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NPS - Neurosciences Paris Seine

Rapport Hcéres

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REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Neuroscience Paris Seine (NPS)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Université Pierre et Marie Curie

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

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -
CNRS

ÉVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018
GROUP D



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the expert committee²:

Jozsef Zoltan Kiss, Chairman of the
committee

Under the decree No.2014-1365 dated 14 November 2014,

¹ The president of Hcéres "countersigns the evaluation reports set up by the expert 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).

This report is the sole result of the unit's 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 PRESENTATION

Unit name:	Neuroscience Paris Seine
Unit acronym:	NPS
Requested label:	
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	CNRS UMR82466/Inserm U1130/UPMC UMCR18
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Mr Hervé CHNEIWEISS
Project leader (2019-2023):	Mr Hervé CHNEIWEISS
Number of teams or themes:	13 + 1 ATIP/Avenir

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Jozsef Zoltan Kiss, University of Geneva, Switzerland
Deputy chair:	Mr Bruno POUCKET, Aix – Marseille Université
Experts:	Mr Patrick EDERY, Université de Lyon
	Mr Laurent GROC, Université de Bordeaux
	Mr Étienne GUILLAUD, Université de Bordeaux (supporting personnel)
	Mr Éric LINGUEGLIA, IPMC (representative of CoNRS)
	Mr Jacques MICHEAU, Université de Bordeaux (representative of CNU)
	Mr Christophe MULLE, Université de Bordeaux
	Mr Vincent PRÉVOT, Université de Lille (representative of INSERM CSS)
	Ms Muriel THOBY-GRISSEON, Université de Bordeaux
HCERES scientific officer:	Ms Céline SOUCHAY

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Mr Étienne HIRSCH, INSERM

Mr Bertrand MEYER, UPMC

Mr Bernard POULAIN, CNRS

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The Neuroscience Paris Seine (NPS) research unit is part of the Institute of Biology Paris Seine (IBPS) and located in the Cassan building at the University Pierre and Marie Curie (UPMC). The unit has been created in 2014 by merging three independent research units: 1) the CNRS/UPMC 'Neurobiology of Adaptive Processes' unit –NPA; 2) the INSERM/CNRS/UPMC 'Physiopathology of Central Nervous System Diseases' lab –PMSNC; and 3) a research unit from University Paris Descartes (Centre for Psychiatry and Neuroscience, CPN, Sainte-Anne Hospital). The NPS benefits from a central location at the core of Parisian neuroscience and takes advantage of the infrastructure and collaborations with the IBPS, UPMC, École Normale Supérieure and Collège de France. This unique environment of the NPS fosters collaborative research and allowed it to recruit outstanding researchers who set up labs and trained new generations of scientists.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The NPS is currently directed by Mr Hervé CHNEIWEISS who will continue to lead the unit for the next 5-year term.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

SVE4_1 Neurologie

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

Research at NPS is in the domain of experimental neuroscience and covers a broad variety of topics, linking genes and signaling pathways to neural circuits and associated behaviors allowing functional characterization of candidate genes in animal models, the genomic elucidation of epigenetic marks during circuits during development, characterization of synaptic plasticity and neuronal networks with experience-driven alterations of the rodent brain, from behavioral changes to psychiatric disorders, from gene defects to lesions or aging.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	3	3
Assistant professors and similar positions	18	16
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	20	18
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	21	20
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	0	0
High school teachers	0	0

Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	30	28
TOTAL permanent staff	92	85
Non-permanent staff		
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	
Non-permanent full-time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	44	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	1	
PhD Students	88	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	133	
TOTAL unit		
	225	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

NPS teams deliver high standard research in the domain of experimental neuroscience and the Unit represents an important hub of neuroscience research, national and international translational projects as well as research training. During the last contract period, the national and international visibility of the Unit has been considerably improved. NPS members participated in and initiated significantly more international actions including organization of international meetings, conferences and schools. Moreover, NPS teams have succeeded to better connect to the pharmacological and biotechnological world and a significant effort has been made to better valorize their technical innovations. The Unit also improved the organization of the management team and succeeded to develop new common services. Overall the Unit maintains an excellent scientific productivity. The multidisciplinary, the great variety in expertise and topics provides opportunities for collaborative research within the Unit. In addition, NPS teams have established strong interdisciplinary collaborations with other groups in Paris. Another strength is the strong translational aspect of the scientific projects. While different teams pursue basic neuroscience, they have excellent relationships with clinical departments and university hospitals. NPS teams not only use a wide variety of cutting edge techniques but have also introduced a number of technological innovations, based on excellent core facilities and technical platforms. One weakness is the limited space and the insufficient building maintenance that represent an important road block for development of existing teams and the coming of novel teams. The number of non-permanent positions (e.g., postdocs) seems somewhat low, possibly due to the limited funding from external sources. In particular, NPS teams have no participation in European research consortia or no ERC grants. The two-headed leadership in the large majority of the groups is justified in some groups, but it may be problematic in others. Given the size of the Unit, the number of junior groups (one) appears quite low. This is somewhat counterbalanced by the recruitment of 11 junior researchers, which is clearly a success.

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