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HUMANIZED ANTI-Tau(pS422) ANTIBODIES AND METHODS OF USE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to humanized anti-Tau(pS422) antibodies which specifically bind to phosphorylated Tau fragment of SEQ ID NO: 03 and their use for the treatment of brain diseases.

BACKGROUND

Human Tau (microtubule-associated protein Tau (neurofibrillary tangle protein, paired helical filament-Tau, PHF-Tau)) is a neuronal microtubule-associated protein found predominantly in axons and functions to promote tubulin polymerization and to stabilize microtubules. Eight isoforms (isoform A, B, C, D, E, F, G, fetal-Tau) are found in the human brain, the longest isoform comprising 441 amino acids (isoform F, Uniprot P10636-8). Tau and its properties are also described by Reynolds, C.H., et al., J. Neurochem. 69 (1997) 191-198.

Tau, in its hyperphosphorylated form, is the major component of paired helical filaments (PHF), the building block of neurofibrillary lesions in Alzheimer's disease (AD) brain. Tau can be phosphorylated at its serine or threonine residues by several different kinases including GSK3beta, cdk5, MARK and members of the MAP kinase family.

Tauopathies are characterized by abnormal hyperphosphorylation of Tau and are according to Iqbal, K., et al. (Biochim. Biophys. Acta 1739 (2005) 198-210):

- Alzheimer disease, including tangle-only form of the disease
- Down syndrome, adult cases
- Guam Parkinsonism dementia complex
- Dementia pugilistica
- Pick disease
- Dementia with argyrophilic grains
- Fronto-temporal dementia
- Cortico-basal degeneration
- Pallido-ponto-nigral degeneration
- Progressive supranuclear palsy
- Gerstmann–Sträussler–Scheinker disease with tangles.

So far nearly 40 serine (S)/threonine (T) phosphorylation sites have been found in Tau from Alzheimer's disease brains (Hanger, D.P., et al., J. Biol. Chem. 282 (2007) 23645-23654). The development of Tau pathology in Alzheimer's disease is related to its phosphorylation state. However, most of the 40 phosphorylation sites are not associated with disease pathology since they are also found in Tau extracted from healthy, fetal brain tissue. Only a few phosphorylations are unique to the disease state and are presumably responsible for the abnormal, aggregation and characteristic insolubility that define Tau in the PHFs of Alzheimer brain (Morishima-Kawashima, M., et al., J. Biol. Chem. 270 (1995) 823-829). According to Pei, J.J., et al. (J. Alzheimer's Disease 14 (2008) 385-392) the existing literature provides limited and unclear information about which of these sites are specific to AD brains. Pei used a list of phospho-specific antibodies to Tau and measured their levels in homogenates of the medial temporal cortex from 22 AD patients and 10 controls.

Bussiere, T., et al. (Acta Neuropathol. 97 (1999) 221-230) described that phosphorylated serine 422 on Tau proteins is a pathological epitope found in several diseases with neurofibrillary degeneration. Augustinack, J.C., et al., (Acta Neuropathol. 103 (2002) 26-35) described pS422 as correlating with the severity of neuronal pathology in Alzheimer's disease. Guillozet-Bongaarts, A., (J. Neurochem. 97 (2006) 1005-1014) described the phosphorylation of Tau at serine 422 as being part of the maturation process of PHFs. Tau pS422 is also found in association with developing pathology in various transgenic mouse models of Alzheimer's disease. Thus, Deters, N., et al., mentioned in Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun. 379 (2009) 400-405 that double-transgenic Dom5/pR5 mice showed 7-fold increased numbers of hippocampal neurons that contain Tau specifically phosphorylated the pathological S422 epitope. Goetz, J., et al., (Science 293 (2001) 1491-1495) reported the appearance of Tau phosphorylated at S422 in the brains of Tau P301L transgenic mice injected with Abeta42 fibrils.

EP 2 009 104 relates to epitopes of the Tau protein which occur in a phosphorylated state in Tau protein from Alzheimer's disease PHFs and to the use of said epitopes for the generation of antibodies specifically detecting Alzheimer Tau protein. WO 2002/062851 and US 7,446,180 relate to antibodies with a specificity to an abnormally truncated form of Tau protein and diagnostic and therapeutic aspects in relation to Alzheimer's disease and related Tauopathies.

WO 98/22120 relates to a method of treating a patient with Alzheimer's disease comprising the step of administering to the patient an antibody against phosphorylated Tau fragment of amino acids about 207 to about 222, amino acids about 224 to about 240, and amino acids about 390 to about 408. Animal studies where the phosphorylated Tau fragment 379–408 [P-Ser396,404] is used to vaccinate Tau transgenic mice are mentioned in Asuni, A.A., et al., J. Neuroscience 27 (2007) 9115-9129. US 2008/0050383 relates to methods of treating and preventing Alzheimer's disease or other Tauopathies in a subject by administering a Tau protein fragment.

Hasegawa, M., et al. (FEBS Lett. 384 (1996) 25-30) report monoclonal antibody (AP422) specific for phosphoserine 422 in microtubule-associated protein tau.

In WO 01/55725 an antibody that specifically recognizes tau and an antibody that specifically recognizes phospho-tau (181) for use in a method for the in vivo diagnosis of a tauopathy and/or for the in vivo differential diagnosis of a tauopathy versus a non-tauopathy is reported.

In WO 02/027017 an antibody prepared from a polypeptide immunogen having a phosphorylated serine is reported. WO 02/062851 relates to antibodies with a specificity to an abnormally truncated form of Tau protein and diagnostic and therapeutic aspects in relation to Alzheimer's disease and related Tauopathies.

In WO 2004/016655 an antibody specific to a central nervous System (CNS) tau protein, wherein the antibody specifically recognizes a CNS tau protein but not a peripheral tau protein and wherein the antibody specifically recognizes an amino acid sequence of a connective portion between the amino acid sequence encoded by Exon 4 of a gene encoding a tau protein and the amino acid sequence encoded by Exon 5 thereof as an epitope is reported.

Monoclonal antibodies against Tau pS422 are described, for example, in EP 1 876 185. Polyclonal antibodies against Tau pS422 are commercially available (e.g. ProSci Inc. and Biosource International).

In WO 2006/055178 a method for inhibiting the phosphorylation of tau protein at Ser202/Thr205 comprising contacting a sample containing a tau protein with the antibody or antigen binding fragment that binds amyloid beta-derived diffusible ligands thereby inhibiting the phosphorylation of tau protein at Ser202/Thr205 is reported.

An antibody preparation that specifically binds to tau phosphorylated at tyr394 and/or tyr310 is reported in WO 2007/019273. Animal studies where the phosphorylated Tau fragment 379–408 [P-Ser396,404] is used to vaccinate Tau transgenic mice are mentioned in Asuni, A.A. et al., J. Neuroscience 27 (2007) 9115-9129.

EP 2 009 104 relates to epitopes of the Tau protein which occur in a phosphorylated state in Tau protein from Alzheimer's disease PHFs and to the use of said epitopes for the generation of antibodies specifically detecting Alzheimer Tau protein.

US 2008/0050383 relates to methods of treating and preventing Alzheimer's disease or other Tauopathies in a subject by administering a Tau protein fragment.

In WO 2010/037135 an isolated, synthetic or recombinant polypeptide or peptide comprising a first domain comprising, or consisting of, a ligand for a blood brain barrier (BBB) receptor or equivalent and a second domain comprising, or consisting of an enzyme or composition that slows the rate of aggregation of a protein aggregate, inhibits the formation of a protein aggregate, or reverses, digests or dissolves a protein aggregate is reported. An antibody, particularly a monoclonal antibody or functional parts thereof, capable of recognizing and binding to a tau protein in vitro and/or in vivo is reported in WO 2010/115843.

In WO 2011/026031 a monoclonal antibody or its fragment that specifically binds tau oligomers and does not bind soluble tau or tau fibrils, useful for treating tauopathy e.g. Alzheimer's disease, progressive supranuclear palsy and corticobasal degeneration is reported. An isolated antibody that specifically binds human tau protein phosphorylated at one or more of Ser(238) and Thr(245) is reported in WO 2011/053565.

In WO 2012/045882 an antibody which specifically binds to a phospho-epitope on the mammalian Tau protein, useful for treating neurodegenerative disorders such as tauopathies, and for treating or alleviating cognitive deficits is reported. A human monoclonal anti-tau antibody or a tau binding fragment thereof is reported in WO 2012/049570. A method of preventing or treating Alzheimer's disease or other tauopathies in a subject, comprising administering antibodies to a human in need of therapy for Alzheimer's disease or other tauopathy, the antibodies having specificity to abnormal forms of tau protein, said antibody showing no binding

and/or reactivity to a normal tau protein and being administered under conditions and in an amount(s) effective to prevent or treat Alzheimer's disease or other tauopathy is reported in WO 2012/106363.

In WO 2012/149365 an antibody which shows reactivity with aggregated tau and substantially no reactivity with non-aggregated Tau, wherein the aggregated tau comprises at least two tau proteins cross-linked to each other, either directly or through a linker, at one or more cysteine residues is reported.

A composition useful in treating Tauopathy e.g. Alzheimer disease comprises antibody binding to Tau, phosphorylated serine modified compound at specific position specifically binding to specific phosphorylated Tau and its fragment and carrier is reported in WO 2010/142423.

In EP 1 876 185 A an antibody which recognizes phosphorylated polypeptides is reported. In WO 2013/151762 a humanized tau antibody is reported. In WO 2014/016737 novel chicken monoclonal antibodies against human phosphorylated tau and uses thereof are reported. In WO 2014/016737are reported novel chicken monoclonal antibodies against human phosphorylated tau and uses thereof. Antibodies selective for pathological tau dimers and prefibrillar pathological tau oligomers and their uses in treatment, diagnosis and monitoring of tauopathies are reported in WO 2012/149365.

SUMMARY

The invention provides anti-human Tau(pS422) antibodies, especially humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibodies, and methods of using the same.

The humanized antibodies as reported herein were not available by standard humanization methods. It was required to introduce non-standard mutations in the amino acid sequence in order to obtain a humanized antibody with comparable binding characteristics as the parent rabbit antibody comprising variable domains with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 07 and SEQ ID NO: 11. This is especially important as the antibodies as reported herein are intended to cross the human blood-brain-barrier and to be effective within the human brain. Thus, the generally applied criteria for the selection of humanized antibodies are not sufficiently stringent in order to be applied directly in the current case.

One aspect as reported herein is a (humanized) antibody that specifically binds to human Tau(pS422), wherein the antibody

i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or

ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or

iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

v) specifically binds to human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A.

The antibodies as reported herein show a selectivity with respect to human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422, with respect to not-phosphorylated wild-type human Tau and the Tau mutant S422A. The not-phosphorylated wild-type human Tau and the Tau mutant S422A are not bound at all or with a lower affinity, respectively.

One aspect as reported herein is a (humanized) antibody that specifically binds to human Tau(pS422), characterized in that the antibody comprises

a) in the heavy chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, 18 and 10, or

b) in the heavy chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, 09 and 10.

In one embodiment the antibody comprises

a) in the light chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 13, 14 and 15, or

b) in the light chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 12, 05 and 15.

In one embodiment the antibody comprises

a) in the heavy chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, 18 and 10, and in the light chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 13, 14 and 15, or

b) in the heavy chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, 09 and 10, and in the light chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 12, 05 and 15, or

c) in the heavy chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, 09 and 10, and in the light chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 13, 14 and 15.

In one embodiment the antibody comprises

a) a heavy chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 20 and a light chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 17, or

b) a heavy chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 19 and a light chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 16, or

c) a heavy chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 19 and a light chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 17, or

d) a heavy chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 21 and a light chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 17.

In one embodiment the antibody is for use in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

In one embodiment the antibody is effector function silent. In one embodiment the antibody has no effector function. In one embodiment the antibody is of the human IgG1 subclass and has the mutations L234A, L235A and P329G in both heavy chains (numbering according to the EU index of Kabat).

In one embodiment the antibody

i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or

ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or

iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02).

In one embodiment the antibody has an EC_{50} value for

a) the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or

b) the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or

c) aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or

d) the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

In one embodiment the antibody specifically binds to human Tau(pS422) (SEQ ID NO: 02) and does not bind to human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01).

In one embodiment the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

In one embodiment the antibody is an antibody fragment that binds to human Tau(pS422) and

i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or

ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or

iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

v) specifically binds to full length human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A, and/or

vi) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or

vii) has an EC_{50} value for the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or

viii) has an EC_{50} value for aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or

ix) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

In one embodiment the antibody is

a) a full length antibody of the human subclass IgG1, or

b) a full length antibody of the human subclass IgG4, or

c) a full length antibody of the human subclass IgG1 with the mutations L234A, L235A and P329G,

d) a full length antibody of the human subclass IgG4 with the mutations S228P, L235E and P329G,

e) a full length antibody of the human subclass IgG1 with the mutations L234A, L235A and P329G in both heavy chains and the mutations T366W and S354C in one heavy chain and the mutations T366S, L368A, Y407V and Y349C in the respective other heavy chain, or

f) a full length antibody of the human subclass IgG4 with the mutations S228P and P329G in both heavy chains and the mutations T366W and S354C in one heavy chain and the mutations T366S, L368A, Y407V and Y349C in the respective other heavy chain.

One aspect as reported herein is a (humanized) anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody, characterized in that

a) the antibody comprises two antibody heavy chains each comprising a heavy chain variable domain and a heavy chain constant region, wherein

i) the variable domain comprises the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, SEQ ID NO: 18 and SEQ ID NO: 10,

ii) the constant region is a human IgG1 constant region, wherein the C-terminal lysine residue can be present or absent, and

iii) the constant region comprises the amino acid changes L234A, L235A and P329G,

b) the antibody comprises two antibody light chains each comprising a light chain variable domain and a light chain constant domain, wherein

i) the variable domain comprises the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14 and SEQ ID NO: 15,

ii) the constant region is a human kappa light chain constant region or a human lambda light chain constant region,

and

c) the antibody

i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or

ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or

iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

v) specifically binds to full length human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A, and/or

vi) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or

vii) has an EC_{50} value for the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or

viii) has an EC_{50} value for aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or

ix) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

One aspect as reported herein is a (humanized) anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody, characterized in that

a) the antibody comprises two antibody heavy chains each comprising a heavy chain variable domain and a heavy chain constant region, wherein

i) the variable domain comprises the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, SEQ ID NO: 09 and SEQ ID NO: 10,

ii) the constant region is a human IgG1 constant region, wherein the C-terminal lysine residue can be present or absent, and

iii) the constant region comprises the amino acid changes L234A, L235A and P329G,

b) the antibody comprises two antibody light chains each comprising a light chain variable domain and a light chain constant domain, wherein

i) the variable domain comprises the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 05 and SEQ ID NO: 15,

ii) the constant region is a human kappa light chain constant region or a human lambda light chain constant region,

and

c) the antibody

i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or

ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or

iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

v) specifically binds to full length human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A, and/or

vi) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or

vii) has an EC_{50} value for the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or

viii) has an EC_{50} value for aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or

ix) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

One aspect as reported herein is a (humanized) anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody, characterized in that

a) the antibody comprises two antibody heavy chains each comprising a heavy chain variable domain and a heavy chain constant region, wherein

i) the variable domain comprises the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, SEQ ID NO: 09 and SEQ ID NO: 10,

ii) the constant region is a human IgG1 constant region, wherein the C-terminal lysine residue can be present or absent, and

iii) the constant region comprises the amino acid changes L234A, L235A and P329G,

b) the antibody comprises two antibody light chains each comprising a light chain variable domain and a light chain constant domain, wherein
   i) the variable domain comprises the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14 and SEQ ID NO: 15,
   ii) the constant region is a human kappa light chain constant region or a human lambda light chain constant region,

and

c) the antibody
   i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or
   ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or
   iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or
   iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or
   v) specifically binds to full length human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A, and/or
   vi) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or
   vii) has an EC_{50} value for the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or
   viii) has an EC_{50} value for aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or
   ix) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

One aspect as reported herein is a (humanized) anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody, characterized in that

a) the antibody comprises two antibody heavy chains each comprising a heavy chain variable domain and a heavy chain constant region, wherein

i) the variable domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20,

ii) the constant region is a human IgG1 constant region, wherein the C-terminal lysine residue can be present or absent, and

iii) the constant region comprises the amino acid changes L234A, L235A and P329G,

b) the antibody comprises two antibody light chains each comprising a light chain variable domain and a light chain constant domain, wherein

i) the variable domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17,

ii) the constant region is a human kappa light chain constant region or a human lambda light chain constant region,

and

c) the antibody

i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or

ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or

iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

v) specifically binds to full length human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A, and/or

vi) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or

vii) has an EC_{50} value for the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or

viii) has an EC_{50} value for aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or

ix) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

One aspect as reported herein is a (humanized) anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody, characterized in that

a) the antibody comprises two antibody heavy chains each comprising a heavy chain variable domain and a heavy chain constant region, wherein
   i) the variable domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
   ii) the constant region is a human IgG1 constant region, wherein the C-terminal lysine residue can be present or absent, and
   iii) the constant region comprises the amino acid changes L234A, L235A and P329G,

b) the antibody comprises two antibody light chains each comprising a light chain variable domain and a light chain constant domain, wherein
   i) the variable domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 16,
   ii) the constant region is a human kappa light chain constant region or a human lambda light chain constant region,

and

c) the antibody
   i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or
   ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or
   iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or
   iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or
   v) specifically binds to full length human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A, and/or
   vi) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or
   vii) has an EC_{50} value for the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or

viii) has an EC_{50} value for aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or

ix) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

One aspect as reported herein is a (humanized) anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody, characterized in that

a) the antibody comprises two antibody heavy chains each comprising a heavy chain variable domain and a heavy chain constant region, wherein

i) the variable domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,

ii) the constant region is a human IgG1 constant region, wherein the C-terminal lysine residue can be present or absent, and

iii) the constant region comprises the amino acid changes L234A, L235A and P329G,

b) the antibody comprises two antibody light chains each comprising a light chain variable domain and a light chain constant domain, wherein

i) the variable domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17,

ii) the constant region is a human kappa light chain constant region or a human lambda light chain constant region,

and

c) the antibody

i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or

ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or

iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

v) specifically binds to full length human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A, and/or

vi) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or

vii) has an EC_{50} value for the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or

viii) has an EC_{50} value for aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or

ix) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

One aspect as reported herein is a (humanized) anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody, characterized in that

a) the antibody comprises two antibody heavy chains each comprising a heavy chain variable domain and a heavy chain constant region, wherein

i) the variable domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

ii) the constant region is a human IgG1 constant region, wherein the C-terminal lysine residue can be present or absent, and

iii) the constant region comprises the amino acid changes L234A, L235A and P329G,

b) the antibody comprises two antibody light chains each comprising a light chain variable domain and a light chain constant domain, wherein

i) the variable domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17,

ii) the constant region is a human kappa light chain constant region or a human lambda light chain constant region,

and

c) the antibody

i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or

ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or

iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

v) specifically binds to full length human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A, and/or

vi) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or

vii) has an EC_{50} value for the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or

viii) has an EC_{50} value for aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or

ix) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

In one preferred embodiment of all aspects the anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody is characterized in that the antibody has in the heavy chain variable domain at positions 4, 24 and 78 a valine residue.

In one preferred embodiment of all aspects the anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody is characterized in that the antibody has in the heavy chain variable domain at position 71 an arginine residue.

One aspect as reported herein is an isolated nucleic acid encoding a (humanized) antibody as reported herein.

One aspect as reported herein is a host cell comprising the nucleic acid as reported herein.

One aspect as reported herein is a method of producing a (humanized) antibody comprising the steps of culturing the host cell as reported herein so that the antibody is produced.

In one embodiment the method further comprises the step of recovering the antibody from the cell or the cultivation medium.

One aspect as reported herein is a pharmaceutical formulation comprising the (humanized) antibody as reported herein and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

In one embodiment the pharmaceutical formulation further comprises an additional therapeutic agent.

In one embodiment the additional therapeutic agent is an anti-amyloid therapeutic agent. In one embodiment the anti-amyloid therapeutic agent is an anti-human alpha-synuclein antibody or an anti-Abeta antibody.

One aspect as reported herein is the (humanized) antibody as reported herein for use as a medicament.

One aspect as reported herein is the (humanized) antibody as reported herein for use in treating Alzheimer's disease.

