



**HAL**  
open science

## EDC - Epigénétique et destin cellulaire

Rapport Hcéres

► **To cite this version:**

Rapport d'évaluation d'une entité de recherche. EDC - Epigénétique et destin cellulaire. 2018, Université Paris Diderot - Paris 7, Centre national de la recherche scientifique - CNRS. hceres-02031389

**HAL Id: hceres-02031389**

**<https://hal-hceres.archives-ouvertes.fr/hceres-02031389>**

Submitted on 20 Feb 2019

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

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

**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>:

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

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>Chair:</b>	Mr Bertrand SERAPHIN, Université de Strasbourg
<b>Experts:</b>	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 4<sup>th</sup> floor and part of the 5<sup>th</sup> 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

SVE2\_2.

### 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
<b>Permanent staff</b>		
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

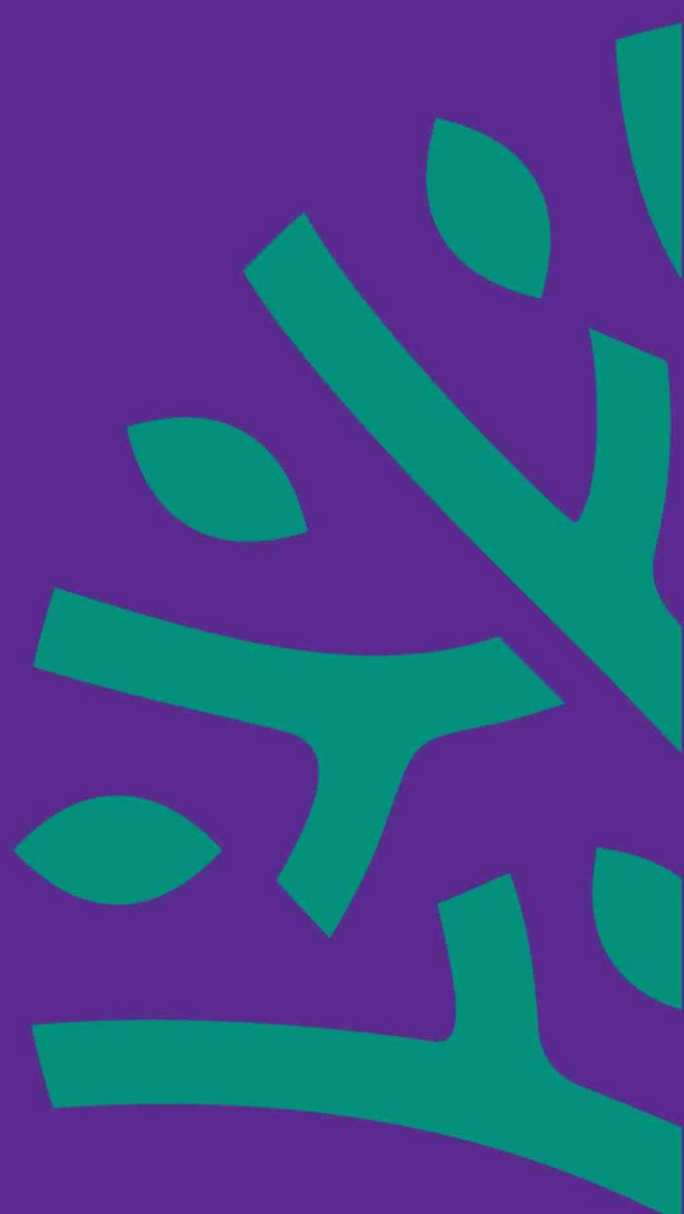
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	0	0
High school teachers	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	11	9
<b>TOTAL permanent staff</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Non-permanent staff</b>		
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	20	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	7	
PhD Students	11	
<b>TOTAL non-permanent staff</b>	<b>38</b>	
<b>TOTAL unit</b>		
	<b>68</b>	

## 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.

The evaluation reports of Hceres  
are available online: [www.hceres.com](http://www.hceres.com)

**Evaluation of clusters of higher education and research institutions**  
**Evaluation of higher education and research institutions**  
**Evaluation of research**  
**Evaluation of doctoral schools**  
**Evaluation of programmes**  
**International evaluation and accreditation**



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

[hceres.com](http://hceres.com)

[@Hceres\\_](https://twitter.com/Hceres_)

[Hcéres](https://www.youtube.com/Hceres)