EGM - Expression génétique microbienne

Rapport Hcéres

Research evaluation

REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Microbial Gene Expression (EGM)

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 experts committees[2] :

Udo Bläsi, 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:	Microbial Gene Expression
Unit acronym:	EGM
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	8261
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Mr Harald PUTZER
Project leader (2019-2023):	Mr Ciarán CONDON
Number of teams:	6

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Mr Udo BLÄSI, Max Perutz Laboratories, Vienna, Austria

Experts:

Mr Fabien DARFEUILLE, Université de Bordeaux

Mr Bruno KIEFFER, IGBMC, Strasbourg

Mr Frédéric LOPEZ, CRCT, Toulouse (supporting personnel)

Mr Simon MORLEY, University of Sussex, United Kingdom

Ms Isabelle SCHALK, ESBS, Illkirch (representative of CNRS)

Mr Philippe SOUCAILLE, INSA de Toulouse (representative of CNU)

Hcéres scientific officer:

Mr Théophile OHLMANN

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Mr Hughes LORTAT-JACOB, CNRS

Mr Reiner VEITIA, Université Paris Diderot

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The unit "Microbial Gene Expression" is located at the "Institut de biologie physico-chimique" in Paris. The unit has been founded in 1959 by the late Prof M. GRUNBERG-MANAGO.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

During the last period Mr Harald PUTZER and Mr Ciarán CONDON served as director and deputy director, respectively. For the upcoming period (2019-2023) they will switch their functions, ensuring a smooth transition.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

SVE3_1 Microbiologie.

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

"Microbial Gene Expression"

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	0	0
Assistant professors and similar positions	2	2
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	5	5
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	9	9
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)	9	8
TOTAL permanent staff	**25**	**24**
Non-permanent staff		
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	11	

Non-permanent supporting personnel	2	
PhD Students	10	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	**23**	
TOTAL unit	**48**	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The fundamental, curiosity driven research at EGM is predominantly focused on prokaryotic gene regulation with strong scientific coherence of, and collaborations between the individual teams. The local concentration of researchers with focus on prokaryotic gene regulation makes EGM unique in the life science scene of France. The commitment of the teams to continue with this tradition is therefore warranted. During the past 5 years EGM has undergone a restructuring process in terms of organization and establishment of new teams. The recruitment of a team focusing on bacterial translation continues with the tradition of EGM, and the establishment of a structural biology team is an important asset to maintain the international standing of EGM. Using high-end technology, EGM performs frontier basic research with a very good international visibility. EGM effectively secured grants. These assets led to an increased number of PhD students and post-docs, and thus to a very good to excellent scientific output. Nevertheless, some groups either suffer from a drain of personnel or from a lack of researcher and/or technical positions. In addition, a strategy needs to be developed to make EGM more attractive for (international) PhD students and post-docs. Although the focus of EGM is and should be on basic research, in some cases EGM researchers may make efforts to interact proactively with the private sector.

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