One aspect as reported herein is the (humanized) antibody as reported herein for use in treating prodromal Alzheimer's disease.

One aspect as reported herein is the (humanized) antibody as reported herein for use in treating mild Alzheimer's disease.

One aspect as reported herein is the (humanized) antibody as reported herein for use in reducing Tau(pS422)-induced neurodegeneration.

One aspect as reported herein is the (humanized) antibody as reported herein for use in maintaining cognition and function.

One aspect as reported herein is the (humanized) antibody as reported herein for use in slowing the rate of cognitive and functional decline.

One aspect as reported herein is the (humanized) antibody as reported herein for use in slowing down the rate of neurofibrillary tangle accumulation.

In one embodiment of the previous aspects the use is by reducing neurofibrillary tangle burden by clearing Tau(pS422).

In one embodiment of the previous aspects the use is by preventing neurofibrillary tangle build up.

In one embodiment of the previous aspects the use is by removing/clearing neurofibrillary tangles.

In one embodiment the preventing and/or removing is by promoting the intracellular clearance of Tau aggregates.

In one embodiment of the previous aspects the use is by inhibiting neurofibrillary tangle spreading. In one embodiment the inhibiting is by preventing interneuronal transfer of pathological Tau forms/seeds.

Aspects of the current invention are also methods of treatment comprising administering the (humanized) antibody as reported herein for treating Alzheimer's disease, for treating prodromal Alzheimer's disease, for treating mild Alzheimer's disease, for reducing Tau(pS422)-induced neurodegeneration, for maintaining cognition and function, for slowing the rate of cognitive and functional decline, and/or for slowing down the rate of neurofibrillary tangle accumulation.

One aspect as reported herein is the use of the (humanized) antibody as reported herein in the manufacture of a medicament.

In one embodiment the medicament is for treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

In one embodiment the medicament is for treatment of prodromal Alzheimer's disease.

In one embodiment the medicament is for treatment of mild Alzheimer's disease.

In one embodiment the medicament is for reducing Tau(pS422) induced neurodegeneration.

In one embodiment the medicament is for maintaining cognition and function.

In one embodiment the medicament is for slowing the rate of cognitive and functional decline.

One aspect as reported herein is a method of treating an individual having Alzheimer's disease comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of a (humanized) anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody as reported herein.

One aspect as reported herein is a method of reducing Tau(pS422) induced neurodegeneration in an individual comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of a (humanized) anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody as reported herein to reduce Tau(pS422) induced neurodegeneration.

One aspect as reported herein is a method of maintaining cognition and function in an individual comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of a (humanized) anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody as reported herein to maintain cognition and function.

One aspect as reported herein is a method of slowing the rate of cognitive and functional decline in an individual comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of a (humanized) anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody as reported herein to slow the rate of cognitive and functional decline.

One aspect as reported herein is the use of a (humanized) anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody as reported herein in the reduction of Tau(pS422) induced neurodegeneration.

One aspect as reported herein is the use of a (humanized) anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody as reported herein in maintaining cognition and function.

One aspect as reported herein is the use of a (humanized) anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody as reported herein in slowing the rate of cognitive and functional decline.

The antibodies as reported herein can be used in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

With the (humanized) antibodies as reported herein inhibition/reduction of progression of Alzheimer's disease and neuropathology can be effected.

The (humanized) antibodies as reported herein can be used to protect from development of Alzheimer's disease or even used to stop the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

In one embodiment the (humanized) antibody as reported herein i) binds to Tau(pS422) on brain sections of Tau(pS422) transgenic mice and Alzheimer's disease patients; and/or labels Tau(pS422) in Tau(pS422) transgenic cells.

The (humanized) antibodies as reported herein can be used for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

One aspect as reported herein is a (humanized) antibody that specifically binds to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 in human Tau(pS422).

The (humanized) antibodies as reported herein specifically bind to/recognize early and late stage disease-relevant forms of human Tau(pS422).

One aspect as reported herein is the use of the (humanized) antibody as reported herein for the prevention of human Tau (pS422)-related Alzheimer's disease spread.

One aspect as reported herein is the use of the (humanized) antibody as reported herein for the reduction of lysosomal membrane disintegration.

One aspect as reported herein is the use of the (humanized) antibody as reported herein for the stabilization of lysosome membrane against human Tau(pS422) induced destabilization and/or disintegration.

One aspect as reported herein is the use of the (humanized) antibody as reported herein for the prevention of Alzheimer's disease progression.

The (humanized) antibodies as reported herein function by antibody mediated inhibition of human Tau(pS422) seeding and spreading between cells.

The (humanized) antibodies as reported herein protect lysosomes from fibrillar damage by binding to human Tau(pS422).

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Figure 1: Sequence alignment of rabbit and humanized light chain variable domains; CDRs are enboxed.

Figure 2: Sequence alignment of rabbit and humanized heavy chain variable domains; CDRs are enboxed.

Figure 3: Biochemical binding of different combinations of humanized VH and VL to (A) phosphorylated tau peptide, (B) phosphorylated full-length human tau, (C) not-phosphorylated tau peptide, (D) not-phosphorylated full-length human tau; (1) = VH00/VL00, (2)

= VH32/VL21, (3) = VH20/VL22, (4) = VH32/VL22, (5) = VH33/VL22; coating concentrations: phosphorylated tau peptide: 50 ng/ml, all other targets: 1 µg/ml; (comparable results are obtained if phosphorylated tau peptide is coated with 1µg/ml (data not shown)).

Figure 4: Biochemical binding of different combinations of humanized VH and VL to (A) = full length human tau S422A mutant, (B) = aggregated human Tau(pS422); (1) = VH00/VL00, (2) = VH32/VL21, (3) = VH20/VL22, (4) = VH32/VL22, (5) = VH33/VL22; coating concentrations: phosphorylated tau peptide: 50 ng/ml, all other targets: 1 µg/ml; (comparable results are obtained if phosphorylated tau peptide is coated with 1µg/ml (data not shown)).

Figure 5: Western Blot showing the selectivity of selected humanized VH/VL combinations; (1) = VH00/VL00, (2) = VH32/VL21, (3) = VH20/VL22, (4) = VH32/VL22, (5) = VH33/VL22.

Figure 6: Binding to hyperphosphorylated tau in brain extracts of Alzheimer's disease patients; (1) = VH00/VL00, (2) = VH32/VL21, (3) = VH32/VL22.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEQUENCES

SEQ ID NO: 01 human Tau protein isoform F (441 residues)

SEQ ID NO: 02 human Tau protein isoform F (441 residues) phosphorylated at the serine residue at position 422

SEQ ID NO: 03 fragment of human Tau protein (residues 416 to 430 of SEQ ID NO: 01) with phosphorylated serine at position 7 (corresponding to position 422 of SEQ ID NO: 01): Ser-Ile-Asp-Met-Val-Asp-Ser(PO_3H_2)-Pro-Gln-Leu-Ala-Thr-Leu-Ala-Asp

SEQ ID NO: 04 rabbit antibody 086 CDRL1 - QSSQSVRTNKLA

SEQ ID NO: 05 rabbit antibody 086 CDRL2 - SASTLDF

SEQ ID NO: 06 rabbit antibody 086 CDRL3 - LGYFDCSIADCVA

SEQ ID NO: 07 rabbit antibody 086 VL00

SEQ ID NO: 08 rabbit antibody 086 CDRH1 - SNAIN

SEQ ID NO: 09 rabbit antibody 086 CDRH2 - YIAVSGNTYYASWAKG

SEQ ID NO: 10 rabbit antibody 086 CDRH3 - SNI
SEQ ID NO: 11 rabbit antibody 086 VH00
SEQ ID NO: 12 humanized CDRL1 variant 1 – RSSQSVRTNKLA
SEQ ID NO: 13 humanized CDRL1 variant 2 – RSSQSVRTNRLA
SEQ ID NO: 14 humanized CDRL2 variant 1 – SASTLDY
SEQ ID NO: 15 humanized CDRL3 variant 1 – LGYFDSSADIVA
SEQ ID NO: 16 humanized VL variant 1 – VL21
SEQ ID NO: 17 humanized VL variant 2 – VL22
SEQ ID NO: 18 humanized CDRH2 – YIAVSGNTYYADSVKG
SEQ ID NO: 19 humanized VH variant 1 – VH32
SEQ ID NO: 20 humanized VH variant 2 – VH20
SEQ ID NO: 21 humanized VH variant 3 – VH33
SEQ ID NO: 22 humanized CDRL2 variant 2 – SASTLQS
SEQ ID NO: 23 humanized CDRL2 variant 3 – SASTLES
SEQ ID NO: 24 humanized CDRL3 variant 2 – LGYFDSSIADSVA
SEQ ID NO: 25 humanized CDRL3 variant 3 – LGYFDSSIADRVA
SEQ ID NO: 26 humanized CDRL3 variant 4 – LGYFDPSIADPVA
SEQ ID NO: 27 humanized CDRL3 variant 5 – LGYFDSSIADIVA
SEQ ID NO: 28 humanized CDRL3 variant 6 – LGYFDPSADPIA
SEQ ID NO: 29 humanized CDRL3 variant 7 – LGYFDPSADPVA
SEQ ID NO: 30 humanized CDRL1 variant 3 – RASQGVRTNKLA
SEQ ID NO: 31 humanized CDRL1 variant 4 – RASQSVRTNKLA
SEQ ID NO: 32 humanized VL variant 4 – VL01
SEQ ID NO: 33 humanized VL variant 5 – VL09
SEQ ID NO: 34 humanized VL variant 6 – VL12
SEQ ID NO: 35 humanized VL variant 7 – VL15
SEQ ID NO: 36 humanized VL variant 8 – VL16
SEQ ID NO: 37 humanized VL variant 9 – VL17
SEQ ID NO: 38 humanized VL variant 10 – VL19
SEQ ID NO: 39 humanized VL variant 11 – VL28
SEQ ID NO: 40 humanized VL variant 12 – VL33
SEQ ID NO: 41 humanized VL variant 13 – VL35
SEQ ID NO: 42 humanized VL variant 14 – VL39
SEQ ID NO: 43 humanized VL variant 15 – VL40
SEQ ID NO: 44 humanized VL variant 16 – VL41
SEQ ID NO: 45 humanized VL variant 17 – VL42
SEQ ID NO: 46 humanized VH variant 4 – VH01

SEQ ID NO: 47 humanized VH variant 5 – VH02
SEQ ID NO: 48 humanized VH variant 6 – VH03
SEQ ID NO: 49 humanized VH variant 7 – VH04
SEQ ID NO: 50 humanized VH variant 8 – VH14
SEQ ID NO: 51 humanized VH variant 9 – VH15
SEQ ID NO: 52 humanized VH variant 10 – VH18
SEQ ID NO: 53 humanized VH variant 11 – VH19
SEQ ID NO: 54 humanized VH variant 12 – VH22
SEQ ID NO: 55 humanized VH variant 13 – VH23
SEQ ID NO: 56 humanized VH variant 14 – VH24
SEQ ID NO: 57 humanized VH variant 15 – VH31

Sequence correspondence table:

variable domain	CDR1	CDR2	CDR3	complete sequence
VL00	04	05	06	07
VL01	04	05	06	32
VL09	31	23	06	33
VL12	30	22	06	34
VL15	30	22	24	35
VL16	30	22	25	36
VL17	12	05	06	37
VL19	12	05	06	38
VL21	12	05	15	16
VL22	13	14	15	17
VL28	13	05	29	39
VL33	13	05	27	40
VL35	13	05	27	41
VL39	13	05	26	42
VL40	13	05	29	43
VL41	13	05	28	44
VL42	13	05	28	45
VH00	08	09	10	11
VH01	08	09	10	46
VH02	08	09	10	47
VH03	08	09	10	48
VH04	08	09	10	49
VH14	08	09	10	50
VH15	08	09	10	51
VH18	08	18	10	52
VH19	08	18	10	53
VH20	08	18	10	20
VH22	08	18	10	54

VH23	08	18	10	55
VH24	08	18	10	56
VH31	08	09	10	57
VH32	08	09	10	19
VH33	08	09	10	21

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

I. DEFINITIONS

An "acceptor human framework" for the purposes herein is a framework comprising the amino acid sequence of a light chain variable domain (VL) framework or a heavy chain variable domain (VH) framework derived from a human immunoglobulin framework or a human consensus framework, as defined below. An acceptor human framework "derived from" a human immunoglobulin framework or a human consensus framework may comprise the same amino acid sequence thereof, or it may contain amino acid sequence changes. In some embodiments, the number of amino acid changes are 10 or less, 9 or less, 8 or less, 7 or less, 6 or less, 5 or less, 4 or less, 3 or less, or 2 or less. In some embodiments, the VL acceptor human framework is identical in sequence to the VL human immunoglobulin framework sequence or human consensus framework sequence.

"Affinity" refers to the strength of the sum total of non-covalent interactions between a single binding site of a molecule (e.g., an antibody) and its binding partner (e.g., an antigen). Unless indicated otherwise, as used herein, "binding affinity" refers to intrinsic binding affinity which reflects a 1:1 interaction between members of a binding pair (e.g., antibody and antigen). The affinity of a molecule X for its partner Y can generally be represented by the dissociation constant (kd). Affinity can be measured by common methods known in the art, including those described herein. Specific illustrative and exemplary embodiments for measuring binding affinity are described in the following.

An "affinity matured" antibody refers to an antibody with one or more alterations in one or more hypervariable regions (HVRs), compared to a parent antibody which does not possess such alterations, such alterations resulting in an improvement in the affinity of the antibody for antigen.

The terms "anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody" and "an antibody that binds to human Tau(pS422)" refer to an antibody that is capable of binding human Tau(pS422) with sufficient affinity such that the antibody is useful as a diagnostic

and/or therapeutic agent in targeting human Tau(pS422). In one embodiment, the extent of binding of an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody to an unrelated, non-human Tau(pS422) protein is less than about 10% of the binding of the antibody to human Tau(pS422) as measured, e.g., by a radioimmunoassay (RIA).

The term "antibody" herein is used in the broadest sense and encompasses various antibody structures, including but not limited to monoclonal antibodies, polyclonal antibodies, multispecific antibodies (e.g., bispecific antibodies), and antibody fragments so long as they exhibit the desired antigen-binding activity.

An "antibody fragment" refers to a molecule other than an intact antibody that comprises a portion of an intact antibody that binds the antigen to which the intact antibody binds. Examples of antibody fragments include but are not limited to Fv, Fab, Fab', Fab'-SH, $F(ab')_2$; diabodies; linear antibodies; single-chain antibody molecules (e.g. scFv); and multispecific antibodies formed from antibody fragments.

An “antibody that binds to the same epitope” as a reference antibody refers to an antibody that blocks binding of the reference antibody to its antigen in a competition assay by 50 % or more, and conversely, the reference antibody blocks binding of the antibody to its antigen in a competition assay by 50 % or more. In one embodiment an antibody binding to the same epitope as a reference antibody blocks binding of the reference antibody to its antigen by 50 % or more. In one embodiment an antibody binding to the same epitope as a reference antibody blocks binding of the reference antibody to its antigen by 80 % or more. In one embodiment an antibody binding to the same epitope as a reference antibody blocks binding of the reference antibody to its antigen by 90 % or more. In one embodiment an antibody binding to the same epitope as a reference antibody blocks binding of the reference antibody to its antigen by 95 % or more. In one preferred embodiment an antibody binding to the same epitope as a reference antibody has binding interactions with the same residues as the reference antibody on the antigen.

The term "chimeric" antibody refers to an antibody in which a portion of the heavy and/or light chain is derived from a particular source or species, while the remainder of the heavy and/or light chain is derived from a different source or species.

The “class” of an antibody refers to the type of constant domain or constant region possessed by its heavy chain. There are five major classes of antibodies: IgA, IgD, IgE, IgG, and IgM, and several of these may be further divided into subclasses (isotypes), e.g., IgG_1, IgG_2, IgG_3, IgG_4, IgA_1, and IgA_2. The heavy chain constant domains that correspond to the different classes of immunoglobulins are called α, δ, ε, γ, and μ, respectively.

“Effector functions” refer to those biological activities attributable to the Fc-region of an antibody, which vary with the antibody class. Examples of antibody effector functions include: C1q binding and complement dependent cytotoxicity (CDC); Fc receptor binding; antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC); phagocytosis; down regulation of cell surface receptors (e.g. B cell receptor); and B cell activation.

An "effective amount" of an agent, e.g., a pharmaceutical formulation, refers to an amount effective, at dosages and for periods of time necessary, to achieve the desired therapeutic or prophylactic result.

The term “Fc-region” herein is used to define a C-terminal region of an immunoglobulin heavy chain that contains at least a portion of the constant region. The term includes native sequence Fc-regions and variant Fc-regions. In one embodiment, a human IgG heavy chain Fc-region extends from Cys226, or from Pro230, to the carboxyl-terminus of the heavy chain. However, the C-terminal lysine (Lys447) of the Fc-region may or may not be present. Unless otherwise specified herein, numbering of amino acid residues in the Fc-region or constant region is according to the EU numbering system, also called the EU index, as described in Kabat, E.A. et al., Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest, 5th ed., Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD (1991), NIH Publication 91-3242.

"Framework" or "FR" refers to variable domain residues other than hypervariable region (HVR) residues. The FR of a variable domain generally consists of four FR domains: FR1, FR2, FR3, and FR4. Accordingly, the HVR and FR sequences generally appear in the following sequence in VH (or VL): FR1-H1(L1)-FR2-H2(L2)-FR3-H3(L3)-FR4.

The terms “full length antibody”, “intact antibody”, and “whole antibody” are used herein interchangeably to refer to an antibody having a structure substantially

similar to a native antibody structure or having heavy chains that contain an Fc-region as defined herein. The term "full length antibody" denotes a multimeric polypeptide consisting of two antibody light chain polypeptides and two antibody heavy chain polypeptides linked by disulfide bonds wherein in the two antibody heavy chain polypeptides the C-terminal lysine residue (K) can be present or not.

The terms "host cell", "host cell line", and "host cell culture" are used interchangeably and refer to cells into which exogenous nucleic acid has been introduced, including the progeny of such cells. Host cells include "transformants" and "transformed cells," which include the primary transformed cell and progeny derived therefrom without regard to the number of passages. Progeny may not be completely identical in nucleic acid content to a parent cell, but may contain mutations. Mutant progeny that have the same function or biological activity as screened or selected for in the originally transformed cell are included herein.

A "human consensus framework" is a framework which represents the most commonly occurring amino acid residues in a selection of human immunoglobulin VL or VH framework sequences. Generally, the selection of human immunoglobulin VL or VH sequences is from a subgroup of variable domain sequences. Generally, the subgroup of sequences is a subgroup as in Kabat, E.A. et al., Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest, 5th ed., Bethesda MD (1991), NIH Publication 91-3242, Vols. 1-3. In one embodiment, for the VL, the subgroup is subgroup kappa I as in Kabat et al., *supra.* In one embodiment, for the VH, the subgroup is subgroup III as in Kabat et al., *supra*.

A "humanized" antibody refers to a chimeric antibody comprising amino acid residues from non-human HVRs and amino acid residues from human FRs. In certain embodiments, a humanized antibody will comprise substantially all of at least one, and typically two, variable domains, in which all or substantially all of the HVRs (e.g., CDRs) correspond to those of a non-human antibody, and all or substantially all of the FRs correspond to those of a human antibody. A humanized antibody optionally may comprise at least a portion of an antibody constant region derived from a human antibody. A "humanized form" of an antibody, e.g., a non-human antibody, refers to an antibody that has undergone humanization.

The term "hypervariable region" or "HVR", as used herein, refers to each of the regions of an antibody variable domain which are hypervariable in sequence ("complementarity determining regions" or "CDRs") and form structurally defined

loops ("hypervariable loops"), and/or contain the antigen-contacting residues ("antigen contacts"). Generally, antibodies comprise six HVRs; three in the VH (H1, H2, H3), and three in the VL (L1, L2, L3).

