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IJM - Institut Jacques Monod

Rapport Hcéres

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Research evaluation

REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:

Institut Jacques Monod (IJM)

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 Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the expert committee²:

Nic Tapon, 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:	Institut Jacques Monod
Unit acronym:	IJM
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	UMR 7592
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Mr Giuseppe BALDACCI, Mr Roger KARESS
Project leader (2019-2023):	Mr Michel WERNER
Number of teams:	28

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Nic TAPON, Crick Institute London, United Kingdom
Experts:	Ms Patricia BELDADE, Université de Toulouse
	Mr Laurent BLANCHOIN, CEA Grenoble
	Ms Marie-Christine CHABOISSIER, Université de Nice
	Ms Sophie CHAUVET, Université de Marseille (representative of CoNRS)
	Mr Olivier CUVIER, LBME Toulouse
	Mr Roland LE BORGNE, Université de Rennes
	Mr Arnaud ECHARD, Institut Pasteur
	Mr Vincent FRAISIER, Institut Curie (supporting personnel)
	Mr Kristian FRANZE, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
	Mr Pierre GÖNCZY, EPFL Lausanne, Suisse
	Ms Nathalie LEBORGNE-CASTEL, Université de Bourgogne
	Mr Olivier NAMY, I2BC, Gif-sur-Yvette (representative of CoNRS)
	Ms Jenny NICHOLS, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
	Mr Markus RALSER, Crick Institute London, United Kingdom

Mr Jochen RINK, Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, Germany

Ms Nadine THEZE, Université de Bordeaux (representative of CNU)

Ms Helle ULLRICH, Institute of Molecular Biology, Germany

Mr Karsten WEIS, ETH Zürich, Suisse

HCERES scientific officer:

Mr Carsten JANKE

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Mr Frédéric BOCCARD, CNRS

Mr Karim CHEBLI, CNRS

Ms Sylvie ROUSSET, Université Paris Diderot

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The Institut Jacques Monod (IJM) was founded in 1966 as the "Institut de Biologie Moleculaire", and celebrated its 50th year in 2016. In 2009, the Institute moved from the Jussieu Campus of Universities Paris VI and VII to its present research facility, the Buffon building at the Paris Rive Gauche Campus of University Paris Diderot-Paris VII in the centre of Paris. The move to the Rive Gauche campus was accompanied by a considerable turnover of research teams (eight new teams joined at that time). This process has continued in the past quinquennium, with eight new teams being recruited to balance out the loss of ten teams (with one additional team leaving in 2018) through departures, closures and retirements.

During this period, the IJM was headed by Mr Giuseppe Baldacci. Following Mr Baldacci's retirement in September 2017, Mr Roger Karess became interim director until Mr Michel Werner took his post as IJM director in January 2018. At present, the IJM comprises around 320 staff and is one of the largest CNRS basic biological research institutes.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Head of the unit: Mr Michel Werner, deputy head: Mr Roger Karess.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

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SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The IJM has a wide research portfolio covering multiple aspects of basic biological research that broadly fall under three research axes: Genome and chromosome dynamics; Cellular dynamics and signaling; Development and evolution as well as two transverse research axes (Quantitative biology and modeling and Molecular and cellular pathologies). In order to avoid obstacles to scientific dialogue and collaboration, the research themes and axes do not represent formal departments, and research groups are encouraged to participate in multiple research areas.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	9	8
Assistant professors and similar positions	20	21
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	23	23
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	32	32
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)	59	60

TOTAL permanent staff	143	144
Non-permanent staff		
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	13	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	40	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	23	
PhD Students	42	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	118	
TOTAL unit	261	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The Institut Jacques Monod is a long-established basic biology institute (founded in 1966) located in the heart of Paris. Its broad research portfolio encompasses genome and chromosome dynamics, cell dynamics and signalling, development and evolution. Following a move and considerable turnover of the research teams in 2009, the IJM has made remarkable progress in the past quinquennium, as suggested by success in highly competitive international and national grant applications, a very strong publication output and an international reputation as a centre of scientific excellence. The attractiveness of the IJM is evident from the recruitment of several highly promising young group leaders who have integrated very successfully in the institute and created areas of real strength, with the emergence of a strong research line in biophysics/mechanobiology a particularly impressive example. IJM staffs are actively and successfully involved in teaching at Paris-Diderot University, and the institute has an extensive network of scientific interactions, both internally and externally. Finally, the IJM has excellent core facilities for imaging and proteomics, which provide added value for the institute and the Paris science community. While the outlook is highly promising, the IJM and its new director (appointed at the beginning of 2018) also face substantial challenges. The gradual loss of core-funded positions (CNRS and University) means that sustaining existing core facilities and providing technical support to research teams (both established and newly recruited) is increasingly challenging. Though the building is relatively new, there are a number of infrastructure issues, including air/water handling and insufficient IT/network capacity, which require urgent attention. Despite these challenges, thanks to a highly skilled and dedicated workforce and strong science leadership, the IJM is very well placed to consolidate its position as a flagship for basic biological research in the Paris University network and one of the very best bioscience institutes in France.

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