

# Agréger ou pas : une question d'oubli

---

Guy Lippens  
glippens@insa-toulouse.fr



Toulouse Biotechnology Institute  
Bio & Chemical Engineering



**INSA**

**cnrs**

**INRAe**



[www.toulouse-biotechnology-institute.fr](http://www.toulouse-biotechnology-institute.fr)

## Overview

**A protein, a polymer like another?**

- Protein folding or folded proteins
- IDPs

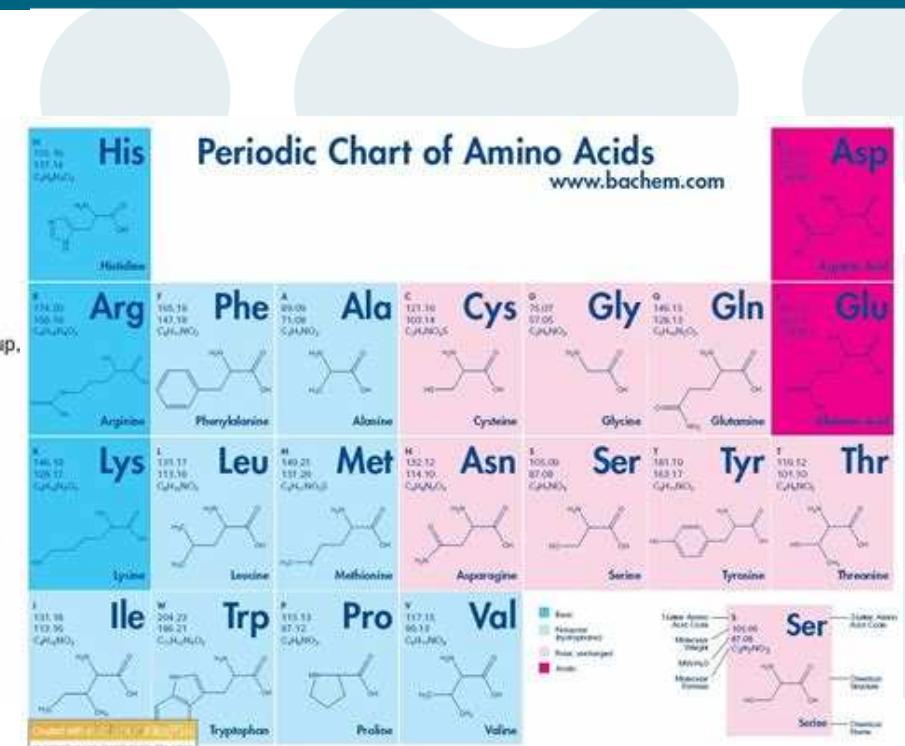
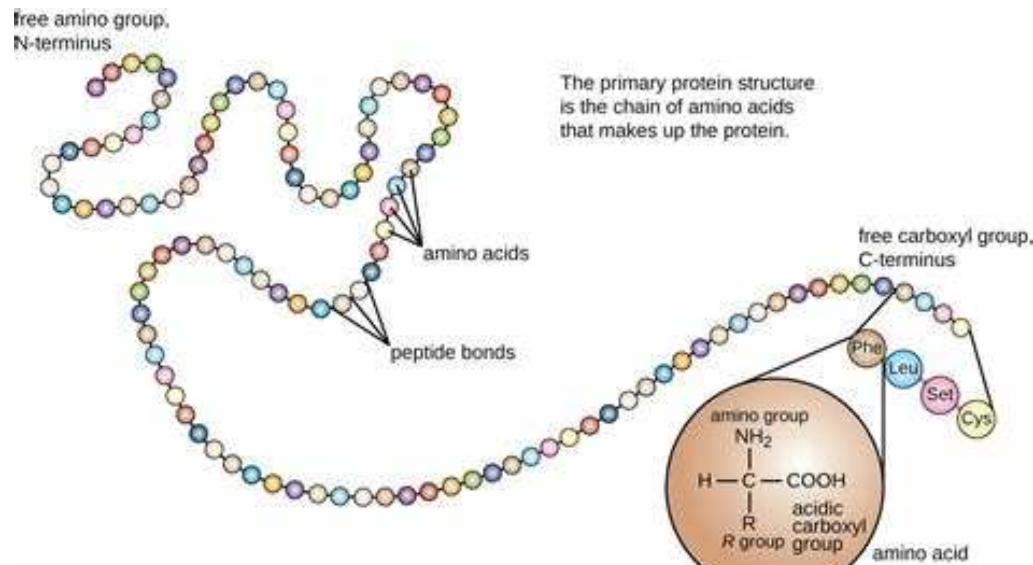
**NMR as a tool to study IDPs**

**Tau protein : function and (dys)function**

**Homogeneous solution, amyloid form and in between**

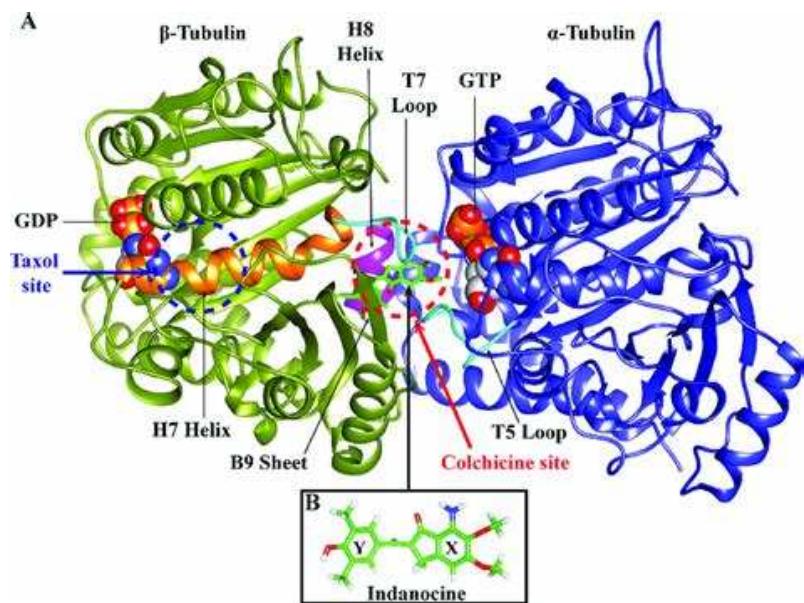


# A protein, a polymer like another?



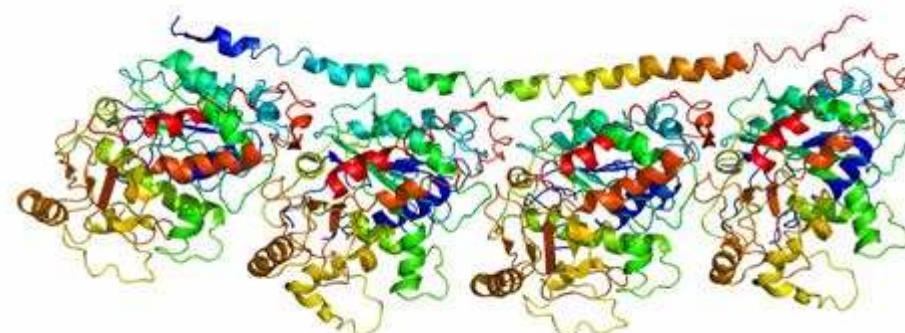
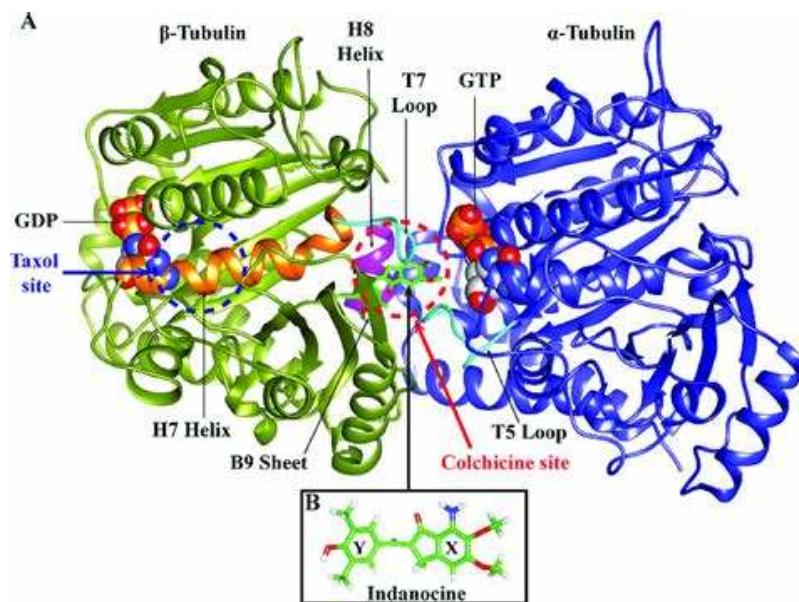
# A protein, a polymer like another?

## Protein folding or folded proteins : Structure-Function paradigm



# A protein, a polymer like another?

## Protein folding or folded proteins : Structure-Function paradigm

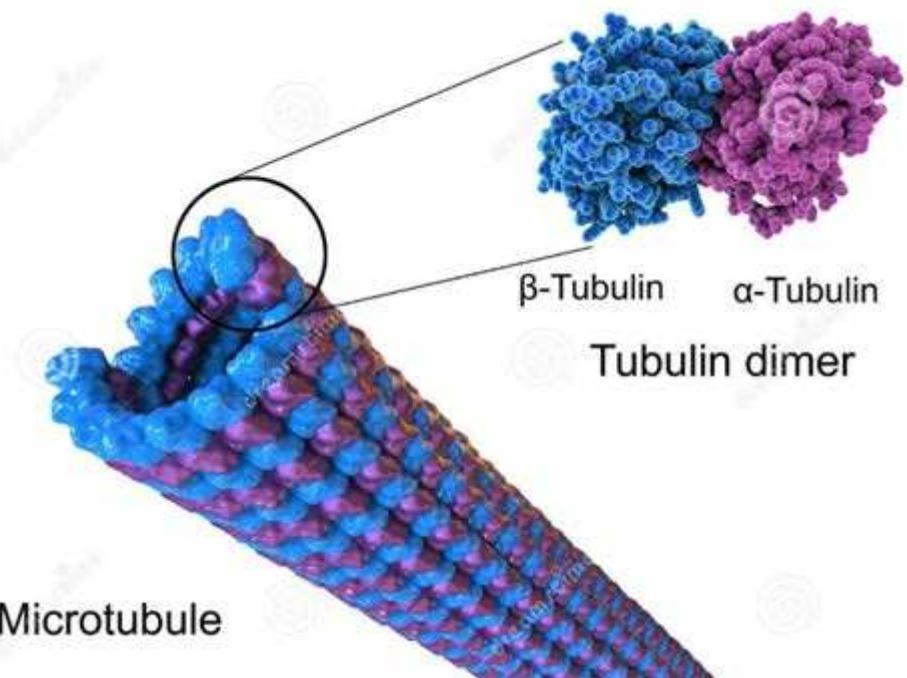
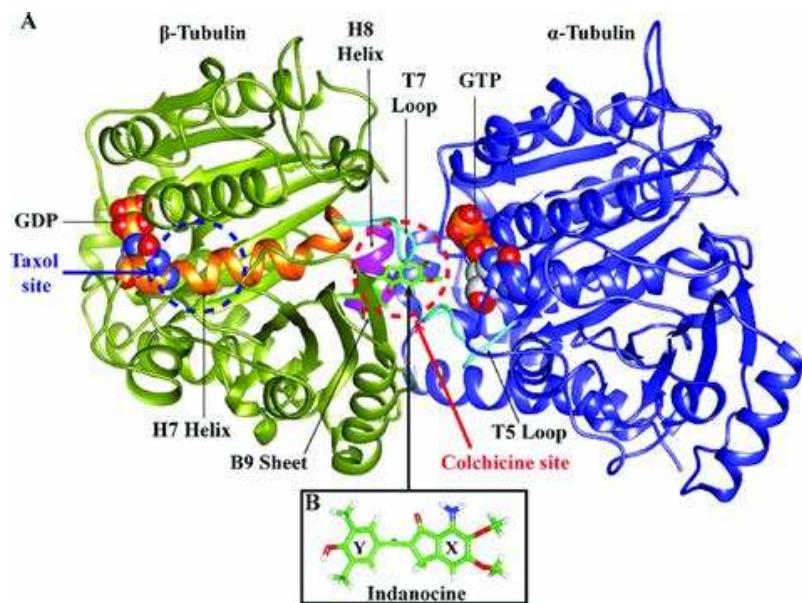


T2R complex : 2 tubulin dimers sequestered by stathmin helix

M. Knossow & B Gigant, Gif-sur-Yvette

# A protein, a polymer like another?

## Protein folding or folded proteins : Structure-Function paradigm



# A protein, a polymer like another?

## Intrinsically disordered proteins

Tau = Tubulin Associated Unit (M Kirschner, 1975)

MAEPRQEFEV MEDHAGTYGL GDRKDQGGYT MHQDQEGLTD AGLKESPLQT  
PTEDGSEEPG SETSDAKSTP TAEDVTAPLV DEGAPGKQAA AQPHTEIPEG  
TTAEEAGIGD TPSLEDEAAG HVTQARMVSK SKDGTGSDDK KAKGADGKTK  
IATPRGAAPP GQKGQANATR IPAKTPPAPK TPPSSGEPPK SGDRSGYSSP  
GSPGTPGSRS RTPSLPTPPT REPKKVAVVR TPPKSPSSAK SRLQTAPVPM  
PDLKNVKSKI GSTENLKHQP GGGKVQIINK KLDLSNVQSK CGSKDNIKHV  
PGGGSVQIVY KPVDLSKVTS KCGSLGNIHH KPGGGQVEVK SEKLDFKDRV  
QSKIGSLDNI THVPGGNKK IETHKLTFRE NAKAKTDHGA EIVYKSPVVS  
GDTSPRHLSN VSSTGSIDMV DSPQLATLAD EVSASLAKQG L



# A protein, a polymer like another?

## Intrinsically disordered proteins

Tau = Tubulin Associated Unit (M Kirschner, 1975)

MAEPRQEFEV MEDHAGTYGL GDRKDQGGYT MHQDQEGLTD AGLKESPLQT  
PTEDGSEEPG SETSDAKSTP TAEDVTAPLV DEGAPGKQAA AQPHTEIPEG  
TTAEEAGIGD TPSLEDEAAG HVTQARMVSK SKDGTGSDDK KAKGADGKTK  
IATPRGAAPP GQKGQANATR IPAKTPPAPK TPPSSGEPPK SGDRSGYSSP  
GSPGTPGSRS RTPSLPTPPT REPKKVAVVR TPPKSPSSAK SRLQTAPVPM  
PDLKNVKSKI GSTENILKHQP GGGKVQIINK KLDLSNVQSK CGSKDNIKHV  
PGGGSVQIVY KPVDLSKVTS KCGSLGNIHH KPGGGQVEVK SEKLDFKDRV  
QSKIGSLDNI THVPGGNKK IETHKLTFRE NAKAKTDHGA EIVYKSPVVS  
GDTSPRHLSN VSSTGSIDMV DSPQLATLAD EVSASLAKQG L

### Amino Acid composition

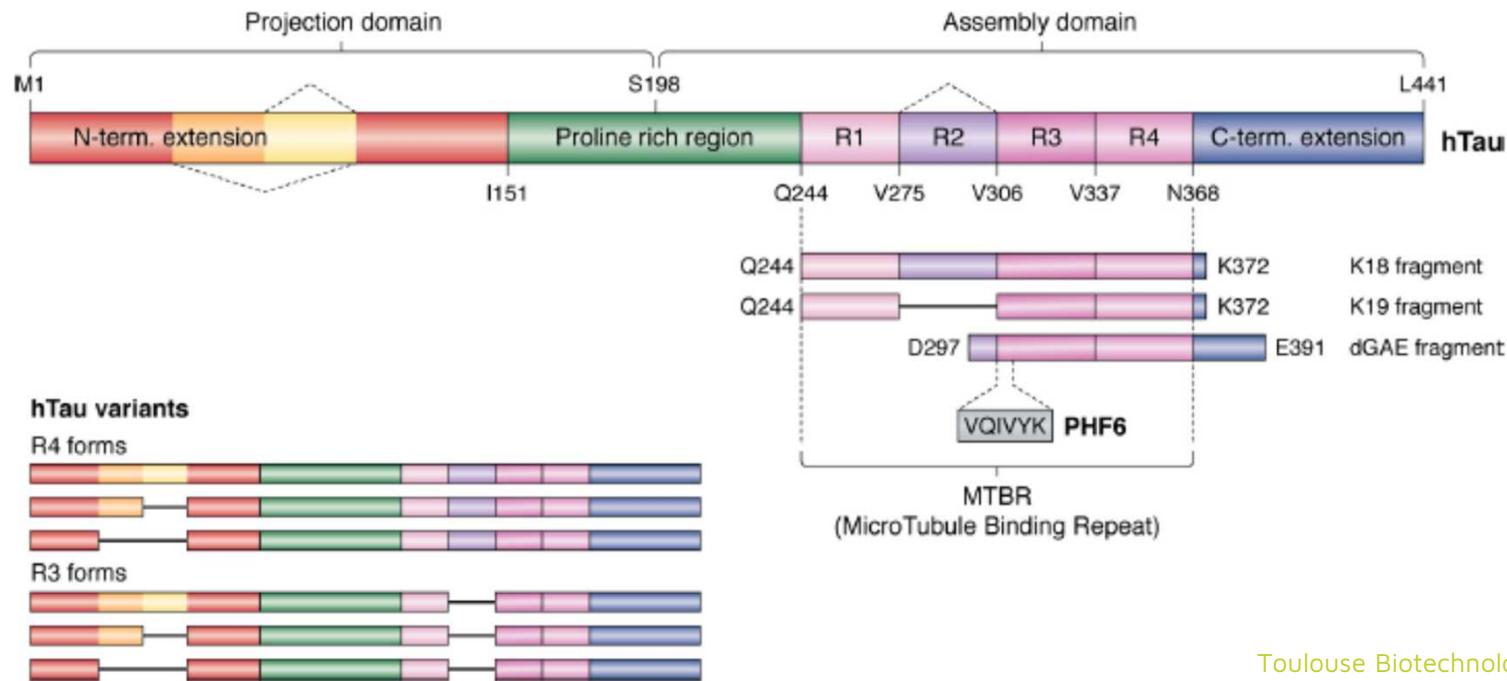
	#	%
Gly	49	11.4
Ser	45	10.2
Lys	44	10.0
Pro	43	9.8
Ala	34	7.7

5 aa = 50% !!!