HVRs herein include

(a) hypervariable loops occurring at amino acid residues 26-32 (L1), 50-52 (L2), 91-96 (L3), 26-32 (H1), 53-55 (H2), and 96-101 (H3) (Chothia, C. and Lesk, A.M., J. Mol. Biol. 196 (1987) 901-917);

(b) CDRs occurring at amino acid residues 24-34 (L1), 50-56 (L2), 89-97 (L3), 31-35b (H1), 50-65 (H2), and 95-102 (H3) (Kabat, E.A. et al., Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest, 5th ed. Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD (1991), NIH Publication 91-3242);

(c) antigen contacts occurring at amino acid residues 27c-36 (L1), 46-55 (L2), 89-96 (L3), 30-35b (H1), 47-58 (H2), and 93-101 (H3) (MacCallum et al. J. Mol. Biol. 262: 732-745 (1996)); and

(d) combinations of (a), (b), and/or (c), including HVR amino acid residues 46-56 (L2), 47-56 (L2), 48-56 (L2), 49-56 (L2), 26-35 (H1), 26-35b (H1), 49-65 (H2), 93-102 (H3), and 94-102 (H3).

Unless otherwise indicated, HVR residues and other residues in the variable domain (e.g., FR residues) are numbered herein according to Kabat et al., *supra*.

An "immunoconjugate" is an antibody conjugated to one or more heterologous molecule(s).

An "individual" or "subject" is a mammal. Mammals include, but are not limited to, domesticated animals (e.g. cows, sheep, cats, dogs, and horses), primates (e.g., humans and non-human primates such as monkeys), rabbits, and rodents (e.g., mice and rats). In certain embodiments, the individual or subject is a human.

An "isolated" antibody is one which has been separated from a component of its natural environment. In some embodiments, an antibody is purified to greater than 95% or 99% purity as determined by, for example, electrophoretic (e.g., SDS-PAGE, isoelectric focusing (IEF), capillary electrophoresis) or chromatographic (e.g., ion exchange or reverse phase HPLC). For review of methods for assessment of antibody purity, see, e.g., Flatman, S. et al., J. Chromatogr. B 848 (2007) 79-87.

An "isolated" nucleic acid refers to a nucleic acid molecule that has been separated from a component of its natural environment. An isolated nucleic acid includes a nucleic acid molecule contained in cells that ordinarily contain the nucleic acid molecule, but the nucleic acid molecule is present extrachromosomally or at a chromosomal location that is different from its natural chromosomal location.

“Isolated nucleic acid encoding an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody” refers to one or more nucleic acid molecules encoding antibody heavy and light chains (or fragments thereof), including such nucleic acid molecule(s) in a single vector or separate vectors, and such nucleic acid molecule(s) present at one or more locations in a host cell.

The term "monoclonal antibody" as used herein refers to an antibody obtained from a population of substantially homogeneous antibodies, i.e., the individual antibodies comprising the population are identical and/or bind the same epitope, except for possible variant antibodies, e.g., containing naturally occurring mutations or arising during production of a monoclonal antibody preparation, such variants generally being present in minor amounts. In contrast to polyclonal antibody preparations, which typically include different antibodies directed against different determinants (epitopes), each monoclonal antibody of a monoclonal antibody preparation is directed against a single determinant on an antigen. Thus, the modifier “monoclonal” indicates the character of the antibody as being obtained from a substantially homogeneous population of antibodies, and is not to be construed as requiring production of the antibody by any particular method. For example, the monoclonal antibodies to be used in accordance with the present invention may be made by a variety of techniques, including but not limited to the hybridoma method, recombinant DNA methods, phage-display methods, and methods utilizing transgenic animals containing all or part of the human immunoglobulin loci, such methods and other exemplary methods for making monoclonal antibodies being described herein.

"Native antibodies" refer to naturally occurring immunoglobulin molecules with varying structures. For example, native IgG antibodies are heterotetrameric glycoproteins of about 150,000 daltons, composed of two identical light chains and two identical heavy chains that are disulfide-bonded. From N- to C-terminus, each heavy chain has a variable region (VH), also called a variable heavy domain or a heavy chain variable domain, followed by three constant domains (CH1, CH2, and CH3). Similarly, from N- to C-terminus, each light chain has a variable region

(VL), also called a variable light domain or a light chain variable domain, followed by a constant light (CL) domain. The light chain of an antibody may be assigned to one of two types, called kappa (κ) and lambda (λ), based on the amino acid sequence of its constant domain.

The term "package insert" is used to refer to instructions customarily included in commercial packages of therapeutic products, that contain information about the indications, usage, dosage, administration, combination therapy, contraindications and/or warnings concerning the use of such therapeutic products.

"Percent (%) amino acid sequence identity" with respect to a reference polypeptide sequence is defined as the percentage of amino acid residues in a candidate sequence that are identical with the amino acid residues in the reference polypeptide sequence, after aligning the sequences and introducing gaps, if necessary, to achieve the maximum percent sequence identity, and not considering any conservative substitutions as part of the sequence identity. Alignment for purposes of determining percent amino acid sequence identity can be achieved in various ways that are within the skill in the art, for instance, using publicly available computer software such as BLAST, BLAST-2, ALIGN or Megalign (DNASTAR) software. Those skilled in the art can determine appropriate parameters for aligning sequences, including any algorithms needed to achieve maximal alignment over the full length of the sequences being compared. For purposes herein, however, % amino acid sequence identity values are generated using the sequence comparison computer program ALIGN-2. The ALIGN-2 sequence comparison computer program was authored by Genentech, Inc., and the source code has been filed with user documentation in the U.S. Copyright Office, Washington D.C., 20559, where it is registered under U.S. Copyright Registration No. TXU510087. The ALIGN-2 program is publicly available from Genentech, Inc., South San Francisco, California, or may be compiled from the source code. The ALIGN-2 program should be compiled for use on a UNIX operating system, including digital UNIX V4.0D. All sequence comparison parameters are set by the ALIGN-2 program and do not vary.

In situations where ALIGN-2 is employed for amino acid sequence comparisons, the % amino acid sequence identity of a given amino acid sequence A to, with, or against a given amino acid sequence B (which can alternatively be phrased as a given amino acid sequence A that has or comprises a certain % amino acid

sequence identity to, with, or against a given amino acid sequence B) is calculated as follows:

100 times the fraction X/Y

where X is the number of amino acid residues scored as identical matches by the sequence alignment program ALIGN-2 in that program's alignment of A and B, and where Y is the total number of amino acid residues in B. It will be appreciated that where the length of amino acid sequence A is not equal to the length of amino acid sequence B, the % amino acid sequence identity of A to B will not equal the % amino acid sequence identity of B to A. Unless specifically stated otherwise, all % amino acid sequence identity values used herein are obtained as described in the immediately preceding paragraph using the ALIGN-2 computer program.

The term "pharmaceutical formulation" refers to a preparation which is in such form as to permit the biological activity of an active ingredient contained therein to be effective, and which contains no additional components which are unacceptably toxic to a subject to which the formulation would be administered.

A "pharmaceutically acceptable carrier" refers to an ingredient in a pharmaceutical formulation, other than an active ingredient, which is nontoxic to a subject., A pharmaceutically acceptable carrier includes, but is not limited to, a buffer, excipient, stabilizer, or preservative.

The term "human Tau(pS422)", as used herein, refers to native human Tau(pS422) (UniProt P37840). The term encompasses "full-length", unprocessed human Tau(pS422) as well as any form of human Tau(pS422) that results from processing in the cell. The term also encompasses naturally occurring variants of human Tau(pS422), e.g., mutants, splice variants or allelic variants. The amino acid sequence of human Tau(pS422) is shown in SEQ ID NO: 02.

As used herein, "treatment" (and grammatical variations thereof such as "treat" or "treating") refers to clinical intervention in an attempt to alter the natural course of the individual being treated, and can be performed either for prophylaxis or during the course of clinical pathology. Desirable effects of treatment include, but are not limited to, preventing occurrence or recurrence of disease, alleviation of symptoms, diminishment of any direct or indirect pathological consequences of the disease, preventing metastasis, decreasing the rate of disease progression, amelioration or palliation of the disease state, and remission or improved prognosis. In some

embodiments, antibodies of the invention are used to delay development of a disease or to slow the progression of a disease.

The term "variable region" or "variable domain" refers to the domain of an antibody heavy or light chain that is involved in binding the antibody to antigen. The variable domains of the heavy chain and light chain (VH and VL, respectively) of a native antibody generally have similar structures, with each domain comprising four conserved framework regions (FRs) and three hypervariable regions (HVRs). (See, e.g., Kindt, T.J. et al. Kuby Immunology, 6th ed., W.H. Freeman and Co., N.Y. (2007), page 91) A single VH or VL domain may be sufficient to confer antigen-binding specificity. Furthermore, antibodies that bind a particular antigen may be isolated using a VH or VL domain from an antibody that binds the antigen to screen a library of complementary VL or VH domains, respectively. See, e.g., Portolano, S. et al., J. Immunol. 150 (1993) 880-887; Clackson, T. et al., Nature 352 (1991) 624-628).

The term "vector", as used herein, refers to a nucleic acid molecule capable of propagating another nucleic acid to which it is linked. The term includes the vector as a self-replicating nucleic acid structure as well as the vector incorporated into the genome of a host cell into which it has been introduced. Certain vectors are capable of directing the expression of nucleic acids to which they are operatively linked. Such vectors are referred to herein as "expression vectors".

II. COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS

A. Exemplary humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibodies

The humanized antibodies as reported herein were not available by standard humanization methods. It was required to introduce non-standard mutations in the amino acid sequence in order to obtain a humanized antibody with comparable binding characteristics as the parent rabbit antibody. This is especially important as the antibodies as reported herein are intended to cross the human blood-brain-barrier and to be effective within the human brain. Thus, the generally applied criteria for the selection of humanized antibodies are not sufficiently stringent in order to be applied directly in the current case.

It has been found that in order to obtain a suitable and developable humanized antibody two cysteines forming a disulfide-bridge in the CDRL3 (light chain CDR3) had to be replaced by serine and isoleucine, respectively. In addition to

ensure proper orientation of the same CDRL3 an isoleucine residue present in the middle of the rabbit CDRL3 was deleted resulting in a humanized CDRL3 that is one amino acid residue smaller than the parent rabbit CDRL3.

Is has further been found that it is advantageous to maintain three valine amino acid residues in the heavy chain at positions 4, 24 and 78. Without being bound by this theory it is assumed that these residues are required to ensure proper presentation of the antigen binding loops of the heavy chain variable region. Additionally the presence of an arginine residue at position 71 is advantageous.

A sequence alignment of different humanized light chain variable domains is shown in Figure 1. A sequence alignment of different humanized heavy chain variable domains is shown in Figure 2. All numbering as used herein is based on the Kabat variable domain numbering scheme.

In the following Table characteristics of the different humanized variants of the rabbit light chain variable domain in combination with the humanized heavy chain variable domains VH14 and VH20, respectively, are shown. Binding partner was human Tau(pS422).

VH14 with	ka [1/Ms]	kd[1/s]	KD [M]	t/2 diss [min]	T [°C]
VL00		1.04E-03		11	25
VL01		3.82E-03		3	25
VL09		2.35E-03.		5	25
VL12		2.48E-03		5	25
VL15		3.63E-03		3	25
VL16		n.d.			
VL17		2.39E-03		5	25
VL17		3.03E-03		4	25
VL19		1.98E-03		6	25
VL21		2.93E-03		4	25
VL22		3.30E-03		4	25
VL28		3.84E-03		3	25
VL33		1.02E-02		1	25
VL35		1.10E-02		1	25
VL39		5.22E-03		2	25
VL40		3.01E-03		4	25
VL41		n.d.			
VL42		n.d.			

VH20 with	ka [1/Ms]	kd[1/s]	KD [M]	t/2 diss [min]	T [°C]
VL00		n.d.			
VL01		n.d.			
VL09		2.14E-03		5	25
VL12		n.d.			
VL15		n.d.			
VL16		n.d.			
VL17		5.35E-04		22	25
VL19		3.66E-04		32	25
VL19	1.94E+04	1.13E-03	5.84E-8	10.2	37
VL21		7.88E-04		15	25
VL21	3.03E+04	2.10E-03	6.95E-08	5.5	37
VL22		8.39E-04		14	25
VL22	3.44E+04	2.37E-03	6.90E-08	4.9	37
VL28		1.27E-03		9	25
VL28	2.50E+04	3.61E-03	1.45E-07	3.2	37
VL33		1.61E-03		7	25
VL35		1.59E-03		7	25
VL39		1.91E-03		6	25
VL40		9.98E-04		12	25
VL41		4.29E-03		3	25
VL42		4.57E-03		3	25

Reference values VH00 with VL00 (rabbit antibody):

25°C: kd = 2.6E-04; t/2 = 44 min.

37°C: ka = 3.7E+04, kd = 5.25E-03, KD = 1.4E-08, t/2 = 22 min.

In the following Table characteristics of the different humanized variants of the rabbit light chain variable domain in combination with the humanized light chain variable domains VL17 and VL19, respectively, are shown.

VL17 with	ka [1/Ms]	kd[1/s]	KD [M]	t/2 diss [min]	T [°C]
VH00		4.98E-04		23	25
VH01		2.3E-03		5	25
VH02		3.71E-03		3	25
VH03		3.93E-03		3	25
VH04		4.16E-03		3	25
VH14		3.0E-03		4	25
VH15		3.26E-03		4	25
VH18		2.3E-03		5	25
VH19		n.d.			
VH20		5.4E-04		22	25
VH22		2.0E-03		6	25
VH23		7.0E-04		17	25
VH24		7.9E-04		15	25

VL17 with	ka [1/Ms]	kd[1/s]	KD [M]	t/2 diss [min]	T [°C]
VH31		n.d.			
VH32		n.d.			
VH33		n.d.			

VL19 with	ka [1/Ms]	kd[1/s]	KD [M]	t/2 diss [min]	T [°C]
VH00		n.d.			
VH01		1.9E-03		6	25
VH02		n.d.			
VH03		n.d.			
VH04		n.d.			
VH14		2.0E-03		6	25
VH15		n.d.			
VH18		1.9E-03		6	25
VH19		2.0E-03		6	25
VH20		3.7E-04		32	25
VH20	1.94E+04	1.13E-03	5.84E-08	10.2	37
VH22		2.1E-03		6	25
VH23		5.7E-04		20	25
VH24		6.3E-04		18	25
VH31		n.d.			
VH32		n.d.			
VH33		n.d.			

Reference values VH00 with VL00 (rabbit antibody):

25°C: kd = 2.6E-04; t/2 = 44 min.

37°C: ka = 3.7E+04, kd = 5.25E-03, KD = 1.4E-08, t/2 = 22 min.

In the following Table the kinetic constants for different VH/VL combinations are shown.

VH/VL combination	**KD 25°C [nM]**	**t/2diss 25°C [min]**	**MR**	**KD 37°C [nM]**	**t/2diss 37°C [min]**	**MR**
VH00/VL00	8	54	0.6	12	24	0.8
VH20/VL22	37	16	0.4	68	5	0.5
VH32/VL21	18	26	0.5	32	9	0.6
VH32/VL22	14	29	0.5	31	8	0.6
VH33/VL22	20	25	0.4	39	8	0.5

The biochemical binding of different combinations of humanized VH and VL is shown in Figures 3 and 4.

In the following Table the binding specificity for different VH/VL combinations are shown (EC50 values in [ng/ml]).

VH/VL combination	Tau(pS422) fragment SEQ ID NO: 03	full length Tau(pS422) SEQ ID NO: 02	Tau(pS422) aggregates	full length tau SEQ ID NO: 01	tau peptide residues 416 to 430 of SEQ ID NO: 01	micro-tubuli associ-ated tau	S422A tau mutant S422A SEQ ID NO: 01
VH00/VL00	6.3	5.2	18.1	no binding	> 1000	no binding	47.9
VH20/VL22	4.8	4.0	27.2	no binding	> 1000	no binding	110.6
VH32/VL21	4.4	2.9	9.4	no binding	634	no binding	21.5
VH32/VL22	5.6	3.5	8.3	no binding	48	no binding	17.4
VH33/VL22	5.6	3.8	13.5	no binding	120	no binding	34.5

The sensitivity of selected humanized VH/VL combinations to the human tau mutant S422A can be seen from the Western Blots shown in Figure 5. All humanized variants selectively bind to human tau phosphorylated at S422. There is low level x-reactivity to non-S422 phosphoepitopes of the parent rabbit antibody but the humanized variants shown are less cross-reactive in this respect than the parental rabbit antibody.

In Figure 6 the binding to PHF-tau in brain extracts of Alzheimer's disease patients for the parental rabbit antibody and for selected humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibodies is shown.

The following table summarizes the biological properties of selected humanized VH/VL combinations.

VH/VL combination	BIAcore	ELISA		WB	IHC	in vivo	developability
		potency	specificity				
VH20/VL22	4	+	++	4	3	+	++
VH32/VL21	2	+(+)	+	2	3	+	++
VH32/VL22	1	+(+)	+	1	1	+	++
VH33/VL22	3	+	+	3	2	+	++

In one aspect, the invention provides a (humanized) anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody comprising at least one, or two, or three, or four, or five, or six HVRs selected from (a) HVR-H1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 08; (b) HVR-H2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18; (c) HVR-H3

comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10; (d) HVR-L1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13; (e) HVR-L2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; and (f) HVR-L3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15.

In one aspect, the invention provides a (humanized) anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody comprising at least one, or two, or three, or four, or five, or six HVRs selected from (a) HVR-H1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 08; (b) HVR-H2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 09; (c) HVR-H3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10; (d) HVR-L1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12; (e) HVR-L2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 05; and (f) HVR-L3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15.

In one aspect, the invention provides a (humanized) anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody comprising at least one, or two, or three, or four, or five, or six HVRs selected from (a) HVR-H1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 08; (b) HVR-H2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 09; (c) HVR-H3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10; (d) HVR-L1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13; (e) HVR-L2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; and (f) HVR-L3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15.

In one aspect, the invention provides a (humanized) antibody comprising at least one, at least two, or all three VH HVR sequences selected from

i) (a) HVR-H1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 08; (b) HVR-H2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18; and (c) HVR-H3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10; or

ii) (a) HVR-H1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 08; (b) HVR-H2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 09; and (c) HVR-H3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10.

In one embodiment, the antibody comprises

i) (a) HVR-H1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 08; (b) HVR-H2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18; and (c) HVR-H3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10; or

ii) (a) HVR-H1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 08; (b) HVR-H2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 09; and (c) HVR-H3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10.

In another embodiment the antibody further comprises at least one, at least two, or all three VL HVR sequences selected from

i) (a) HVR-L1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13; (b) HVR-L2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; and (c) HVR-L3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15; or

ii) (a) HVR-L1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12; (b) HVR-L2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 05; and (c) HVR-L3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15.

In a further embodiment, the antibody comprises

i) (a) HVR-L1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13; (b) HVR-L2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; and (c) HVR-L3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15; or

ii) (a) HVR-L1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12; (b) HVR-L2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 05; and (c) HVR-L3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15.

In one aspect, the invention provides a (humanized) antibody comprising

i) (a) HVR-H1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 08; (b) HVR-H2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18; (c) HVR-H3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10; (d) HVR-L1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13; (e) HVR-L2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; and (f) HVR-L3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15, or

ii) (a) HVR-H1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 08; (b) HVR-H2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 09; (c) HVR-H3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10; (d) HVR-L1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12; (e) HVR-L2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 05; and (f) HVR-L3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15, or

iii) (a) HVR-H1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 08; (b) HVR-H2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 09; (c) HVR-H3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10; (d) HVR-L1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13; (e) HVR-L2

comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14; and (f) HVR-L3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15.

In another embodiment the VH or VL contains substitutions (e.g. conservative substitutions), insertions, or deletions relative to the reference sequence, but an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody comprising that sequence retains the ability to bind to human Tau(pS422).

In a further aspect of the invention, an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody according to any of the above embodiments is a monoclonal antibody, including a chimeric, humanized or human antibody. In one embodiment, an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody is an antibody fragment, e.g., a Fv, Fab, Fab', scFv, diabody, or $F(ab')_2$ fragment. In another embodiment, the antibody is a full length antibody, e.g., an intact IgG1 or IgG 4 antibody or other antibody class or isotype as defined herein.

The (humanized) antibody as reported herein reduces Tau(pS422) levels in the brain of transgenic TauPS2APP mice.

In a further aspect, a (humanized) anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody according to any of the above embodiments may incorporate any of the features, singly or in combination, as described in Sections 1-7 below:

1. Antibody Affinity

In certain embodiments, an antibody provided herein has a dissociation constant (KD) of ≤ 100 nM, ≤ 50 nM, or between 1 nM and 100 nM (e.g. 10^{-7} M or less, e.g. from 10^{-7} M to 10^{-9} M).

