LCB - Laboratoire de chimie bactérienne

Rapport Hcéres

HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education

Department of Research Evaluation

Report on research unit:

Bacterial Chemistry Laboratory

LCB

under the supervision of the following institutions and research bodies:

Aix-Marseille Université

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]

Victor Sourjik, 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:	Bacterial Chemistry Laboratory
Unit acronym:	LCB
Label requested:	UMR Université - CNRS
Current number:	UMR 7283
Name of Director (2016-2017):	Mr Frédéric BARRAS
Name of Project Leader (2018-2022):	Mr Frédéric BARRAS

Expert committee members

Chair:	Mr Victor SOURJIK, Max-Planck-Institut für terrestrische Mikrobiologie, Marburg, Germany
Experts:	Mr Mark BUTTNER, John Innes Centre, Norwick, UK
	Ms Alexandra GRUSS, Micalis INRA, Jouy-en-Josas
	Ms Hilde DE REUSE, Institut Pasteur Paris
	Ms Claire LE HENAFF, Institut Polytechnique de Bordeaux (representative of the CNU)
	Mr Hugues ROEST CROLLIUS, Institut de Biologie de l'École Normale Supérieure, Paris (representative of the CoNRS)
	Mr Francis-André WOLLMAN, Institut de Biologie Physico-Chimique, Paris
	Ms Elisabeth WERKMEISTER, Bio Imaging Center, Lille (representative of supporting personnel)
Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:	Ms Catherine SCHUSTER
Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:	Mr Frédéric BOCCARD, CNRS
	Mr Pierre CHIAPPETTA, AMU
Head of Doctoral School:	Mr Philippe NAQUET, Doctoral School n°62, "Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé"

1 • Introduction

History and geographical location of the unit

The “Laboratoire de Chimie Bactérienne” LCB was created in 1962 by Mr Jacques SENEZ. The LCB was an “Unité propre du CNRS” (UPR) from 1964 to 2012. In 2012, it became an Aix-Marseille Université and CNRS-funded mixed research unit (UMR). LCB is headed by Mr Frédéric BARRAS since 2004. It is located on the CNRS Joseph Aiguier Campus, in Marseille. Most of the teams moved in 2015 in a newly renovated building on the same campus. LCB is composed of 12 research teams and a microscopy core facility, the “biophotonic platform”, which is part of the research federation, Institut de Microbiologie de la Méditerranée (IMM), that groups 5 research units, sharing a set of technology platforms and campus.

Management team

Head: Mr Frédéric BARRAS

Deputy head: Mr Tâm MIGNOT

HCERES nomenclature

SVE2 Biologie Cellulaire, Imagerie, Biologie Moléculaire, Biochimie, Génomique, Biologie Systémique, Développement, Biologie Structurale.

SVE3 Microbiologie, Immunité.

Scientific domains

Molecular microbiology; Bacterial cell biology; Environmental microbiology; Bacterial metabolism; Signal transduction and differentiation; Macromolecular machines.

Unit workforce

Unit workforce	Number on 30/06/2016	Number on 01/01/2018
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	16	16
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions	21	19
N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	26	22
N4: Other researchers (Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)	6	
N5: Emeritus	0	
N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	7	
N7: PhD students	18	
TOTAL N1 to N7	**94**	
Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions	22	

Unit record	From 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2016
PhD theses defended	39
Postdoctoral scientists having spent at least 12 months in the unit	28
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period	6

2 • Assessment of the unit

Global assessment of the unit

The Laboratoire de Chimie Bactérienne (LCB) is the leading center for fundamental molecular microbiology in France and one of the leading centers of microbiology research worldwide. The research of the LCB in this field is outstanding at the national level and excellent at the international level. The unit has a clear focus on several key areas of molecular microbiology and bacterial cell biology. The LCB maintains strong collaborations among the teams, which have further been strengthened by ongoing establishment of the central infrastructure and by the move into a newly renovated common space. Several LCB teams have an extensive network of international collaborations and have excellent international visibility. The quality of the newly recruited teams at the LCB is excellent/outstanding, which demonstrates its attractiveness. Nevertheless, given excellence of the microbiology research performed at the unit, measures should be taken to further improve the international visibility of the LCB, which should help to recruit more excellent international PhD students and post-doctoral researchers, including those with own funding. Moreover, Marseille microbiology as a whole also clearly deserves higher international stature, and perhaps strategies should be developed to “brand” it in a way that will highlight more effectively to the world its outstanding strength and depth.