# A protein, a polymer like another?

## Intrinsically disordered proteins

Tau = Tubulin Associated Unit (M Kirschner, 1975)



# A protein, a polymer like another?

## Intrinsically disordered proteins

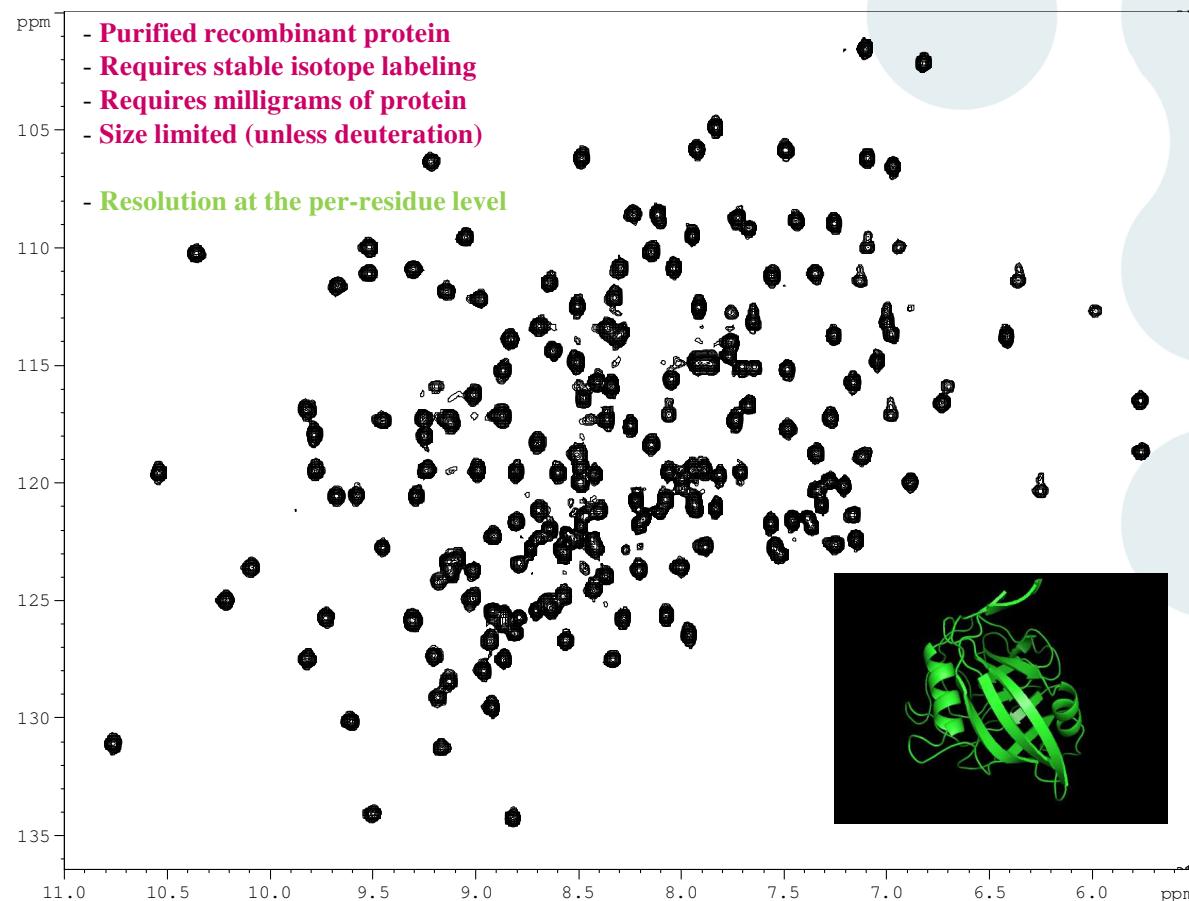
Tau = Tubulin Associated Unit (Butner & Kirschner, 1991)

MAEPRQEFEV MEDHAGTYGL GDRKDQGGYT MHQDQEGLTD AGLKESPLQT  
PTEDGSEEPG SETSDAKSTP TAEDVTAPLV DEGAPGKQAA AQPHTEIPEG  
TTAEEAGIGD TPSLEDEAAG HVTQARMVSK SKDGTGSDDK KAKGADGKTK  
IATPRGAAPP GQKGQANATR IPAKTPPAPK TPPSSGEPPK SGDRSGYSSP  
GSPGTPGSRS RTPSLPTPPT REPKKVAVVR TPPKSPSSAK SRLQTAPVPM  
PDLKNVKSKI GSTENILKHQP GGGKVQIINK KLDLSNVQSK CGS<sup>W/T/V/I/Y</sup>  
PGGGSVQIVY KPVDLSKVTS KCGSLGNIHH KPGGGQVEVK SEK<sup>W/T/V/I/Y</sup>  
QSKIGSLDNI THVPGGNKK IETHKLTFRE NAKAKTDHGA EIV<sup>W/T/V/I/Y</sup>  
GDTSPRHLSN VSSTGSIDMV DSPQLATLAD EVSASLAKQG L<sup>W/T/V/I/Y</sup>

Although dispersed, noncooperative and unstructured binding interactions may seem unusual, they may be very common in cell biology. To date, our most detailed structural information has been obtained from x-ray crystallography, which has concentrated on easily crystallizable and generally rigid structures. Thus, the protein and DNA, protein and other protein, or protein and ligand interactions studied so far are probably of structures with only a few stable conformations. Several important interactions in biology may not conform to such models.