In one embodiment, Kd is measured by a radiolabeled antigen binding assay (RIA). In one embodiment, an RIA is performed with the Fab version of an antibody of interest and its antigen. For example, solution binding affinity of FABs for antigen is measured by equilibrating Fab with a minimal concentration of (^{125}I)-labeled antigen in the presence of a titration series of unlabeled antigen, then capturing bound antigen with an anti-Fab antibody-coated plate (see, e.g., Chen, Y. et al., J. Mol. Biol. 293 (1999) 865-881). To establish conditions for the assay, MICROTITER® multi-well plates (Thermo Scientific) are coated overnight with 5 µg/ml of a capturing anti-Fab antibody (Cappel Labs) in 50 mM sodium carbonate (pH 9.6), and subsequently blocked with 2% (w/v) bovine serum albumin in PBS for two to five hours at room temperature (approximately 23°C). In a non-

adsorbent plate (Nunc #269620), 100 pM or 26 pM [^{125}I]-antigen are mixed with serial dilutions of a Fab of interest (e.g., consistent with assessment of the anti-VEGF antibody, Fab-12, in Presta, L.G. et al., Cancer Res. 57 (1997) 4593-4599). The Fab of interest is then incubated overnight; however, the incubation may continue for a longer period (e.g., about 65 hours) to ensure that equilibrium is reached. Thereafter, the mixtures are transferred to the capture plate for incubation at room temperature (e.g., for one hour). The solution is then removed and the plate washed eight times with 0.1% polysorbate 20 (TWEEN-20®) in PBS. When the plates have dried, 150 µl/well of scintillant (MICROSCINT-20 ™; Packard) is added, and the plates are counted on a TOPCOUNT ™ gamma counter (Packard) for ten minutes. Concentrations of each Fab that give less than or equal to 20% of maximal binding are chosen for use in competitive binding assays.

According to another embodiment, Kd is measured using a BIACORE® surface plasmon resonance assay. For example, an assay using a BIACORE®-2000 or a BIACORE ®-3000 (BIAcore, Inc., Piscataway, NJ) is performed at 25°C with immobilized antigen CM5 chips at ~10 response units (RU). In one embodiment, carboxymethylated dextran biosensor chips (CM5, BIACORE, Inc.) are activated with *N*-ethyl-*N'*- (3-dimethylaminopropyl)-carbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC) and *N*-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS) according to the supplier's instructions. Antigen is diluted with 10 mM sodium acetate, pH 4.8, to 5 µg/ml (~0.2 µM) before injection at a flow rate of 5 µl/minute to achieve approximately 10 response units (RU) of coupled protein. Following the injection of antigen, 1 M ethanolamine is injected to block unreacted groups. For kinetics measurements, two-fold serial dilutions of Fab (0.78 nM to 500 nM) are injected in PBS with 0.05 % polysorbate 20 (TWEEN-20™) surfactant (PBST) at 25 °C at a flow rate of approximately 25 µl/min. Association rates (k_{on}) and dissociation rates (k_{off}) are calculated using a simple one-to-one Langmuir binding model (BIACORE ® Evaluation Software version 3.2) by simultaneously fitting the association and dissociation sensorgrams. The equilibrium dissociation constant (Kd) is calculated as the ratio k_{off}/k_{on} (see, e.g., Chen, Y. et al., J. Mol. Biol. 293 (1999) 865-881). If the on-rate exceeds 10^6 M^{-1} s^{-1} by the surface plasmon resonance assay above, then the on-rate can be determined by using a fluorescent quenching technique that measures the increase or decrease in fluorescence emission intensity (excitation = 295 nm; emission = 340 nm, 16 nm band-pass) at 25 °C of a 20 nM anti-antigen antibody (Fab form) in PBS, pH 7.2, in the presence of increasing concentrations of antigen as measured in a spectrometer, such as a stop-flow equipped spectrophotometer (Aviv

Instruments) or a 8000-series SLM-AMINCO ™ spectrophotometer (ThermoSpectronic) with a stirred cuvette.

2. Antibody Fragments

In certain embodiments, an antibody provided herein is an antibody fragment. Antibody fragments include, but are not limited to, Fab, Fab', Fab'-SH, $F(ab')_2$, Fv, and scFv fragments, and other fragments described below. For a review of certain antibody fragments, see Hudson, P.J. et al., Nat. Med. 9 (2003) 129-134. For a review of scFv fragments, see, e.g., Plueckthun, A., In; The Pharmacology of Monoclonal Antibodies, Vol. 113, Rosenburg and Moore (eds.), Springer-Verlag, New York (1994), pp. 269-315; see also WO 93/16185; US 5,571,894 and US 5,587,458. For discussion of Fab and $F(ab')_2$ fragments comprising salvage receptor binding epitope residues and having increased in vivo half-life, see US 5,869,046.

Diabodies are antibody fragments with two antigen-binding sites that may be bivalent or bispecific. See, for example, EP 0 404 097; WO 1993/01161; Hudson, P.J. et al., Nat. Med. 9 (2003) 129-134; and Holliger, P. et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 90 (1993) 6444-6448. Triabodies and tetrabodies are also described in Hudson, P.J. et al., Nat. Med. 9 (20039 129-134).

Single-domain antibodies are antibody fragments comprising all or a portion of the heavy chain variable domain or all or a portion of the light chain variable domain of an antibody. In certain embodiments, a single-domain antibody is a human single-domain antibody (Domantis, Inc., Waltham, MA; see, e.g., US 6,248,516).

Antibody fragments can be made by various techniques, including but not limited to proteolytic digestion of an intact antibody as well as production by recombinant host cells (e.g. E. coli or phage), as described herein.

3. Humanized Antibodies

Typically, a non-human antibody is humanized to reduce immunogenicity to humans, while retaining the specificity and affinity of the parental non-human antibody. Generally, a humanized antibody comprises one or more variable domains in which HVRs, e.g., CDRs, (or portions thereof) are derived from a non-human antibody, and FRs (or portions thereof) are derived from human antibody sequences. A humanized antibody optionally will also comprise at least a portion of

or a full length human constant region. In some embodiments, some FR residues in a humanized antibody are substituted with corresponding residues from a non-human antibody (e.g. the antibody from which the HVR residues are derived), e.g. to restore or improve antibody specificity or affinity.

Humanized antibodies and methods of making them are reviewed, e.g., in Almagro, J.C. and Fransson, J., Front. Biosci. 13 (2008) 1619-1633, and are further described, e.g., in Riechmann, I. et al., Nature 332 (1988) 323-329; Queen, C. et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 86 (1989) 10029-10033; US 5, 821,337, US 7,527,791, US 6,982,321, and US 7,087,409; Kashmiri, S.V. et al., Methods 36 (2005) 25-34 (describing specificity determining region (SDR) grafting); Padlan, E.A., Mol. Immunol. 28 (1991) 489-498 (describing "resurfacing"); Dall'Acqua, W.F. et al., Methods 36 (2005) 43-60 (describing "FR shuffling"); and Osbourn, J. et al., Methods 36 (2005) 61-68 and Klimka, A. et al., Br. J. Cancer 83 (2000) 252-260 (describing the "guided selection" approach to FR shuffling).

Human framework regions that may be used for humanization include but are not limited to: framework regions selected using the "best-fit" method (see, e.g., Sims, M.J. et al., J. Immunol. 151 (1993) 2296-2308; framework regions derived from the consensus sequence of human antibodies of a particular subgroup of light or heavy chain variable regions (see, e.g., Carter, P. et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89 (1992) 4285-4289; and Presta, L.G. et al., J. Immunol. 151 (1993) 2623-2632); human mature (somatically mutated) framework regions or human germline framework regions (see, e.g., Almagro, J.C. and Fransson, J., Front. Biosci. 13 (2008) 1619-1633); and framework regions derived from screening FR libraries (see, e.g., Baca, M. et al., J. Biol. Chem. 272 (1997) 10678-10684 and Rosok, M.J. et al., J. Biol. Chem. 271 (19969 22611-22618).

4. Multispecific Antibodies

In certain embodiments, an antibody provided herein is a multispecific antibody, e.g. a bispecific antibody. Multispecific antibodies are monoclonal antibodies that have binding specificities for at least two different sites. In certain embodiments, one of the binding specificities is for human Tau(pS422) and the other is for any other antigen. In certain embodiments, bispecific antibodies may bind to two different epitopes of human Tau(pS422). Bispecific antibodies can be prepared as full length antibodies or antibody fragments.

Techniques for making multispecific antibodies include, but are not limited to, recombinant co-expression of two immunoglobulin heavy chain-light chain pairs having different specificities (see Milstein, C. and Cuello, A.C., Nature 305 (1983) 537-540, WO 93/08829, and Traunecker, A. et al., EMBO J. 10 (1991) 3655-3659), and "knob-in-hole" engineering (see, e.g., US 5,731,168). Multi-specific antibodies may also be made by engineering electrostatic steering effects for making antibody Fc-heterodimeric molecules (WO 2009/089004); cross-linking two or more antibodies or fragments (see, e.g., US 4,676,980, and Brennan, M. et al., Science 229 (1985) 81-83); using leucine zippers to produce bi-specific antibodies (see, e.g., Kostelny, S.A. et al., J. Immunol. 148 (1992) 1547-1553; using "diabody" technology for making bispecific antibody fragments (see, e.g., Holliger, P. et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 90 (1993) 6444-6448); and using single-chain Fv (sFv) dimers (see, e.g. Gruber, M et al., J. Immunol. 152 (1994) 5368-5374); and preparing trispecific antibodies as described, e.g., in Tutt, A. et al., J. Immunol. 147 (1991) 60-69).

Engineered antibodies with three or more functional antigen binding sites, including "Octopus antibodies," are also included herein (see, e.g. US 2006/0025576).

The antibody or fragment herein also includes a "Dual Acting Fab" or "DAF" comprising an antigen binding site that binds to human Tau(pS422) as well as another, different antigen (see, US 2008/0069820, for example).

The antibody or fragment herein also includes multispecific antibodies described in

WO 2009/080251, WO 2009/080252, WO 2009/080253, WO 2009/080254, WO 2010/112193, WO 2010/115589, WO 2010/136172, WO 2010/145792, and WO 2010/145793.

5. Antibody Variants

In certain embodiments, amino acid sequence variants of the antibodies provided herein are contemplated. For example, it may be desirable to improve the binding affinity and/or other biological properties of the antibody. Amino acid sequence variants of an antibody may be prepared by introducing appropriate modifications into the nucleotide sequence encoding the antibody, or by peptide synthesis. Such modifications include, for example, deletions from, and/or insertions into and/or substitutions of residues within the amino acid sequences of the antibody. Any

combination of deletion, insertion, and substitution can be made to arrive at the final construct, provided that the final construct possesses the desired characteristics, e.g., antigen-binding.

a) Substitution, Insertion and Deletion Variants

In certain embodiments, antibody variants having one or more amino acid substitutions are provided. Sites of interest for substitutional mutagenesis include the HVRs and FRs. Conservative substitutions are shown in the following Table under the heading of "preferred substitutions". More substantial changes are provided in the following Table under the heading of "exemplary substitutions", and as further described below in reference to amino acid side chain classes. Amino acid substitutions may be introduced into an antibody of interest and the products screened for a desired activity, e.g., retained/improved antigen binding, decreased immunogenicity, or improved ADCC or CDC.

TABLE

Original Residue	Exemplary Substitutions	Conservative Substitutions
Ala (A)	Val; Leu; Ile	Val
Arg (R)	Lys; Gln; Asn	Lys
Asn (N)	Gln; His; Asp, Lys; Arg	Gln
Asp (D)	Glu; Asn	Glu
Cys (C)	Ser; Ala	Ser
Gln (Q)	Asn; Glu	Asn
Glu (E)	Asp; Gln	Asp
Gly (G)	Ala	Ala
His (H)	Asn; Gln; Lys; Arg	Arg
Ile (I)	Leu; Val; Met; Ala; Phe; Norleucine	Leu
Leu (L)	Norleucine; Ile; Val; Met; Ala; Phe	Ile
Lys (K)	Arg; Gln; Asn	Arg
Met (M)	Leu; Phe; Ile	Leu
Phe (F)	Trp; Leu; Val; Ile; Ala; Tyr	Tyr
Pro (P)	Ala	Ala

Original Residue	Exemplary Substitutions	Conservative Substitutions
Ser (S)	Thr	Thr
Thr (T)	Val; Ser	Ser
Trp (W)	Tyr; Phe	Tyr
Tyr (Y)	Trp; Phe; Thr; Ser	Phe
Val (V)	Ile; Leu; Met; Phe; Ala; Norleucine	Leu

Amino acids may be grouped according to common side-chain properties:

(1) hydrophobic: Norleucine, Met, Ala, Val, Leu, Ile;

(2) neutral hydrophilic: Cys, Ser, Thr, Asn, Gln;

(3) acidic: Asp, Glu;

(4) basic: His, Lys, Arg;

(5) residues that influence chain orientation: Gly, Pro;

(6) aromatic: Trp, Tyr, Phe.

Non-conservative substitutions will entail exchanging a member of one of these classes for another class.

One type of substitutional variant involves substituting one or more hypervariable region residues of a parent antibody (e.g. a humanized antibody). Generally, the resulting variant(s) selected for further study will have modifications (e.g. improvements) in certain biological properties (e.g. increased affinity, reduced immunogenicity) relative to the parent antibody and/or will have substantially retained certain biological properties of the parent antibody. An exemplary substitutional variant is an affinity matured antibody, which may be conveniently generated, e.g. using phage display-based affinity maturation techniques such as those described herein. Briefly, one or more HVR residues are mutated and the variant antibodies displayed on phage and screened for a particular biological activity (e.g. binding affinity).

Alterations (e.g., substitutions) may be made in HVRs, e.g., to improve antibody affinity. Such alterations may be made in HVR "hotspots," i.e., residues encoded by codons that undergo mutation at high frequency during the somatic maturation process (see, e.g., Chowdhury, P.S., Methods Mol. Biol. 207 (2008) 179-196), and/or residues that contact antigen, with the resulting variant VH or VL being tested for binding affinity. Affinity maturation by constructing and reselecting from

secondary libraries has been described, e.g., in Hoogenboom, H.R. et al. in Methods in Molecular Biology 178 (2002) 1-37. In some embodiments of affinity maturation, diversity is introduced into the variable genes chosen for maturation by any of a variety of methods (e.g., error-prone PCR, chain shuffling, or oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis). A secondary library is then created. The library is then screened to identify any antibody variants with the desired affinity. Another method to introduce diversity involves HVR-directed approaches, in which several HVR residues (e.g., 4-6 residues at a time) are randomized. HVR residues involved in antigen binding may be specifically identified, e.g., using alanine scanning mutagenesis or modeling. CDR-H3 and CDR-L3 in particular are often targeted.

In certain embodiments, substitutions, insertions, or deletions may occur within one or more HVRs so long as such alterations do not substantially reduce the ability of the antibody to bind antigen. For example, conservative alterations (e.g., conservative substitutions as provided herein) that do not substantially reduce binding affinity may be made in HVRs. Such alterations may, for example, be outside of antigen contacting residues in the HVRs. In certain embodiments of the variant VH and VL sequences provided above, each HVR either is unaltered, or contains no more than one, two or three amino acid substitutions.

A useful method for identification of residues or regions of an antibody that may be targeted for mutagenesis is called "alanine scanning mutagenesis" as described by Cunningham, B.C. and Wells, J.A., Science 244 (1989) 1081-1085. In this method, a residue or group of target residues (e.g., charged residues such as arg, asp, his, lys, and glu) are identified and replaced by a neutral or negatively charged amino acid (e.g., alanine or polyalanine) to determine whether the interaction of the antibody with antigen is affected. Further substitutions may be introduced at the amino acid locations demonstrating functional sensitivity to the initial substitutions. Alternatively, or additionally, a crystal structure of an antigen-antibody complex to identify contact points between the antibody and antigen. Such contact residues and neighboring residues may be targeted or eliminated as candidates for substitution. Variants may be screened to determine whether they contain the desired properties.

Amino acid sequence insertions include amino- and/or carboxyl-terminal fusions ranging in length from one residue to polypeptides containing a hundred or more residues, as well as intrasequence insertions of single or multiple amino acid

residues. Examples of terminal insertions include an antibody with an N-terminal methionyl residue. Other insertional variants of the antibody molecule include the fusion to the N- or C-terminus of the antibody to an enzyme (e.g. for ADEPT) or a polypeptide which increases the serum half-life of the antibody.

b) Glycosylation variants

In certain embodiments, an antibody provided herein is altered to increase or decrease the extent to which the antibody is glycosylated. Addition or deletion of glycosylation sites to an antibody may be conveniently accomplished by altering the amino acid sequence such that one or more glycosylation sites is created or removed.

Where the antibody comprises an Fc-region, the carbohydrate attached thereto may be altered. Native antibodies produced by mammalian cells typically comprise a branched, biantennary oligosaccharide that is generally attached by an N-linkage to Asn297 of the CH2 domain of the Fc-region (see, e.g., Wright, A. and Morrison, S.L., TIBTECH 15 (1997) 26-32). The oligosaccharide may include various carbohydrates, e.g., mannose, N-acetyl glucosamine (GlcNAc), galactose, and sialic acid, as well as a fucose attached to a GlcNAc in the "stem" of the biantennary oligosaccharide structure. In some embodiments, modifications of the oligosaccharide in an antibody of the invention may be made in order to create antibody variants with certain improved properties.

c) Fc-region variants

In certain embodiments, one or more amino acid modifications may be introduced into the Fc-region of an antibody provided herein, thereby generating an Fc-region variant. The Fc-region variant may comprise a human Fc-region sequence (e.g. a human IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 or IgG4 Fc-region) comprising an amino acid modification (e.g. a substitution) at one or more amino acid positions.

In certain embodiments, the invention contemplates an antibody variant that possesses some but not all effector functions, which make it a desirable candidate for applications in which the half-life of the antibody in vivo is important yet certain effector functions (such as complement and ADCC) are unnecessary or deleterious. In vitro and/or in vivo cytotoxicity assays can be conducted to confirm the reduction/depletion of CDC and/or ADCC activities. For example, Fc receptor (FcR) binding assays can be conducted to ensure that the antibody lacks FcγR

binding (hence likely lacking ADCC activity), but retains FcRn binding ability. The primary cells for mediating ADCC, NK cells, express FcγRIII only, whereas monocytes express FcγRI, FcγRII and FcγRIII. FcR expression on hematopoietic cells is summarized in Table 3 on page 464 of Ravetch, J.V. and Kinet, J.P., Annu. Rev. Immunol. 9 (1991) 457-492. Non-limiting examples of in vitro assays to assess ADCC activity of a molecule of interest is described in US 5,500,362 (see, e.g. Hellstrom, I. et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 83 (1986) 7059-7063; and Hellstrom, I. et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 82 (1985) 1499-1502); US 5,821,337 (see Bruggemann, M. et al., J. Exp. Med. 166 (1987) 1351-1361). Alternatively, non-radioactive assays methods may be employed (see, for example, ACTI™ non-radioactive cytotoxicity assay for flow cytometry (CellTechnology, Inc. Mountain View, CA; and CytoTox 96® non-radioactive cytotoxicity assay (Promega, Madison, WI). Useful effector cells for such assays include peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) and Natural Killer (NK) cells. Alternatively, or additionally, ADCC activity of the molecule of interest may be assessed in vivo, e.g. in an animal model such as that disclosed in Clynes, R. et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 95 (1998) 652-656. C1q binding assays may also be carried out to confirm that the antibody is unable to bind C1q and hence lacks CDC activity. See, e.g., C1q and C3c binding ELISA in WO 2006/029879 and WO 2005/100402. To assess complement activation, a CDC assay may be performed (see, for example, Gazzano-Santoro, H. et al., J. Immunol. Methods 202 (1996) 163-171; Cragg, M.S. et al., Blood 101 (2003) 1045-1052; and Cragg, M.S. and M.J. Glennie, Blood 103 (2004) 2738-2743). FcRn binding and in vivo clearance/half-life determinations can also be performed using methods known in the art (see, e.g., Petkova, S.B. et al., Int. Immunol. 18 (2006: 1759-1769).

