

## Table of Contents

<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Abstract</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Résumé</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>List of Figures</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Chapter 1 : Introduction</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Social and political aspects of dementia</b> .....	<b>15</b>
The challenge posed by dementia .....	15
Addressing dementia: an international struggle.....	15
The case of Switzerland: an example of a national plan against dementia .....	19
<b>Clinical aspects of dementia</b> .....	<b>21</b>
Definition of dementia .....	21
Diseases causing dementia .....	21
Approach to the patient with dementia <sup>25,29</sup> .....	22
<b>Clinical aspects of Tauopathies</b> .....	<b>24</b>
Definition of tauopathies .....	24
Approach to the patient with a suspected tauopathy .....	26
Frequent tauopathies.....	29
Alzheimer's Disease.....	29
Frontotemporal dementia.....	35
Chronic traumatic encephalopathy.....	39
Relevance of clinical aspects of tauopathies for research .....	43
<b>Biology of Tau</b> .....	<b>44</b>
Genetics of tau .....	44
Tau isoforms.....	45
Post-translational modifications of tau.....	46
Localization and functions of tau in neurons .....	47
<b>Tau pathology</b> .....	<b>53</b>
Tau aggregation.....	53
Tau propagation .....	55
<b>Therapeutic targets against tau pathology</b> .....	<b>59</b>

<b>Chapter 2: Aims of the thesis.....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Chapter 3: Pan-protein aggregation inhibitor compounds increase tau phosphorylation and microglial response possibly leading to tau clearance .....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Results.....</b>	<b>66</b>
Overexpression of human wild-type 4R0N tau and 4R2N tau in entorhinal cortex leads to more tau aggregation than in hippocampus.....	66
Overexpression of human wild-type 4R0N tau in entorhinal cortex and in the CA3 area of the hippocampus leads to more aggregation than the overexpression of human wild-type 4R2N tau in those regions.....	67
Mice overexpressing human 4R0N tau in the entorhinal cortex are orally treated with pan-protein aggregation inhibitor compounds.....	69
Compound effects on tau aggregation and tau misfolding.....	71
Pan-protein aggregation inhibitor compound 1 induces an increase in hyperphosphorylated tau at Serine 202 and Threonine 205 .....	72
Pan-protein aggregation inhibitor compound 1 increases Ser202/Thr205 tau phosphorylation in the anterior hippocampus distally to the site of vector injection .....	76
Pan-protein aggregation inhibitor compounds tend to increase the microglial response near the site of vector injection .....	78
Compound 1 pan-protein aggregation inhibitor increases the microglial density in the ipsilateral hippocampus distal to the site of vector injection .....	80
Pan-protein aggregation inhibitor compound 1 and 2 decrease the level of total human tau in the CSF of treated mice.....	82
Compounds 1 and 2 do not affect total tau propagation assessed in the ipsilateral hippocampus.....	83
<b>Discussion.....</b>	<b>85</b>
Importance of tau aggregation inhibitors as a therapeutic strategy .....	85
Relevance of our model of wild-type 4R0N tau overexpression in the entorhinal cortex to explore the effects of tau aggregation inhibitor compounds.....	85
What is the role of compound-induced AT8 hyperphosphorylation of tau? .....	86
A possible link between AT8 hyperphosphorylation of tau and microglial activation.....	88
Pan-protein aggregation inhibitor compounds possibly induce the degradation of tau leading to its decrease in the cerebrospinal fluid.....	89
<b>Chapter 4: Active immunotherapy against phospho-Ser396/404 tau decreases tau hyperphosphorylation and propagation in a viral vector-based model of human tau overexpression.....</b>	<b>91</b>

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Results.....</b>	<b>94</b>
Stereotactic injection of AAV8-PGK-GFP in the CA3 area of mouse hippocampus leads to only local expression of GFP positive cell bodies in the ipsilateral CA3 and dentate gyrus .....	94
AAV8 overexpression of human 4R0N tau in the CA3 area of mouse hippocampus leads to the transfer of tau to neurons located in the contralateral hippocampus .....	97
Effect of two tau isoforms on the transfer of tau from neuron to neuron .....	98
The presence of the amyloid pathology increases the expression level of markers of the tau pathology .....	100
Tau propagation from neuron to neuron is increased in mice carrying the amyloid pathology.....	103
Active immunization against tau phosphorylated at residues Ser396/404 in mice overexpressing 4R0N human tau induces a robust anti-tau antibody response .....	105
Microglia area coverage is not changed between vaccine treated and PBS injected group.....	108
The vaccine against hyperphosphorylated Ser396/404 tau decreases the PHF-1 signal in both ipsilateral and contralateral hippocampi in the cohort of C57BL/6 mice .....	110
The anti-phospho-tau vaccine decreases the transfer of tau from neuron to neuron .....	113
Mice with high antibody titers show a neuroprotective effect of the vaccine against tau-induced degeneration in the dentate gyrus.....	115
<b>Discussion.....</b>	<b>118</b>
An AAV-based model to induce neuron to neuron transfer of the tau protein .....	118
Parameters influencing the propagation of tau .....	119
Anti-phospho-tau vaccine reduces the propagation of tau to the contralateral hippocampus.....	121
<b>Chapter 5: Materials and methods.....</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Chapter 6: General Discussion .....</b>	<b>137</b>
Importance of the animal model for efficacy studies of treatments .....	140
Importance of understanding the mechanisms of action of treatments .....	141
Perspectives for the translation of treatments into the clinic .....	142
Translation to other proteinopathies.....	144
<b>Chapter 7: Conclusion .....</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>Chapter 8: References .....</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>List of abbreviations.....</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>Curriculum Vitae .....</b>	<b>171</b>