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## **SESSTIM - Sciences économiques et sociales de la santé et traitement de l'information médicale**

Rapport Hcéres

► **To cite this version:**

Rapport d'évaluation d'une entité de recherche. SESSTIM - Sciences économiques et sociales de la santé et traitement de l'information médicale. 2017, Aix-Marseille université - AMU, Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale - INSERM, Institut de recherche pour le développement - IRD. hceres-02030677

**HAL Id: hceres-02030677**

**<https://hal-hceres.archives-ouvertes.fr/hceres-02030677v1>**

Submitted on 20 Feb 2019

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# HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research  
and Higher Education

Department of Research Evaluation

report on research unit:

Economic and Social Health Sciences & Medical  
Information Processing  
SESSTIM

under the supervision of  
the following institutions  
and research bodies:

Aix-Marseille Université

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

Institut de Recherche pour le Développement - IRD

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>*

Sylvie Chevret, 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:	Economic and Social Sciences of Health & Medical Information Processing
Unit acronym:	SESSTIM
Label requested:	UMR
Current number:	912
Name of Director (2016-2017):	Mr Roch GIORGI
Name of Project Leader (2018-2022):	Mr Roch GIORGI

## Expert committee members

Chair: Ms Sylvie CHEVRET, Université Paris Diderot

Experts: Ms Christine LASSET, CNRS, Université de Lyon 1

Ms Amanda MOCROFT, University College London, United Kingdom

Ms Nathalie PELLETIER-FLEURY, CESP, INSERM

Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:

Mr Philippe VANHEMS

Representative of supervising institutions and bodies:

Ms Marie-Joseph LEROY-ZAMIA, INSERM

Ms Valérie SALIN, IRD

Mr Denis BERTIN, AMIDEX, Aix-Marseille Université

Head of Doctoral School:

Mr Jean-Louis MEGE, Doctoral School n° 62, "Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé"

## 1 • Introduction

### History and geographical location of the unit

The Joint Research Unit (UMR) “Economic and Social Sciences of Health & Medical Information Processing” was accredited by INSERM, IRD and Aix-Marseille University in 2012, under the direction of Mr Jean-Paul MoATTI. From 2015, March, the research unit has been directed by Mr Roch GIORGI, and structured into three different interdisciplinary teams in economics and social sciences, social epidemiology, biostatistics and medical informatics:

- team 1 on cancer-related applications (“Cancer, Biomédecine et société”, CanBios), headed by Ms Claire JULIAN-REYNIER, located at the Paoli-Calmettes Institute (IPC - Regional Comprehensive Cancer Centre);
- team 2 on infectious and communicable diseases (“Environnement, Systèmes de Santé et Maladies transmissibles”, ESSEM), headed by Mr Bruno SPIRE, located on the campus “Santé Timone - Aix-Marseille University”;
- team 3 on chronic diseases related or not to aging (“Chronicisation du Risque Santé, Systèmes de soins et Politiques Publiques”, CRISSPOP), headed by Mr Bruno VENTELOU, located on the campus “Santé Timone - Aix-Marseille University”.

During the previous contract 2012-2017, team 3, mainly composed of health economists, conducted economic studies on dependence, health systems in the South, on primary care services. Given the project of Labex Aix-Marseille School of Economics to develop a school of economics around a single research unit, members of this team and other members of the unit expressed their wish not to be part of the new SESSTIM project. This decision reflects their project to work in a scientific environment which matches their interests as researchers as closely as possible, and which is more rooted in the fundamentals of economics.

The new SESSTIM project for 2018-2022, was thus restructured into three research teams, and is still located in two distinct areas in Marseille:

- **CanBios**: Cancer, Biomedicine and society (headed by Mr Julien MANCINI) [Current team 1 with new members], this is the only team located in the Cancer Institute of Marseille, the “Institut Paoli-Calmettes” (IPC);
- **SanTer-Com**: Health, Spaces and Community research (headed by Mr Bruno SPIRE) [Current team 2 with new members];
- **QuantTIM**: Quantitative Methods and Medical Information Processing (headed by Mr Roch GIORGI) [new team; cross-sectional group comprising members from current teams 1 and 3, and new members].

The latter two teams are located in the campus of the Medical School, “Santé Timone”.

Both sites are less than 5 km apart, a reasonable distance.

### Management team

Mr Roch GIORGI is the director.

### HCERES nomenclature

SVE6 Santé Publique, Épidémiologie, Recherche Clinique.

### Scientific domains

The main scientific interests of the unit rely on the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinarity of the research themes centred on the evaluation of chronic and/or infectious diseases (cancer, HIV and hepatitis viruses, malaria, Ebola, cholera, etc.) and their consequences, with large interests in Public Health regarding the social, economic and cultural environments, the quali- and quantitative approaches for analysis, and a particular focus on developing countries.

## Unit workforce

Unit workforce	Number on 30/06/2016	Number on 01/01/2018
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	12	14
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions	10	9
N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	17	16
N4: Other researchers (Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)	18	
N5: Emeritus	1	
N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	20	
N7: PhD students	29	
TOTAL N1 to N7	107	
Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions	11	

Unit record	From 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2016
PhD theses defended*	23
Postdoctoral scientists having spent at least 12 months in the unit	10
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period	5

## 2 • Assessment of the unit

## Global assessment of the unit

The strengths of this unit are the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary of research themes in Public Health that are consistent with the institutional national policies and strategies. The research projects of the unit are mostly cooperative projects across several disciplines, that open up research avenues for the epidemiologists, the researchers in Social Sciences and the biostatisticians from the unit. The projects are based on researchers with a high level of scientific production, although the research thematic groups do not yet result in extensive collaborations, visible interconnections and cohesion between research teams; it would need more seminar and gathering opportunities.

The involvement of the group in training is rather high, with well-established and overbooked masters in Public Health, as well as important teaching commitment and significant time invested in teaching, both face-to-face as well as from distance and e-learning.