Antibodies with reduced effector function include those with substitution of one or more of Fc-region residues 238, 265, 269, 270, 297, 327 and 329 (US 6,737,056). Such Fc-region mutants include Fc-region mutants with substitutions at two or more of amino acid positions 265, 269, 270, 297 and 327, including the so-called "DANA" Fc-region mutant with substitution of residues 265 and 297 to alanine (US 7,332,581).

Certain antibody variants with improved or diminished binding to FcRs are described (see, e.g., US 6,737,056; WO 2004/056312, and Shields, R.L. et al., J. Biol. Chem. 276 (2001) 6591-6604).

In some embodiments, alterations are made in the Fc-region that result in altered (i.e. diminished) C1q binding and/or Complement Dependent Cytotoxicity (CDC), e.g., as described in US 6,194,551, WO 99/51642, and Idusogie, E.E. et al., J. Immunol. 164 (2000) 4178-4184.

Antibodies with increased half-lives and improved binding to the neonatal Fc receptor (FcRn), which is responsible for the transfer of maternal IgGs to the fetus (Guyer, R.L. et al., J. Immunol. 117 (1976) 587-593, and Kim, J.K. et al., J. Immunol. 24 (1994) 2429-2434), are described in US 2005/0014934. Those antibodies comprise an Fc-region with one or more substitutions therein which improve binding of the Fc-region to FcRn. Such Fc-region variants include those with substitutions at one or more of Fc-region residues: 238, 256, 265, 272, 286, 303, 305, 307, 311, 312, 317, 340, 356, 360, 362, 376, 378, 380, 382, 413, 424 or 434, e.g., substitution of Fc-region residue 434 (US 7,371,826).

See also Duncan, A.R. and Winter, G., Nature 322 (1988) 738-740; US 5,648,260; US 5,624,821; and WO 94/29351 concerning other examples of Fc-region variants.

d) Cysteine engineered antibody variants

In certain embodiments, it may be desirable to create cysteine engineered antibodies, e.g. "thioMAbs," in which one or more residues of an antibody are substituted with cysteine residues. In particular embodiments, the substituted residues occur at accessible sites of the antibody. By substituting those residues with cysteine, reactive thiol groups are thereby positioned at accessible sites of the antibody and may be used to conjugate the antibody to other moieties, such as drug moieties or linker-drug moieties, to create an immunoconjugate, as described further herein. In certain embodiments, any one or more of the following residues may be substituted with cysteine: V205 (Kabat numbering) of the light chain; A118 (EU numbering) of the heavy chain; and S400 (EU numbering) of the heavy chain Fc-region. Cysteine engineered antibodies may be generated as described, e.g., in US 7,521,541.

e) Antibody Derivatives

In certain embodiments, an antibody provided herein may be further modified to contain additional non-proteinaceous moieties that are known in the art and readily available. The moieties suitable for derivatization of the antibody include but are not limited to water soluble polymers. Non-limiting examples of water soluble

polymers include, but are not limited to, polyethylene glycol (PEG), copolymers of ethylene glycol/propylene glycol, carboxymethylcellulose, dextran, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, poly-1,3-dioxolane, poly-1,3,6-trioxane, ethylene/maleic anhydride copolymer, polyaminoacids (either homopolymers or random copolymers), and dextran or poly(n-vinyl pyrrolidone)polyethylene glycol, propropylene glycol homopolymers, prolypropylene oxide/ethylene oxide co-polymers, polyoxyethylated polyols (e.g. glycerol), polyvinyl alcohol, and mixtures thereof. Polyethylene glycol propionaldehyde may have advantages in manufacturing due to its stability in water. The polymer may be of any molecular weight, and may be branched or unbranched. The number of polymers attached to the antibody may vary, and if more than one polymer is attached, they can be the same or different molecules. In general, the number and/or type of polymers used for derivatization can be determined based on considerations including, but not limited to, the particular properties or functions of the antibody to be improved, whether the antibody derivative will be used in a therapy under defined conditions, etc.

In another embodiment, conjugates of an antibody and non-proteinaceous moiety that may be selectively heated by exposure to radiation are provided. In one embodiment, the non-proteinaceous moiety is a carbon nanotube (Kam, N.W. et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 102 (2005) 11600-11605). The radiation may be of any wavelength, and includes, but is not limited to, wavelengths that do not harm ordinary cells, but which heat the non-proteinaceous moiety to a temperature at which cells proximal to the antibody-non-proteinaceous moiety are killed.

B. Recombinant Methods and Compositions

Antibodies may be produced using recombinant methods and compositions, e.g., as described in US 4,816,567. In one embodiment, isolated nucleic acid encoding an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody described herein is provided. Such nucleic acid may encode an amino acid sequence comprising the VL and/or an amino acid sequence comprising the VH of the antibody (e.g., the light and/or heavy chains of the antibody). In a further embodiment, one or more vectors (e.g., expression vectors) comprising such nucleic acid are provided. In a further embodiment, a host cell comprising such nucleic acid is provided. In one such embodiment, a host cell comprises (e.g., has been transformed with): (1) a vector comprising a nucleic acid that encodes an amino acid sequence comprising the VL of the antibody and an amino acid sequence comprising the VH of the antibody, or (2) a first vector

comprising a nucleic acid that encodes an amino acid sequence comprising the VL of the antibody and a second vector comprising a nucleic acid that encodes an amino acid sequence comprising the VH of the antibody. In one embodiment, the host cell is eukaryotic, e.g. a Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cell or lymphoid cell (e.g., Y0, NS0, Sp20 cell). In one embodiment, a method of making an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody is provided, wherein the method comprises culturing a host cell comprising a nucleic acid encoding the antibody, as provided above, under conditions suitable for expression of the antibody, and optionally recovering the antibody from the host cell (or host cell culture medium).

For recombinant production of an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody, nucleic acid encoding an antibody, e.g., as described above, is isolated and inserted into one or more vectors for further cloning and/or expression in a host cell. Such nucleic acid may be readily isolated and sequenced using conventional procedures (e.g., by using oligonucleotide probes that are capable of binding specifically to genes encoding the heavy and light chains of the antibody).

Suitable host cells for cloning or expression of antibody-encoding vectors include prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells described herein. For example, antibodies may be produced in bacteria, in particular when glycosylation and Fc effector function are not needed. For expression of antibody fragments and polypeptides in bacteria, see, e.g., US 5,648,237, US 5,789,199, and US 5,840,523. (See also Charlton, K.A., In: Methods in Molecular Biology, Vol. 248, Lo, B.K.C. (ed.), Humana Press, Totowa, NJ (2003), pp. 245-254, describing expression of antibody fragments in *E. coli*.) After expression, the antibody may be isolated from the bacterial cell paste in a soluble fraction and can be further purified.

In addition to prokaryotes, eukaryotic microbes such as filamentous fungi or yeast are suitable cloning or expression hosts for antibody-encoding vectors, including fungi and yeast strains whose glycosylation pathways have been "humanized," resulting in the production of an antibody with a partially or fully human glycosylation pattern. See Gerngross, T.U., Nat. Biotech. 22 (2004) 1409-1414; and Li, H. et al., Nat. Biotech. 24 (2006) 210-215.

Suitable host cells for the expression of glycosylated antibody are also derived from multicellular organisms (invertebrates and vertebrates). Examples of invertebrate cells include plant and insect cells. Numerous baculoviral strains have

been identified which may be used in conjunction with insect cells, particularly for transfection of *Spodoptera frugiperda* cells.

Plant cell cultures can also be utilized as hosts. See, e.g., US 5,959,177, US 6,040,498, US 6,420,548, US 7,125,978, and US 6,417,429 (describing PLANTIBODIES™ technology for producing antibodies in transgenic plants).

Vertebrate cells may also be used as hosts. For example, mammalian cell lines that are adapted to grow in suspension may be useful. Other examples of useful mammalian host cell lines are monkey kidney CV1 line transformed by SV40 (COS-7); human embryonic kidney line (293 or 293 cells as described, e.g., in Graham, F.L. et al., J. Gen Virol. 36 (1977) 59-74); baby hamster kidney cells (BHK); mouse sertoli cells (TM4 cells as described, e.g., in Mather, J.P., Biol. Reprod. 23 (1980) 243-252); monkey kidney cells (CV1); African green monkey kidney cells (VERO-76); human cervical carcinoma cells (HELA); canine kidney cells (MDCK; buffalo rat liver cells (BRL 3A); human lung cells (W138); human liver cells (Hep G2); mouse mammary tumor (MMT 060562); TRI cells, as described, e.g., in Mather, J.P. et al., Annals N.Y. Acad. Sci. 383 (1982) 44-68; MRC 5 cells; and FS4 cells. Other useful mammalian host cell lines include Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells, including $DHFR^-$ CHO cells (Urlaub, G. et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 77 (1980) 4216-4220); and myeloma cell lines such as Y0, NS0 and Sp2/0. For a review of certain mammalian host cell lines suitable for antibody production, see, e.g., Yazaki, P. and Wu, A.M., Methods in Molecular Biology, Vol. 248, Lo, B.K.C. (ed.), Humana Press, Totowa, NJ (2004), pp. 255-268.

C. Assays

Anti-human Tau(pS422) antibodies provided herein may be identified, screened for, or characterized for their physical/chemical properties and/or biological activities by various assays known in the art.

1. Binding assays and other assays

In one aspect, an antibody of the invention is tested for its antigen binding activity, e.g., by known methods such as ELISA, alphaLISA, Western blot, antibody or reverse phase array, etc.

In an exemplary ELISA or alphaLISA assay, Tau(pS422) in solution (cell supernatant, cell or tissue lysates, body fluids etc.) is bound by a capture antibody, which specifically binds to a first epitope on Tau(pS422), or Tau(pS422) in a certain conformation and a detection antibody coupled to a detection entity, which specifically binds to a second epitope or conformation of Tau(pS422). The readout is based on the detection entity (chemiluminescence, fluorescence, energy transfer induced luminescence etc.). In some instances the same antibody can be used in the same assay as capture and detection antibody to detect aggregated forms of Tau(pS422) (see e.g. Tokuda, T. et al., Neurology 75 (2010) 1766-1772).

In the case of antibody array, antibodies are spotted onto glass or nitrocellulose chips. The slides are blocked and incubated with Tau(pS422) containing solution, washed to remove unbound antibodies and bound antibodies are detected with a fluorescently labeled corresponding secondary antibody. The fluorescence signal is measured by a fluorescence slide scanner. Similarly for a reverse phase array, recombinant Tau(pS422), cell supernatant, cell or tissue lysates, body fluids etc. are spotted onto glass or nitrocellulose chips. The slides are blocked and individual arrays are incubated with an antibody against a specific epitope on Tau(pS422). Unbound antibodies are washed off and bound antibodies are detected with a fluorescently labeled corresponding secondary antibody. The fluorescence signal is measured by a fluorescence slide scanner (Dernick, G., et al., J. Lipid Res. 52 (2011) 2323-2331).

In the example of Western blot, aggregated recombinant Tau(pS422) or Tau(pS422) derived from cell supernatant, cell or tissue lysates, body fluids etc. is separated by molecular weight in SDS PAGE or native gel conditions and blotted onto a nitrocellulose or PVDF membrane. After blocking the membrane is incubated with antibodies specific to amino acid sequence or conformations of Tau(pS422). Thereafter the membrane is washed to remove unbound antibody. Bound antibodies are detected by corresponding secondary antibodies coupled to detection entities for chemiluminescence or fluorescence or other means of detection. Antibodies specific to amino acid sequences of Tau(pS422) will bind to Tau(pS422) in various aggregated forms and hence molecular weights as long as the epitope is not masked by the aggregation. On the other hand, conformation specific antibodies will detect only certain aggregated forms of Tau(pS422) revealing only bands at specific molecular weights (see e.g. Towbin, H., et al.,

Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 76 (1979) 4350-4353; Burnette, W.N., Anal. Biochem. 112 (1981) 195-203).

In another aspect, competition assays may be used to identify an antibody that competes with the (humanized) antibody as reported herein for binding to human Tau(pS422). In certain embodiments, such a competing antibody binds to the same epitope (e.g., a linear or a conformational epitope) that is bound by the (humanized) antibody as reported herein. Detailed exemplary methods for mapping an epitope to which an antibody binds are provided in Morris, G.E. (ed.), Epitope Mapping Protocols, In: Methods in Molecular Biology, Vol. 66, Humana Press, Totowa, NJ (1996).

In an exemplary competition assay, immobilized human Tau(pS422) is incubated in a solution comprising a first labeled antibody that binds to human Tau(pS422) and a second unlabeled antibody that is being tested for its ability to compete with the first antibody for binding to human Tau(pS422). As a control, immobilized human Tau(pS422) is incubated in a solution comprising the first labeled antibody but not the second unlabeled antibody. After incubation under conditions permissive for binding of the first antibody to human Tau(pS422), excess unbound antibody is removed, and the amount of label associated with immobilized human Tau(pS422) is measured. If the amount of label associated with immobilized human Tau(pS422) is substantially reduced in the test sample relative to the control sample, then that indicates that the second antibody is competing with the first antibody for binding to human Tau(pS422) (see e.g., Harlow, E. and Lane, D., Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual, Chapter 14, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY (1988)).

2. Activity assays

In one aspect, assays are provided for identifying anti-human Tau(pS422) antibodies thereof having biological activity. Biological activity may include, e.g., protection from/reduction of/inhibition of Tau(pS422) induced cytotoxicity, and/or protection from/reduction of/inhibition of cell-to-cell transmission of oligomeric human Tau(pS422), and/or reduction of Tau(pS422)-induced caspase activity in LUHMES cells. Antibodies having such biological activity in vivo and/or in vitro are also provided.

In certain embodiments, an antibody of the invention is tested for such biological activity.

The protective biological activity can be assessed by adding conditioned medium containing secreted Tau(pS422), which causes cell death on recipient neuronal cells. This toxicity can be reversed by adding protective antibodies as described herein. The toxic nature of secreted Tau(pS422) has been established previously (Emmanouilidou, E., et al., J. Neurosci., 30 (2010) 6838-6851).

D. Methods and Compositions for Diagnostics and Detection

In certain embodiments, any of the anti-human Tau(pS422) antibodies provided herein is useful for detecting the presence of human Tau(pS422) in a biological sample. The term "detecting" as used herein encompasses quantitative or qualitative detection. In certain embodiments, a biological sample comprises a cell or tissue, such as brain tissue.

In one embodiment, an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody for use in a method of diagnosis or detection is provided. In a further aspect, a method of detecting the presence of human Tau(pS422) in a biological sample is provided. In certain embodiments, the method comprises contacting the biological sample with an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody as described herein under conditions permissive for binding of the anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody to human Tau(pS422), and detecting whether a complex is formed between the anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody and human Tau(pS422). Such method may be an *in vitro* or *in vivo* method. In one embodiment, an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody is used to select subjects eligible for therapy with an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody, e.g. where human Tau(pS422) is a biomarker for selection of patients.

Exemplary disorders that may be diagnosed using an antibody of the invention include neurodegeneration with brain iron accumulation type 1 (NBIA1), pure autonomic failure, Down's syndrome, complex of Guam, and several Lewy body disorders, such as diffuse Lewy body disease (DLBD), the Lewy body variant of Alzheimer's disease (LBVAD), certain forms of Gaucher's disease, and Parkinson's disease dementia (PDD).

In certain embodiments, labeled anti-human Tau(pS422) antibodies are provided. Labels include, but are not limited to, labels or moieties that are detected directly (such as fluorescent, chromophoric, electron-dense, chemiluminescent, and

radioactive labels), as well as moieties, such as enzymes or ligands, that are detected indirectly, e.g., through an enzymatic reaction or molecular interaction. Exemplary labels include, but are not limited to, the radioisotopes ^{32}P, ^{14}C, ^{125}I, ^{3}H, and ^{131}I, fluorophores such as rare earth chelates or fluorescein and its derivatives, rhodamine and its derivatives, dansyl, umbelliferone, luceriferases, e.g., firefly luciferase and bacterial luciferase (US 4,737,456), luciferin, 2,3-dihydrophthalazinediones, horseradish peroxidase (HRP), alkaline phosphatase, β-galactosidase, glucoamylase, lysozyme, saccharide oxidases, e.g., glucose oxidase, galactose oxidase, and glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, heterocyclic oxidases such as uricase and xanthine oxidase, coupled with an enzyme that employs hydrogen peroxide to oxidize a dye precursor such as HRP, lactoperoxidase, or microperoxidase, biotin/avidin, spin labels, bacteriophage labels, stable free radicals, and the like.

E. Pharmaceutical Formulations

Pharmaceutical formulations of an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody as described herein are prepared by mixing such antibody having the desired degree of purity with one or more optional pharmaceutically acceptable carriers (Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 16th edition, Osol, A. (ed.) (1980)), in the form of lyophilized formulations or aqueous solutions. Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers are generally nontoxic to recipients at the dosages and concentrations employed, and include, but are not limited to: buffers such as phosphate, citrate, and other organic acids; antioxidants including ascorbic acid and methionine; preservatives (such as octadecyl dimethylbenzyl ammonium chloride; hexamethonium chloride; benzalkonium chloride; benzethonium chloride; phenol, butyl or benzyl alcohol; alkyl parabens such as methyl or propyl paraben; catechol; resorcinol; cyclohexanol; 3-pentanol; and m-cresol); low molecular weight (less than about 10 residues) polypeptides; proteins, such as serum albumin, gelatin, or immunoglobulins; hydrophilic polymers such as poly(vinylpyrrolidone); amino acids such as glycine, glutamine, asparagine, histidine, arginine, or lysine; monosaccharides, disaccharides, and other carbohydrates including glucose, mannose, or dextrins; chelating agents such as EDTA; sugars such as sucrose, mannitol, trehalose or sorbitol; salt-forming counter-ions such as sodium; metal complexes (*e.g.* Zn-protein complexes); and/or non-ionic surfactants such as polyethylene glycol (PEG). Exemplary pharmaceutically acceptable carriers herein further include interstitial drug dispersion agents such as soluble neutral-active

hyaluronidase glycoproteins (sHASEGP), for example, human soluble PH-20 hyaluronidase glycoproteins, such as rhuPH20 (HYLENEX®, Baxter International, Inc.). Certain exemplary sHASEGPs and methods of use, including rhuPH20, are described in US 2005/0260186 and US 2006/0104968. In one aspect, a sHASEGP is combined with one or more additional glycosaminoglycanases such as chondroitinases.

Exemplary lyophilized antibody formulations are described in US 6,267,958. Aqueous antibody formulations include those described in US 6,171,586 and WO 2006/044908, the latter formulations including a histidine-acetate buffer.

The formulation herein may also contain more than one active ingredients as necessary for the particular indication being treated, preferably those with complementary activities that do not adversely affect each other. For example, it may be desirable to further provide [[list drugs that might be combined with the anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody]]. Such active ingredients are suitably present in combination in amounts that are effective for the purpose intended.

Active ingredients may be entrapped in microcapsules prepared, for example, by coacervation techniques or by interfacial polymerization, for example, hydroxymethylcellulose or gelatin-microcapsules and poly-(methyl methacrylate) microcapsules, respectively, in colloidal drug delivery systems (for example, liposomes, albumin microspheres, microemulsions, nano-particles and nanocapsules) or in macroemulsions. Such techniques are disclosed in Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 16th edition, Osol, A. (ed.) (1980).

Sustained-release preparations may be prepared. Suitable examples of sustained-release preparations include semi-permeable matrices of solid hydrophobic polymers containing the antibody, which matrices are in the form of shaped articles, *e.g.* films, or microcapsules.

The formulations to be used for *in vivo* administration are generally sterile. Sterility may be readily accomplished, e.g., by filtration through sterile filtration membranes.

F. Therapeutic Methods and Compositions

Any of the anti-human Tau(pS422) antibodies provided herein may be used in therapeutic methods.

