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Institut Cochin

Rapport Hcéres

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Research evaluation

REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Institut Cochin

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Université Paris Descartes

Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche
Médicale - INSERM

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:

Jean-Luc Imler and Georges Lacaud,
Chairmen of the committee

Martine Laville, Chairwoman 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 Cochin
Unit acronym:	
Requested label:	
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Mr Pierre-Olivier COURAUD
Project leader (2019-2023):	Mr Pierre-Olivier COURAUD
Number of teams:	38

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairs:	Mr Jean-Luc IMLER, Université de Strasbourg Mr Georges LACAUD, University of Manchester, United Kingdom Ms Martine LAVILLE, Université de Lyon
Experts:	Mr José ALCAMI PEREJO, Instituto de Salud Carlos 3, Madrid, Spain Mr Seiamak BAHRAM, Université de Strasbourg (representative of INSERM CSS) Mr José BENGOCHEA, Queen's University Belfast, United Kingdom Mr Serge BOTTARI, Université Grenoble-Alpes Ms Alice CARRIER, Centre de Recherche en Cancérologie de Marseille (representative of INSERM CSS) Ms Anne COOKE, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom Mr Olivier CUVILLIER, IPBS Toulouse (representative of CoNRS) Ms Jessica DOWNS, The Institute of Cancer Research, London, United Kingdom Mr Friedrich FRISCHKNECHT, University of Heidelberg, Germany Ms Ursula GROHMANN, University of Perugia, Italy Ms Sylvie GUERDER, Centre de Physiopathologie de Toulouse Purpan Mr Neil A HANLEY, University of Manchester, United Kingdom

Mr Adrian LISTON, VIB-KU Leuven Center, Belgium

Ms Noushin MOSSADEGH-KELLER, Centre d'Immunologie de Marseille Luminy (supporting personnel)

Mr Christian MÜNZ, University of Zürich, Switzerland

Mr Jan NEDERGAARD, Stockholm University, Sweden

Mr Rafael OLIVA, Facultat de Medicina, Barcelona, Spain

Mr Attila PATOCS, Semmelweis University, Hungary

Ms Catherine PORCHER, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Mr Cyril REBOUL, INRA-Université d'Avignon (representative of CoNRS)

Ms Sarah ROWLAND-JONES, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Mr Jean-Claude SIRARD, Institut Pasteur de Lille (representative of INSERM CSS)

Ms Karine TARTE, Université de Rennes 1 (representative of CNU)

Ms Elena TOMASELLO, Centre d'Immunologie de Marseille Luminy (representative of CoNRS)

Ms Lisa WIESMÜLLER, University of Ulm, Germany

HCERES scientific officer:

Ms Catherine SCHUSTER

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Ms Aude BOILLEY-RAYROLES, AP-HP

Mr Frédéric DARDEL, Université Paris-Descartes

Mr Alain EYCHENE, CNRS

Mr Yazdan YAZDANPANAHI, Inserm

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The Institut Cochin was created in 2002. It is affiliated to INSERM, CNRS and the University Paris Descartes. Located in downtown Paris, within the campus of the Cochin-Broca-Hotel Dieu Hospital, it offers excellent opportunity to develop interactions between the research teams and the clinical departments of the hospital. The Institut Cochin, which occupies 5 buildings and a total of 17,000m², hosts some 540 staff members, 60% of them with permanent position.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The director of Institut Cochin is Mr Pierre-Olivier Couraud. He is assisted by a deputy director, who was Ms H  l  ne Gilgenkrantz until 2017, when Ms Sophie Vulont took over the position.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

SVE3 et SVE5

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The Institut Cochin investigates the biological mechanisms associated with physiological and pathophysiological situations in humans and animal models. The 38 teams evaluated are grouped in three scientific departments focusing on distinct aspects of physiology and associated sets of diseases: (i) Development, Reproduction and Cancer (DRC department); (ii) Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes (EMD department); (iii) Infection, Immunity and Inflammation (3I department).

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	40	40
Assistant professors and similar positions	31	37
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	47	44
Full time research associates (Charg��s de recherche) and similar positions	57	50
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, Praticiens-Hospitaliers, fondations, industries, etc.")	2	14
High school teachers	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	148	154
TOTAL permanent staff	325	341

Non-permanent staff		
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	9	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	62	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	54	
PhD Students	90	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	215	
TOTAL unit	540	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The Institute carries research deciphering molecular mechanisms of human physiopathology in the broad fields of endocrinology and metabolism, development and cancer, infection and immunology. It involves basic fundamental research on experimental models as well as clinical research with strong translational development.

During the past term, the Institute has implemented the recommendation issued in 2013 to recruit young talented promising group leaders. The Institute also organizes an international symposium (J.C. Dreyfus) every year on a strategic theme of interest, which has started to contribute to the international visibility of the Institute. However, financial means to attract and consolidate young teams are still limiting.

The scientific output of the Institute is excellent, and results from contributions by teams from all three departments. To conduct this high level research, one asset of the Institute is the quality of the core facilities. Close association with the Cochin hospital and back and forth exchanges between bench and bedside provide unique opportunities for discovery and valorisation. The impact of the work conducted could further be improved by focusing on fewer topics per team. Animal housing continues to be a weakness, although plans are made to improve the situation.

Overall, the Institut Cochin conducts excellent research, well balanced between the three departments. The important relation with translational and clinical research is remarkable.

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

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