a subject in need thereof comprising

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

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

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

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

[0209] In particular, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a method of determining the extent of amyloidogenic plaque burden in a tissue and/or body fluids, wherein the formation of the immunological complex in step c) is determined such that presence or absence of the immunological complex correlates with presence or absence of amyloid protein.

[0210] In another ~~embodiment~~example of the ~~invention~~disclosure, a test kit for detection and diagnosis of amyloid-associated diseases and conditions is provided comprising an antibody, particularly a monoclonal antibody according to the ~~invention~~disclosure, more particularly a chimeric antibody or a fragment thereof, or a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the ~~invention~~disclosure and as described herein before, and/or a functional part thereof.

[0211] In particular, the ~~invention~~disclosure relates to a test kit for the detection and diagnosis of amyloid-associated diseases and conditions comprising a container holding one or more antibodies according to the present ~~invention~~disclosure, and/or a functional part thereof, and instructions for using the antibodies for the purpose of binding to amyloid protein to form an immunological complex and detecting the formation of the immunological complex such that presence or absence of the immunological complex correlates with presence or absence of amyloid protein.

[0212] In another ~~aspect~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure provides an antibody comprising a variable region as recited in SEQ ID NO: 27, or a variant thereof. In one ~~embodiment~~example, a cell line expressing the antibody.

[0213] In another ~~aspect~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure provides an antibody gene comprising a variable region as recited in SEQ ID NO: 29, or a variant thereof. In one ~~embodiment~~example, a cell line expresses the antibody.

[0214] In another ~~aspect~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure provides a method for disaggregating preformed beta-amyloid fibers, comprising interacting an hC2 antibody with preformed beta-amyloid fibers.

[0215] In another ~~aspect~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure provides a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof protects neurons from Abeta-induced degradation.

[0216] In another ~~aspect~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure provides a method of preventing Abeta-induced neuron degradation in a subject in need thereof comprising treating neurons with an effective amount of a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the disclosure herein.

[0217] In another ~~aspect~~example, the ~~invention~~disclosure provides use of a humanized antibody or a fragment thereof according to the description herein for the preparation of a medicament for preventing degeneration of neurons upon exposure to Abeta oligomer.

[0218] These and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent after a review of the following detailed description of the disclosed embodiment and the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0219] Figures 1-1 and 1-2 (Example 2): Expression Cassette of the mouse light chain variable region of the Chimeric Antibody.

[0220] Figures 2-1 and 2-2 (Example 2): Expression Cassette of the mouse heavy chain variable region of the Chimeric Antibody.

[0221] Figure 3 (Example 5.2): Comparison of the mouse heavy chain variable region to the closest murine germ line sequence.

[0222] Figure 4 (Example 8): Activity of purified humanized C2 antibodies.

[0223] Figure 5 (Example 9): Binding activity of antibodies produced by transient expression of C2 modified CDRL2 constructs in conjunction with C2 chimeric heavy chain, compared to chimeric antibody C2ChVHAF/ChVK, produced by transient transfection and purified antibody

[0224] Figure 6 (Example 11): Results of Immunohistochemical Binding Assay with chimeric antibody AF and humanized antibody H4K1