In one aspect, an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody for use as a medicament is provided. In further aspects, an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody for use in treating Alzheimer's disease is provided. In certain embodiments, an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody for use in a method of treatment is provided. In certain embodiments, the invention provides an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody for use in a method of treating an individual having Alzheimer's disease comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of the anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody. In one such embodiment, the method further comprises administering to the individual an effective amount of at least one additional therapeutic agent, e.g., as described below. In further embodiments, the invention provides an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody for use in inhibiting Tau(pS422) induced cytotoxicity in human neurons and glia cells, or inhibiting cell-to-cell transmission of oligomeric human Tau(pS422) between neurons and glia cells, or reducing Tau(pS422)-induced caspase activity. In certain embodiments, the invention provides an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody for use in a method of inhibiting Tau(pS422) induced cytotoxicity in human neurons and glia cells, or inhibiting cell-to-cell transmission of oligomeric human Tau(pS422) between neurons and glia cells, or reducing Tau(pS422)-induced caspase activity in an individual comprising administering to the individual an effective of the anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody to inhibit Tau(pS422) induced cytotoxicity in human neurons and glia cells, or inhibit cell-to-cell transmission of oligomeric human Tau(pS422) between neurons and glia cells, or reduce Tau(pS422)-induced caspase activity. An “individual” according to any of the above embodiments is preferably a human.

In a further aspect, the invention provides for the use of an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody in the manufacture or preparation of a medicament. In one embodiment, the medicament is for treatment of Alzheimer's disease. In a further embodiment, the medicament is for use in a method of treating Alzheimer's disease comprising administering to an individual having Alzheimer's disease an effective amount of the medicament. In one such embodiment, the method further comprises administering to the individual an effective amount of at least one additional therapeutic agent, e.g., as described below. In a further embodiment, the medicament is for inhibiting Tau(pS422) induced cytotoxicity in human neurons and glia cells, or for inhibiting cell-to-cell transmission of oligomeric human Tau(pS422) between neurons and glia cells, or for reducing Tau(pS422)-induced caspase activity. In a further embodiment, the medicament is for use in a method of inhibiting Tau(pS422) induced cytotoxicity in human neurons and glia cells, or

inhibiting cell-to-cell transmission of oligomeric human Tau(pS422) between neurons and glia cells, or reducing Tau(pS422)-induced caspase activity in an individual comprising administering to the individual an amount effective of the medicament to inhibit Tau(pS422) induced cytotoxicity in human neurons and glia cells, or to inhibit cell-to-cell transmission of oligomeric human Tau(pS422) between neurons and glia cells, or to reduce Tau(pS422)-induced caspase activity. An "individual" according to any of the above embodiments may be a human.

In a further aspect, the invention provides a method for treating Alzheimer's disease. In one embodiment, the method comprises administering to an individual having such Alzheimer's disease an effective amount of an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody. In one such embodiment, the method further comprises administering to the individual an effective amount of at least one additional therapeutic agent, as described below. An "individual" according to any of the above embodiments may be a human.

In a further aspect, the invention provides a method for inhibiting Tau(pS422) induced cytotoxicity in human neurons and glia cells, or inhibiting cell-to-cell transmission of oligomeric human Tau(pS422) between neurons and glia cells, or reducing Tau(pS422)-induced caspase in an individual. In one embodiment, the method comprises administering to the individual an effective amount of an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody to inhibit Tau(pS422) induced cytotoxicity in human neurons and glia cells, or to inhibit cell-to-cell transmission of oligomeric human Tau(pS422) between neurons and glia cells, or to reduce Tau(pS422)-induced caspase activity. In one embodiment, an "individual" is a human.

In a further aspect, the invention provides pharmaceutical formulations comprising any of the anti-human Tau(pS422) antibodies provided herein, e.g., for use in any of the above therapeutic methods. In one embodiment, a pharmaceutical formulation comprises any of the anti-human Tau(pS422) antibodies provided herein and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another embodiment, a pharmaceutical formulation comprises any of the anti-human Tau(pS422) antibodies provided herein and at least one additional therapeutic agent, e.g., as described below.

Antibodies of the invention can be used either alone or in combination with other agents in a therapy. For instance, an antibody of the invention may be co-administered with at least one additional therapeutic agent.

Such combination therapies noted above encompass combined administration (where two or more therapeutic agents are included in the same or separate formulations), and separate administration, in which case, administration of the antibody of the invention can occur prior to, simultaneously, and/or following, administration of the additional therapeutic agent or agents. In one embodiment, administration of the anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody and administration of an additional therapeutic agent occur within about one month, or within about one, two or three weeks, or within about one, two, three, four, five, or six days, of each other.

An antibody of the invention (and any additional therapeutic agent) can be administered by any suitable means, including parenteral, intrapulmonary, and intranasal, and, if desired for local treatment, intralesional administration. Parenteral infusions include intramuscular, intravenous, intraarterial, intraperitoneal, or subcutaneous administration. Dosing can be by any suitable route, e.g. by injections, such as intravenous or subcutaneous injections, depending in part on whether the administration is brief or chronic. Various dosing schedules including but not limited to single or multiple administrations over various time-points, bolus administration, and pulse infusion are contemplated herein.

Antibodies of the invention would be formulated, dosed, and administered in a fashion consistent with good medical practice. Factors for consideration in this context include the particular disorder being treated, the particular mammal being treated, the clinical condition of the individual patient, the cause of the disorder, the site of delivery of the agent, the method of administration, the scheduling of administration, and other factors known to medical practitioners. The antibody need not be, but is optionally formulated with one or more agents currently used to prevent or treat the disorder in question. The effective amount of such other agents depends on the amount of antibody present in the formulation, the type of disorder or treatment, and other factors discussed above. These are generally used in the same dosages and with administration routes as described herein, or about from 1 to 99% of the dosages described herein, or in any dosage and by any route that is empirically/clinically determined to be appropriate.

For the prevention or treatment of disease, the appropriate dosage of an antibody of the invention (when used alone or in combination with one or more other additional therapeutic agents) will depend on the type of disease to be treated, the type of antibody, the severity and course of the disease, whether the antibody is

administered for preventive or therapeutic purposes, previous therapy, the patient's clinical history and response to the antibody, and the discretion of the attending physician. The antibody is suitably administered to the patient at one time or over a series of treatments. Depending on the type and severity of the disease, about 1 μg/kg to 15 mg/kg (e.g. 0.5mg/kg - 10 mg/kg) of antibody can be an initial candidate dosage for administration to the patient, whether, for example, by one or more separate administrations, or by continuous infusion. One typical daily dosage might range from about 1 μg/kg to 100 mg/kg or more, depending on the factors mentioned above. For repeated administrations over several days or longer, depending on the condition, the treatment would generally be sustained until a desired suppression of disease symptoms occurs. One exemplary dosage of the antibody would be in the range from about 0.05 mg/kg to about 10 mg/kg. Thus, one or more doses of about 0.5 mg/kg, 2.0 mg/kg, 4.0 mg/kg or 10 mg/kg (or any combination thereof) may be administered to the patient. Such doses may be administered intermittently, e.g. every week or every three weeks (*e.g.* such that the patient receives from about two to about twenty, or *e.g.* about six doses of the antibody). An initial higher loading dose, followed by one or more lower doses may be administered. However, other dosage regimens may be useful. The progress of this therapy is easily monitored by conventional techniques and assays.

It is understood that any of the above formulations or therapeutic methods may be carried out using an immunoconjugate of the invention in place of or in addition to an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody.

III. Articles of Manufacture

In another aspect of the invention, an article of manufacture containing materials useful for the treatment, prevention and/or diagnosis of the disorders described above is provided. The article of manufacture comprises a container and a label or package insert on or associated with the container. Suitable containers include, for example, bottles, vials, syringes, IV solution bags, etc. The containers may be formed from a variety of materials such as glass or plastic. The container holds a composition which is by itself or combined with another composition effective for treating, preventing and/or diagnosing the condition and may have a sterile access port (for example the container may be an intravenous solution bag or a vial having a stopper pierceable by a hypodermic injection needle). At least one active agent in the composition is an antibody of the invention. The label or package insert indicates that the composition is used for treating the condition of choice.

Moreover, the article of manufacture may comprise (a) a first container with a composition contained therein, wherein the composition comprises an antibody of the invention; and (b) a second container with a composition contained therein, wherein the composition comprises a further cytotoxic or otherwise therapeutic agent. The article of manufacture in this embodiment of the invention may further comprise a package insert indicating that the compositions can be used to treat a particular condition. Alternatively, or additionally, the article of manufacture may further comprise a second (or third) container comprising a pharmaceutically-acceptable buffer, such as bacteriostatic water for injection (BWFI), phosphate-buffered saline, Ringer's solution and dextrose solution. It may further include other materials desirable from a commercial and user standpoint, including other buffers, diluents, filters, needles, and syringes.

It is understood that any of the above articles of manufacture may include an immunoconjugate of the invention in place of or in addition to an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody.

IV. SPECIFIC EMBODIMENTS

1. A humanized antibody that specifically binds to human Tau(pS422), wherein the antibody
   - i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or
   - ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or
   - iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or
   - iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or
   - v) specifically binds to human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A.

2. A humanized antibody that specifically binds to human Tau(pS422), wherein the antibody comprises
   - a) in the heavy chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, 18 and 10, or
   - b) in the heavy chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, 09 and 10.

3. The humanized antibody according to item 2, further comprising
   a) in the light chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 13, 14 and 15, or
   b) in the light chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 12, 05 and 15.

4. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 2 to 3, comprising
   a) in the heavy chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, 18 and 10, and in the light chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 13, 14 and 15, or
   b) in the heavy chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, 09 and 10, and in the light chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 12, 05 and 15, or
   c) in the heavy chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, 09 and 10, and in the light chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 13, 14 and 15.

5. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 2 to 4, comprising
   a) a heavy chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 20 and a light chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 17, or
   b) a heavy chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 19 and a light chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 16, or
   c) a heavy chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 19 and a light chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 17, or
   d) a heavy chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 21 and a light chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 17.

6. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 2 to 5, wherein the antibody is for use in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

7. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 2 to 6, wherein the antibody is effector function silent.

8. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 2 to 7, wherein the antibody has no effector function.

9. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 2 to 8, wherein the antibody

i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or

ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or

iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02).

10. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 2 to 9, wherein the antibody has an EC_{50} value for

a) the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or

b) the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or

c) aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or

d) the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

11. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 2 to 10, wherein the antibody specifically binds to human Tau(pS422) (SEQ ID NO: 02) and does not bind to human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01).

12. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 11, wherein the antibody has in the heavy chain variable domain at positions 4, 24 and 78 a valine residue.

13. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 12, wherein the antibody has in the heavy chain variable domain at position 71 an arginine residue.

14. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 2 to 13, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

15. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 2 to 10, wherein the antibody is an antibody fragment that binds to human Tau(pS422) and

i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or

ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or

iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

v) specifically binds to full length human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A, and/or

vi) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or

vii) has an EC_{50} value for the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or

viii) has an EC_{50} value for aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or

ix) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

16. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 2 to 14, wherein the antibody is

a) a full length antibody of the human subclass IgG1, or

b) a full length antibody of the human subclass IgG4, or

c) a full length antibody of the human subclass IgG1 with the mutations L234A, L235A and P329G,

d) a full length antibody of the human subclass IgG4 with the mutations S228P, L235E and P329G,

e) a full length antibody of the human subclass IgG1 with the mutations L234A, L235A and P329G in both heavy chains and the mutations T366W and S354C in one heavy chain and the mutations T366S, L368A, Y407V and Y349C in the respective other heavy chain, or

f) a full length antibody of the human subclass IgG4 with the mutations S228P and P329G in both heavy chains and the mutations T366W and S354C in one heavy chain and the mutations T366S, L368A, Y407V and Y349C in the respective other heavy chain.

17. A humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody, wherein

a) the antibody comprises two antibody heavy chains each comprising a heavy chain variable domain and a heavy chain constant region, wherein

i) the variable domain comprises the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, SEQ ID NO: 18 and SEQ ID NO: 10,

ii) the constant region is a human IgG1 constant region, wherein the C-terminal lysine residue can be present or absent, and

iii) the constant region comprises the amino acid changes L234A, L235A and P329G,

b) the antibody comprises two antibody light chains each comprising a light chain variable domain and a light chain constant domain, wherein

i) the variable domain comprises the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14 and SEQ ID NO: 15,

ii) the constant region is a human kappa light chain constant region or a human lambda light chain constant region,

and

c) the antibody

i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or

ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or

iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

v) specifically binds to full length human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A, and/or

vi) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or

vii) has an EC_{50} value for the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or

viii) has an EC_{50} value for aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or

ix) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

18. A humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody, wherein

a) the antibody comprises two antibody heavy chains each comprising a heavy chain variable domain and a heavy chain constant region, wherein

i) the variable domain comprises the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, SEQ ID NO: 09 and SEQ ID NO: 10,

ii) the constant region is a human IgG1 constant region, wherein the C-terminal lysine residue can be present or absent, and

iii) the constant region comprises the amino acid changes L234A, L235A and P329G,

b) the antibody comprises two antibody light chains each comprising a light chain variable domain and a light chain constant domain, wherein

i) the variable domain comprises the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 05 and SEQ ID NO: 15,

ii) the constant region is a human kappa light chain constant region or a human lambda light chain constant region,

and

c) the antibody

i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or

ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or

iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

v) specifically binds to full length human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A, and/or

vi) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or

vii) has an EC_{50} value for the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or

viii) has an EC_{50} value for aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or

ix) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

19. A humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody, wherein

a) the antibody comprises two antibody heavy chains each comprising a heavy chain variable domain and a heavy chain constant region, wherein

i) the variable domain comprises the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, SEQ ID NO: 09 and SEQ ID NO: 10,

ii) the constant region is a human IgG1 constant region, wherein the C-terminal lysine residue can be present or absent, and

iii) the constant region comprises the amino acid changes L234A, L235A and P329G,

b) the antibody comprises two antibody light chains each comprising a light chain variable domain and a light chain constant domain, wherein

i) the variable domain comprises the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14 and SEQ ID NO: 15,

ii) the constant region is a human kappa light chain constant region or a human lambda light chain constant region,

and

c) the antibody

i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or

ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or

iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

v) specifically binds to full length human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A, and/or

vi) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or

vii) has an EC_{50} value for the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or

viii) has an EC_{50} value for aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or

ix) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

20. A humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody, wherein

a) the antibody comprises two antibody heavy chains each comprising a heavy chain variable domain and a heavy chain constant region, wherein

i) the variable domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20,

ii) the constant region is a human IgG1 constant region, wherein the C-terminal lysine residue can be present or absent, and

iii) the constant region comprises the amino acid changes L234A, L235A and P329G,

b) the antibody comprises two antibody light chains each comprising a light chain variable domain and a light chain constant domain, wherein

i) the variable domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17,

ii) the constant region is a human kappa light chain constant region or a human lambda light chain constant region,

and

c) the antibody

i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or

ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or

iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

v) specifically binds to full length human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A, and/or

vi) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or

vii) has an EC_{50} value for the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or

viii) has an EC_{50} value for aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or

ix) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

21. A humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody, wherein

a) the antibody comprises two antibody heavy chains each comprising a heavy chain variable domain and a heavy chain constant region, wherein

i) the variable domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,

ii) the constant region is a human IgG1 constant region, wherein the C-terminal lysine residue can be present or absent, and

iii) the constant region comprises the amino acid changes L234A, L235A and P329G,

b) the antibody comprises two antibody light chains each comprising a light chain variable domain and a light chain constant domain, wherein

i) the variable domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 16,

ii) the constant region is a human kappa light chain constant region or a human lambda light chain constant region,

and

c) the antibody

i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or

ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or

iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

v) specifically binds to full length human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A, and/or

vi) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or

vii) has an EC_{50} value for the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or

viii) has an EC_{50} value for aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or

ix) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

22. A humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody, wherein

a) the antibody comprises two antibody heavy chains each comprising a heavy chain variable domain and a heavy chain constant region, wherein

i) the variable domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,

ii) the constant region is a human IgG1 constant region, wherein the C-terminal lysine residue can be present or absent, and

iii) the constant region comprises the amino acid changes L234A, L235A and P329G,

b) the antibody comprises two antibody light chains each comprising a light chain variable domain and a light chain constant domain, wherein

i) the variable domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17,

ii) the constant region is a human kappa light chain constant region or a human lambda light chain constant region,

and

c) the antibody

i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or

ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or

iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

v) specifically binds to full length human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A, and/or

vi) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or

vii) has an EC_{50} value for the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or

viii) has an EC_{50} value for aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or

ix) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

23. A humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody, wherein

a) the antibody comprises two antibody heavy chains each comprising a heavy chain variable domain and a heavy chain constant region, wherein

i) the variable domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

ii) the constant region is a human IgG1 constant region, wherein the C-terminal lysine residue can be present or absent, and

iii) the constant region comprises the amino acid changes L234A, L235A and P329G,

b) the antibody comprises two antibody light chains each comprising a light chain variable domain and a light chain constant domain, wherein

i) the variable domain has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17,

ii) the constant region is a human kappa light chain constant region or a human lambda light chain constant region,

and

c) the antibody

i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or

ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or

iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or

v) specifically binds to full length human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A, and/or

vi) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or

vii) has an EC_{50} value for the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or

viii) has an EC_{50} value for aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or

ix) has an EC_{50} value for the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

25. An isolated nucleic acid encoding a humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 24.

26. A host cell comprising the nucleic acid according to item 25.

27. A method of producing a humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 comprising the steps of culturing the host cell as reported herein so that the humanized antibody is produced.

28. The method according to item 27, further comprising the step of recovering the humanized antibody from the cell or the cultivation medium.

29. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising the humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30. The pharmaceutical formulation according to item 29, further comprising an additional therapeutic agent.

31. The pharmaceutical formulation according to item 30, wherein the additional therapeutic agent is an anti-amyloid therapeutic agent.

32. The pharmaceutical formulation according to item 31, wherein the anti-amyloid therapeutic agent is an anti-human alpha-synuclein antibody or an anti-Abeta antibody.

33. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 for use as a medicament.

34. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 for use in treating Alzheimer's disease.

35. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 for use in treating prodromal Alzheimer's disease.

36. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 for use in treating mild Alzheimer's disease.

37. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 for use in reducing Tau(pS422)-induced neurodegeneration.

38. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 for use in maintaining cognition and function.

39. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 for use in slowing the rate of cognitive and functional decline.

40. Use of the humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 in the manufacture of a medicament.

41. Use according to any one of items 33 and 40, wherein the medicament is for treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

42. Use according to any one of items 33 and 40 to 41, wherein the medicament is for treatment of prodromal Alzheimer's disease.

43. Use according to any one of items 33 and 40 to 42, wherein the medicament is for treatment of mild Alzheimer's disease.

44. Use according to any one of items 33 and 40 to 43, wherein the medicament is for reducing Tau(pS422) induced neurodegeneration.

45. Use according to any one of items 33 and 40 to 44, wherein the medicament is for maintaining cognition and function.

46. Use according to any one of items 33 and 40 to 45, wherein the medicament is for slowing the rate of cognitive and functional decline.

47. A method of treating an individual having Alzheimer's disease comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of the humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23.

48. A method of reducing Tau(pS422) induced neurodegeneration in an individual comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of the humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 to reduce Tau(pS422) induced neurodegeneration.

49. A method of maintaining cognition and function in an individual comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of the humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 to maintain cognition and function.

50. A method of slowing the rate of cognitive and functional decline in an individual comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of the humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 to slow the rate of cognitive and functional decline.

51. Use of the humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 in the reduction of Tau(pS422) induced neurodegeneration.

52. Use of the humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 in maintaining cognition and function.

53. Use of the humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 in slowing the rate of cognitive and functional decline.

54. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23, wherein the antibody i) binds to Tau(pS422) on brain sections of Tau(pS422) transgenic mice and Alzheimer's disease patients; and/or labels Tau(pS422) in Tau(pS422) transgenic cells.

55. The humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23, wherein the antibody specifically binds to/recognizes early and late stage disease-relevant forms of human Tau(pS422).

56. The use of the humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 for the prevention of human Tau (pS422)-related Alzheimer's disease spread.

57. The use of the humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 for the reduction of lysosomal membrane disintegration.

58. The use of the humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 for the stabilization of lysosome membrane against human Tau(pS422) induced destabilization and/or disintegration.

59. The use of the humanized antibody according to any one of items 1 to 23 for the prevention of Alzheimer's disease progression.

V. EXAMPLES

The following are examples of methods and compositions of the invention. It is understood that various other embodiments may be practiced, given the general description provided above.

