

LNPC - Lymphocyte normal et pathologique et cancers

Rapport Hcéres

► **To cite this version:**

Rapport d'évaluation d'une entité de recherche. LNPC - Lymphocyte normal et pathologique et cancers. 2017, Université de Picardie Jules Verne - UPJV. hceres-02030539

HAL Id: hceres-02030539

<https://hal-hceres.archives-ouvertes.fr/hceres-02030539>

Submitted on 20 Feb 2019

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HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research
and Higher Education

Department of Research evaluation

HCERES report on research unit:

Cellular therapy, immunotherapy and cancers

HEMATIM

Under the supervision of the following
institutions and research bodies:

Université de Picardie Jules Verne

Evaluation Campaign 2016-2017 (Group C)

Report published on February, 24 2017

HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research
and Higher Education

Research units

In the name of HCERES,¹

Michel Cosnard, president

In the name of the experts committee,²

Stefan Constantinescu, chairman of the
committee

Under the decree No.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: Cellular therapy, immunotherapy and cancers

Unit acronym: HEMATIM

Label requested: EA

Current number: 4666

Name of Director (2016-2017): Mr Jean-Pierre MAROLLEAU

Name of Project Leader (2018-2022): Mr Loïc GARÇON

Expert committee members

Chair: Mr Stefan CONSTANTINESCU, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Brussels, Belgium

Experts: Ms Nadira DELHEM, Université de Lille

Ms Michaela FONTENAY, Université Paris Descartes (representative of the CNU)

Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:

Ms Florence PINET

Representative of supervising institutions and bodies:

Mr Denis POSTEL, Université Picardie Jules Verne

Head of Doctoral School:

Mr Christian MASQUELIER, Doctoral School n°ED STS 585 "Sciences technologies Santé"

1 • Introduction

History and geographical location of the unit

The unit was created in 2003, under the direction of Mr Kaiss LASSOUED and is located within the Faculty of Medicine at Amiens. Its historical interests were early B lymphoid development and signaling, principally via the pre-B Cell Receptor (BCR) and via STAT5. The unit was renewed in 2011 as a single-team under the direction of Mr Jean-Pierre MAROLLEAU, with four projects based on analysis of normal and pathological B and T lymphocytes and their roles in lymphoid oncogenesis.

From 2011 until 2015 the unit was located in Amiens at the Medical School of the University, rue des Louvels, at a distance of 20 min from the hospital. Early 2015 the unit moved in the “Centre Universitaire de Recherche en Santé” (CURS) building on the Hospital area, with the actual address: EA 4666, CURS, CHU Amiens Picardie.

Management team

Between 2011 and 2018, the unit is/will be managed by Mr Jean-Pierre MAROLLEAU. The future director, starting 2018, Mr Loïc GARÇON arrived in the unit in 2015 and started research there in December 2015.

HCERES nomenclature

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

Secondary: SVE3 Microbiologie, Immunité, SVE5 Physiologie, Physiopathologie, Cardiologie, Pharmacologie, Endocrinologie, Cancer, Technologies Médicales.

Scientific domains

HEMATIM interests is on early B lymphoid development and signalling, principally via the pre-B Cell Receptor (BCR) and via STAT5, and four projects based on analysis of normal and pathological B and T lymphocytes and their roles in lymphoid oncogenesis.

Keywords: Hematology (erythropoiesis), Oncology and Immunology.

Unit workforce

Unit workforce	Number on 30/06/2016	Number on 01/01/2018
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	14	8
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions	1	1
N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	3	1.5
N4: Other researchers (Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)	4	
N5: Emeritus		
N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	2	
N7: PhD students	2	
TOTAL N1 to N7	26	
Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions	10	

Unit record	From 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2016
PhD theses defended	4
Postdoctoral scientists having spent at least 12 months in the unit	8
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period	2

2 • Assessment of the unit

Global assessment of the unit

The future unit HEMATIM will be directed by Mr Loïc GARÇON with a well-integrated focus on erythropoiesis, lymphopoiesis and malignant hematological diseases.

It builds on the previous unit that was more heterogeneous in its organization, and from where non-hematopoietic projects have been transferred to other structures.

The previous unit (contract 2012-2016), following Aeres recommendation has 2 axis of research. Axis 1 was on the control of tumoral progression and axis 2 on infection and immunity. Before the end of the contract the leader of axis 2 has left the unit. The unit was then restructured around two axis of research: one on immuno-hematopoiesis and one on translational research with chemists (Oncoside).

Two other teams have joined the unit, during the last contract: one on development of vascularised bone tissues and one on hepatocarcinoma.

These two latter teams are not part of the future project of the unit directed by Mr Loïc GARÇON.

The future project of the unit will have 3 axis, one in hematology, one in immunology and one in lymphopoiesis, inflammatory diseases and cancer, with a reduced number of researchers.

The first axis on hematopoiesis and erythropoiesis is led by the future director since his arrival on November 2015. The second axis is led by a researcher from the former unit (Immuno-hematology axis) and is focused on B cells, inflammatory diseases and cancers. The third axis of research is on the role of NK cells. It is co-led since 2016 by the former director of the unit and one of the other investigators, a clinical scientist who established strong links with a team specialized on Immunology and NK cells at Hospital Saint-Louis in Paris.

The scientific record of the major investigators and their recent results offer major promise for the development of a very strong unit overall focusing on hematopoiesis undertaking several cutting-edge approaches.

The unit functions with senior members that are also major actors of the Hematological Biology Service of CHU, and manages to attract very good MDs to perform research. Several staff members have already been recruited that ensure molecular and technical aspects. Of the major projects, erythropoiesis and leukemia hold major potential for translational studies in the clinics.