

Tau protein

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Tau proteins (or τ proteins, after the Greek letter by that name) are [proteins](#) that stabilize [microtubules](#). They are abundant in [neurons](#) of the [central nervous system](#) and are less common elsewhere, but are also expressed at very low levels in CNS [astrocytes](#) and [oligodendrocytes](#).

The tau proteins are the product of alternative splicing from a single gene that in humans is designated MAPT (microtubule-associated protein tau) and is located on [chromosome 17](#).

They were discovered in [1975](#) in Marc Kirschner's laboratory at Princeton University.

Pathologies and [dementias](#) of the nervous system such as [Alzheimer disease](#) can result when tau proteins become defective and no longer stabilize microtubules properly.

see [Tauopathy](#).

Biomarker

[Tau Biomarker](#)

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