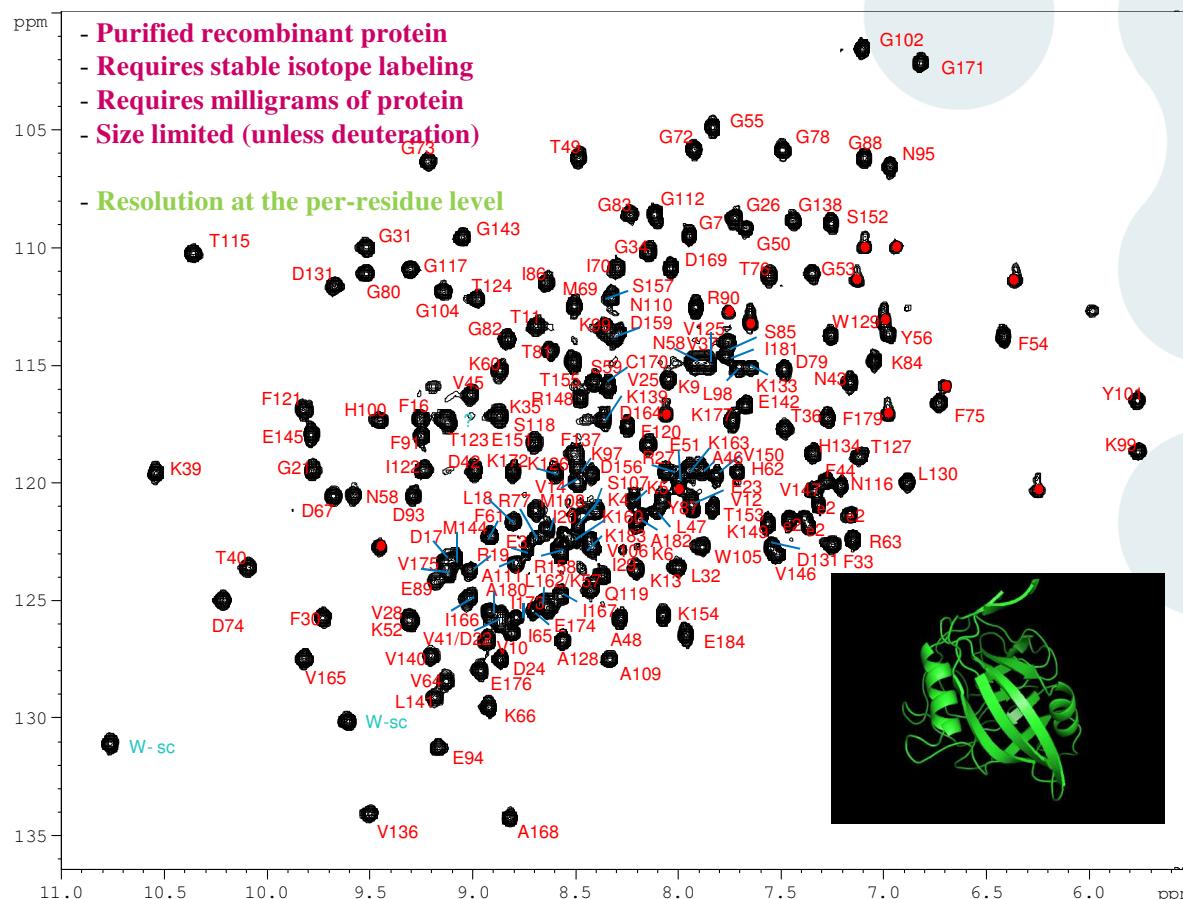
## NMR, a tool to study IDPs

Workhorse of biomolecular NMR spectroscopy= HSQC spectrum



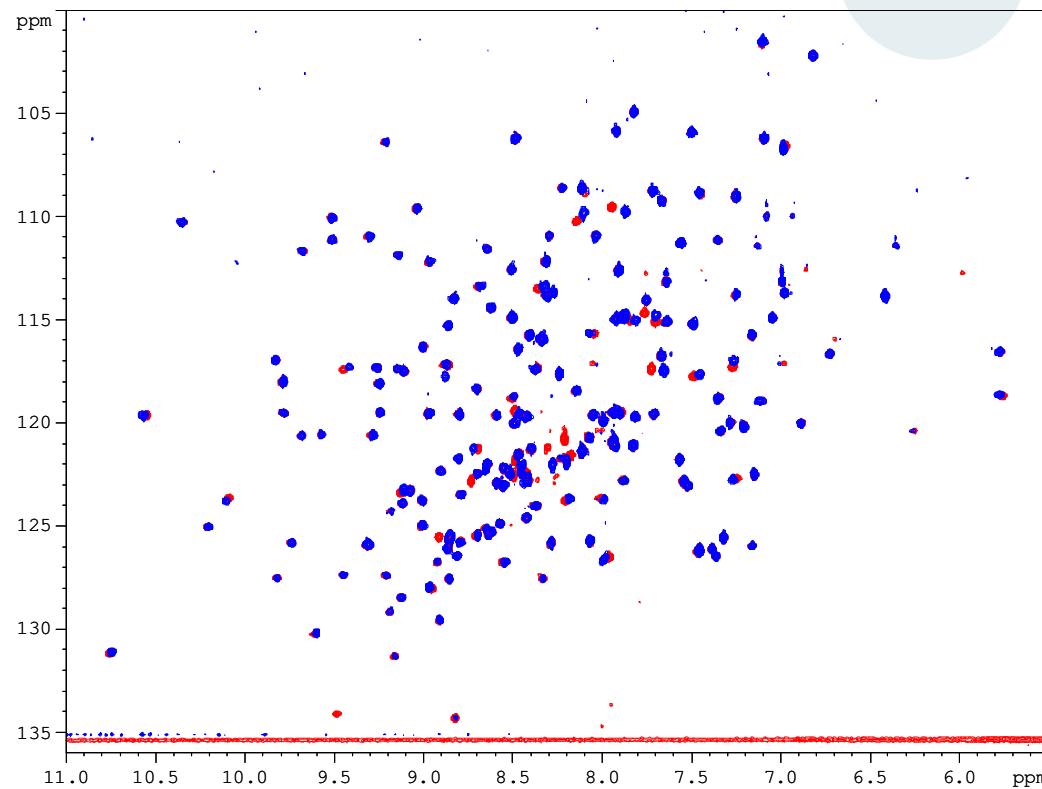
# NMR, a tool to study IDPs

Workhorse of biomolecular NMR spectroscopy= HSQC spectrum



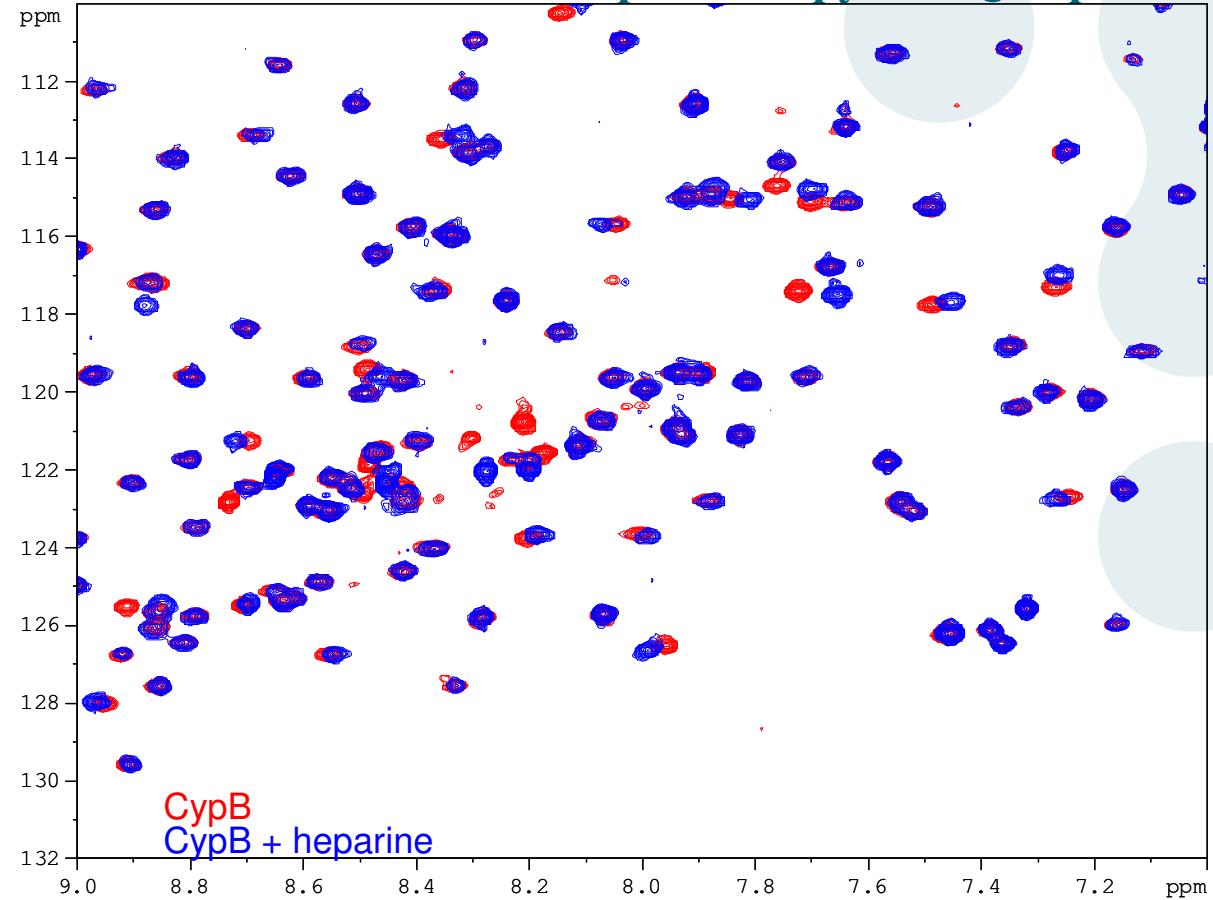
## NMR, a tool to study IDPs

Workhorse of biomolecular NMR spectroscopy= HSQC spectrum



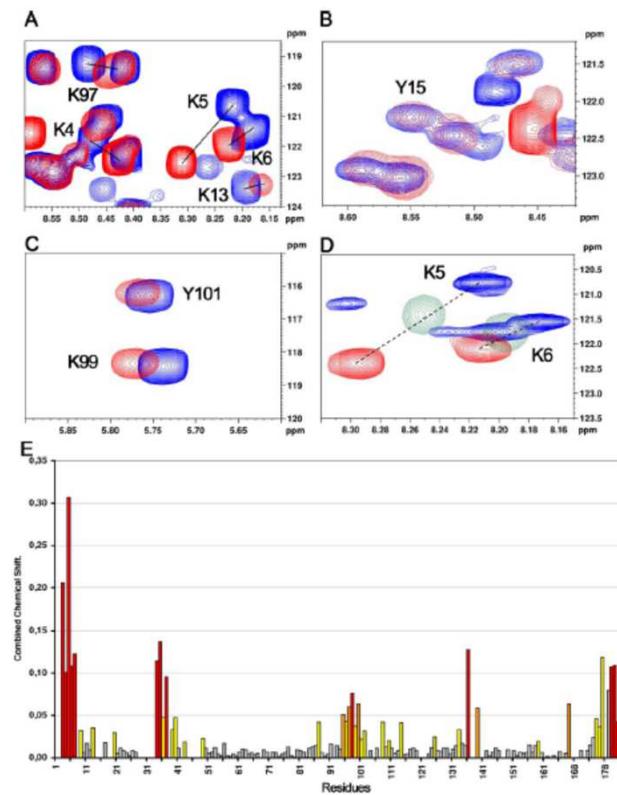
## NMR, a tool to study IDPs

Workhorse of biomolecular NMR spectroscopy= HSQC spectrum



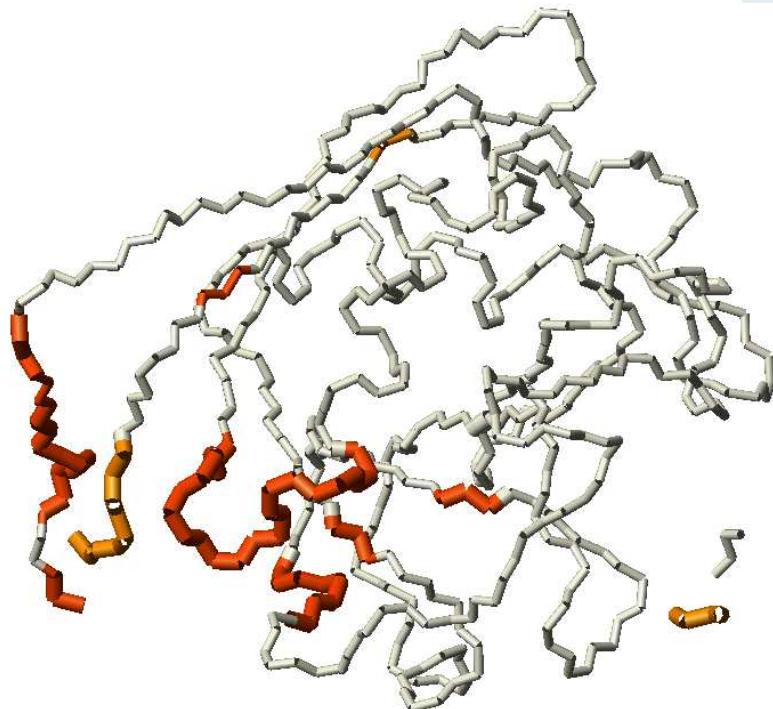
## NMR, a tool to study IDPs

Workhorse of biomolecular NMR spectroscopy= HSQC spectrum



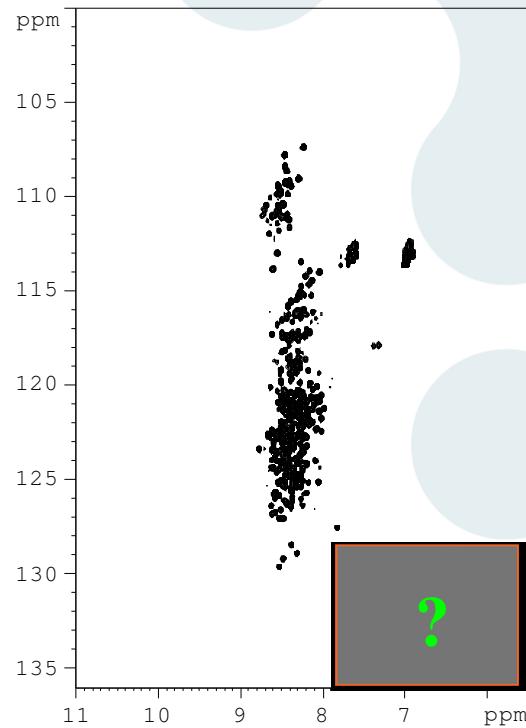
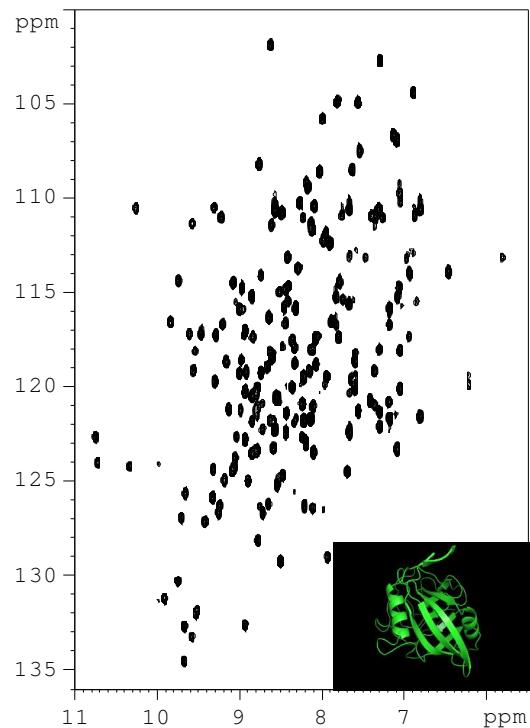
## NMR, a tool to study IDPs

Workhorse of biomolecular NMR spectroscopy= HSQC spectrum



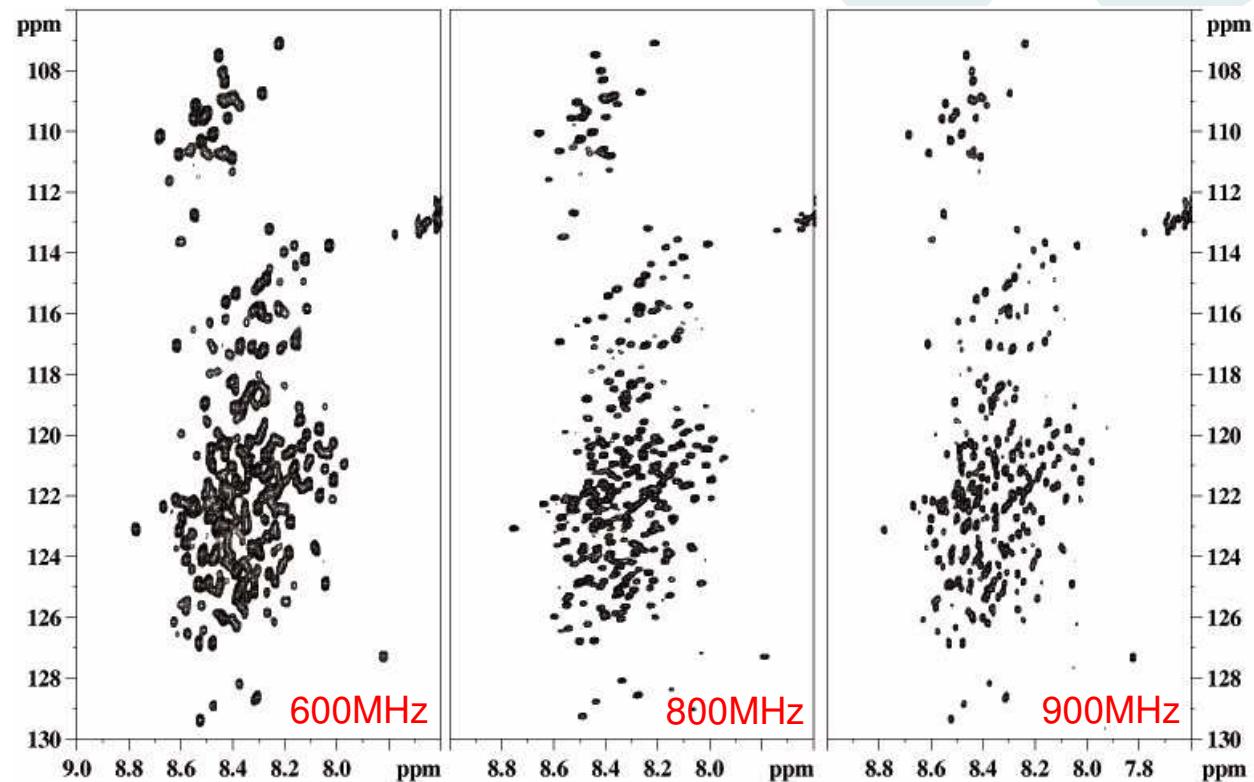
## NMR, a tool to study IDPs

Lack of tertiary fold of Tau leads to a « random coil » spectrum



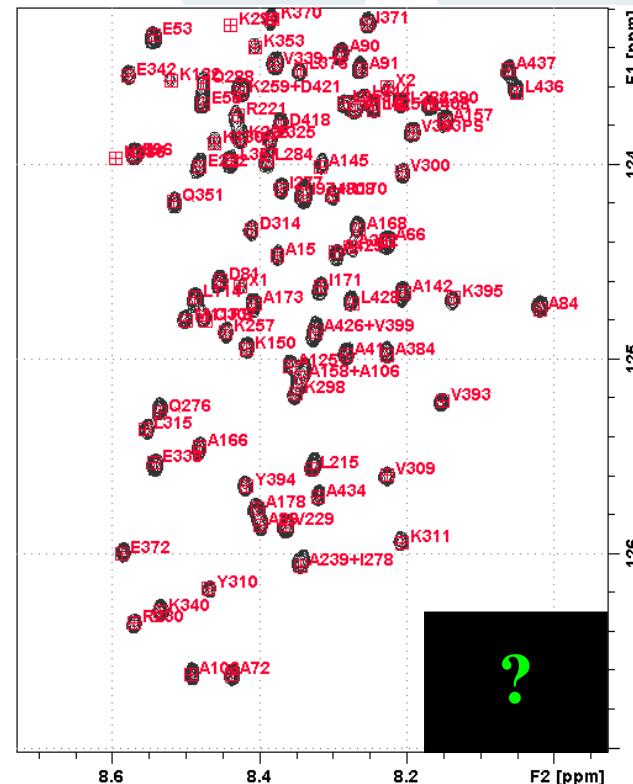
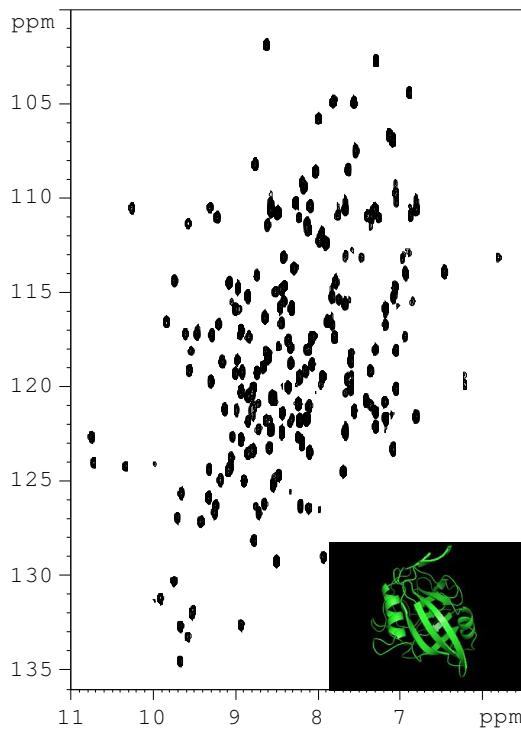
## NMR, a tool to study IDPs

Lack of tertiary fold of Tau leads to a « random coil » spectrum



## NMR, a tool to study IDPs

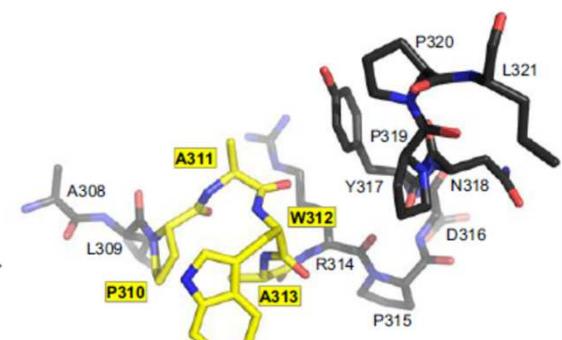
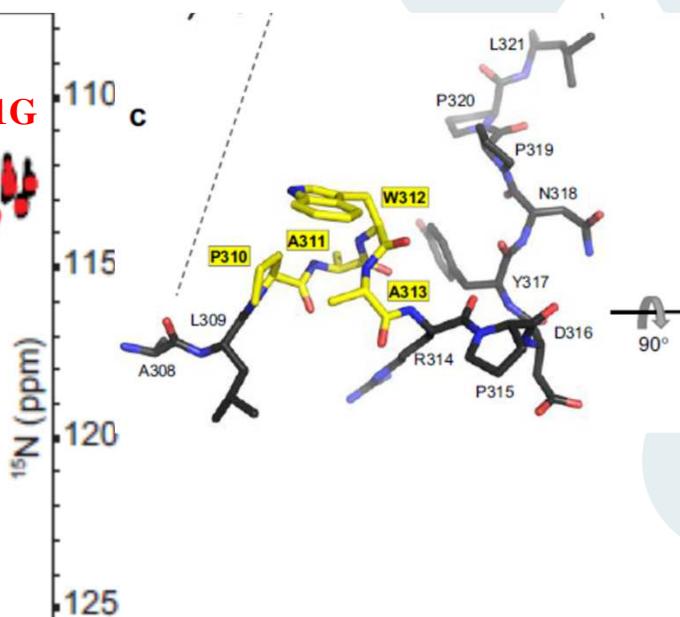
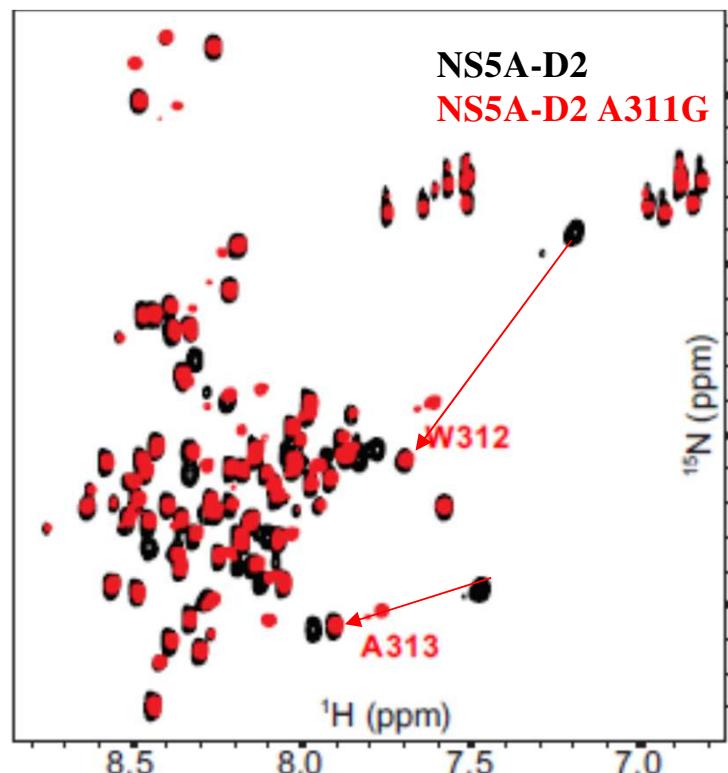
Lack of tertiary fold of Tau leads to a « random coil » spectrum



G Lippens *et al.* (2004)

# NMR, a tool to study IDPs

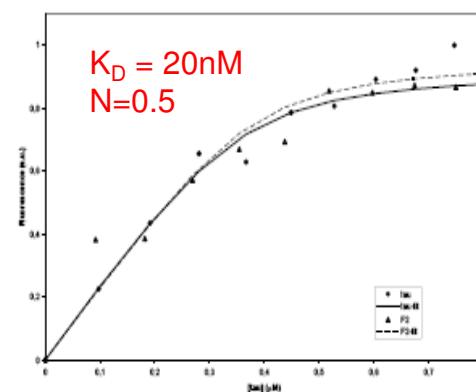
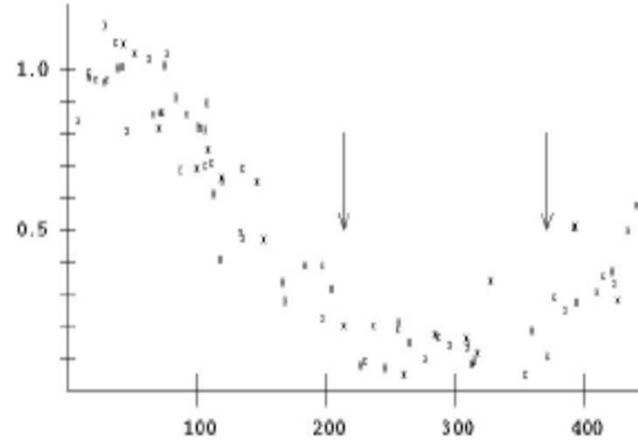
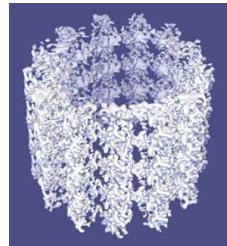
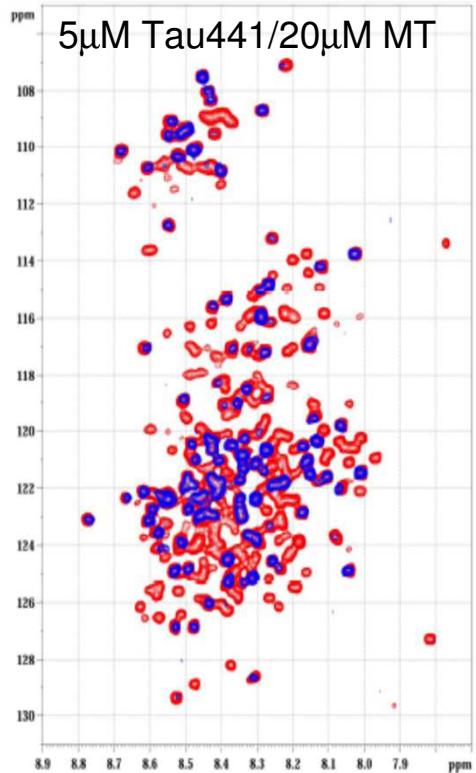
NMR detects tiny but vital structural features



Dujardin & Hanouille (2019)

## Tau protein : function

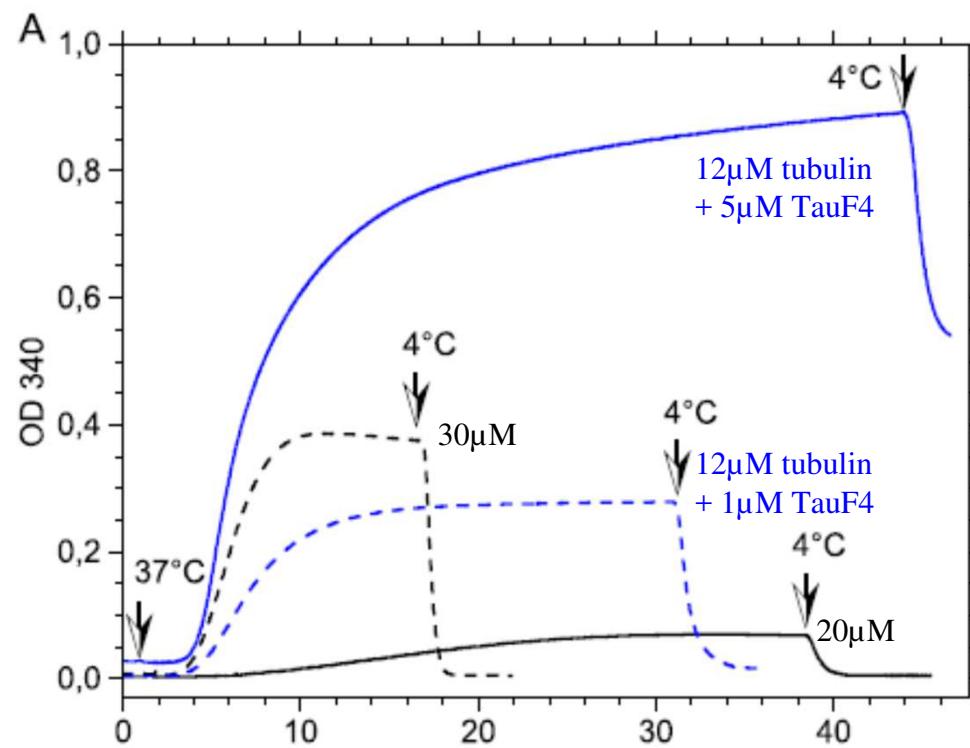
### Interaction Tau:taxol stabilized MTs



