EDC - Epigénétique et destin cellulaire

Rapport Hcéres

Research evaluation

REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:

Epigenetics and Cell Fate (EDC)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH BODIES:

Université Paris Diderot

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 expert committee[2]:

Bertrand Seraphin, 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:	Epigenetics and Cell Fate
Unit acronym:	EDC
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	UMR 7216
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Mr Jonathan WEITZMAN
Project leader (2019-2023):	Ms Valérie MEZGER
Number of teams:	7

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Mr Bertrand SERAPHIN, Université de Strasbourg

Experts:

Mr Alaa BADDREDINE, Université de Strasbourg (supporting personnel)

Mr Matthieu GERARD, Université Paris-Saclay

Ms Corinne GREY, Université de Montpellier (representative of CNRS)

Mr Andreas LADURNER, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Germany

Mr Saverio MINUCCI, European Institute of Oncology, Italia

Ms Rebecca OAKEY, King's College London, United Kingdom

Mr Ulf Andersson OROM, Aarhus University, Denmark

Mr Lucas WALTZER, Université Clermont Auvergne

HCERES scientific officer:

Mr Hinrich GRONEMEYER

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Mr Frédéric BOCCARD, CNRS

Mr Reiner VEITIA, Université Paris Diderot

Mr Alain ZIDER, Université Paris Diderot

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The unit of Epigenetics and Cell Fate (Epigénétique et Destin Cellulaire; EDC, UMR7216) was created a decade ago when the Université Paris Diderot built a new interdisciplinary research and teaching campus in Paris. The new EDC unit was created as an alliance between the Université Paris Diderot and the CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique).

The unit is located in the Lamarck building that was constructed at the time of creation of the unit. The unit occupies the 4th floor and part of the 5th floor.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

During the latest contract, the EDC unit was directed by Pr. Jonathan Weitzman (PRCE, Université Paris Diderot) with Ms Valérie Mezger (DR2, CNRS) acting as Deputy Director. In 2019, Ms Valérie Mezger will become the next director, seconded by Ms Claire Rougeulle (DR1, CNRS).

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

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SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The unit of Epigenetics and Cell Fate focuses on the mechanistic understanding of epigenetic processes governing cellular identity. The unit dissects epigenetic mechanisms in a diverse range of mammalian cellular systems. The main themes were:

(i) DNA methylation analysis and the role of DNA methyltransferases and proteins that recognize methylated DNA;
(ii) chromatin structure and post-translational modifications of histone tails, focusing particularly on the mechanisms to methylate and acetylate lysine residues;
(iii) impact of short and long non-coding RNA as either drivers or readouts of cellular states and epigenetic phenomena;
(iv) chromosome and nuclear organization as determinants of gene regulation programs;
(v) responses to cellular and genotoxic stress at the level of genome integrity and transcription.

Studies are targeted at providing mechanistic insights into epigenetic processes and at deciphering the contribution of epigenetics in physio-pathological contexts.

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	8	8
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	5	5
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	4	4

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)	11	9
TOTAL permanent staff	**30**	**26**
Non-permanent staff		
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	20	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	7	
PhD Students	11	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	**38**	
TOTAL unit	**68**	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

In a decade, the unit of Epigenetics and Cell Fate (EDC) established itself as a key actor for the study of epigenetic mechanisms governing cellular identity and response to the environment. The rapid development of this new unit was favoured by the dynamic and quality of the young teams that were recruited. The unit direction also implemented recommendations of the latest HCERES evaluation, in particular to deal with difficult issues, and this facilitated the evolution to its current status. The unit has been very productive with several key papers published during the last 5 years. The unit has clearly become an attractive place to work in epigenetics. The EDC unit is very active in teaching and dissemination of science to the lay public. Given its recent creation, relation with industry and the private sector remains limited but will certainly increase in the future. The working atmosphere and environment provided by the EDC unit is remarkably good. Yet, some minor issues to further improve this situation should be solved. This is particularly important to improve attractiveness and competitiveness of this unit that is developing in crowded area. The strategic project presented by the unit for the next 5-year plan is sound and solid. In particular, recruitment of a Bioinformatics team will generally improve research in the unit and its impact. The new direction should clearly remain proactive to maintain the unit at the top of the research in epigenetics in a very dynamic environment.

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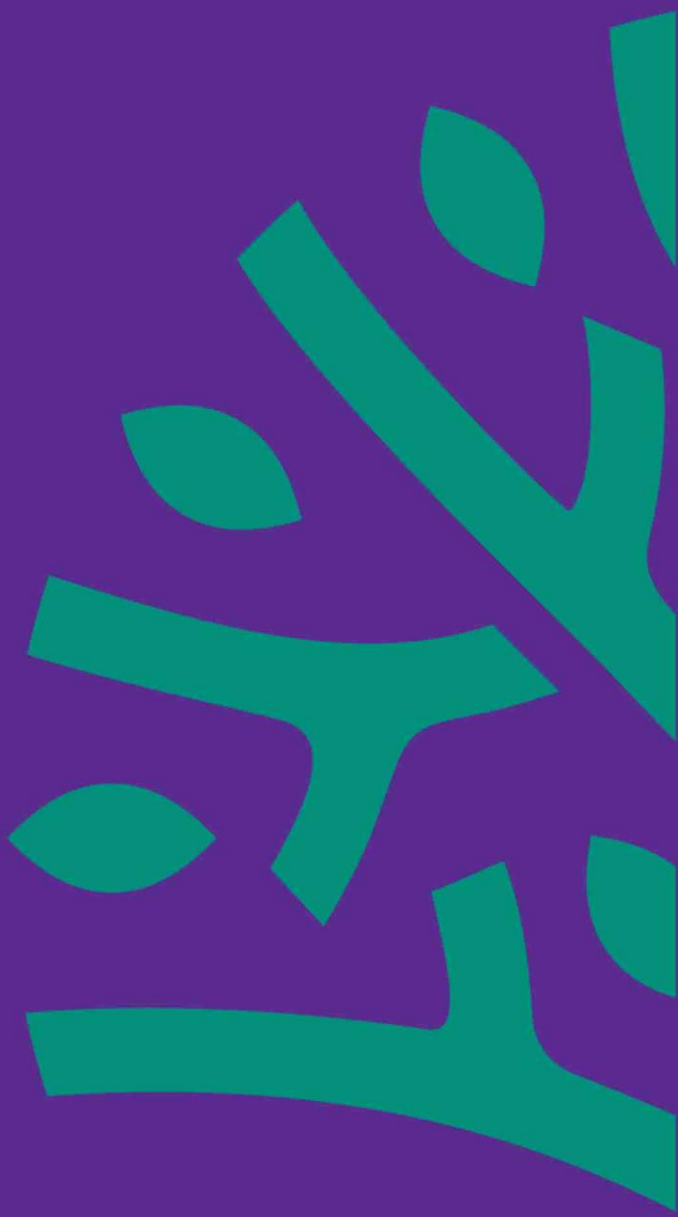

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2 rue Albert Einstein
75013 Paris, France
T. 33 (0)1 55 55 60 10

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