WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A monoclonal antibody that is a humanized, chimeric or veneered antibody and binds specifically to an epitope within residues 30-39 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

2. A monoclonal antibody that is a humanized, chimeric or veneered antibody that binds to human tau, the monoclonal antibody comprising a mature heavy chain comprising CDR-H1 of SEQ ID NO:11 or SEQ ID NO:24, CDR-H2 of SEQ ID NO:12 and CDR-H3 of SEQ ID NO:13 and a mature light chain comprising CDR-L1 of SEQ ID NO:17, CDR-L2 of SEQ ID NO:18, CDR-L3 of SEQ ID NO:19.

3. The antibody of claim 2, wherein the mature heavy chain variable region has an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 15 and the mature light chain variable region has an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:22.

4. The antibody of claim 3, wherein positions H13, H48 and H91 are occupied by K, M and F respectively and at least two of positions Ll, L4, L36 and L43 are occupied by N, L, F and S respectively.

5. The antibody of claim 4, wherein positions H13, H48 and H91 are occupied by K, M and F respectively, and at least three of positions Ll, L4, L36 and L43 are occupied by N, L, F and S respectively.

6. The antibody of claim 4, wherein positions H13, H48 and H91 are occupied by K, M and F respectively, and positions Ll, L4, L36 and L43 are occupied by N, L, F and S respectively.

7. The antibody of any one of claims 3 to 5, comprising a mature heavy chain variable region having an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 15 and a mature light chain variable region having an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 22.

8. The antibody of any one of claims 3 to 7 wherein the mature heavy chain variable region is fused to a heavy chain constant region and the mature light chain variable region is fused to a light chain constant region.

9. The antibody of claim 8, wherein the heavy chain constant region is a mutant form of natural human constant region which has reduced binding to an Fcγ receptor relative to the natural human constant region.

10. The antibody of claim 8 or claim 9, wherein the heavy chain constant region is of IgG1 isotype.

11. The antibody of claim 3 or claim 9, wherein the mature heavy chain variable region has an amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:25 and the mature light chain variable region has an amino acid sequence designated SEQ ID NO:21, 22, or 23.

12. The antibody of any one of claims 3 to 11, wherein the mature heavy chain variable region has an amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:25 and the mature light chain variable region has an amino acid sequence designated SEQ ID NO:22.

13. The antibody of any one of claims 3 to 12, wherein the antibody is conjugated to a cytotoxic or cytostatic agent.

14. The antibody of any one of claims 1 to 8, or 11-13, wherein the antibody is a Fab fragment.

15. A polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid encoding the heavy and/or light chains of an antibody as described in claims 1 to 14.

16. A method of humanizing an antibody, comprising:

determining the sequences of the heavy and light chain variable regions of a mouse antibody;

synthesizing a nucleic acid encoding a humanized heavy chain comprising CDRs of the mouse antibody heavy chain and a nucleic acid encoding a humanized light chain comprising CDRs of the mouse antibody light chain; and

expressing the nucleic acids in a host cell to produce a humanized antibody,

wherein the mouse antibody is characterized by a heavy chain variable region of SEQ ID NO:10 and a light chain variable region of SEQ ID NO:16.

17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody of any one of claims 1 to 14 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an isolated fragment of tau consisting of 5 to 10 contiguous residues of tau within residues 30-39 of SEQ ID NO:1 (Swiss-Prot No. P10636-8).

19. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 18, wherein the isolated fragment is linked to a carrier molecule optionally via a spacer that helps elicit antibodies against the fragment.

20. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 18 or claim 19, further comprising an adjuvant acceptable for administration to humans.

21. Use of an effective regime of an antibody of any of claims 1 to 14 or the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17 or the pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 18 to 20 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or effecting prophylaxis of Alzheimer's disease to a patient having or at risk of Alzheimer's disease.

22. Use of an effective regime of the antibody according to any one of claims 1 to 14 or the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17 or the pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 18 to 20 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or effecting prophylaxis of a disease associated with tau, reducing aberrant transmission of tau, inducing phagocytosis of tau, inhibiting tau aggregation or deposition or inhibiting formation of tau tangles to a patient having or at risk of the disease.

23. A nucleic acid comprising a segment encoding a humanized monoclonal antibody heavy chain variable region having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10.

24. A nucleic acid comprising encoding a segment encoding a humanized monoclonal antibody heavy chain variable region, wherein said segment has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 25.

25. The nucleic acid of claim 24, further comprising a segment encoding a human IgG1 constant region.

26. The nucleic acid of claim 25, wherein the IgG1 constant region has a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 with or without the C-terminal lysine.

27. A nucleic acid comprising a segment encoding a humanized monoclonal antibody light chain variable region having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 16.

28. A nucleic acid comprising a segment encoding a humanized monoclonal antibody light chain variable region having a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 22 or SEQ ID NO: 23.

29. The nucleic acid of claim 28, wherein the segment encoding the light chain variable region has the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26, SEQ ID NO: 27, or SEQ ID NO: 28.

30. The nucleic acid of claim 28 or 29, further comprising a segment encoding a human kappa constant region.

31. The nucleic acid of claim 30, wherein the kappa constant region has the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32.

32. The nucleic acid of claim 31, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the kappa constant region has the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33.

33. The antibody of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a heavy chain of the antibody comprises a human IgG1 constant domain having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 with or without the C-terminal lysine.

34. The antibody of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a light chain of the antibody comprises a human kappa constant region having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32.

35. A humanized antibody produced by performing the method of claim 16.