Materials and Methods

Recombinant DNA techniques

Standard methods were used to manipulate DNA as described in Sambrook, J. et al., Molecular cloning: A laboratory manual; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, 1989. The molecular biological reagents were used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Gene and oligonucleotide synthesis

Desired gene segments were prepared by chemical synthesis at Geneart GmbH (Regensburg, Germany). The synthesized gene fragments were cloned into an E. coli plasmid for propagation/amplification. The DNA sequences of subcloned gene fragments were verified by DNA sequencing. Alternatively, short synthetic DNA fragments were assembled by annealing chemically synthesized oligonucleotides or via PCR. The respective oligonucleotides were prepared by metabion GmbH (Planegg-Martinsried, Germany)

Reagents

All commercial chemicals, antibodies and kits were used as provided according to the manufacturer's protocol if not stated otherwise.

Example 1
Preparation and purification of rabbit antibodies

Immunization

NZW rabbits from Charles River Laboratories International, Inc. were used for immunization. Phosphopeptide Tau (416-430)[pS422] coupled on KLH was solved in K_3PO_4 puffer pH 7.0 at a concentration of 1mg/ml and mixed (1:1) with complete Freund´s adjuvant (CFA) till generation of stabile emulsion. Three rabbits received an intra-dermal (i.d.) injection of 2ml of emulsion followed by a second

intra muscular (i.m.) and third subcutaneous (s.c.) injection each with 1 ml in one week interval. The fourth i.m. injection of 1 ml was performed two weeks later followed by two further s.c. injections of 1ml in four weeks interval. 10 ml peripheral whole blood samples of each animal was collected 4-6 days after third, fourth, fifth and sixth injection and used for single cell sorting in FACS. Additional 0.5 ml serum of each animal was collected at the same time and used for the determination of Tau (416-463)[pS422] specific antibody response.

Antibody response

The antibody response to the immunization was determined by serial dilution of sera using an ELISA, in which 30 ng per well of biotinylated Tau (416-430)[pS422] was incubated in 1x PBS at 4°C overnight on streptavidin pre-coated 96wells microtiter plates (MC1347, Micro Coat Biotechnologie GmbH, Bernried, Germany). For detection, goat anti-rabbit IgG linked to a horseradish peroxidase (The Jackson laboratory) was used at 1:16000 dilution. BM Blue POD Substrate, precipitating Tetramethyl benzidine (TMB), ready-to-use solution from Roche Diagnostics GmbH was used for visualization. Reaction was stopped via 1N HCl and measured in Tecan Infinite by 450/690 nm.

B-cell cloning

Coating of plates

Sterile streptavidin-coated 6-well plates (cell culture grade) were incubated with either a mixture of 3 biotinylated control peptides (non-phosphorylated Tau (416-430), MCAK_Human (88-102)[95-pSer] and MAP2_Human (1802-1816)[pSer-1802]) or with the biotinylated phospho-peptide Tau (416-430)[pS422] each in a concentration at 0.5-1 µg/ml in PBS at room temperature for 1 h. Plates were washed in sterile PBS three times before use. Cell culture 6-well plates were coated with 2 µg/ml KLH (keyhole limpet haemocyanine) in carbonate buffer (0.1 M sodium bicarbonate, 34 mM Disodiumhydrogencarbonate, pH 9.55) over night at 4 C°. Plates were washed in sterile PBS three times before use.

Isolation of rabbit peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC)

EDTA containing whole blood was diluted twofold with 1x PBS before density centrifugation on lympholyte mammal (Cedarlane Laboratories) which was

performed to isolate rabbit PBMC. PBMCs were washed twice before staining with antibodies.

EL-4 B5 medium

RPMI 1640 (Pan Biotech, Aidenbach, Germany) supplemented with 10% FCS (Hyclone, Logan, UT, USA), 2mM Glutamine, 1% penicillin/streptomycin solution (PAA, Pasching, Austria), 2mM sodium pyruvate, 10mM HEPES (PAN Biotech, Aidenbach, Germany) and 0.05 mM beta-mercaptoethanol (Gibco, Paisley, Scotland)

Depletion of macrophages/monocytes

Sterile 6-well plates (cell culture grade) were used to deplete macrophages and monocytes through unspecific adhesion. Wells were either coated with KLH (keyhole limpet haemocyanine) or with streptavidin and the control peptides. Each well was filled with at maximum 4 ml medium and up to $6x10^6$ peripheral blood mononuclear cells from the immunized rabbit and allowed to bind for 1 h at 37 °C in the incubator. 50% of the cells in the supernatant were used for the panning step; the remaining 50% of cells were directly subjected to immune fluorescence staining and single cell sorting.

Panning B-cells on peptides

6-well tissue culture plates coated with streptavidin and the biotinylated peptide Tau (416-430)[pS422] were seeded with up to $6x10^6$ cells per 4 ml medium and allowed to bind for 1 h at 37 °C in the incubator. Non-adherent cells were removed by carefully washing the wells 1-2 times with 1x PBS. The remaining sticky cells were detached by trypsin for 10 min at 37 °C in the incubator and then washed twice in media. The cells were kept on ice until the immune fluorescence staining.

Immune fluorescent staining and single cell sorting

Anti-rabbit IgG FITC used for single cell sorting was from AbD Serotec (STAR121F, Düsseldorf, Germany). For surface staining, cells from the depletion and panning step were incubated with anti-rabbit IgG FITC antibody in PBS for 30 min rolling in the cold room at 4°C in the dark. Following centrifugation, the supernatants were removed by aspiration. The PBMCs were subjected to 2 cycles of centrifugation and washing with ice cold PBS. Finally the PBMCs were

resuspended in ice cold PBS and immediately subjected to the FACS analyses. Propidium iodide in a concentration of 5µg/ml (BD Pharmingen, San Diego, CA, USA) was added prior to the FACS analyses to discriminate between dead and live cells. FACS was performed using a Becton Dickinson FACSAria equipped the FACSDiva software (BD Biosciences, USA) and single, FITC-labeled, live cells were deposited in 96-well plates.

B-cell culture

B-cell cultures were prepared by a method similar to that described by Zubler, R.H. et al., J. Immunol. 134 (1985) 3662-3668. Briefly, single sorted B cells were cultured in 96-well plates with 210 µl/well EL-4 B5 medium with Pansorbin Cells (1:20000) (Calbiochem (Merck), Darmstadt, Deutschland), 5% rabbit thymocyte supernatant and gamma-irradiated EL-4-B5 murine thymoma cells (2×10^4/well) for 7 days at 37 °C in an atmosphere of 5% CO_2 in the incubator. B cell culture supernatants were removed for screening and the cells harvested immediately for variable region gene cloning or frozen at − 80 °C in 100 µl RLT buffer (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany).

B-cell clone screening

B-cell culture supernatants were screened for binding to biotinylated Tau (416-430)[pS422] by ELISA. Non-phosphorylated Tau (416-430), KLH (keyhole limpet haemocyanine) and the unrelated phospho-peptide MCAK_Human (88-102)[95-pSer] were used as control antigens. For the preparation of ELISA plates, streptavidin pre-coated microtiter plates were incubated with biotinylated Tau (415-430)[pS422] at 50 ng/ml for 1 hour at room temperature. Coating with KLH or control peptides was performed at 1 µg/ml. B cell supernatants were diluted 1:5 to 1:10 and were incubated in the antigen coated microtiter plates for 60 min. After intensive washing, the binding of the rabbit antibodies was detected using a sheep anti-rabbit IgG digoxigenin conjugated detection antibody (Chemicon AQ301D). After incubation with TMB at room temperature, absorbance at 370 nm -492 nm was measured. B-cell clones yielding signals above background with biotinylated Tau (416-430)[pS422] but not with KLH and MCAK_Human (88-102)[95-pSer] were further considered and subjected to variable region gene cloning.

PCR amplification of V-domains and sequencing

Total RNA was prepared using the NucleoSpin® 8/96 RNA kit (Macherey&Nagel; 740709.4, 740698) according to manufacturer's protocol. All steps were done on an epMotion 5075 liquid handling system (Eppendorf). RNA was eluted with 60 µl RNAse free water. 6µl of RNA was used to generate cDNA by reverse transcriptase reaction using the Superscript III First-Strand Synthesis SuperMix (Invitrogen 18080-400) and an oligo dT-primer according to the manufacturer's instructions. 4µl of cDNA were used to amplify the immunoglobulin heavy and light chain variable regions (VH and VL) with the AccuPrime SuperMix (Invitrogen 12344-040) in a final volume of 50µl using the primers rbHCfinal.up and rbHCfinal.do for the heavy chain and rbLCfinal.up and rbLCfinal.do for the light chain (see Table below). The PCR conditions were as follows: Hot start at 94°C for 5 min; 35 cycles of 20s at 94°C, 20s at 70°C, 45s at 68 °C, and a final extension at 68°C for 7 min.

Table:

rbHCfinal.up (SEQ ID NO: 61)	AAGCTTGCCACCATGGAGACTGGGCTGCGCTGGCTTC
rbHCfinal.do (SEQ ID NO: 62)	CCATTGGTGAGGGTGCCCGAG
rbLCfinal.up (SEQ ID NO: 63)	AAGCTTGCCACCATGGACAYGAGGGCCCCCACTC
rbLCfinal.do (SEQ ID NO: 64)	CAGAGTRCTGCTGAGGTTGTAGGTAC

8µl of 50µl PCR solution were loaded on a 48 E-Gel 2% (Invitrogen G8008-02). Positive PCR reactions were cleaned using the NucleoSpin® Extract II kit (Macherey&Nagel; 740609250) according to manufacturer's protocol and eluted in 50µl elution buffer. 12µl of purified PCR products were sequenced directly in both directions using the rbHCfinal.up and rbHCfinal.do for heavy chains and rbLCfinal.up and rbLCfinal.do for light chains (see Table above).

Recombinant expression of rabbit monoclonal antibodies and rabbit/mouse chimeric antibodies

For recombinant expression of rabbit monoclonal antibodies, PCR-products coding for VH or VL were cloned as cDNA into expression vectors by the overhang

cloning method (Haun, R.S. et al., BioTechniques 13 (1992) 515-518; Li, M.Z., et al., Nature Methods 4 (2007) 251-256). Linearized expression plasmids coding for the rabbit kappa or gamma constant region and VL of VH inserts were amplified by PCR using overlapping primers. Purified PCR products were incubated with T4 DNA-polymerase which generated single-strand overhangs. The reaction was stopped by dCTP addition. In the next step, plasmid and insert were combined and incubated with RecA which induced site specific recombination. The recombined plasmids were transformed into E.coli. The next day the grown colonies were picked and tested for correct recombined plasmid by plasmid preparation, restriction analysis and DNA-sequencing. For antibody expression, the isolated HC and LC plasmids were transiently co-transfected into HEK293 cells and the supernatants were harvested after 1 week. For cloning and expression of rabbit mouse chimeric antibodies, the VH and VL regions were amplified by PCR and sub-cloned into expression vectors containing the mouse constant kappa or mouse constant gamma 1 region. The rabbit / mouse chimeric HC and LC plasmids were isolated, tested by restriction analysis and DNA-sequencing for correct insertion and transiently co-transfected into HEK293 cells. Supernatants were harvested one week after transfection.

Antibody purification

Recombinantly expressed rabbit antibodies were purified from cell culture supernatants on MabSelectSuRe™ columns (GE Healthcare). Prior to sample load the column was equilibrated with 25 mmol/L Tris-HCl, 25 mmol/L NaCl, pH 7.4. Elution of the antibody was achieved with 50 mmol/L acetate pH 3.14. The eluted sample was immediately loaded onto a desalting column (Sephadex G25, GE Healthcare) and eluted in 20 mmol/L His-HCl, 140 mmol/L NaCl pH 6.0. This buffer was also used for the storage of purified antibody. General storage temperature was 4 °C, room temperature during the purification process and -80 °C after aliquotation. Recombinantly expressed rabbit/mouse chimaeras antibodies from cell culture supernatants were purified on MabSelectSuRe™ columns (GE Healthcare). Prior to sample load the column was equilibrated with 1 x PBS, pH 7.4. Elution of the antibodies was achieved with 100 mmol/L citrate pH 3.0. The eluted sample was immediately neutralized with 2 mol/L Tris/HCl pH 9.0. Afterwards the antibodies are loaded onto a size exclusion column (Superdex 200, GE Healthcare) and eluted in 20 mmol/L His-HCl, 140 mmol/L NaCl pH 6.0. This buffer was also used for the storage of purified antibodies. General storage

temperature was 4 °C, room temperature during the purification process and -80 °C after aliquotation.

Example 2

Anti-Tau pS422 monoclonal rabbit antibodies are highly selective for Tau phosphorylated at pS422 and bind to fibrillary aggregates of Tau pS422

ELISA

Rabbit monoclonal antibodies were recombinantly expressed in HEK 293 cells. Cell culture supernatants or purified rabbit antibodies were tested for binding to biotinylated Tau (416-430)[pS422], non-phosphorylated Tau (416-430), KLH (key hole limpet haemocyanine) and the unrelated phospho-peptide MCAK_Human (88-102)[95-pSer] by ELISA. For the preparation of ELISA plates, streptavidin pre-coated microtiter plates were incubated with biotinylated Tau (415-430)[pS422] at 50 ng/ml for 1 hour at room temperature. Coating with KLH or control peptides was performed at 1 µg/ml. Rabbit Anti Tau pS422 antibody (Abcam AB51071) or rabbit antibody containing supernatants were incubated in the antigen labeled microtiter plates for 60 min at various concentrations. After intensive washing, the binding of the rabbit antibodies was detected using a sheep anti-rabbit IgG digoxigenin conjugated detection antibody (Chemicon AQ301D). After incubation with TMB at room temperature absorbance at 370 nm - 492 nm was measured. The antibody binding was characterized by its EC50 values. The antibody binding to biotinylated Tau (416-430)[pS422] and non-phosphorylated Tau (416-430) peptides was characterized by its EC50 values. Cross-reactivity with KLH or MCAK phosphopeptide was estimated by single-point measurement at high concentrations, i.e. at 1:5 dilution of the cell culture supernatants. Results are shown in the Table below. EC50 values of binding to Tau phosphopeptide were found to be more than 100 times lower than EC50 values of binding to Tau peptide, indicating at least 100 fold selectivity for phosphorylated Tau fragment compared to non-phosphorylated Tau peptide. Binding to KLH and MCAK control phosphopeptide was at background level with all antibodies, which is about 1<3% of the maximal value measures with Tau phosphopeptide.

Table:

	EC_{50} phosphorylated Tau peptide (µg/ml)	EC_{50} non-phosphorylated Tau peptide (µg/ml)	IgG titer of supernatant (µg/ml)	OD 1:5 dilution of supernatant KLH (mE)	OD 1:5 dilution of supernatant MCAK (mE)
Mab 005	< 0.003	3.727	5.818	0.026	0.067
Mab 019	< 0.003	1.076	6.958	0.026	0.023
Mab 020	0.002	>3.369	3.369	0.016	0.010
Mab 085	0.0009	0.146	6.46	0.029	0.062
Mab 086	0.0011	0.266	8.84	0.046	0.104
Mab 097	0.0013	1.281	19.87	0.042	0.029

Specificity for soluble and aggregated full-length Tau pS422 was also tested. Fibrillary aggregates of Tau pS422 (300µg/ml) were coated to a Polystyrene based Maxisorb microtiter plate (Nunc) overnight at RT. In similar manner, soluble full-length Tau and Tau pS422 were coated to the Maxisorb microtiter plate. Rabbit Anti Tau pS422 antibody control (Abcam AB51071), or purified rabbit antibodies were added and incubated for 60 min in concentrations up to 1000 ng/ml. After intensive washing, the binding of the rabbit antibodies was detected using a sheep anti-rabbit IgG digoxigenin conjugated detection antibody (Chemicon AQ301D). After incubation with TMB at room temperature absorbance at 370 nm - 492 nm was measured. The antibody binding was characterized by its EC50 values. Results are shown in the following Table.

Table:

Rabbit Mab	EC_{50} Tau pS422 protein (µg/ml)	EC_{50} Tau protein (µg/ml)	EC_{50} fibrillary Tau pS422 (µg/ml)
Mab 005	0.00034	no binding	0.00755
Mab 019	0.00038	no binding	0.00059
Mab 020	0.00036	no binding	0.00042
Mab 085	0.00025	no binding	0.00074
Mab 086	0.00023	no binding	0.00048
Mab 097	0.00040	no binding	0.01358

Rabbit monoclonal antibodies bound to Tau-pS422 protein with EC50 values below 1 ng/ml. Fibrillary Tau pS422 was detected with EC50 values ranging from 0.4 ng/ml to 14 ng/ml. Signals for binding to non-phosphorylated full-lengths Tau protein were indistinguishable from background levels. Therefore it was estimated that each of the antibodies binds to Tau pS422 and fibrillary Tau pS422 with a selectivity of at least 100-fold compared to Tau.

BIAcore™

Binding to fibrillary Tau pS422 aggregates was further investigated and confirmed by BIAcore™ analysis. Measurements were performed using the BIAcore 3000 instrument at 37°C. The system and sample buffer was HBS-EP (10 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 3.4 mM EDTA, 0.005% Polysorbate 20 (v/v)). A BIAcore™ CM5 sensor chip was subjected to a preconditioning procedure. Sequentially 0.1 % SDS, 50 mM NaOH, 10 mM HCl and 100 mM H_3PO_4 were injected for 30 sec over the flow cells FC1, FC2, FC3 and FC4. The amine coupling procedure was done according to the manufacturer's instructions using the BIAcore 3000™ wizard v. 4.1. After an EDC/NHS activation of the sensor surface, a non-phosphoselective anti-Tau antibody mAb <TAU>M-4/53-IgG was immobilized on sensor flow cells FC2, FC3 and FC4. As a control, an antibody against CK-MM (creatine kinase isotype), recognizing an irrelevant antigen, was captured on the FC1. mAb <TAU>M-4/53-IgG and the antibody against CK-MM were diluted at 30 µg/ml in 10 mM NaAc pH 5.0 and were injected at 10 µl/min for 7 min contact time to immobilize 10.000 RU of the antibody capturing system. The surface was deactivated by saturation with 1M Ethanolamine. The sensor was conditioned by 5 cycles with phosphorylated filamentous Tau protein (stock 0.3 mg/ml diluted 1:100 in HBS-EP) as analyte in solution at 10 µl/min for 2 min. Regeneration was performed with 10 mM Glycine pH 2.5 at 30 µl/min for 3 min. It is assumed, that the analyte binding to mAb 4/53 does not dissociate the pTau filaments, because no dissociation of pTau filaments from the mAb 4/53 could be observed. For all further measurement cycles, 0.3 mg/ml pTau filaments were diluted 1:100 in HBS-EP buffer and were injected at 10 µl/min for 1 min. in order to present pTau to the respective antibody analytes in a heterogeneous sandwich-mode. The antibody analytes were diluted in HBS-EP buffer to a concentration of 100 nM and were injected into the system at 20 µl/min for 3 min. After 3 min of dissociation the sensor surface was regenerated by 2 injections of a 10 mM Glycine pH 2.5 for 1 min at 100 µl/min followed by a HBS-wash for 15 sec at 100 µl/min. The

association and dissociation phase of the interactions were monitored. Since the antibody analyte in solution is bivalent, the avidity-burdened antibody-pTau kinetics were characterized by a biphasic dissociation model, consisting of a fast affinity-based early dissociation step followed by an avidity-stabilized, but rate-limiting kinetic step in the latter complex dissociation. 10 sec(early) and 50 sec(late) after analyte injection end, the kd and t/2(diss) were quantified, where possible. The kinetic measurements were evaluated using a double referencing procedure. First the signal from the FC1 reference was subtracted to correct the buffer bulk effect and unspecific binding. Second the 0 nM analyte injection was subtracted to correct the dissociation of the primary antibodies from the respective capturing system. The kinetic rates were evaluated using a Langmuir 1.1 dissociation fit model according to the BIAcore™ evaluation software v.4.1. The antigen/antibody complex stability halftime (min) was calculated according to the formula ln(2)/60*kd.

Results are summarized in the following Table.

Table:

	early (10s)		late (50s)	
Clone	**kd (1/s)**	**t/2diss (min)**	**kd (1/s)**	**t/2diss (min)**
Mab 005	2.19E-03	5.3	$3.12x10^{-3}$	4
Mab 019	1.43E-02	0.8	$6.17x10^{-4}$	19
Mab 020	3.28E-03	3.5	$4.08\ x10^{-4}$	28
Mab 085	n.d.	n.d.	$6.60\ x10^{-4}$	18
Mab 086	1.62E-03	7.2	$3.68\ x10^{-4}$	32
Mab 097	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.

