



M3I - Modèles insectes de l'immunité innée

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:

Immune Response and Development in Insects

RIDI

under the supervision of
the following institutions
and research bodies:

Université de Strasbourg

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique - CNRS

Institut National de la Santé Et de la Recherche

Médicale – INSERM

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

Gordon Brown, 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: Réponses Immunitaires et Développement chez les Insectes

Unit acronym: RIDI

Label requested: UPR-CNRS

Current number: U963-UPR 9022 CNRS

Name of Director (2016-2017): Mr Jean-Marc REICHHART

Name of Project Leader (2018-2022): Mr Jean-Luc IMLER

Expert committee members

Chair: Mr Gordon BROWN, University of Aberdeen, UK

Experts: Ms Catherine BOURGOUIN, Institut Pasteur
Mr Jost ENNINGA, Institut Pasteur (representative of the CoNRS)
Mr Mohamed-Ali HAKIMI (representative of the CSS Inserm)
Ms Corinne REGIS, Université Lyon1 (representative of supporting personnel)
Mr Luis TEIXEIRA, Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, Portugal

Scientific delegate representing the HCERES: Ms Sophie EZINE

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies: Ms Christine BRUNEL, CNRS
Ms Catherine FLORENTZ, Université de Strasbourg
Ms Marie-Ange LUC, Inserm
Mr Bruno LUCAS, CNRS
Ms Stéphanie POMMIER, Inserm

Representative of Doctoral School: Ms Catherine SCHUSTER, Doctoral School n° 414, « Science de la Vie et de la Santé »

1 • Introduction

History and geographical location of the unit

The Immune Response and Development in Insect unit (RIDI, CNRS UPR 9022, U963) was created in 1994 by Mr Jules HOFFMANN. He was director of the unit until 2006, when Mr Jean Marc REICHHART succeeded him. In 2002, supported by an Inserm AVENIR program, Ms Elena LEVASHINA established an Anopheles group; since 2012, she joined the Max Planck Institute in Berlin. Ms Stephanie BLANDIN and Mr Éric MAROIS took over the group, which is supported by Inserm (U963).

Since September, 2016, Mr Jean Luc IMLER and Ms Stéphanie BLANDIN took over the direction of the unit. UPR 9022 is one of the three CNRS units of the Institut de Biologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire (IBMC).

UPR 9022 is located in the IBMC, on the central campus of the University of Strasbourg.

Management team

For the end of the current contract, the unit is managed by Mr Jean Luc IMLER and Ms Stéphanie BLANDIN.

Mr Jean-Luc IMLER is the director for the next contract.

HCERES nomenclature

Main disciplinary domain: SVE3 Microbiologie, Immunité.

Secondary disciplinary domain: SVE2 Biologie Cellulaire, Imagerie, Biologie Moléculaire, Biochimie, Génomique, Biologie Systémique, Développement, Biologie Structurale.

Scientific domains

For the next contract major themes are: (i) antiviral immunity; (ii) antiparasitic immunity; (iii) signalling and effector mechanisms and (iiii) cytoplasmic purge and recovery in enterocytes.

Unit workforce CNRS UPR 9022

Unit workforce	Number on 30/06/2016	Number on 01/01/2018
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	6	6
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions	6	6
N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	14	12
N4: Other researchers (Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)	8	
N5: Emeritus	1	
N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	5	
N7: PhD students	14	
TOTAL N1 to N7	54	
Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions	7	

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	21
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period	4

Unit workforce INSERM U963

Unit workforce	Number on 30/06/2016	Number on 01/01/2018
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	0	2
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions	3	4
N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	3.5	3.5
N4: Other researchers (Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)	3	
N5: Emeritus	0	
N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	2	
N7: PhD students	3	
TOTAL N1 to N7	14.5	
Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions	3	

Unit record	From 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2016
PhD theses defended	2
Postdoctoral scientists having spent at least 12 months in the unit	6
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period	1

2 • Assessment of the unit

Global assessment of the unit

The RIDI unit works in the area of insect immunity focussing on interactions with a variety of pathogens, with a recent evolution of their studies into other defence mechanisms. The unit is taking advantage of model systems, but also translating their discoveries into insect models of human relevance. The unit has world leading cross-disciplinary expertise and is combining this with cutting edge technologies to gain significant insights into relevant physiological mechanisms which have potential for human benefit. In addition, the unit is making new discoveries with impacts that will generate new areas of research, such as the enterocyte purge. About 50 PhD students and post-docs from 22 countries were trained. In 2011, the Nobel prize of Medicine and Physiology was awarded to a senior scientist. Funding came from national and international grants and an Equipex grant is devoted to the insectarium equipment. The new insectarium will significantly enhance the scientific capabilities of the RIDI. It is in a transition phase, with senior scientists retiring, but the new director has a clear plan of succession. The work is outstanding and world leading in terms of its scientific discoveries.