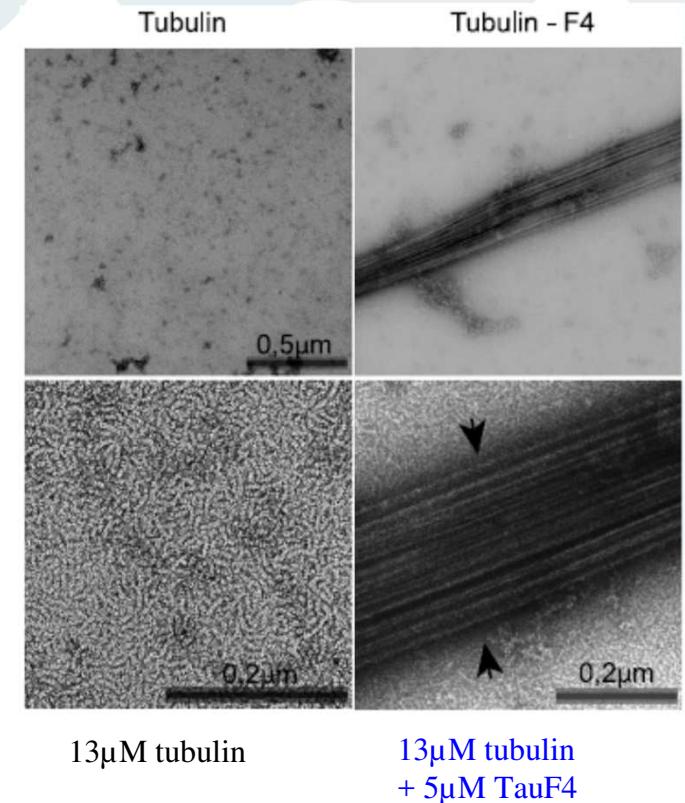
FRET between acrylodan-Tau and MTs

# Tau protein : function

## Tubulin polymerization assay

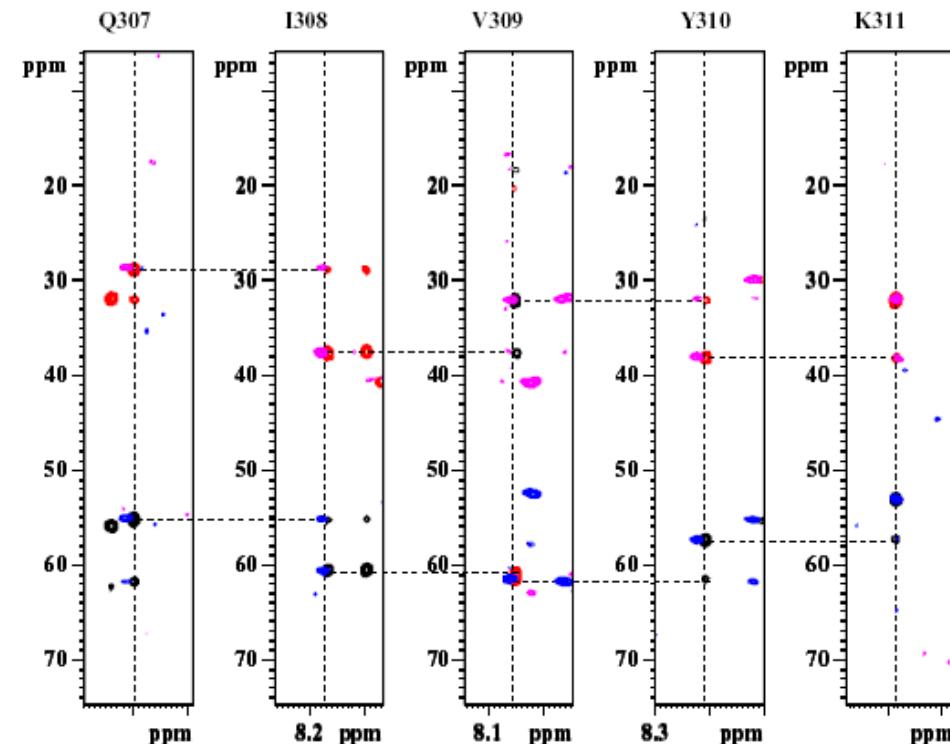
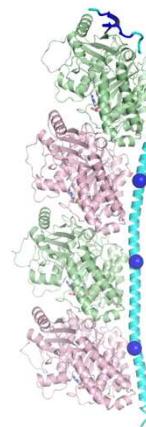
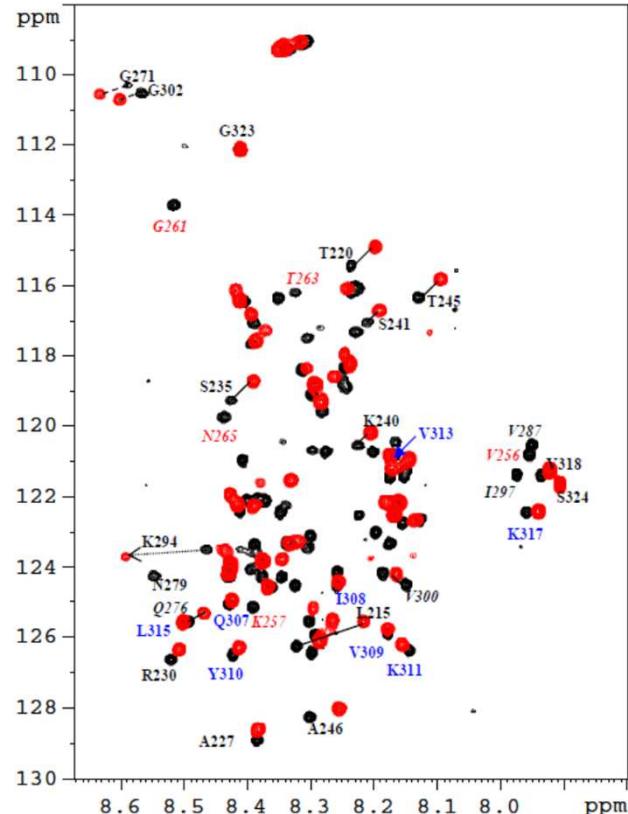


Fauquant & Knossow (2011)



# Tau protein : function

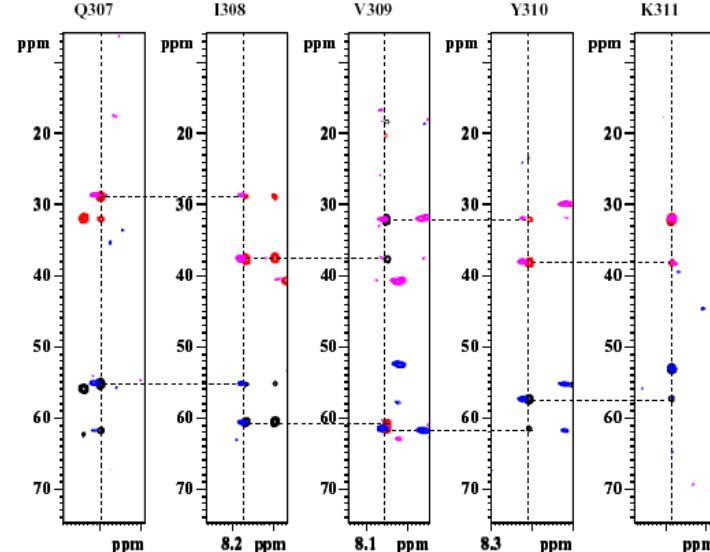
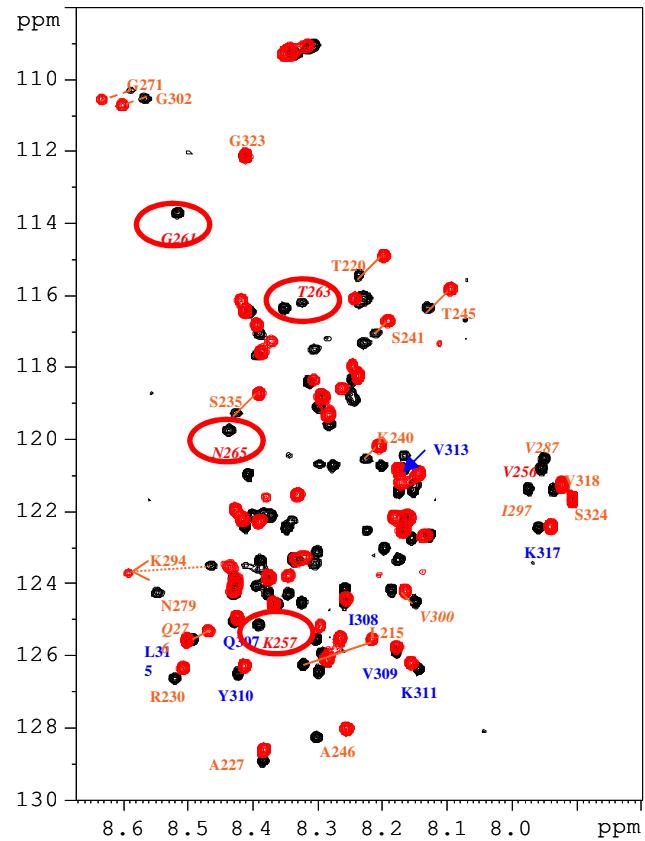
## TauF4 and T<sub>2</sub>R by NMR



Important mobility at the tubulin surface  
No defined structure on T<sub>2</sub>R

# Tau protein : function

## TauF4 and T<sub>2</sub>R by NMR



VKS**KIGS**<sub>262</sub>TEN peptide in R1 invisible

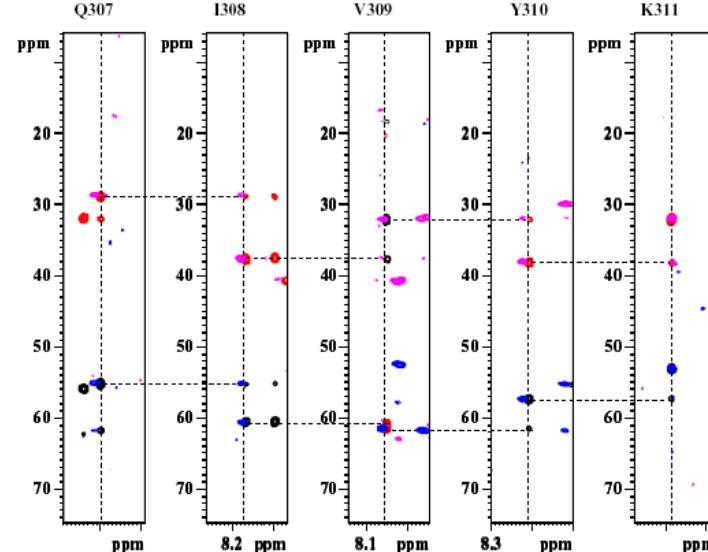
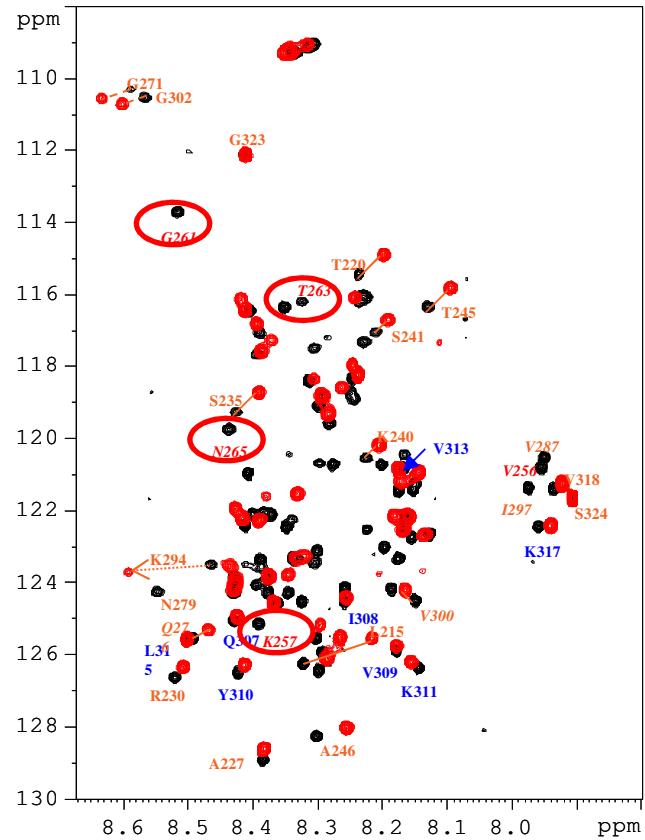
Ser262 : MARK kinase site that interferes with  
Tau's MT assembly capacity

Gigant et al., JACS 2014

Toulouse Biotechnology Institute • p.24

# Tau protein : function

## TauF4 and T<sub>2</sub>R by NMR



VKS**KIGS**<sub>262</sub>TEN peptide in R1 invisible

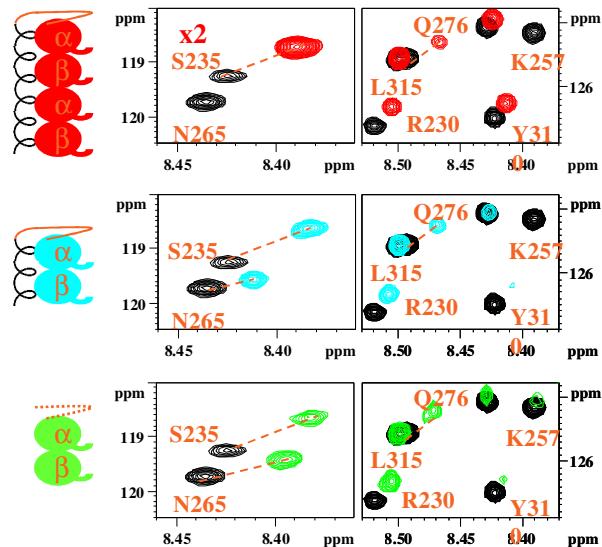
Ser262 : MARK kinase site that interferes with  
Tau's MT assembly capacity

Gigant et al., JACS 2014

Toulouse Biotechnology Institute • p.25

# Tau protein : function

## TauF4 and T<sub>2</sub>R by NMR

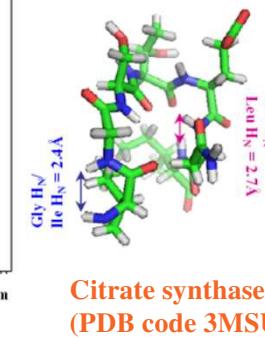
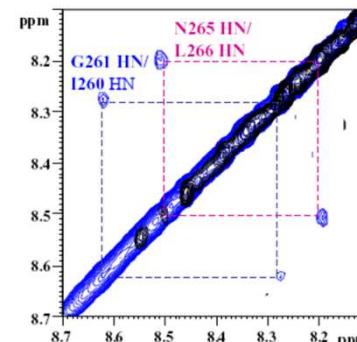
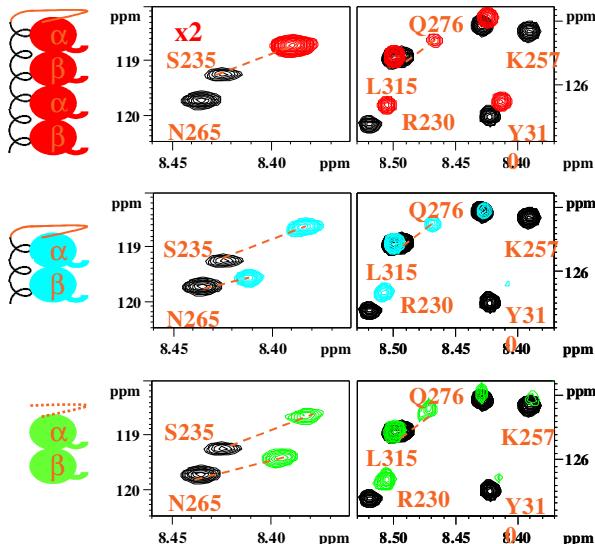


V<sub>256</sub>KSKIGSTENLKHQPGGG<sub>273</sub> peptide becomes visible in constructs with a single tubulin heterodimer

