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Research evaluation

REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Department of Neuroscience

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Institut Pasteur (Paris)

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -
CNRS

ÉVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018
GROUP D



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the expert committee²:

Patrick Haggard, 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: Department of Neurosciences

Unit acronym:

Requested label:

Application type: Renewal

Current number:

**Head of the unit
(2017-2018):** Mr Pierre-Marie LLEDO

**Project leader
(2019-2023):** Mr Pierre-Marie LLEDO

Number of teams or themes: 8

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Mr Patrick HAGGARD, University College London, UK

Experts: Mr Emmanuel BOURINET, Université de Montpellier (representative of CoNRS)
Mr Juan BURRONE, King's College London, UK
Mr Simon FISHER, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, The Netherlands
Mr Matthias KNEUSSEL, University of Hamburg, Germany
Ms Chrystel LAFONT, Université de Montpellier (supporting personnel)
Mr. Venkatesh MURTHY, Harvard University, USA
Ms Carine BOSSENMEYER-POURIE, Université de Lorraine (representative of CNU)
Mr Claudio STERN, University College London, UK

HCERES scientific officer:

Mr Jacques NOËL

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Mr Alain ISRAËL, Institut Pasteur, Paris

Mr Bernard POULAIN, CNRS

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The Department of Neuroscience of the Pasteur Institute was founded in 2002. The Department is located at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, 25-28 rue du Docteur Roux.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The director is Mr Pierre-Marie Lledo. The deputy director for the Department of Neuroscience of Pasteur Institute is Ms Isabelle Cloez-Tayarani. For CNRS Unit, the director is Mr Pierre-Marie Lledo, and the deputy director is Mr Pierre-Jean Corringer.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

SVE4_1 Neurologie

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The Department's work lies in the domain of basic neuroscience, particularly cellular and molecular neuroscience.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	3	3
Assistant professors and similar positions	3	2
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	4	5
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	15	17
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)	17	18
TOTAL permanent staff	42	45
Non-permanent staff		
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	

Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	17	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	11	
PhD Students	19	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	53	
TOTAL unit	99	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

For the purposes of this review, the department consists of 8 research units or teams working in basic neuroscience. The units cover several levels of analysis, from neural protein conformation, through to neural mechanisms of perception, and genetic bases of psychiatric conditions. Many units link basic research to important translational work, including clinical interventions and case registers. Five of the units reviewed here were also evaluated in the previous review (2012). Since the previous review, all these units have sustained an excellent level of scientific activity, evidenced by publications. The scientific quality is generally in the range between outstanding and excellent, with many papers in the very highest-ranking international journals. External grant funding, translational impact on clinical practice and patent activity have also been strong, though these are less evenly spread across the units. The research teams include a mix of permanent and contract staff, along with external collaborators. There is a shortage of senior "ingenieur" personnel. These individuals play an important role given the increasingly technical nature of neuroscience research. The involvement of PhD students in research is uneven, and the department could invest more in its natural role as a training hub.

The department has been successful in attracting one new research unit, and two junior groups, which jointly represent a coherent direction of scientific strategy towards circuit-level and behavioural-level neuroscience. The department is therefore growing in size, and in diversity, from its historical base in protein biochemistry and synaptic mechanisms. The department remains small in comparison with other neuroscience research centres, but it maintains a distinctive focus on basic mechanistic research of quality.

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

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