## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

## A structural ensemble of a tau-microtubule complex reveals regulatory tau phosphorylation and acetylation mechanisms

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**Figure S1.** Back-calculated electron density maps from the EMMI ensemble of the taumicrotubule complex as a function of decreasing electron density thresholds: (A) threshold 1, (B) threshold 0.5, and (C) threshold 0.05.



**Figure S2.** Identification of the ground (0) and excited states (1-16) of the R1 (A), R2 (B), R3 (C), R4 (D), P2 (E) and R' (F) regions of tau in the EMMI structural ensemble. A comparison of two different simulations (run1 and run2) demonstrates the convergence of the populations of the different states.



**Figure S3.** (A) Sequence alignment of the tau regions P2, R1, R2, R3, R4 and R'. Weak and strong interacting regions of tau with microtubules are shown with dashed and solid boxes, respectively. (B) Comparison between the structures of the R1 region obtained in this work (in brown) and previously reported in (PDB:  $6CVJ)^6$  (black). (C) Comparison of the structures of the R2 region obtained in this work (in blue) and previously reported in (PDB:  $6CVJ)^6$  (black).





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**Figure S4.** LC-MS spectra of tau and its phosphorylated chemical mutant at S262 and its intermediates. **(A)** LC-MS spectrum of 2N4R tau (residues 2-441, C291S & C322S), all tau variants are residues 2-441. **(B)** LC-MS spectrum of tau(S262C). **(C)** LC-MS spectrum of tau(S262Dha). **(D)** LC-MS spectrum of tau(S262pC). We note that differences of 1 or 2 Daltons between observed and calculated masses rather commonly arise from errors from the deconvolution of the spectra or from slight changes in protonation states.





**Figure S5.** LC-MS spectra of the acetylated K311 (aK311) tau chemical mutant and its intermediates. **(A)** LC-MS spectrum of tau(K311C). **(B)** LC-MS spectrum of tau(K311Dha). **(C)** LC-MS spectrum of tau(aK311).





Figure S6. LC-MS spectra of the phosphorylated chemical mutant of tau at S235 and its intermediates. (A) LC-MS spectrum of tau(S235C). (B) LC-MS spectrum of tau(S235Dha). (C) LC-MS spectrum of tau(S235pC).





**Figure S7.** LC-MS spectra of the phosphorylated chemical mutant of tau at S241 and their intermediates. **(A)** LC-MS spectrum of tau(S241C). **(B)** LC-MS spectrum of tau(S241Dha). **(C)** LC-MS spectrum of tau(S241pC).





**Figure S8.** LC-MS spectrum of the acetylated K340 (aK340) tau chemical mutant and its intermediates. **(A)** LC-MS spectrum of tau(K340C). **(B)** LC-MS spectrum of tau(K340Dha). **(C)** LC-MS spectrum of tau(aK340).