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## IRM - Immuno-rhumatologie moléculaire

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:

Molecular ImmunoRheumatology

IRM

Under the supervision of  
the following institutions  
and research bodies:

Institut National de la Santé Et de la Recherche  
Médicale – INSERM

Université de Strasbourg

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,<sup>1</sup>*

Michel Cosnard, president

*In the name of the experts committee,<sup>2</sup>*

Kathryn Wood, chairwoman of the  
committee

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Under the decree No.2014-1365 dated 14 november 2014,

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

<sup>2</sup> 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: Molecular ImmunoRheumatology

Unit acronym: IRM

Label requested: INSERM UMR\_S

Current number: 1109

Name of Director (2016-2017): Mr Seiamak BAHRAM

Name of Project Leader (2018-2022): Mr Seiamak BAHRAM

## Expert committee members

Chair: Ms Kathryn WOOD, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Experts: Ms Florence APPARAILLY, INSERM, CHU de Montpellier (representative of INSERM)

Ms Christine BOLE-FEYSOT, INSERM, Institut Imagine, Hôpital Necker Enfants-Malades, Paris (representative of supporting personnel)

Mr Bernard COMBE, CHU de Montpellier (representative of CNU)

Ms Marie-Paule KIENY, World Health Organization, Switzerland

Mr John TROWSDALE, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:

Mr Kamel BENLAGHA

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Ms Catherine FLORENTZ, University of Strasbourg

Mr Jules HOFFMANN, University of Strasbourg

Ms Chantal LASSERE, INSERM

Ms Marie-Ange LUC, INSERM

Head of Doctoral School:

Ms Catherine SCHUSTER, ED n° 414, “Sciences de la vie et de la santé”

## 1 • Introduction

### History and geographical location of the unit

INSERM UMR\_S 1109 unit - Molecular ImmunoRheumatology (IRM) - located at the University of Strasbourg was founded in 2013 through the merger of 2 research teams “Pathophysiology of arthritis” and “Human Molecular Immunogenetics” to create a single laboratory with internationally competitive scientific and clinical expertise, access to cutting edge technology and a critical multi-disciplinary mass of well-trained clinician scientists, basic scientists, and engineers.

### Management team

The IRM unit is directed by Mr Seiamak BARHAM; Mr Jean SIBILIA is deputy head.

### HCERES nomenclature

SVE3

### Scientific domains

The major scientific domains of the IRM unit comprise: Immunogenetics; Rheumatology; Oncology and HIV Immunovirology. Each of these domains integrates basic, translational and clinical science and exploits the cutting edge technology of the Genomax platform.

Unit workforce

Unit workforce	Number on 30/06/2016	Number on 01/01/2018
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	16	13
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions	7	6
N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	20	18
N4: Other researchers (Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)	8	
N5: Emeritus	1	
N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	6	
N7: PhD students	20	
TOTAL N1 to N7	78	
Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions	18	

Unit record	From 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2016
PhD theses defended	15
Postdoctoral scientists having spent at least 12 months in the unit	8
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period	6

## 2 • Assessment of the unit

### Global assessment of the unit

Over the past 3.5 years, the IRM unit has undergone rapid, strategic change and evolution that has significantly strengthened the capacity of the unit and streamlined its research agenda. The unit head has reorganised some of the existing teams and included/merged additional research groups into the unit to optimise scientific direction and productivity.

The IRM unit performs high quality basic, translational and clinical science in each of the 4 focal areas. In all of these domains the unit has significant scientific strength and depth. The Genomax platform is central to success.

Importantly, the unit has been very successful in obtaining additional independent competitive research grants as coordinators and has been recognised as a centre of excellence multi-OMICS analysis of immune/inflammatory transplant related diseases nationally and internationally.

High quality data driven have been published in the leading journals in the field and are highly cited, confirming that the work of the unit has achieved international recognition. Patents have been published and interaction with the social and economic communities locally in the Alsace Region as well as nationally has been outstanding and resulted in the creation of the start-up company Biomica SAS.

The IRM unit has provided education and training for scientists, engineers and clinicians with an excellent record of success.

A critical strength of the unit is unit's director leadership and strategic vision.