PHF6 loses its intensity in the same constructs

# Tau protein : function

## TauF4 and T<sub>2</sub>R by NMR

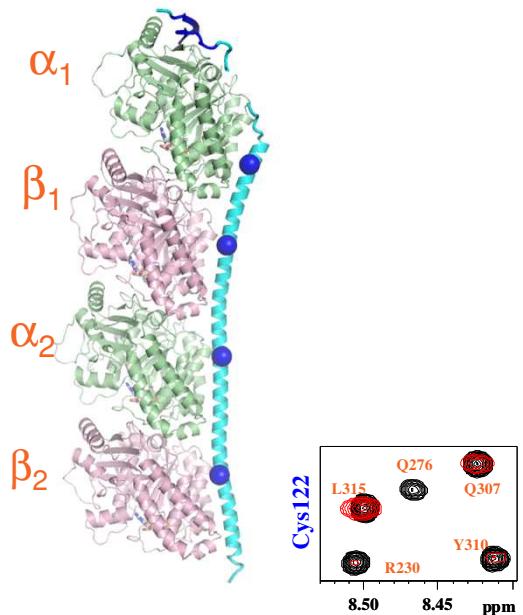


V<sub>256</sub>KSKIGSTENLKHQPGGG<sub>273</sub> peptide : T<sub>2</sub>R 40 : 1

Ser262 : MARK kinase site that interferes with  
Tau's MT assembly capacity

## Tau protein : function

### TauF4 and T<sub>2</sub>R by NMR

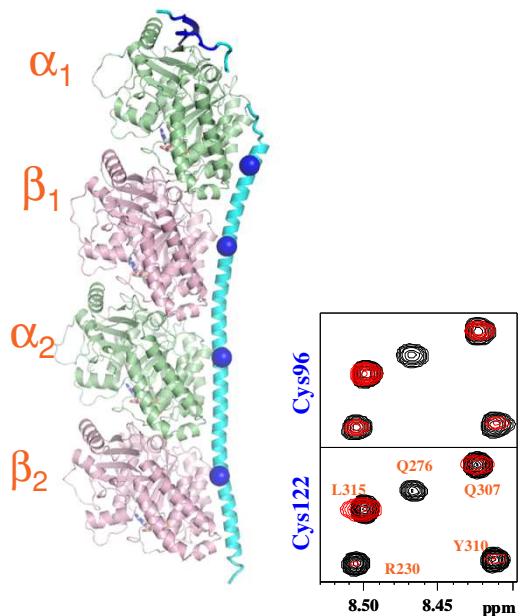


Gigant et al., JACS 2014

Toulouse Biotechnology Institute • p.28

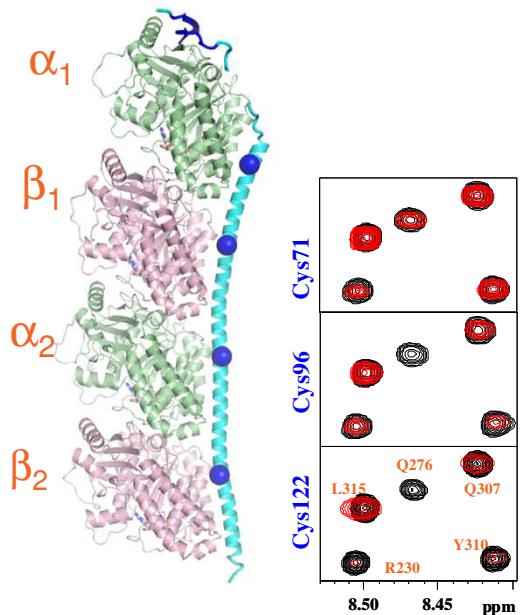
## Tau protein : function

### TauF4 and T<sub>2</sub>R by NMR



## Tau protein : function

### TauF4 and T<sub>2</sub>R by NMR

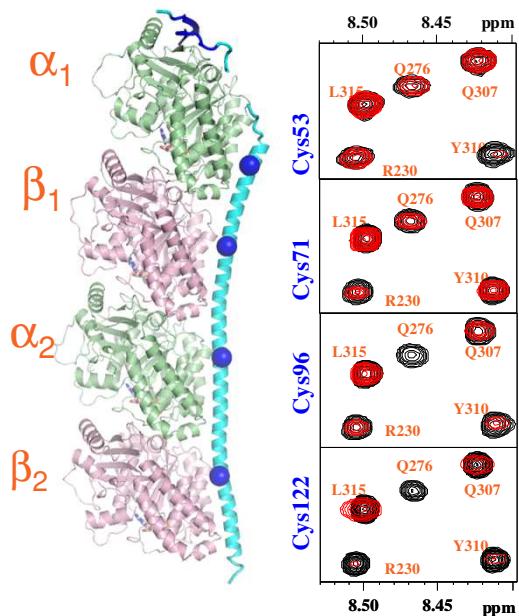


Gigant et al., JACS 2014

Toulouse Biotechnology Institute • p.30

# Tau protein : function

## TauF4 and T<sub>2</sub>R by NMR

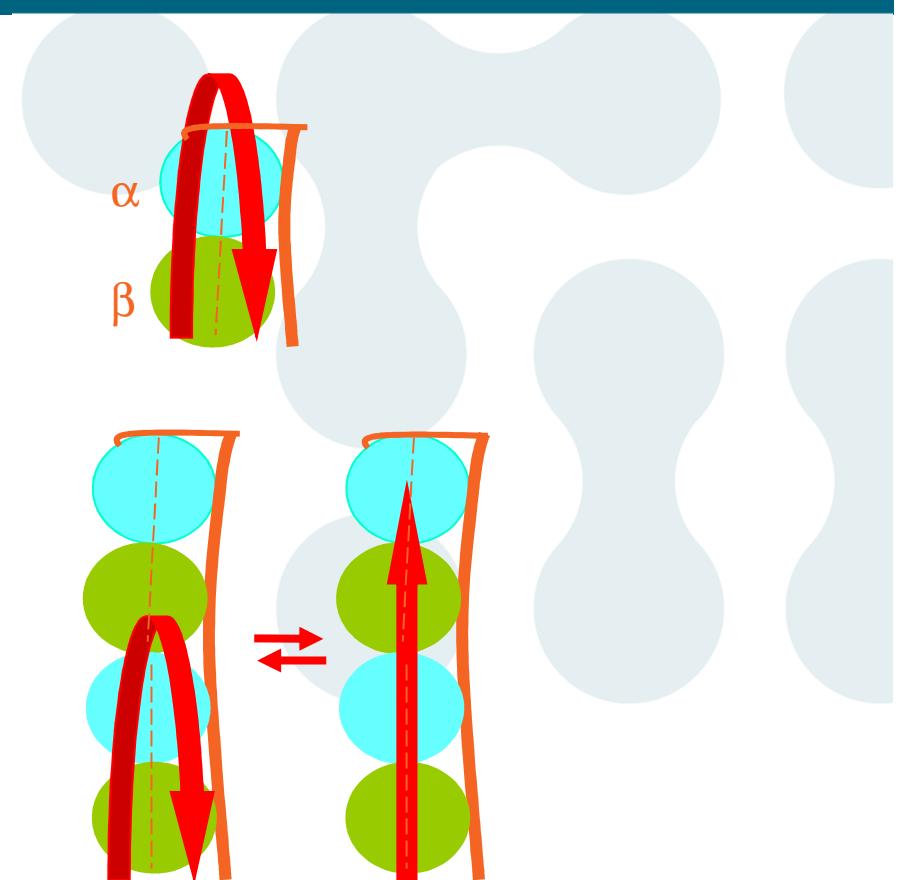
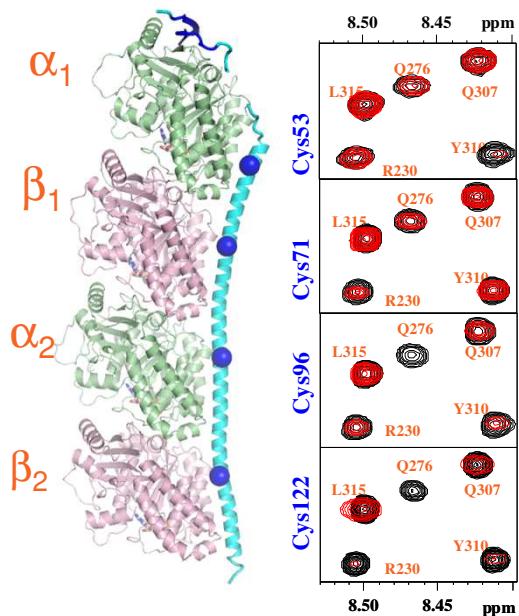


