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Normal and pathological hematopoiesis : Emergence, environnement and translational research

Rapport Hcéres

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REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Normal and pathological hematopoiesis:
Emergence, Environment and translational
research

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Université Paris Diderot
Institut national de la santé et de la recherche
médicale - Inserm

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018
GROUP D



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the expert committee²:

Simon Mendez-Ferrer, 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:	Normal and pathological hematopoiesis: Emergence, Environment and translational research
Unit acronym:	n/a
Requested label:	UMR-S
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	UMR-S 1131
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Ms Christine CHOMIENNE
Project leader (2019-2023):	Mr Stéphane GIRAUDIER
Number of teams:	2

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Mr Simon MENDEZ-FERRER, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Experts: Mr Giannino DE SAL, Università degli studi di Trieste, Italy
Mr Steffen KOSCHMIEDER, University Hospital Aachen, Germany
Mr Éric LIPPERT, CHU de Brest (representative of CNU)
Mr Frédéric MAZURIER, Université de Tours (representative of Inserm CSS)
Mr Philippe RAMEAU, Institut Gustave Roussy (supporting personnel)
Ms Naomi TAYLOR, IGMM, Montpellier

HCERES scientific officer:
Ms Urszula HIBNER

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:
Mr Laurent DELVA, Inserm
Mr Hervé DOMBRET, CHU
Mr Matthieu RESCHE-RIGON, Université Paris Diderot
Ms Laurence LOMME, Inserm

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The unit is located on the historical site of "Hôpital Saint Louis". The unit was created more than 20 years ago; its last director was Ms Christine Chomienne. The unit's past focus has been basic and patient-oriented research in myeloid malignancies. The unit has been addressing unmet clinical needs and has made very important contributions in this research area. In the current project, a team previously associated with Inserm U 1162, also located on the S^t Louis site, will join the unit.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The current head of this unit is Ms Christine Chomienne, the future head is Mr Stéphane Giraudier. The deputy director is Mr Robin Fahraeus.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

SVE5_4.

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The unit's research topics encompass the study of normal and pathologic blood cell production, novel implications of TP53 in cancer biology and immune cancer therapies. The haematological malignancies that are the focus of study are myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs), including juvenile myelomonocytic leukaemia (JMML), chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) and BCR-ABL-negative MPNs (polycythemia vera, PV; essential thrombocythemia, ET; primary myelofibrosis, PMF); myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) and acute myeloid leukemia (AML). The proposed studies comprise microenvironmental and epigenetic contributions to disease manifestation in young and old patients, the role of p53 mRNA in the regulation of the encoded protein, targeting the EBNA1 protein in cancers caused by Epstein-Barr virus and the origin of pioneer translation products for MHC class I pathway cross presentation.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	7	5
Assistant professors and similar positions	1	1
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	3	3
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	1	2
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)	8	8

TOTAL permanent staff	20	19
Non-permanent staff		
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	1	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	5	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	6	
PhD Students	8	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	20	
TOTAL unit	40	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

Overall, the scientific productivity of the unit (both basic and clinical) is of outstanding quality. The research focuses on identified unmet medical needs in myeloid malignancies, skilfully combining fundamental, translational and clinical research. This translated into an excellent scientific productivity, both in terms of quantity and quality, some of the unit's work having been published in top tier journals. Importantly, the scientific strategy took into account and addressed weaknesses identified in the last evaluation.

Of note, the previous unit head combines her responsibilities within the unit not only with clinical duties, but also with the highest level responsibilities in organising French national scientific policy in cancer. The unit has developed fruitful collaborations with pharmaceutical industries allowing for 5 ongoing clinical trials in MPN and other planned clinical studies streaming from the merged expertise of both teams. The PIs hold leading positions in international networks and as opinion leaders disseminating scientific knowledge. They were successful in securing funding from European, national and charity sources. The proposed project should profit from the common efforts of the two teams that will be part of the future unit. Their synergy is expected to crystalize upon the planned focusing on areas of shared interest.

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