VIRO - Département de virologie

Rapport Hcéres

Research evaluation

REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Virology Department

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH BODIES:
Institut Pasteur
Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale - INSERM
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique - CNRS

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018
GROUP D

In the name of Hcéres[1] :

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the experts committees[2] :

Richard Edward Randall, Chairman 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).

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.

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UNIT PRESENTATION

Unit name:	Virology Department
Unit acronym:	
Requested label:	
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Ms Monique LAFON
Project leader (2019-2023):	Ms Monique LAFON
Number of teams or themes:	16

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Richard Edward RANDALL, University of St Andrews, United Kingdom
Experts:	Mr Laurent ANDREOLETTI, University Hôpital Center and Faculty of Medicine, Reims (representative of INSERM CSS)
	Mr Benjamin BERKHOUT, Academic Medical Center of the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
	Mr Albert BOSCH, University of Barcelona, Spain
	Ms Sarah FIDLER, Imperial College London, United Kingdom
	Mr Philippe MANGEOT, Centre International de Recherche en Infectiologie, Lyon (supporting personnel)
	Mr John MCLAUCHLAN, MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research, United Kingdom
	Mr Ali MIRAZIMI, Karolinska Universitetssjukhuset Stockholm, Sweden
	Ms Éve-Isabelle PECHEUR, Centre de Recherche en Cancérologie de Lyon (representative of CoNRS)
	Mr Thomas PIETSCHMANN, Twincore Center for Experimental and Clinical Infection Research, Hannover, Germany
	Ms Ana SESMA, Mount Sinai Med School, NY, USA
	Mr Peter SIMMONDS, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
	Ms Nuria VERDAGUER, Molecular Biology Institute of Barcelona, Spain
	Mr Friedemann WEBER, Justus Liebig University, Giessen, Germany

HCERES scientific officer:

Ms Catherine SCHUSTER

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Ms Evelyne JOUVIN-MARCHE, INSERM

Mr Frank LAFONT, CNRS

Mr Reiner VEITIA, Université Paris-Diderot

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The department of Virology is one of 11 research departments of the Institute Pasteur (Paris). There are 16 research teams, which are located on the Paris campus, apart from one which has moved to the Gerland Pole, Lyon, to be close to BSL4 containment facilities.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The department is headed by Ms Monique LAFON with Mr Francis DELPEYROUX as deputy-head.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

SVE3_2 Virologie.

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The research teams work on viruses that are a present and continuing threat to human health and well-being, including, HIV, HTLV, influenza, rabies, HBV, HCV, Zika, arboviruses and viral hemorrhagic viruses, such as Ebola, Lassa fever and yellow fever viruses.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	2	2
Assistant professors and similar positions	3	2
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	23	20
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	22	14
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	6	7
High school teachers	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	72	61
TOTAL permanent staff	**128**	**106**
Non-permanent staff		
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	2	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	51	

Non-permanent supporting personnel	10	
PhD Students	42	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	**106**	
TOTAL unit	**234**	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The department of Virology of the Institute Pasteur is one of the largest Virology Departments in the world. It is a member of the Global Virus Network and has a world-wide reputation for the excellence of its research. In general, within the department there is an excellent balance between fundamental, applied, and public health programmes. Research topics range from structural studies on virus glycoproteins and antibody-mediated virus neutralization to virus-host cell interactions, including the interaction of arboviruses with mammalian and insect cells, virus evolution, innate mammalian and insect immunity, adaptive immunity and vaccine design. Personnel from a number of the research teams were heavily involved in containing and monitoring the Ebola, Chikungunya and Zika virus outbreaks, and a number of research teams house national reference centres, World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative centres for influenza, viral hemorrhagic fevers, hantaviruses, enteroviruses, arboviruses, and a World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) reference laboratory for Rift and Crimea Congo virus. Overall the department has a very impressive publication record and has been able to attract significant national and international funding. The department plays an important role in training the next generation of virologists. It plans to use advanced structural, molecular and biochemical techniques to dissect the molecular pathogenesis of virus infections, to apply the knowledge gained from such studies to improve human health and well-being by developing novel vaccines and therapies, and to further understand the factors that influence the emergence and re-emergence of virus disease and the epidemiology of virus infections.

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