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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 Hcéres<sup>1</sup>:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the expert committee<sup>2</sup>:

Jozsef Zoltan Kiss, Chairman of the  
committee

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

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

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

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

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Chair:</b>                     | Mr Jozsef Zoltan Kiss, University of Geneva, Switzerland              |
| <b>Deputy chair:</b>              | Mr Bruno POUCKET, Aix – Marseille Université                          |
| <b>Experts:</b>                   | 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                      |
| <b>HCERES scientific officer:</b> | 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<br>30/06/2017 | Number<br>01/01/2019 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Permanent staff</b>  |                      |                      |
| 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        |
| <b>TOTAL permanent staff</b>  | <b>92</b>  | <b>85</b> |
| <b>Non-permanent staff</b>  |            |           |
| 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         |           |
| <b>TOTAL non-permanent staff</b>                                      | <b>133</b> |           |
| <b>TOTAL unit</b>   |            |           |
|   | <b>225</b> |           |

## 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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