Gigant et al., JACS 2014

Toulouse Biotechnology Institute • p.31

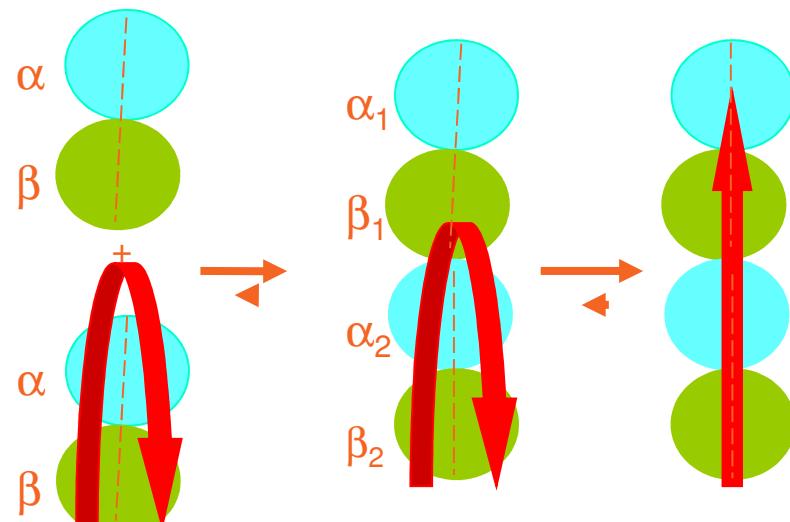
# Tau protein : function

## TauF4 and T<sub>2</sub>R by NMR

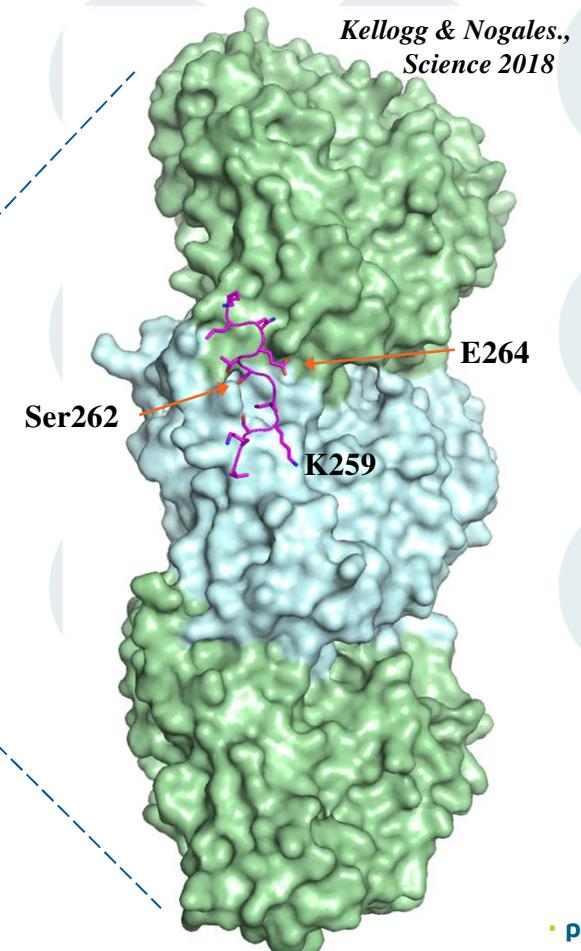


## Tau protein : function

### TauF4 and T<sub>2</sub>R by NMR



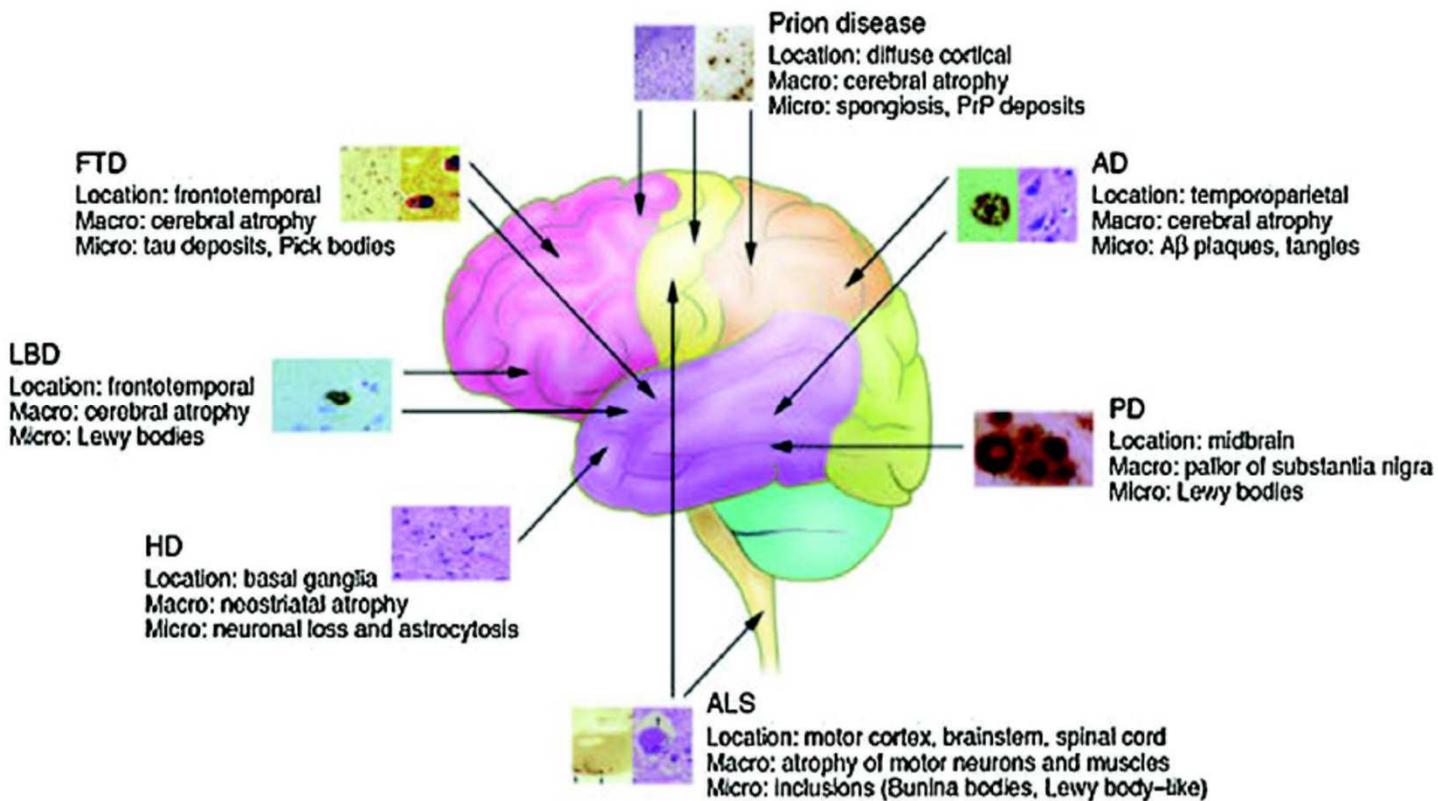
Gigant et al., JACS 2014



p.33

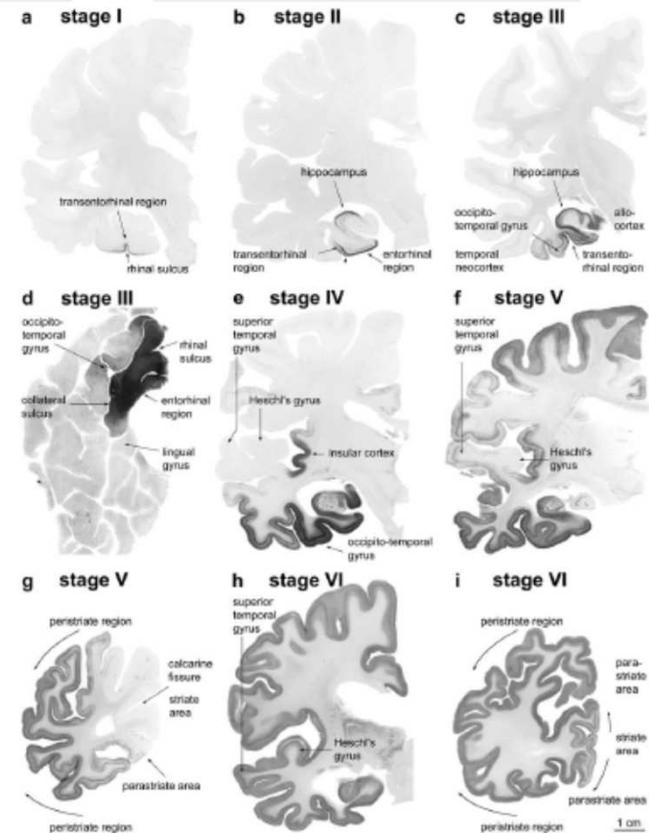
# Tau protein : dysfunction

## Amyloid diseases



# Tau protein : dysfunction

## Braak immunodetection of Alzheimer's disease

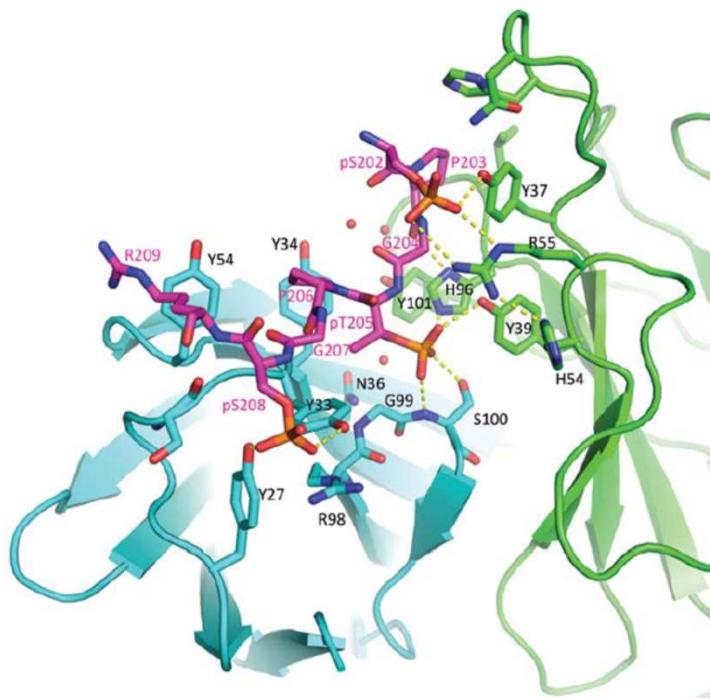


Braak et al., *Acta Neuropathol* 2006

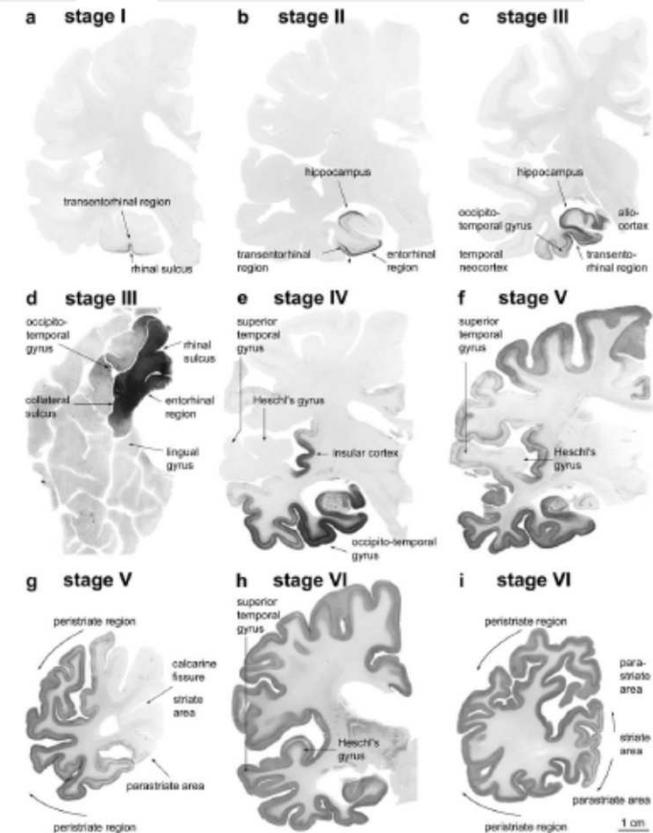
Toulouse Biotechnology Institute • p.35

# Tau protein : dysfunction

## Braak immunodetection of Alzheimer's disease



Malia et al., Proteins 2016

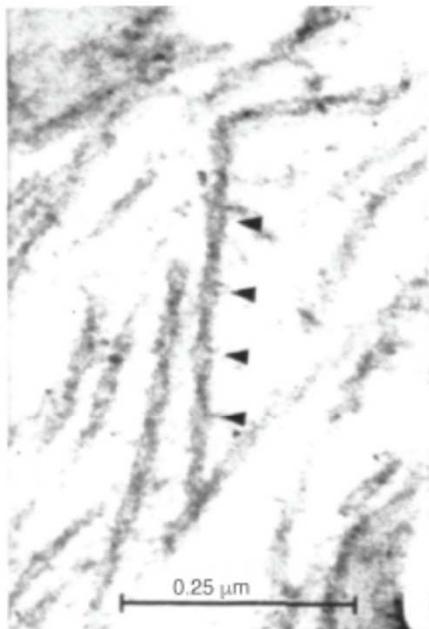


Braak et al., Acta Neuropathol 2006

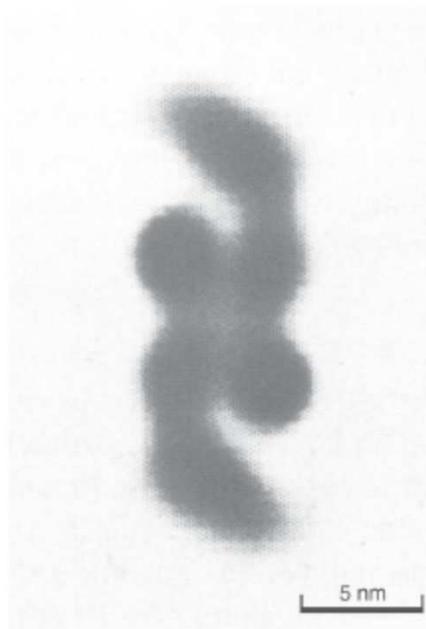
Toulouse Biotechnology Institute • p.36

# Tau protein : dysfunction

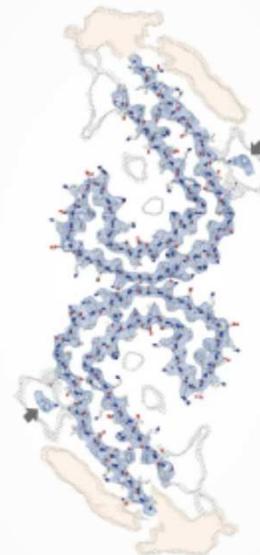
## Resolution of Tau fibrils in Alzheimer's disease



1964: EM image of brain tissue,  
first report of "paired helical  
filament"  
Kidd (1964)



1985: Reconstructed cross-section  
of paired helical filament  
Crowther & Wischik (1985)



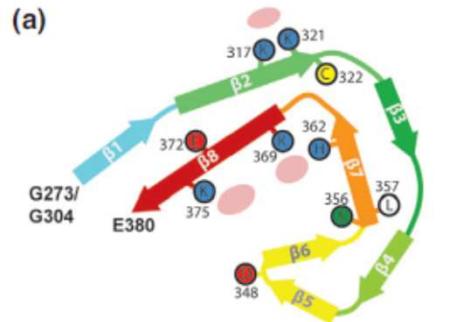
2017: Cryo-EM structure of  
paired helical filament  
Fitzpatrick et al. (2017)



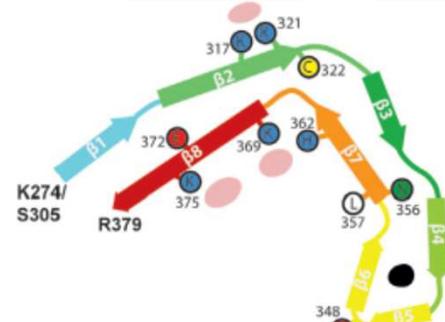
# Tau protein : dysfunction

## Resolution of Tau fibrils in taupathies

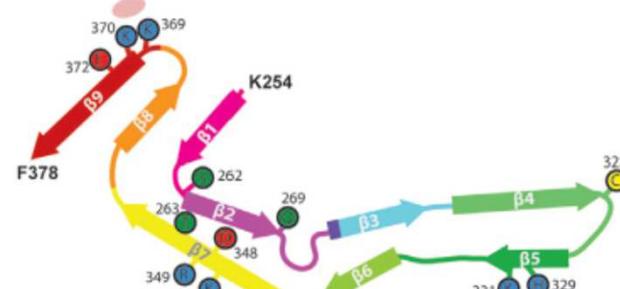
(a)



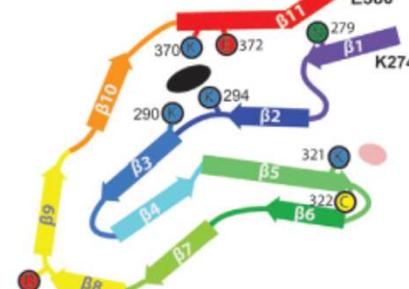
Alzheimer fold (3R+4R tau)



CTE fold (3R+4R tau)



Pick fold (3R tau)

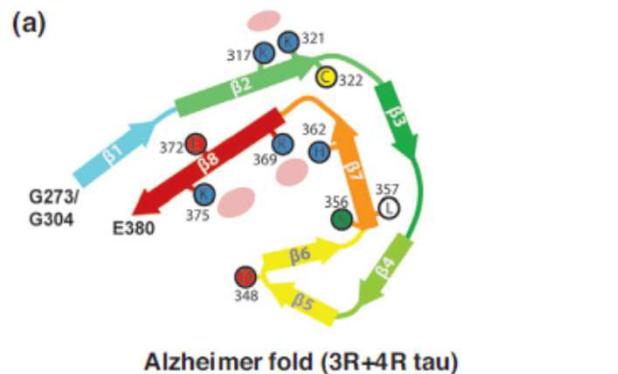


CBD fold (4R tau)

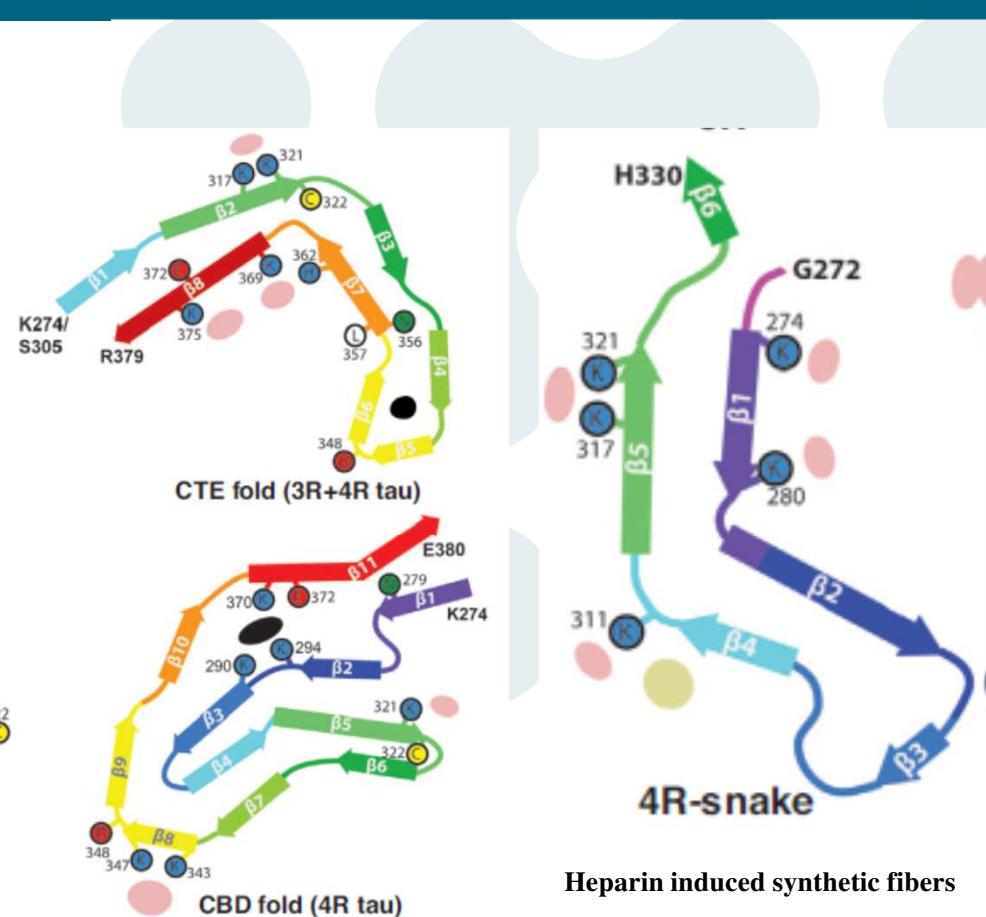
# Tau protein : dysfunction

## Resolution of Tau fibrils in taupathies

(a)



Alzheimer fold (3R+4R tau)



Heparin induced synthetic fibers

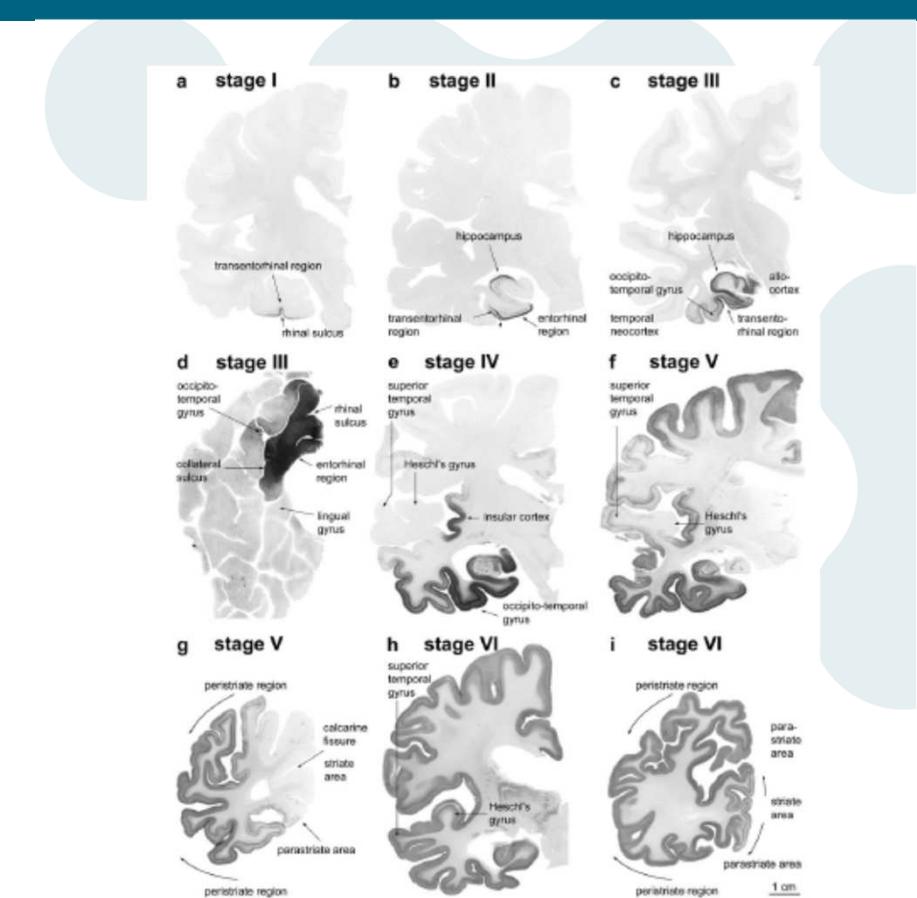
# Tau protein : dysfunction

## Propagation

Crapper & De Boni

AD soluble fraction

*Paired helical filaments of the Alzheimer type in cultured neurones.*  
Nature 1978



Braak et al., Acta Neuropathol 2006

Toulouse Biotechnology Institute • p.40

# Tau protein : dysfunction

## Propagation of Tau

Weingarten MD, Lockwood AH, Hwo SY, Kirschner MW.

*A protein factor essential for microtubule assembly.*

Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 1975 Tau

Crapper & De Boni

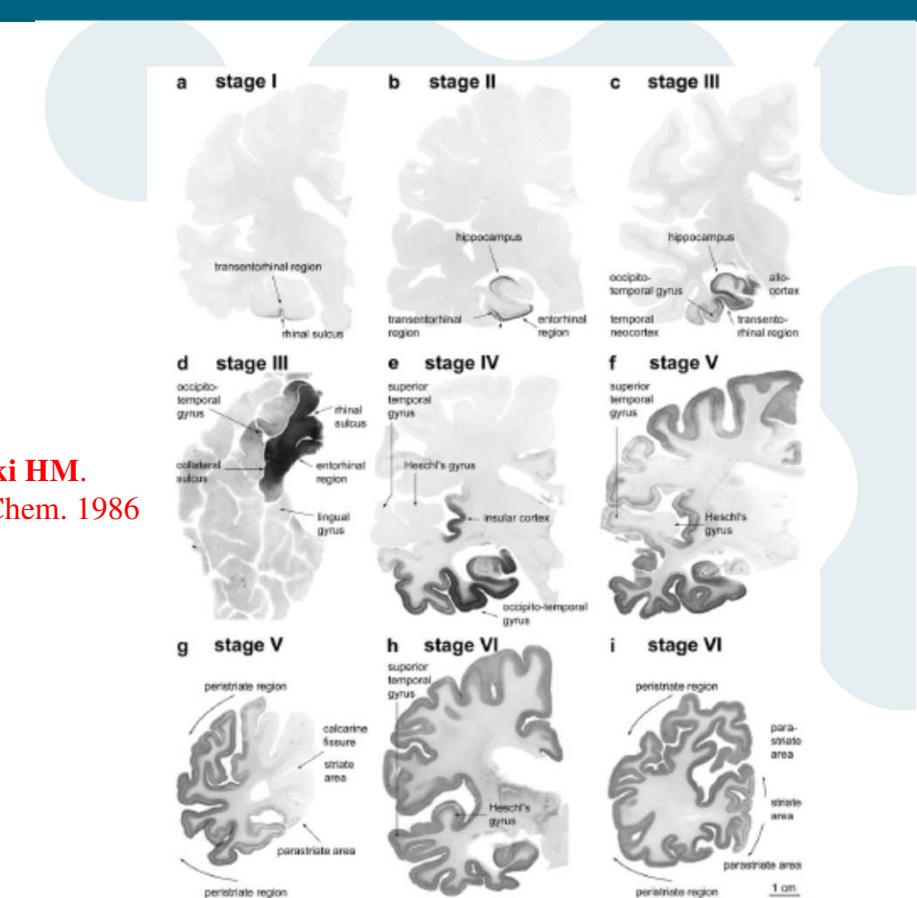
AD soluble fraction

*Paired helical filaments of the Alzheimer type in cultured neurones.*

Nature 1978

Grundke-Iqbali I, Iqbal K, Quinlan M, Tung YC, Zaidi MS, Wisniewski HM.

