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IRIS - Physiopathologie de la vision et de la motricité binoculaire

Rapport Hcéres

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REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Physiopathology of vision and binocular motor
control (IRIS)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -
CNRS
Université Paris Descartes

—
ÉVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018
GROUP D



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the expert committee²:

John Stein, 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:	Physiopathology of vision and binocular motor control
Unit acronym:	IRIS
Requested label:	
Application type:	Restructuration
Current number:	
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Ms ZOÏ KAPOULA
Project leader (2019-2023):	Ms ZOÏ KAPOULA
Number of teams or themes:	1

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr John STEIN, University of Oxford, UK
Experts:	Ms Delphine PINS, Université de Lille (representative of CoNRS)
HCERES scientific officer:	Ms Catherine HEURTEAUX
Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:	
	Mr Bernard POULAIN, CNRS
	Ms Catherine LABBE-JULLIE, Université Paris-Descartes

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

Since 2014, the Team IRIS "Physiopathologie de la Vision et de la Motricité Binoculaire" is attached to the Fédération des Neurosciences des Saints-Pères (FR3636) and then affiliated to the Université Paris Descartes, UFR Biomédicale and the CNRS.

The IRIS Team is located within The Neuroscience Center des Saints-Pères, 45 Rue des Saints-Pères, 75006 Paris.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The director of the IRIS team is Ms Zoï KAPOULA, a CNRS research director. She is the proposed director for the future laboratory.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

SVE4 Neurosciences

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The IRIS Team is a small team, but with a very focused research theme dealing with every aspect of binocular eye movement control from its basic neurophysiology, through its interactions with the vestibular system and postural control, to clinical and cultural applications.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	1	1
Assistant professors and similar positions	0	0
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	1	1
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	0	0
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	2	2
High school teachers	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	0	0
TOTAL permanent staff	4	4
Non-permanent staff		
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	

Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	5	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	0	
PhD Students	6	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	11	
TOTAL unit	15	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The IRIS team is unique in both Europe and Internationally in studying every aspect of binocular eye movement control from its basic neurophysiology, through its interactions with the vestibular system and postural control, to not only the effects of its maladjustment on clinical conditions such as dyslexia, but also its influence on cognition and even on aesthetic judgments. Beyond this exceptionally broad range, the most unusual feature and strength of the Team is its extremely effective collaboration with clinicians. The team is a leader in the currently very fashionable field of 'translational medical research', which has culminated in the award of 7 patents which industrial partners should be able to translate into financial benefits as well. The team has also been successful in publishing an impressive number of papers, if we take into account the small size of the team. Many labs pay lip service to translation, but few are as effective in actually benefiting clinical practice as the IRIS team is proving to be. Moreover, the team shows clear strengths as concerns its research and funding as well as its capacity to train doctoral students and attract post-doctoral research scientists. Lastly, the development of tools for both diagnosis and rehabilitation is a major asset of the team. The outline proposals for future studies is ambitious, in particular to exploit the basic research already done, The small size of the Team could be a weakness, but it is counterbalanced by a very high rate of publication and a very strong dynamic from the actual members. Moreover, increased interactions with other research Labs within the Neuroscience Center des Saints-Pères could easily be enhanced with more administrative support. This would be beneficial for everyone and allow sharing platforms and technicians.

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