Example 3

Binding of anti-Tau pS422 monoclonal rabbit antibodies to intracellular pTau in brain sections of Alzheimer's disease patients

The specific and sensitive immunohistochemical detection of pTau pathology in Alzheimer's disease brain tissue by monoclonal rabbit anti-Tau pS422 antibodies was investigated by immunofluorescence staining experiments using cryosections of human brain tissue from AD patients. The procedure was basically the same as described in example X (murine antibodies). Rabbit IgGs were detected by goat anti rabbit Alexa Fluor488® conjugated secondary antibodies

(Invitrogen/Molecular Probes A11034). Specific and sensitive staining of pTau deposits and filaments is evident for clones Mab 005, Mab 019, Mab 020, Mab 085, Mab 086 and Mab 097. Intracellular pTau deposits, like large neurofibrillary tangles and elongated neutrophil threads, are noticeable. A minimal effective concentration ranging between 0.08 and 0.016 µg/ml was determined for all clones investigated, which indicates highly sensitive binding to genuine human pTau deposits.

Example 4

Humanization of rabbit anti-human Tau(pS422) antibodies

The "variable domain" (variable domain of a light chain (VL), variable domain of a heavy chain (VH)) as used herein denotes each of the pair of light and heavy chain domains which are involved directly in binding the antibody to the Tau(pS422) antigen. The variable light and heavy chain domains have the same general structure and each domain comprises four framework (FR) regions whose sequences are widely conserved, connected by three "hypervariable regions".

The structures of the VH and the VL domain of the rabbit antibody mAb 086 were analyzed in silico and compared to a structural database of human VH and VL domains (IMGT). A panel of structurally most similar V domains was chosen for grafting the CDRs of the rabbit antibody onto the chosen human VH and VL domains. In addition, similarities in the primary sequence were taken into account to narrow down the choice of the human V domains by aligning the primary sequence of the VH and VL domain of the rabbit antibody to the human V domain repertoire. Backmutations within the human framework regions to rabbit parent residues were introduced in some humanization variants. Similarly, mutations in the CDRs were introduced in some variants where appropriate to potentially increase the affinity to the antigen, to maintain the CDR tertiary structure, and to remove unwanted features like cysteine residues or residues that can undergo modification after antibody purification.

The heavy and light chain vectors containing each of the humanized variant were co-transfected into HEK293 suspension cells in microtiter culture plates in a matrix manner to obtain cell cultures expressing full size IgG of all possible light/heavy chain combinations. After 5 days cultivation at 37 °C, the supernatants were harvested and purified by protein A affinity chromatography in the microtiter scale.

Example 5

Generation of recombinant expression vectors

a) Generation of vectors for the expression of immunoglobulin heavy chains using the human IgG1 constant region

The humanized heavy chain encoding fusion gene comprising the human IgG1 constant region (CH1, hinge, CH2, CH3) and a humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody VH domain derived from rabbit antibody Mab 086 was assembled by fusing a DNA fragment coding for the respective anti-human Tau(pS422)-specific antibody VH domain to a sequence element coding the human IgG1 constant region.

The human IgG1 constant region has the following amino acid sequence:

```
ASTKGPSVFP LAPSSKSTSG GTAALGCLVK DYFPEPVTVS WNSGALTSGV
HTFPAVLQSS GLYSLSSVVT VPSSSLGTQT YICNVNHKPS NTKVDKKVEP
KSCDKTHTCP PCPAPELLGG PSVFLFPPKP KDTLMISRTP EVTCVVVDVS
HEDPEVKFNW YVDGVEVHNA KTKPREEQYN STYRVVSVLT VLHQDWLNGK
EYKCKVSNKA LPAPIEKTIS KAKGQPREPQ VYTLPPSRDE LTKNQVSLTC
LVKGFYPSDI AVEWESNGQP ENNYKTTPPV LDSDGSFFLY SKLTVDKSRW
QQGNVFSCSV MHEALHNHYT QKSLSLSPGK
```

(SEQ ID NO: 58).

The expression vector also comprised an origin of replication from the vector pUC18, which allows replication of this plasmid in E. coli, and a beta-lactamase gene which confers ampicillin resistance in E. coli.

The transcription unit of the antibody heavy chain comprises the following functional elements in 5' to 3' direction:

- the immediate early enhancer and promoter from the human cytomegalovirus (P-CMV) including intron A,
- a human heavy chain immunoglobulin 5'-untranslated region (5'UTR),
- a murine immunoglobulin heavy chain signal sequence,
- a heavy chain variable (VH) domain encoding nucleic acid,
- a human IgG1 constant region encoding nucleic acid, and
- the bovine growth hormone polyadenylation sequence (BGH pA).

b) Generation of vectors for the expression of immunoglobulin light chains using the human Ig-kappa constant region

The humanized kappa light chain encoding fusion gene comprising the human Ig-kappa constant region (CL-kappa) and an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody VL (kappa) domain derived from rabbit antibody Mab 086 was assembled by fusing a DNA fragment coding for the respective anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody VL (kappa) domain to a sequence element coding for the human Ig-kappa constant region.

The human Ig-kappa constant region has the following amino acid sequence:

RTVAAPSVFI FPPSDEQLKS GTASVVCLLN NFYPREAKVQ WKVDNALQSG NSQESVTEQD SKDSTYSLSS TLTLSKADYE KHKVYACEVT HQGLSSPVTK SFNRGEC

(SEQ ID NO: 59).

The expression vector also comprised an origin of replication from the vector pUC18, which allows replication of this plasmid in E. coli, and a beta-lactamase gene which confers ampicillin resistance in E. coli.

The transcription unit of the antibody kappa light chain comprises the following functional elements in 5' to 3' direction:

- the immediate early enhancer and promoter from the human cytomegalovirus (P-CMV) including intron A,
- a human heavy chain immunoglobulin 5'-untranslated region (5'UTR),
- a murine immunoglobulin heavy chain signal sequence,
- a light chain variable (VL) domain encoding nucleic acid,
- a human Ig-kappa constant region encoding nucleic acid, and
- the bovine growth hormone polyadenylation sequence (BGH pA).

c) Generation of vectors for the expression of immunoglobulin light chains using the human Ig-lambda constant region

The humanized lambda light chain encoding fusion gene comprising the human Ig-lambda constant region (CL-lambda) and an anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody VL (lambda) domain derived from rabbit antibody Mab 086 was assembled by fusing a DNA fragment coding for the respective anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody VL

(lambda) domain to a sequence element coding for the human Ig-lambda constant region.

The human Ig-lambda constant region has the following amino acid sequence:

GQPKAAPSVT LFPPSSEELQ ANKATLVCLI SDFYPGAVTV AWKADSSPVK AGVETTTPSK QSNNKYAASS YLSLTPEQWK SHRSYSCQVT HEGSTVEKTV APTECS

(SEQ ID NO: 60).

The expression vector also comprised an origin of replication from the vector pUC18, which allows replication of this plasmid in E. coli, and a beta-lactamase gene which confers ampicillin resistance in E. coli.

The transcription unit of the antibody lambda light chain comprises the following functional elements in 5' to 3' direction:

- the immediate early enhancer and promoter from the human cytomegalovirus (P-CMV) including intron A,
- a human heavy chain immunoglobulin 5'-untranslated region (5'UTR),
- a murine immunoglobulin heavy chain signal sequence,
- a variable light chain (VL) domain encoding nucleic acid,
- a human Ig-lambda constant region encoding nucleic acid, and
- the bovine growth hormone polyadenylation sequence (BGH pA).

d) <u>Generation of vectors for the expression of immunoglobulin kappa light chains using the human Ig-kappa constant region</u>

The human Ig-kappa light chain encoding fusion gene comprising the human Ig-kappa constant region (CL-kappa) and an anti-human Tau(S422) antibody VL (kappa) domain derived from rabbit antibody Mab 086 was assembled by fusing a DNA fragment coding for the respective anti-human Tau(pS422)-antibody VL (kappa) domain to a sequence element coding for the human Ig-kappa constant region. The construct was in a genomic organization, i.e. introns were present in the signal peptide and between the VL (kappa) and the CL-kappa domains.

The expression vector also comprised an origin of replication from the vector pUC18, which allows replication of this plasmid in E. coli, and a beta-lactamase gene which confers ampicillin resistance in E. coli.

The transcription unit of the antibody kappa light chain comprises the following functional elements in 5' to 3' direction:

- the immediate early enhancer and promoter from the human cytomegalovirus (P-CMV)
- a human heavy chain immunoglobulin 5'-untranslated region (5'UTR),
- a murine immunoglobulin heavy chain signal sequence,
- a light chain variable (VL) domain encoding nucleic acid,
- a human IgG kappa constant region, and
- the bovine growth hormone polyadenylation sequence (BGH pA).

e) Generation of vectors for the expression of immunoglobulin lambda light chains using the human Ig-lambda constant region

The human Ig-lambda light chain encoding fusion gene comprising the human Ig-lambda constant region (CL-lambda) and an anti-human Tau(S422) antibody VL (lambda) domain derived from rabbit antibody Mab 086 was assembled by fusing a DNA fragment coding for the respective anti-human Tau(pS422)-antibody VL (lambda) domain to a sequence element coding for the human Ig-lambda constant region. The construct was in a genomic organization, i.e. introns were present in the signal peptide and between the VL (lambda) and the CL-lambda domains.

The expression vector also comprised an origin of replication from the vector pUC18, which allows replication of this plasmid in E. coli, and a beta-lactamase gene which confers ampicillin resistance in E. coli.

The transcription unit of the antibody lambda light chain comprises the following functional elements in 5' to 3' direction:

- the immediate early enhancer and promoter from the human cytomegalovirus (P-CMV)
- a human heavy chain immunoglobulin 5'-untranslated region (5'UTR),
- a murine immunoglobulin heavy chain signal sequence,
- a light chain variable (VL) domain encoding nucleic acid,
- a human IgG lambda constant region, and
- the bovine growth hormone polyadenylation sequence (BGH pA).

Example 6

Recombinant production of anti-human Tau(pS422) antibodies

The antibodies were produced in transiently transfected HEK293 cells (human embryonic kidney cell line 293-derived) cultivated in F17 Medium (Invitrogen Corp.). For transfection of the respective vectors as described in Example 5 "293-Free" Transfection Reagent (Novagen) was used. The antibodies were expressed from individual expression plasmids. Transfections were performed as specified in the manufacturer's instructions. Recombinant antibody-containing cell culture supernatants were harvested three to seven days after transfection. Supernatants were stored at reduced temperature (e.g. -80 °C) until purification.

General information regarding the recombinant expression of human immunoglobulins in e.g. HEK293 cells is given in: Meissner, P. et al., Biotechnol. Bioeng. 75 (2001) 197-203.

Example 7

Purification of recombinant anti-human Tau(pS422) antibodies

The antibody-containing culture supernatants were filtered and purified by two chromatographic steps.

The antibodies were captured by affinity chromatography using HiTrap MabSelectSuRe (GE Healthcare) equilibrated with PBS (1 mM KH_2PO_4, 10 mM Na_2HPO_4, 137 mM NaCl, 2.7 mM KCl), pH 7.4. Unbound proteins were removed by washing with equilibration buffer, and the antibody was recovered with 25 mM citrate buffer, pH 3.1, which was immediately after elution adjusted to pH 6.0 with 1 M Tris-base, pH 9.0.

Size exclusion chromatography on Superdex 200™ (GE Healthcare) was used as second purification step. The size exclusion chromatography was performed in 20 mM histidine buffer, 0.14 M NaCl, pH 6.0. The antibody containing solutions were concentrated with an Ultrafree-CL centrifugal filter unit equipped with a Biomax-SK membrane (Millipore, Billerica, MA, USA) and stored at -80 °C.

Example 8

Kinetic screening

The kinetic screening was performed according to Schraeml et al. (Schraeml, M. and M. Biehl, Methods Mol. Biol. 901 (2012) 171-181) on a BIAcore 4000 instrument, mounted with a BIAcore CM5 sensor. The BIAcore 4000 instrument was under the control of the software version V1.1. A BIAcore CM5 series S chip was mounted into the instrument and was hydrodynamically addressed and preconditioned according to the manufacturer's instructions. The instrument buffer was HBS-EP buffer (10 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.05 % (w/v) P20). An antibody capture system was prepared on the sensor surface. A polyclonal goat anti-human antibody with human IgG-Fc specificity (Jackson Lab.) was immobilized at 30 µg/ml in 10 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 5) to spots 1, 2, 4 and 5 in the instrument's flow cells 1, 2, 3 and 4 at 10,000 RU using NHS/EDC chemistry. In each flow cell the antibodies were captured on spot 1 and spot 5. Spot 2 and spot 4 were used as reference spots. The sensor was deactivated with a 1 M ethanolamine solution. Humanized antibody derivatives were applied at concentrations between 44 nM and 70 nM in instrument buffer supplemented with 1mg/ml CMD (carboxymethyldextrane). The antibodies were injected at a flow rate of 30 µl/min for 2 min. The capture level (CL) of the surface-presented antibodies was measured in rel. response units (RU). The analytes in solution, phosphorylated human tau protein, non-phosphorylated human tau protein and the phosphorylated human tau mutant protein T422S, were injected at 300 nM for 3 min. at a flow rate of 30 µl/min. The dissociation was monitored for 5 min. The capture system was regenerated by a 1 min. injection of 10 mM glycine buffer pH 1.7 at 30 µL/min. over all flow cells. Two report points, the recorded signal shortly before the end of the analyte injection, denoted as binding late (BL) and the recorded signal shortly before the end of the dissociation time, stability late (SL), were used to characterize the kinetic screening performance. Furthermore, the dissociation rate constant kd (1/s) was calculated according to a Langmuir model and the antibody/antigen complex half-life was calculated in minutes according to the formula ln(2)/(60*kd). The molar ratio (MR) was calculated according to the formula MR = (Binding Late (RU)) / (Capture level (RU)) * (MW(antibody) /(MW(antigen)). In case the sensor was configured with a suitable amount of antibody ligand capture level, each antibody should be able to functionally bind at least to one analyte in solution, which is represented by a molar ratio of MR = 1.0. Then, the molar ratio is also an

indicator for the valence mode of analyte binding. The maximum valence can be MR = 2 for an antibody binding two analytes, one with each Fab valence.

In another embodiment, kinetic rates were determined at 25 °C and 37 °C using the same experimental setup, but using multiple concentration series of each analyte in solution at 0 nM (buffer), 1.2 nM, 3.7 nM, 11.1 nM, 33.3 nM, 100 nM and 300 nM. From the concentration-dependent binding behavior the kinetic data was calculated using the BIAcore evaluation software according to the manufacturer's instructions and a Langmuir 1.1 model with RMAX global.

Example 9

ELISA

To not-coated Maxisorb plates non-biotinylated peptide/protein/aggregate and to streptavidin coated Maxisorb plates biotinylated peptide/protein/aggregate in PBS were added and incubated over-night. The supernatant was discarded and the wells washed three times with 90 µl wash buffer (1x PBS/0.1% Tween 20). Remaining reactive spots were blocked with blocking buffer (1xPBS/2% BSA (Bovine Serum Albumin Fraction V, fatty acid free, Roche, Cat. No.: 10735078001)/0.05% Tween 20) by incubating for 1h. The supernatant was discarded and the wells washed three times with 90 µl wash buffer. Samples and control antibody were prepared in 12 dilutions (1:2) in ELISA buffer (1xPBS/0.5% BSA (Bovine Serum Albumin Fraction V, fatty acid free, Roche, Cat. No.: 10735078001)/0.05% Tween 20) with a start concentration of 500 ng/mL. The incubation time was 60 minutes at RT on a shaker. The supernatant was discarded and the wells washed three times with 90 µl wash buffer. Solutions of the secondary antibody were prepared in ELISA buffer. A total of 25µl antibody-mix was transferred in all wells of the assay plate and the plate was thereafter incubated on shaker for 60 minutes at RT. The supernatant was discarded and the wells were washed three times with 90 µl wash buffer. To all wells 25 µl of ABTS solution was added. The absorbance was read at 405nm – 492nm.

Patent Claims

1. A humanized antibody that specifically binds to human Tau(pS422), wherein the antibody
   i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or
   ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or
   iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or
   iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or
   v) specifically binds to human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A.

2. A humanized antibody that specifically binds to human Tau(pS422), wherein the antibody comprises
   a) in the heavy chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, 18 and 10, or
   b) in the heavy chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, 09 and 10.

3. The humanized antibody according to claim 2, further comprising
   a) in the light chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 13, 14 and 15, or
   b) in the light chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 12, 05 and 15.

4. The humanized antibody according to any one of claims 2 to 3, comprising
   a) in the heavy chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, 18 and 10, and in the light chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 13, 14 and 15, or
   b) in the heavy chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, 09 and 10, and in the light chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 12, 05 and 15, or
   c) in the heavy chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 08, 09 and 10, and in the light chain variable domain the HVRs of SEQ ID NO: 13, 14 and 15.

5. The humanized antibody according to any one of claims 2 to 4, comprising
   a) a heavy chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 20 and a light chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 17, or
   b) a heavy chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 19 and a light chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 16, or
   c) a heavy chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 19 and a light chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 17, or
   d) a heavy chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 21 and a light chain variable domain of SEQ ID NO: 17.

6. The humanized antibody according to any one of claims 2 to 5, wherein the antibody is effector function silent.

7. The humanized antibody according to any one of claims 2 to 6, wherein the antibody
   i) specifically binds to a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03, and/or
   ii) does not bind to full length human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01) at 1 µg/mL, and/or
   iii) specifically binds to full length human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02), and/or
   iv) specifically binds to aggregates of human Tau phosphorylated at the serine at position 422 (SEQ ID NO: 02).

8. The humanized antibody according to any one of claims 2 to 7, wherein the antibody has an EC_{50} value for
   a) the human Tau(pS422) fragment that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 03 of 6 ng/mL or less, and/or
   b) the full length human Tau(pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 4.5 ng/mL or less, and/or
   c) aggregates of human Tau (pS422) that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 02 of 30 ng/mL or less, and/or
   d) the human Tau that has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 01 and that has the amino acid mutation S422A of 125 ng/mL or less.

9. The humanized antibody according to any one of claims 2 to 8, wherein the antibody specifically binds to human Tau(pS422) (SEQ ID NO: 02) and does not bind to human Tau (SEQ ID NO: 01).

10. The humanized antibody according to any one of claims 2 to 9, wherein the antibody is
    a) a full length antibody of the human subclass IgG1, or
    b) a full length antibody of the human subclass IgG4, or
    c) a full length antibody of the human subclass IgG1 with the mutations L234A, L235A and P329G,
    d) a full length antibody of the human subclass IgG4 with the mutations S228P, L235E and P329G,
    e) a full length antibody of the human subclass IgG1 with the mutations L234A, L235A and P329G in both heavy chains and the mutations T366W and S354C in one heavy chain and the mutations T366S, L368A, Y407V and Y349C in the respective other heavy chain, or
    f) a full length antibody of the human subclass IgG4 with the mutations S228P, L235E and P329G in both heavy chains and the mutations T366W and S354C in one heavy chain and the mutations T366S, L368A, Y407V and Y349C in the respective other heavy chain.

11. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising the humanized antibody according to any one of claims 1 to 10 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 11, further comprising an anti-human alpha-synuclein antibody or an anti-Abeta antibody.

13. Use of the humanized antibody according to any one of claims 1 to 10 in the manufacture of a medicament.

14. Use according to claim 13, wherein the medicament is for treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

15. Use according to any one of claims 13 to 14, wherein the medicament is for treatment of prodromal Alzheimer's disease.

16. Use according to any one of claims 13 to 14, wherein the medicament is for treatment of mild Alzheimer's disease.

17. Use according to any one of claims 13 to 16, wherein the medicament is for reducing Tau(pS422) induced neurodegeneration.

18. Use according to any one of claims 13 to 17, wherein the medicament is for maintaining cognition and function.

19. Use according to any one of claims 14 to 18, wherein the medicament is for slowing the rate of cognitive and functional decline.

20. Use of the humanized anti-human Tau(pS422) antibody according to any one of claims 1 to 10 in the reduction of Tau(pS422) induced neurodegeneration.