*Tau. A component of Alzheimer's disease paired helical filaments.* J Biol Chem. 1986



Braak et al., Acta Neuropathol 2006

Toulouse Biotechnology Institute • p.41

# Can we characterize the propagating species???

Crapper & De Boni    AD soluble fraction  
Nature 1978

Michel et al.,  
JBC 2014

Kim et al.,  
Sci Reports 2014

Mirbaha et al.,  
JBC 2015

Wu et al.,  
JBC 2013

Takeda et al.,  
Nat Comm 2015

Monomer

Dimer

Trimer

LMW oligomers

HMW oligomers

*Paired helical filaments of the Alzheimer type in cultured neurones.*

*Extracellular Monomeric Tau Protein Is Sufficient to Initiate the Spread of Tau Protein Pathology*

*Identification of disulfide crosslinked tau dimer responsible for tau propagation*

*Tau Trimers Are the Minimal Propagation Unit Spontaneously Internalized to Seed Intracellular Aggregation*

*Small Misfolded Tau Species Are Internalized via Bulk Endocytosis and Anterogradely and Retrogradely Transported in Neurons*

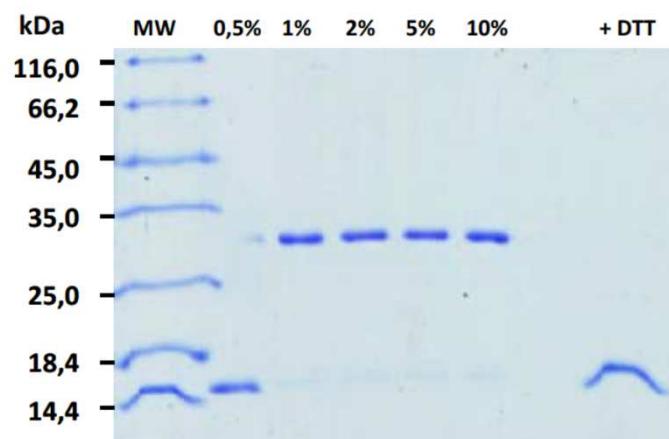
*Neuronal uptake and propagation of a rare phosphorylated high-molecular-weight tau derived from Alzheimer's disease brain* © 2014 The Authors. Journal of Cell Biology published by Cell Press p.42

# Tau protein : dysfunction

## Propagation of Tau

Kim et al., Dimer  
Sci Reports 2014

*Identification of disulfide crosslinked tau dimer responsible  
for tau propagation*



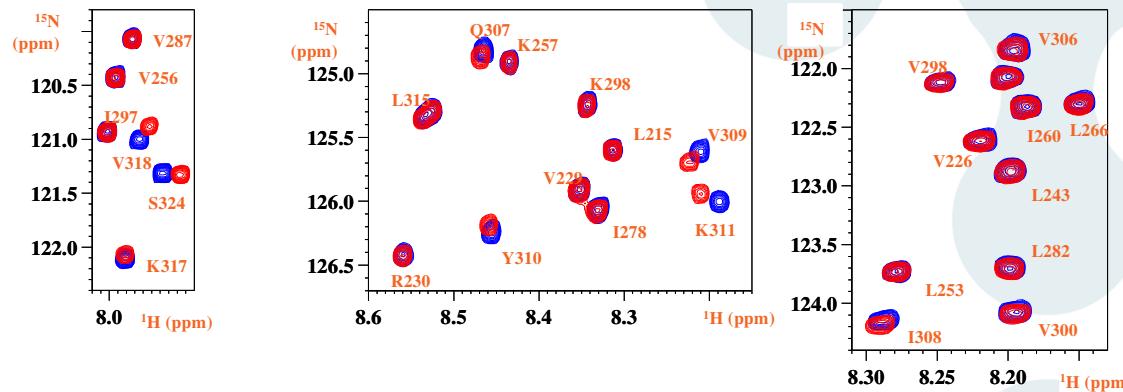
TauF4 C291S

Dimer

Monomer

# Tau protein : dysfunction

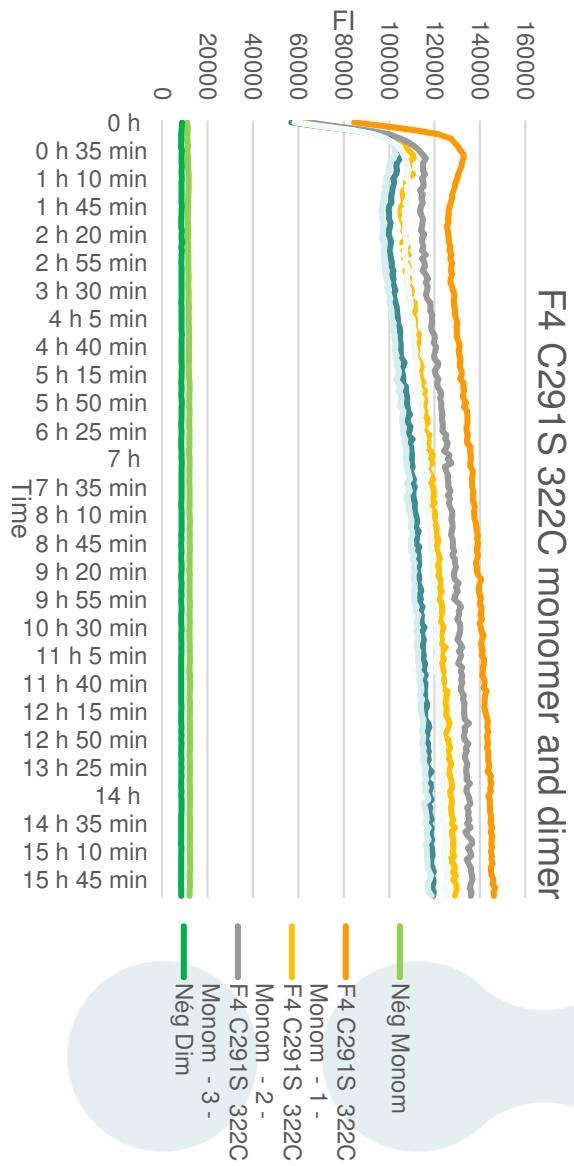
## Propagation of Tau



TauF4 C291S dimer without or with DTT

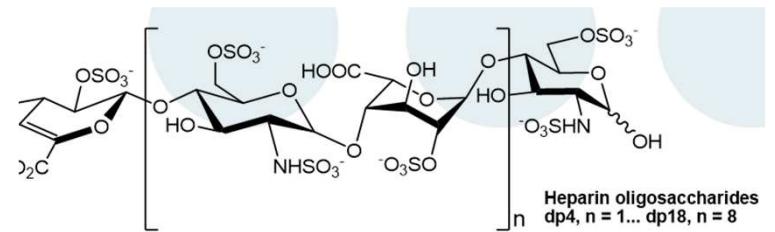
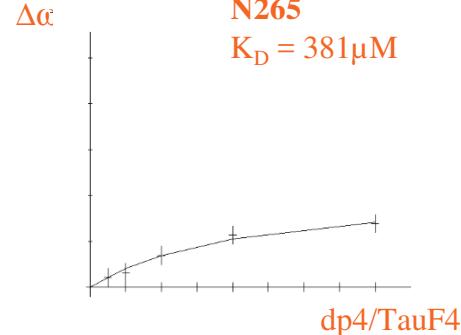
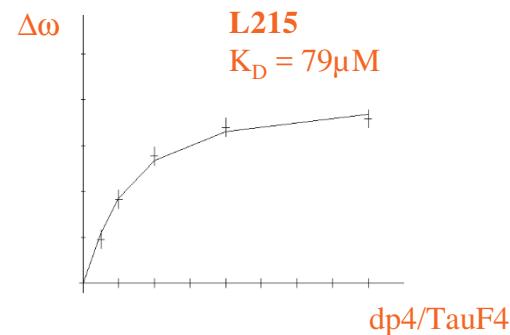
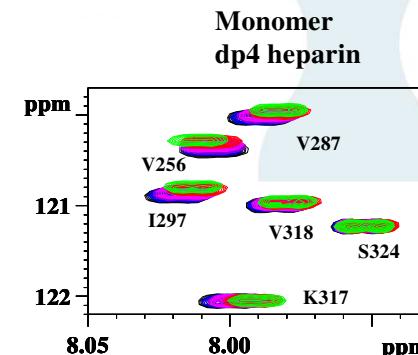
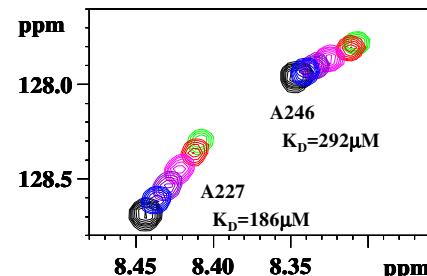
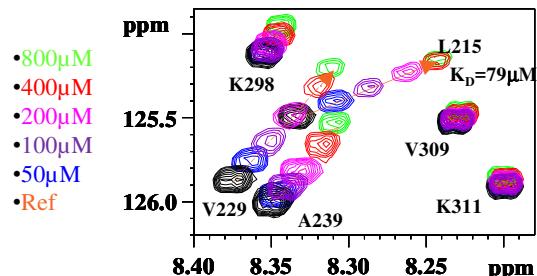
# Tau protein : dysfunction

## Propagation of Tau



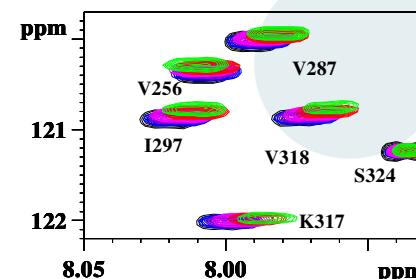
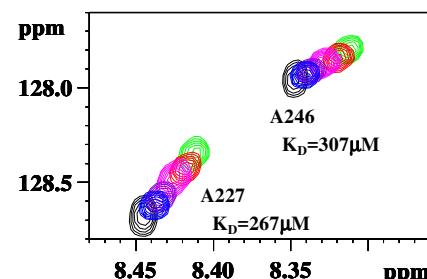
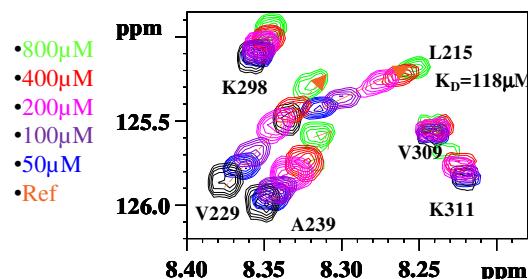
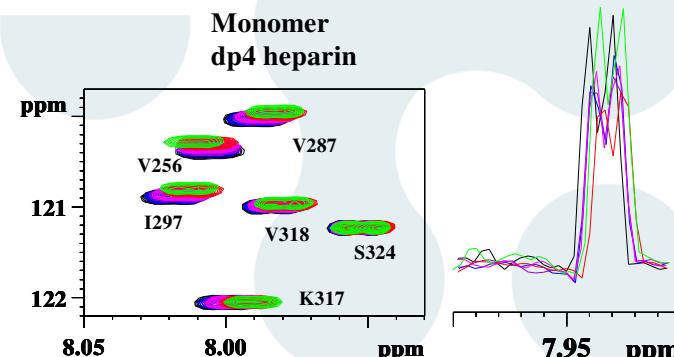
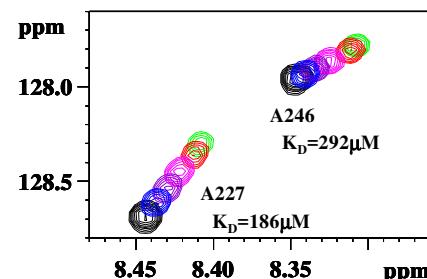
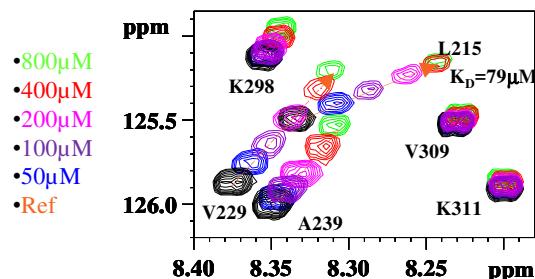
# Tau protein : dysfunction

## Propagation of Tau



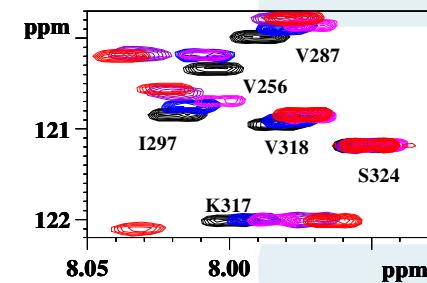
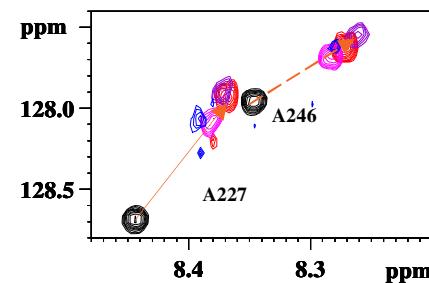
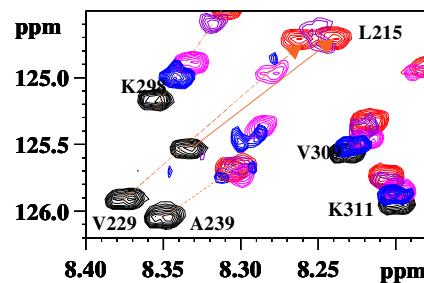
# Tau protein : dysfunction

## Propagation of Tau



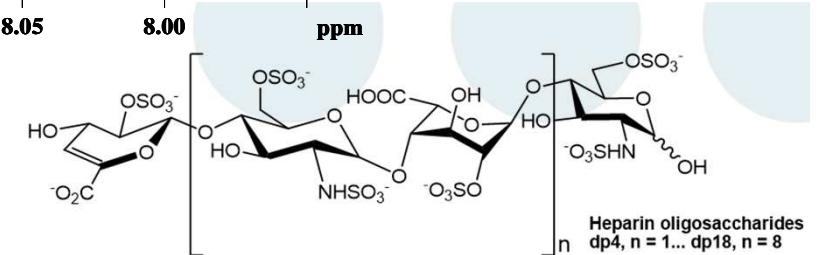
# Tau protein : dysfunction

## Propagation of Tau



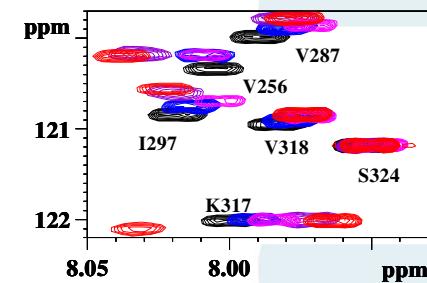
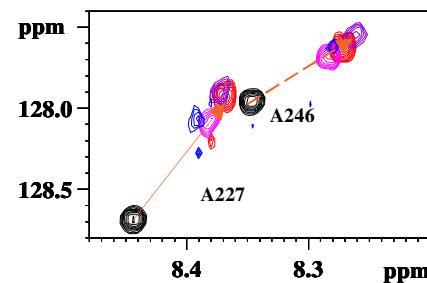
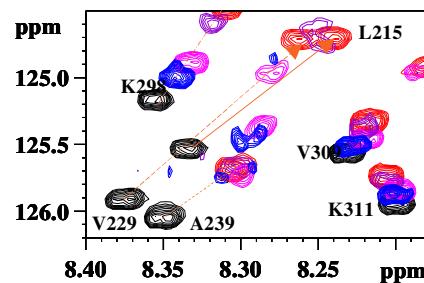
Larger HS bind tighter - slow exchange

Monomer  
dp16 heparin



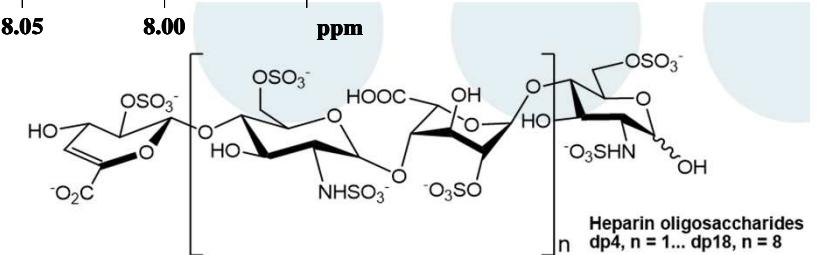
# Tau protein : dysfunction

## Propagation of Tau



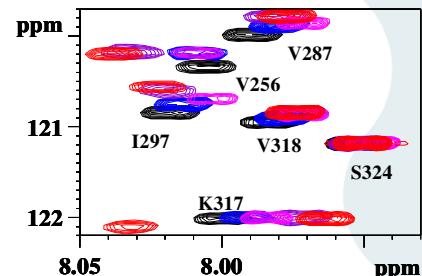
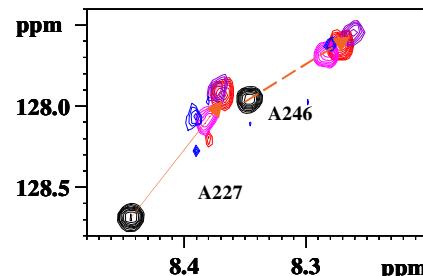
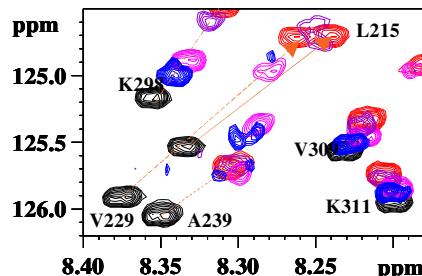
Larger HS bind tighter - slow exchange

Monomer  
dp16 heparin

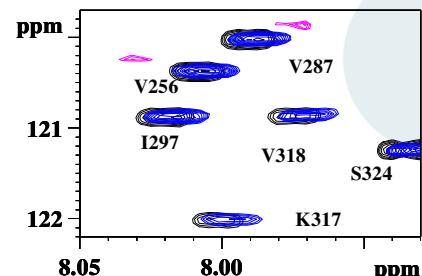
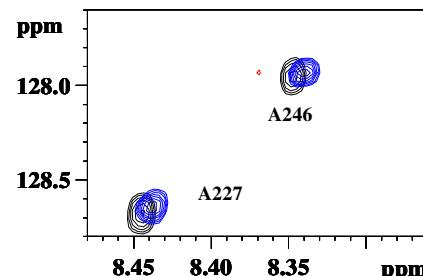
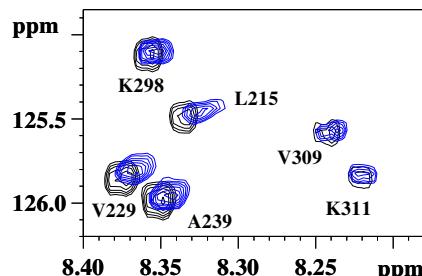


# Tau protein : dysfunction

## Propagation of Tau



Monomer  
dp16 heparin



Dimer  
dp16 heparin

At the same absolute concentration of TauF4, addition of  $>25\mu\text{M}$  of dp16 leads to aggregation of the TauF4 dimers but not monomers.

