

HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research
and Higher Education

Department of Research Evaluation

report on research unit:

Extracellular Matrix and Cellular Dynamics

MEDyC

Under the supervision of
the following institutions
and research bodies:

Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique - CNRS

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

Alain Colige, chairman of the committee

Under the decree N°2014-1365 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:	Extracellular Matrix and Cellular Dynamics
Unit acronym:	MEDyC
Label requested:	UMR
Current number:	UMR 7369
Name of Director (2016-2017):	Mr François-Xavier MAQUART
Name of Project Leader (2018-2022):	Mr Laurent MARTINY

Expert committee members

Chair:	Mr Alain COLIGE, Laboratoire des Tissus Conjonctifs, Sart Tilman, Belgium
Experts:	Mr Mustapha CHERKAOUI MALKI, Université de Bourgogne, Dijon (representative of the CNU) Ms Elaine DEL NERY, Institut Curie, Paris (representative of supporting personnel) Ms Brigitte KERFELEC, Centre de Recherche en Cancérologie, Marseille (representative of the CoNRS)

Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:
 Mr Pierre COUBLE

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:
 Mr Guillaume GELLÉ, Université de Reims
 Mr Didier MARCOTTE, Université de Reims
 Ms Florence NOBLE, CNRS

Heads of Doctoral School:
 Ms Sandrine BOUQUILLON, Doctoral School n° 547, “Sciences Technologie Santé”
 Mr Jean-Claude MONBOISSE, Doctoral School n° 547, “Sciences Technologie Santé”

1 • Introduction

History and geographical location of the unit

The MEDyC research unit has been created in 2008 after the merging of two pre-existing units. Following a re-structuration period from 2012 to 2013, it became the UMR 7369 of CNRS and the University of Reims (URCA) in 2014. It is located in part on the health pole and in part on the sciences campus of URCA.

Management team

The MEDyC unit is chaired by Mr François-Xavier MAQUART to whom Mr Laurent MARTINY will succeed for the coming 5-year period. He will be assisted by Mr Philippe GILLERY, deputy director.

HCERES nomenclature

SVE2 Cell Biology, Imagery, Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Genomic, System Biology, Development, Structural Biology.

ST5 Sciences for Engineering.

Scientific domains

The scientific domain of MEDyC is at the interface of biology and biophysics, with competences in the biology of the extracellular matrix and its interaction with the cells for one part, and vibrational spectroscopies and molecular modelling for bio-medical applications for another part.

Unit workforce

Unit workforce	Number on 30/06/2016	Number on 01/01/2018
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	19	13
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions	32	25
N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	22	15
N4: Other researchers (Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)	6	
N5: Emeritus	1	
N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	7	
N7: PhD students	23	
TOTAL N1 to N7	110	
Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions	41	

Unit record	From 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2016
PhD theses defended	38
Postdoctoral scientists having spent at least 12 months in the unit	6
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period	10

2 • Assessment of the unit

Global assessment of the unit

The scientific objectives of MEDyC are related to the study of interactions between cells and their extracellular environment, more specifically in the field of tumour progression and age-related extracellular matrix (EMC) component modifications, especially in blood vessel walls.

During the previous period, MEDyC was formed by three complementary teams, specialized in extracellular matrix cleavage and remodelling (team 1), post-translational modifications of ECM components (team 2) and spectroscopic analyses of cells and tissues (team 3). For the next period, Team 3 will leave MEDyC to become an independent unit. Correlatively, a new team (MIME) is created, focussing on modelling and multiscale imaging and largely formed by previous members of Teams 1 and 2.

The 2016 Committee unanimously recognizes that significant efforts have been made and that MEDyC has increased the quality of its publications and its visibility. Adequate and promising research niches (matrikines, modifications of ECM macromolecules, modelling and imaging) have been identified. Efforts to focus the research on mechanistic phenomena are being made and should be pursued since it has already undoubtedly led to an improved quality of the scientific production. The different tasks and project are clearly more integrated, although there is still room for improvement.

As a more general remark, many members of MEDyC have heavy teaching duties. They are to be commended for that, but an increase of the number of full time researchers would have a strong impact on their scientific production.