Hétérogénéité, instabilité et plasticité

Rapport Hcéres

Research evaluation

REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:

Cancer, Heterogeneity, Instability and Plasticity (CHIP)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH BODIES:

Institut Curie

Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale - Inserm

Université Paris Descartes

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018

GROUP D

In the name of Hcéres[1]:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the expert committee[2]:

Yvan de Launoit, 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:	Cancer, Heterogeneity, Instability and Plasticity
Unit acronym:	CHIP
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	U 830
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Mr Olivier DELATTRE
Project leader (2019-2023):	Mr Olivier DELATTRE
Number of teams:	4

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Mr Yvan DE LAUNOIT, Institut de Biologie de Lille

Experts:

Mr Olivier BERNARD, IGR, Villejuif

Mr Louis CHESLER, Institute of Cancer Research London, UK

Ms Fumiko ESASHI, Sir William Dunn School of Pathology Oxford, UK

Mr Martin FIGEAC, Institut pour la Recherche sur le Cancer, Lille (supporting personnel)

Mr Diether LAMBRECHTS, Leuven Center for Cancer Biology, Belgium

Mr Nicolas PENEL, University of Lille

Mr François VALLETTE, CRCNA, Nantes

HCERES scientific officer:

Ms Urszula HIBNER

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Ms Geneviève ALMOUZNI, Institut Curie

Mr Christian CASSIER, Inserm

Ms Christine CHOMIENNE, Inserm

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

U830 is one of the research units of Institut Curie in Paris. It was created in 2007 under the direction of Mr Olivier DELATTRE, who continues to lead it. Its original scientific interests were strongly focused on tumour genetics. Today, the strategic orientation aims to promote basic multidisciplinary research, with developments in translational research for the benefit of patients, notably, but not uniquely, those suffering from paediatric tumours. This research unit has a long history in oncology with very well known scientists in their respective fields: Mr Alain AURIAS (retired in 2010), Ms Françoise MOREAU-GACHELIN (retired in 2013) and Mr Jacques CAMONIS who will retire in 2020. The research teams of the unit are mainly located in the Trouillet Rossignol building, however they occupy spaces at several floors, which is not optimal for the organisation of the life of the unit. This highlights the problem of severe constraints of available space at the Institute Curie in general and particularly acutely in this unit.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mr Olivier DELATTRE, unit's head and Ms Fatima MECHTA-GRIGORIOU, deputy head.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

SVE5_4; SVE2_1; SVE2_2; SVE2_3.

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The unit is interested in several aspects of cancer research. Cancer genetics and epigenetics are more specifically developed on breast and ovarian cancers, melanomas and paediatric cancers (like Ewing sarcoma and neuroblastoma). The original genetic program is now extended to studies of genetic instability and replication stress, in addition two other cancer-related topics are investigated; i.e. tumor microenvironment with the characterization of CAF sub-populations and tumor metabolism. These research axes are interconnected, inter alia, through translational research programs. The unit presented these last years a remarkable continuum from top level basic to translational research.

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	0	1
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	5	6.3
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	2	3
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	0	3
High school teachers	0	0

Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	21	15.3
TOTAL permanent staff	**30**	**35**
Non-permanent staff		
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	12	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	16	
PhD Students	16	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	**44**	
TOTAL unit	**74**	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

U830 is a research unit of a very high international level and reputation in the fields of fundamental and translational cancer research and with a strong interface with translational research at the Institut Curie. This facilitates access to large tumor collections, which nowadays is indispensable for top quality research. The strong reputation of U830 in the field of genetics of cancer has now been extended to other topics such as epigenetics, and including replicative stress, tumor microenvironment and tumor metabolism, for all of which a high-level research activity has also been developed. The unit coordinates - or participates to - international and national consortia in translational research programs. The unit develops and benefits from highly efficient platforms in the field of high-throughput sequencing, including RNAseq. Development of single cancer cell analysis is now a new challenge for the unit. In order to optimize translational and pre-clinical programs, the development of relevant GEMM (Genetically Engineered Mouse Models) and PDX models will be at the center of studies on new anticancer molecules. After demonstrating its efficiency and outstanding scientific production in the last five years, U830 proposes to develop very ambitious research programs combining state of the art technologies with the most innovative concepts in several fields of research in oncology. The unit has attracted two new teams led by very talented young scientists. One of these young PIs, who recently obtained a permanent INSERM position, holds an ERC starting grant and the ATIP-Avenir label. This is a pledge of great international scientific recognition. The second is a physicist with strong computational genomics expertise, who has obtained a "SIRIC team" label.

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