# Tau protein : dysfunction

## Propagation of Tau



International Journal of  
Molecular Sciences

Article

### Cell-Penetrating Ability of Peptide Hormones: Key Role of Glycosaminoglycans Clustering

Armelle Tchoumi Neree<sup>1,2</sup>, Phuong Trang Nguyen<sup>1,2</sup> and Steve Bourgault<sup>1,2,\*</sup>

Received: 5 October 2015 ; Accepted: 2 November 2015 ; Published: 16 November 2015

### Peptide—Glycosaminoglycan Cluster Formation Involving Cell Penetrating Peptides

Anthony Rullo, Jieshu Qian, Mark Nitz

Biopolymers Volume 95 / Number 10

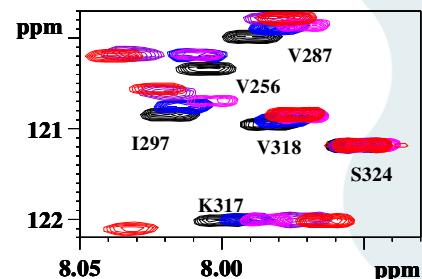
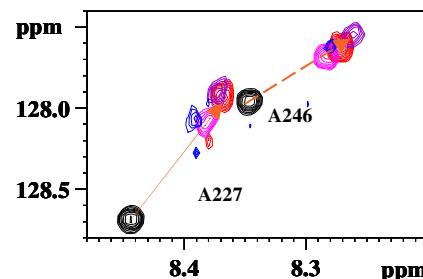
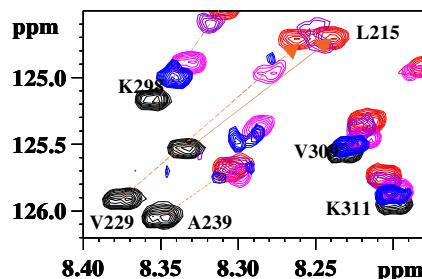
*This study demonstrates that the uptake efficiency of a given cationic CPP does not necessarily correlate with its affinity to sulfated GAGs and that its ability to cluster GAGs should be considered for the identification of novel peptidic sequences with potent cellular penetrating properties.*

*We have demonstrated that peptides with similar binding affinity for heparin can differ significantly in their ability to cluster with heparin. (...) The differences in cluster stability observed between these two peptides provide a possible explanation for their differing cell uptake routes.*

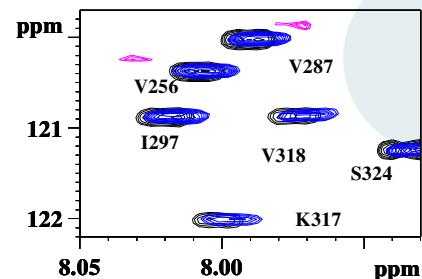
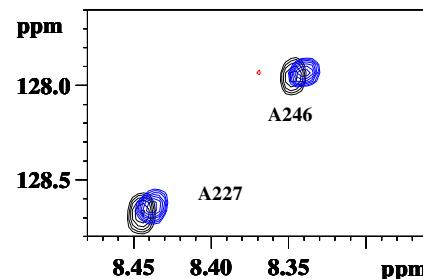
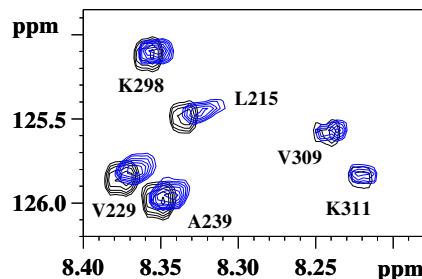
Toulouse Biotechnology Institute • p.51

# Tau protein : dysfunction

## Propagation of Tau



Monomer  
dp16 heparin



Dimer  
dp16 heparin

At the same absolute concentration of TauF4, addition of  $>25\mu\text{M}$  of dp16 leads to aggregation ??? of the TauF4 dimers but not monomers.

# Tau protein : dysfunction

Liquid liquid phase separation

## Koazervation. (Entmischung in kolloiden Systemen.) Vorläufige Mitteilung.

(Eingegangen am 4. Oktober 1929.)

Von H. G. Bungenberg de Jong (Leiden) und H. R. Kruyt (Utrecht).

## LLPS of Tau

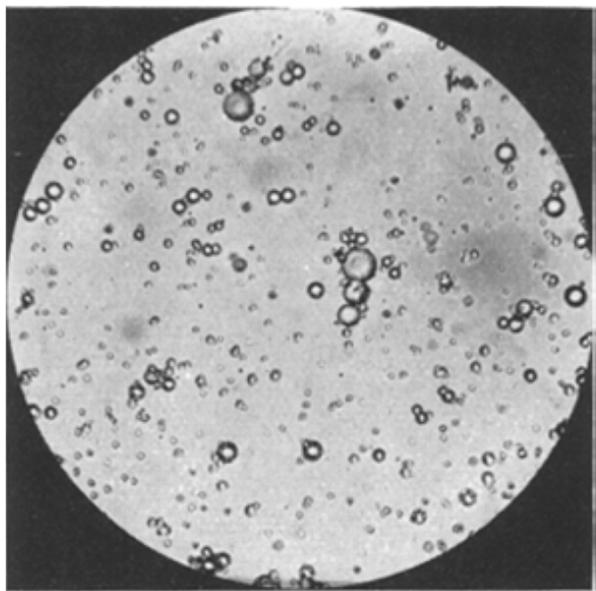


Fig. 3  
Gelatine + Tannin. 162 $\times$  vergr



## LLPS of Tau

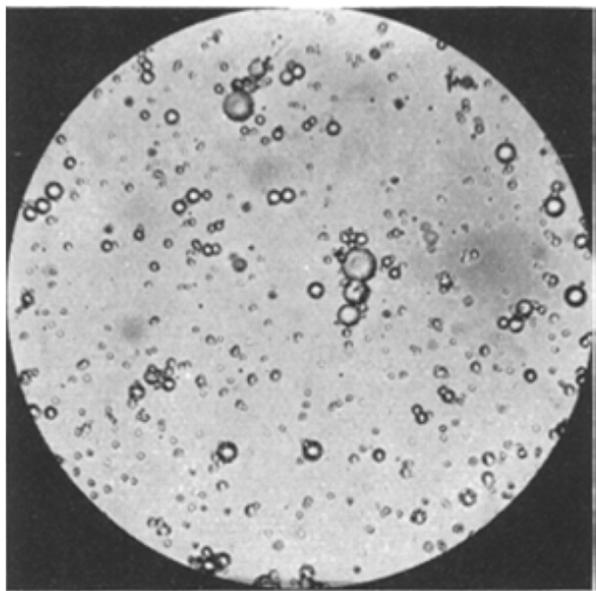


Fig. 3  
Gelatine + Tannin. 162 $\times$  vergr

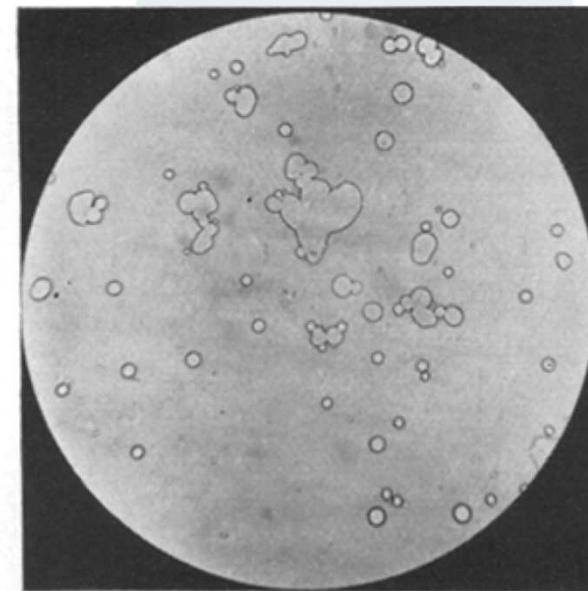
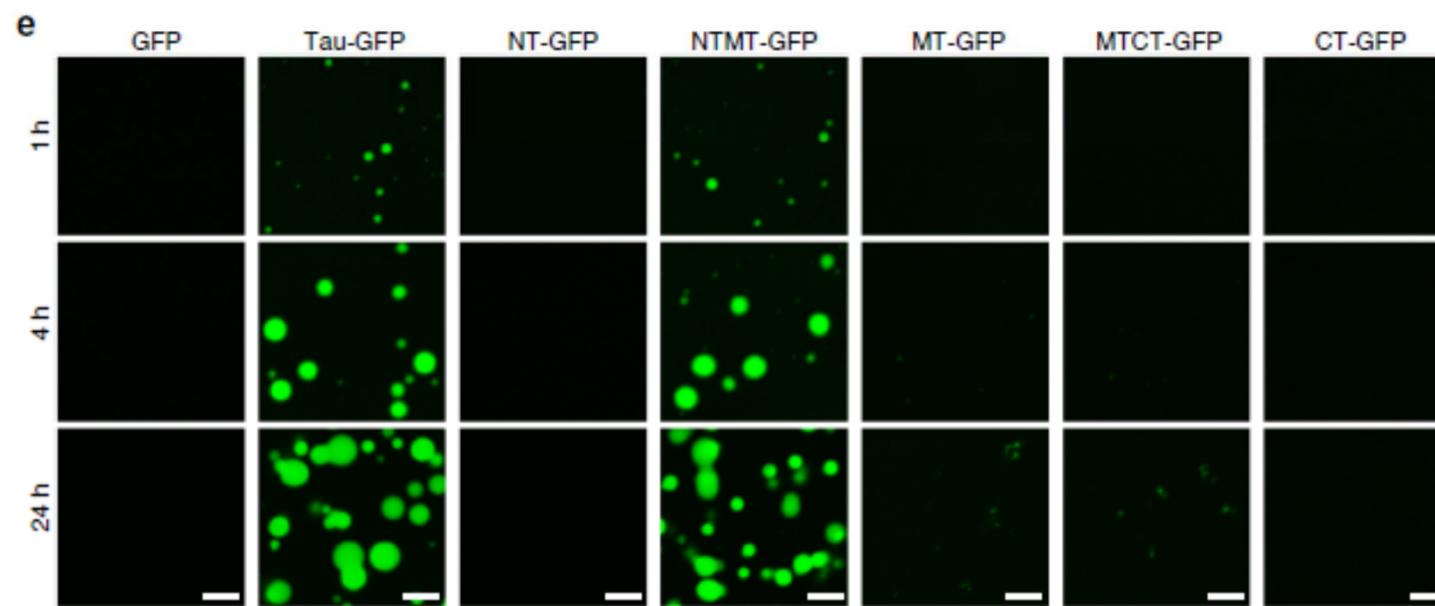
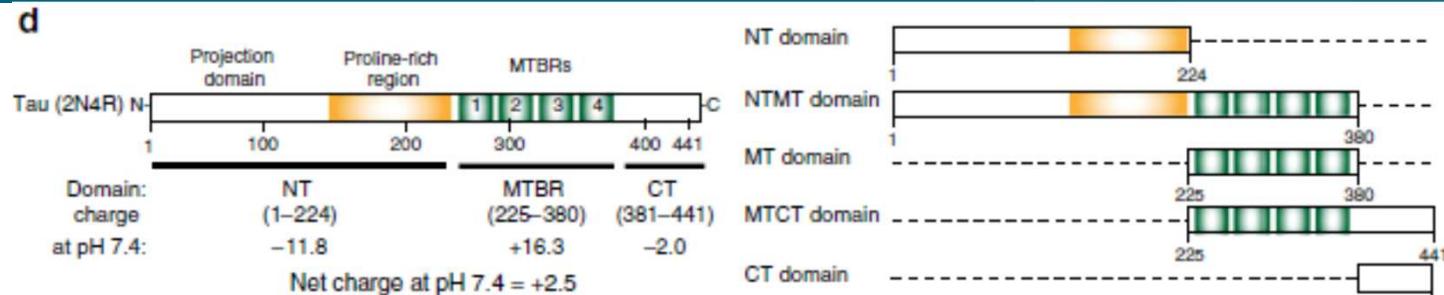


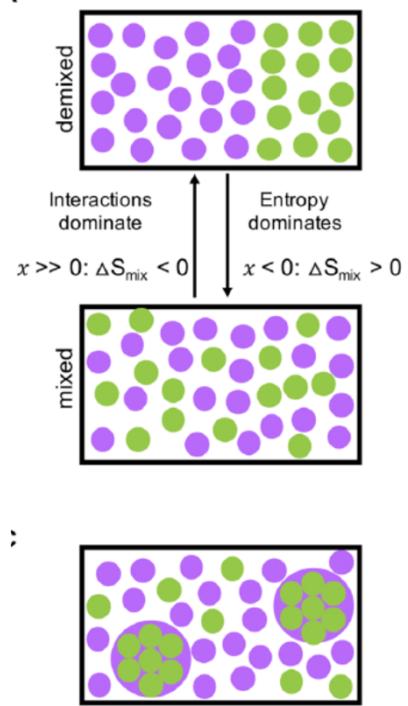
Fig. 8  
Serumalbumin + arab. Gumm. 72 $\times$  vergr.

## LLPS of Tau

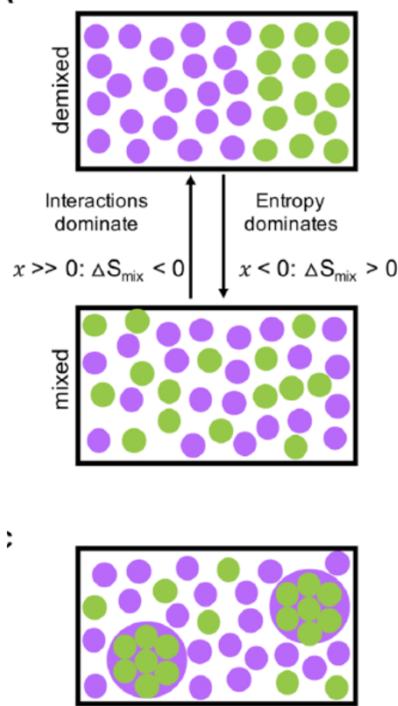


2 $\mu$ M Tau – 10% PEG8000  
Kanaan *et al.* Nat Comm 2020

## LLPS of Tau



## LLPS of Tau



### Liquid-liquid phase separation of tau protein: The crucial role of electrostatic interactions

Boyko et al. *J. Biol. Chem.* (2019) 294(29) 11054–11059

### Liquid-liquid phase separation of tau driven by hydrophobic interaction facilitates fibrillization of tau

Lin et al., <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.08.05.237966> doi: bioRxiv preprint

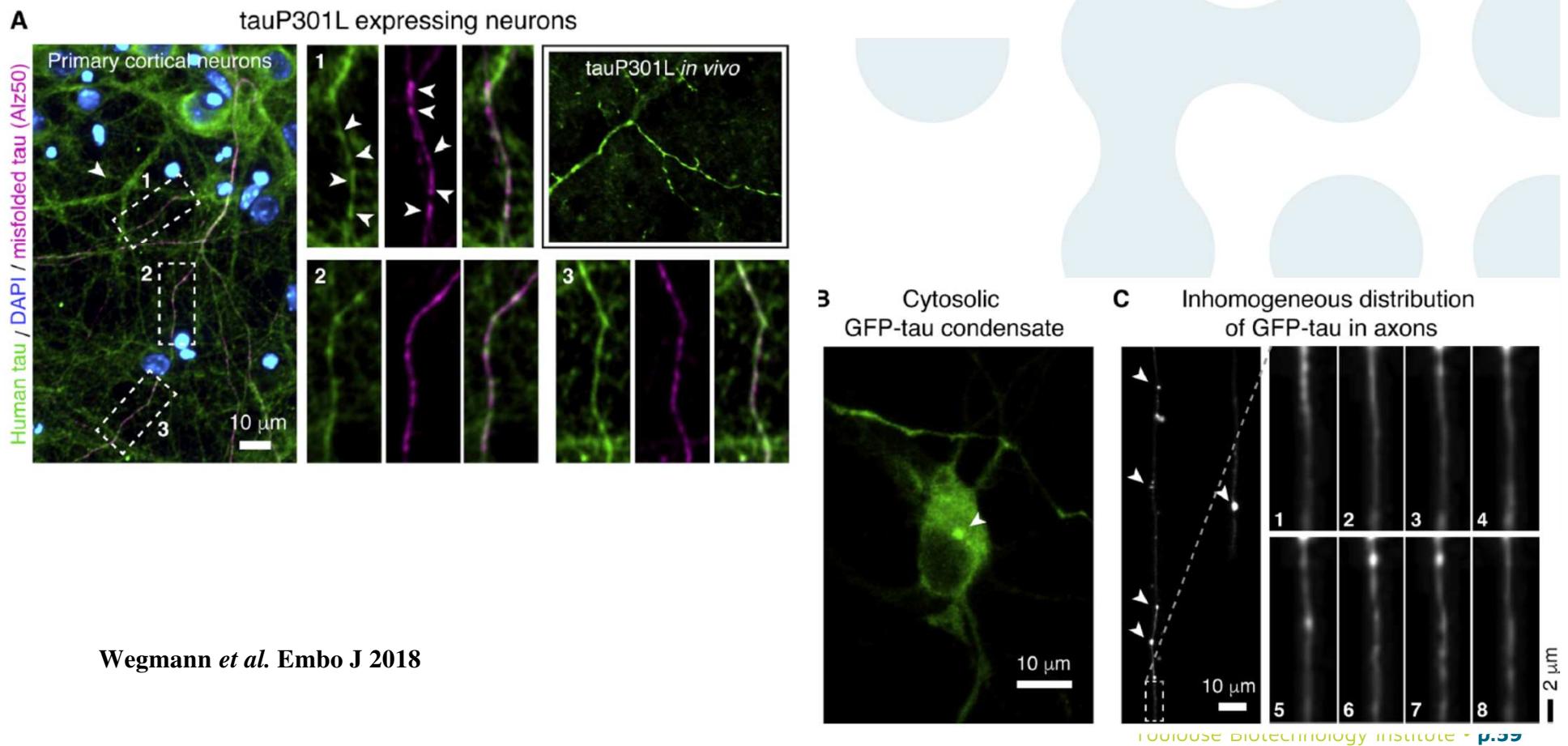
### The proline-rich domain promotes Tau liquid-liquid phase separation in cells

Zhang et al., *J. Cell Biol.* 2020 Vol. 219 No. 11 e202006054

### Narrow equilibrium window for complex coacervation of tau and RNA under cellular conditions

Lin et al. *eLife* 2019;8:e42571.

# LLPS of Tau



## Acknowledgements

### Lille

Isabelle Landrieu  
Caroline Smet-Nocca  
Isabelle Huvent  
Clément Despres  
Juan Lopez

† Jean-Michel Wieruszseski  
François-Xavier Cantrelle

Pratibha Kumari

Toulouse

Benoît Gigant  
Marcel Knossow

Neha Gandhi

Fuming Zhang  
Chunyu Wang  
Robert Linhardt

Patricia Machado/Fany Payani  
and their team

LEBS

Curtin

Rensselaer

Servier