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LNCA - Laboratoire de neurosciences cognitives et adaptatives

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:

Laboratoire de Neurosciences Cognitives et Adaptatives

LNCA

Under the supervision of
the following institutions
and research bodies:

Université de Strasbourg

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique – CNRS

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

Fabienne Collette, chairwoman 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: Laboratoire de Neurosciences Cognitives et Adaptatives

Unit acronym: LNCA

Label requested: UMR

Current number: 7364

Name of Director (2016-2017): Mr Jean-Christophe CASSEL

Name of Project Leader (2018-2022): Mr Jean Christophe CASSEL

Expert committee members

Chair: Ms Fabienne COLLETTE, Université de Liège, Belgique

Experts:

- Mr Jean-Christophe COMTE, CNRS Lyon (Representative of supporting personnel)
- Ms Anne DIDIER, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 - UCBL (Representative of the CoNRS)
- Ms Sylvie GRANON, Université Paris-Sud (Representative of the CNU)
- Ms Aline MARIGHETTO, INSERM, Université de Bordeaux
- Ms Nadine RAVEL, CNRS Lyon

Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:

Ms Céline SOUCHAY

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Ms Catherine FLORENTZ VP for research

Mr Bernard POULAIN CNRS

Mr Patrice SOULLIÉ CNRS

Head of Doctoral School:

Mr Serge POTIER, Doctoral School N° 414, « École Doctorale des Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé »

1 • Introduction

History and geographical location of the unit

The Laboratory of Cognitive and Adaptative Neuroscience (LNCA, UMR 7364) has been created on 1st January 2013 and is headed by Mr Jean-Christophe CASSEL, professor at Unistra. The laboratory was created with three of the five research teams of the LINC (“Laboratoire d’Imagerie et de Neurosciences Cognitives”, created in 2007). The laboratory was split in four teams, with 20 researchers and 10 technical staff.

Since the 1st of January 2013, the unit is located on two sites, one on the Historical Campus of the University of Strasbourg, in the building hosting the faculty of psychology (Teams 1, 2 and 3), the other one on the Cronenbourg Campus of the CNRS (Team 4).

Management team

The unit director is Mr Jean-Christophe CASSEL and the deputy-Director is Dr Christian KELCHE.

HCERES nomenclature

SVE4 Neurologie.

Scientific domains

The research developed in the unit is related to the domains of cognitive and integrative neuroscience. The research work spans from the subcellular (genetic, epigenetic, transcriptomic) to the behavioral level and concerns the neurobiology of cognition and plasticity in rodent animal models (mice, rats; teams 1, 2, 3) and in humans and non-human primates (team 4). A transversal thematic across the unit is the exploration of aging at a neurobiological and cognitive level. Non-invasive research projects on cognitive ageing in nonhuman primates are also being developed.

Unit workforce

| Unit workforce | Number on 30/06/2016 | Number on 01/01/2018 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| N1: Permanent professors and similar positions | 7 | 7 |
| N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions | 12 | 12 |
| N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel) | 10 | 9 |
| N4: Other researchers (Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.) | 3 | |
| N5: Emeritus | 1 | |
| N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel) | 1 | |
| N7: PhD students | 13 | |
| TOTAL N1 to N7 | 47 | |
| Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions | 15 | |

| Unit record | From 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2016 |
|---|-------------------------------|
| PhD theses defended | 14 |
| Postdoctoral scientists having spent at least 12 months in the unit | 4 |
| Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period | 5 |

2 • Assessment of the unit

Global assessment of the unit

The unit is part of the Neuropôle of Strasbourg. The Neuropôle of Strasbourg is managed by a directory board and federates 33 research teams from 9 laboratories and 6 center or technological platforms. These teams work in numerous domains of fundamental and clinical neurosciences. This (and more particularly publications) testify of the academic reputation of the LNCA (see however the detailed analysis of each unit for some discrepancies between units).

First, both institutions acknowledge the new dynamics of the lab and a turned-up trust of the staff. Strength of the unit lays in its research program and scientific publications that are at a very good level, and also in the active involvement of its members in search for financing, teaching/formation by research and interaction with the academic and social environment in a broad sense. Even if productivity levels and the anchoring of the team with the environment and the radiance in international events may still appear as irregular among the teams, the committee wants to emphasize the positive and fast evolution of the LNCA since 2007, taking into account the historical context of the unit and the AERES previous assessment.