We claim:

1. An immunogen comprising an antigenic tau peptide linked to an immunogenic carrier, wherein said antigenic tau peptide consists of an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOs: 4, and 6 – 13.

2. An immunogen according to claim 2, wherein said antigenic tau peptide is covalently linked to said immunogenic carrier by a linker represented by the formula $(G)_nC$, where said linker is at either the C-terminus (peptide-$(G)_nC$) or N-terminus ($C(G)_n$-peptide) of said peptide, and where n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 .

3. An immunogen according to claim 3, wherein said antigenic tau peptide consists of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9.

4. An immunogen according to claim 3 wherein said antigenic tau peptide consists of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 10.

5. An immunogen according to claim 3, wherein said antigenic tau peptide consists of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11.

6. An immunogen according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said immunogenic carrier is a virus-like particle selected from the group consisting of HBcAg VLP, HBsAg VLP, and Qbeta VLP.

7. A composition comprising an immunogen according to any one of claims 1 - 6.

8. The composition according to claim 7, which further comprises a second immunogen comprising an antigenic tau peptide linked to an immunogenic carrier, wherein the antigenic tau peptide of the second immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOs: 14 - 26, 105, 108 – 122.

9. A composition according to claim 8, wherein the antigenic tau peptide of the second immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOs: 14 - 19.

10. A composition according to claim 8, wherein the antigenic tau peptide of the second immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOs: 20 - 24.

11. A composition according to claim 8, wherein the antigenic tau peptide of the second immunogen selected from SEQ ID NO: 105 and 108 - 112.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the immunogen of any one of claims 1 to 5, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the immunogen of any one of claims 8 to 11, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claims:

1. An immunogen comprising an antigenic tau peptide linked to an immunogenic carrier, wherein said antigenic tau peptide comprises the pSer396 epitope and includes 7 to 10 consecutive amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 4.

2. An immunogen according to claim 1, wherein said antigenic tau peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOs: 6 and 9-13.

3. An immunogen according to claim 2, wherein said antigenic tau peptide is covalently linked to said immunogenic carrier by a linker represented by the formula $(G)_nC$, where said linker is at either the C-terminus (peptide-$(G)_nC$) or N-terminus ($C(G)_n$-peptide) of said peptide, and where n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10.

4. An immunogen according to claim 2, wherein said antigenic tau peptide comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9.

5. An immunogen according to claim 2, wherein said antigenic tau peptide comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 10.

6. An immunogen according to claim 2, wherein said antigenic tau peptide comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11.

7. An immunogen according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein said immunogenic carrier is a virus-like particle selected from the group consisting of HBcAg VLP, HBsAg VLP, and Qbeta VLP.

8. A composition comprising an immunogen according to any one of claims 1-6.

9. The composition according to claim 8, which further comprises a second immunogen comprising an antigenic tau peptide linked to an immunogenic carrier, wherein the antigenic tau peptide of the second immunogen comprises an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOs: 14-26,105, and 108-122.

10. A composition according to claim 9, wherein the antigenic tau peptide of the second immunogen comprises an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOs: 14-19.

11. A composition according to claim 9, wherein the antigenic tau peptide of the second immunogen comprises an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOs: 20-24.

12. A composition according to claim 9, wherein the antigenic tau peptide of the second immunogen is selected from SEQ ID NO: 105 and 108-112.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the immunogen of any one of claims 1 to 6, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the composition of any one of claims 9 to 12, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.