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MICORALIS - Microbiologie orale, immunothérapie et santé

Rapport Hcéres

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HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research
and Higher Education

Department of Research Evaluation

report on research unit:

Microbiologie Orale, Immunothérapie et Santé

MICORALIS

under the supervision of
the following institutions
and research bodies:

Université Nice Sophia Antipolis

Evaluation Campaign 2016-2017 (Group C)

HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research
and Higher Education

Department of Research Evaluation

In the name of HCERES,¹

Michel Cosnard, president

In the name of the experts committee,²

John Taylor, chairman of the committee

Under the decree N^o2014-1365 dated 14 november 2014,

¹ The president of HCERES "countersigns the evaluation reports set up by the experts committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5)

² The evaluation reports "are signed by the chairman of the expert committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2)

Evaluation report

This report is the sole result of evaluation by the expert committee, the composition of which is specified below.

The assessments contained herein are the expression of an independent and collegial reviewing by the committee.

Unit name: Microbiologie Orale, Immunopathologie et Santé

Unit acronym: MICORALIS

Label requested: EA

Current number: 7354

Name of Director (2016-2017): Mr Alain DOGLIO

Name of Project Leader (2018-2022): Mr Alain DOGLIO

Expert committee members

Chair: Mr John TAYLOR, Newcastle University, United Kingdom

Experts: Ms Noëlie THEBAUD, University of Bordeaux (representative of the CNU)
Mr Simon A. WHAWELL University of Sheffield, United Kingdom

Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:
Ms Sophie EZINE

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:
Mr Jeanick BRISSWALTER, Université de Nice
Ms Armelle MANIERE, Faculté d'Odontologie de Nice
Mr Éric MONCH, CHU de Nice

Head of Doctoral School: Mr Thomas LAMONERIE, Doctoral school n° 85, "Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé"

1 • Introduction

History and geographical location of the unit

The unit has its origin in the synthesis of 2 distinct “Evolving Research Units” of the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis (UNS): these were the Laboratory of Oral Health and Aging (formed in 2009) and the Laboratory of Cellular Immunotherapy for Viral Diseases (formed in 2012). Thus, in January 2015 the research unit “Oral Microbiology, immunity and health” (MICORALIS) was formed. MICORALIS is located within the odontology department of UNS.

Management team

MICORALIS is under the leadership of Mr Alain DOGLIO (director) and Ms Isabelle PRECHEUR (deputy director).

HCERES nomenclature

SVE1_LS4 Physiologie, physiopathologie, biologie systémique médicale

Scientific domains

“Oral Virology and Immunology” but now have “Oral Biofilms and Treatments” as well as “Oral Microbiology and Overall Health”.

Unit workforce

Unit workforce	Number on 30/06/2016	Number on 01/01/2018
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	11 [4.5]	10
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions		
N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	1	1
N4: Other researchers (Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)	13 [2]	
N5: Emeritus	1 [0.5]	
N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel)		
N7: PhD students	4	
TOTAL N1 to N7	30 [12]	
Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions	13	

Unit record	From 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2016
PhD theses defended	2
Postdoctoral scientists having spent at least 12 months in the unit	6
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period	1

2 • Assessment of the unit

Global assessment of the unit

The main scientific interests of MICORALIS are in the understanding of oral disease associated with microorganisms, identifying clinically relevant links between oral and systemic health and developing novel treatments, which might be clinically and commercially exploited.

The best research from the unit has the potential to make a significant contribution to the literature. In particular studies of viral immunobiology and application to human oral disease has potential to cut across high impact generic science and dental research.

The MICORALIS research unit is not yet 2 years old, but it has successfully drawn together substantial academic and technical expertise and identified key areas of translational research with great potential to address societal need. Some areas the research endeavour is currently very good: the unit is especially strong in oral microbiology, has excellent connections with industrial partners and has great opportunity to attract young clinical researchers and PhD students.

However, at this stage the unit is yet to achieve the university's aspiration of high academic impact in translational research but certainly has the potential to do so. Dental research and its exploitation are important for the economic vitality of the region as well as the national and international profile of the university and so MICORALIS are well placed to gain traction in these areas.