ICT - Immunopathologie et chimie thérapeutique

Rapport Hcéres

HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research
and Higher Education

Department of Research Evaluation

report on research unit:

Immunology, Immunopathology and Therapeutic Chemistry

I2CT

under the supervision of
the following institutions
and research bodies:

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]

Muriel Moser, chairwoman 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:	Immunology, Immunopathology and Therapeutic Chemistry
Unit acronym:	I2CT
Label requested:	UPR
Current number:	3572
Name of Director (2016-2017):	Ms Sylviane MULLER
Name of Project Leader (2018-2022):	Ms Hélène DUMORTIER

Expert committee members

Chair:	Ms Muriel MOSER, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgique
Experts:	Mr Christophe CHAMOT, SFR Biosciences Lyon (representative of supporting personnel)
	Ms Gisèle CLOFENT-SANCHEZ, CNRS Bordeaux (representative of the CoCNRS)
	Mr Pierre MIOSSEC, Université Lyon 1 (representative of the CNU)
	Mr Wolfgang PARAK, Marburg University, Germany

Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:

Mr Kamel BENLAGHA

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Ms Christine BRUNEL, CNRS

Ms Catherine FLORENTZ, Université de Strasbourg

Ms Brigitte RENE, CNRS

Head of Doctoral School:

Mr Pascal DARBON, Doctoral school n° 414, « Sciences de la Vie et Santé »

1 • Introduction

History and geographical location of the unit

The unit "Immunopathology and Therapeutic Chemistry, ICT" is part of the Molecular and Cellular Biology Institute, IBMC, located at the central university campus Esplanade in Strasbourg. The current unit derives from a previous unit, created in 1993, named Immunochemistry of peptides and viruses - IPV, UPR9021, directed by Mr Marc VAN REGENMORTEL until 2000. ICT, UPR9021, was created under the direction of Ms Sylviane MULLER in 2001 and renewed twice, in 2005 and 2009. In 2013, ICT was created as UPR 3572 in its present configuration.

Management team

The current director is Ms Sylviane MULLER. The new unit will be managed by Ms Hélène DUMORTIER as director and Mr Alberto BIANCO as deputy director.

HCERES nomenclature

SVE3

Scientific domains

The unit is dedicated to the study on autoimmune phenomena and the search of innovative solutions of therapeutic intervention with synthetic peptides. The research focuses mainly on Systemic Lupus Erythemathosus (SLE) and related disorders.

Unit workforce

Unit workforce	Number on 30/06/2016	Number on 01/01/2018
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	7	6
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions	7	6
N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	12	10
N4: Other researchers (Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)	6	
N5: Emeritus	0	
N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	3	
N7: PhD students	16	
TOTAL N1 to N7	**51**	
Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions	13	

Unit record	From 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2016
PhD theses defended	19
Postdoctoral scientists having spent at least 12 months in the unit	14
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period	5

2 • Assessment of the unit

Global assessment of the unit

The unit's topic is focused on autoimmune phenomena. The main scientific interest of the unit was to develop their own transgenic models to investigate fundamental cellular and molecular processes of tolerance as well as therapeutic approaches. Its objectives were to manipulate the immune system of: (i) autoimmune prone mice to interfere with the course of the disease or (ii) of normal mice to make them susceptible to the disease. The unit also studied human patients thanks to clinicians performing research in the unit.

Since the last report, the unit developed new technological skills thanks to new recruitments, in the field of cheminformatics and bioinformatics, advanced technics in molecular, cell and small animal imaging and animal behavioural studies.

The strength of the unit resides in the fact that they perform both fundamental and translational research and study in parallel animal models and human patients. Of note, they have developed original transgenic murine models. In addition their research is transdisciplinary. However, a weakness is that most articles during the reference period were only published in good-to very good international journals.

The unit has very good fundraising capacity (including european contracts, ANR, CNRS, foundations, regional and industrial contracts) and is part of the labex Medalis and labex CSC (Chimie des Systèmes Complexes). The unit showed exellent technology transfer capacity, training quality, and attractivity for foreign students as assessed by the recruitment of foreign post-docs in the past 5 years.

This is a very good unit that proposes an excellent project for the future, although the high diversity of projects may need a prioritization.