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Centre de recherche en Myologie

Rapport Hcéres

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REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Centre of Research in Myology

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Université Pierre et Marie Curie

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -
CNRS

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

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018
GROUP D



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the expert committee²:

Marianne de Visser, 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:	Centre of Research in Myology
Unit acronym:	CRM
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	UMRS 974
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Ms Gillian BUTLER-BROWNE
Project leader (2019-2023):	Mr Bertrand FONTAINE
Number of teams:	9

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Ms Marianne DE VISSER, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Experts: Mr Thomas BRAUN, Max Planck Institute, Bad Nauheim, Germany
Mr Jean-François DUMAS, Université de Tours (representative of Inserm CSS)
Mr Nils Erik GILHUS, University of Bergen, Norway
Ms Sabrina PISANO, Ircan Nice (supporting personnel)
Ms Sabrina SACCONI, CRMN, Nice (representative of CNU)
Mr Marco SANDRI, University of Padova, Italy
Mr Kevin TALBOT, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
Ms Carina WALLGREN-PETTERSSON, University of Helsinki, Finland

Hcéres scientific officer:

Mr Jean-Paul LALLÈS

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Mr Bruno Riou, UPMC

Ms Sylvie ROBINE, Inserm

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The Centre of Research in Myology (CRM) was founded on January 1st, 2014 (but there was already funding since 2012) at the site of the Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris.

CRM is set in the particular environment of the Institute of Myology (IM), based on a public-private partnership between the Association Française contre les Myopathies (AFM), represented by the Association Institut de Myologie (AIM – both charitable societies) and by public institutions, UPMC, Inserm, CNRS and AP-HP (Hospital facilities). The IM was founded in 1996 on the site of the university hospital "Pitié-Salpêtrière".

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The interim director, Ms Gillian Butler-Browne, served from October 2015 to the end of December 2017. Since mid-2017 she collaborated with Mr Bertrand Fontaine who will be the director of the CRM for the next mandate.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

SVE2-1; SVE2-3; SVE3-4; SVE4-1; SVE5-1.

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The Centre of Research in Myology (CRM) has a curiosity-driven research approach focusing on basic research, i.e. muscle biology in its environment. The second pillar is translational research in which the knowledge from basic science is translated into (pre)clinical applications and novel therapies for muscle diseases.

The themes of the 9 teams are the following: inflammatory muscle and innovative therapies, muscle cell organization and therapy of dominant centronuclear myopathy, myomatrix and myonucleus related diseases (genetics and pathophysiology), neuromuscular connectivity in health and diseases, repeat expansion and myotonic dystrophy, signaling pathways and striated muscles, myasthenia gravis: etiology, physiopathology and therapeutic approaches, cell and molecular orchestration in muscle regeneration, ageing and diseases, biotherapies and pathophysiology of neuromuscular disorders.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	6	9
Assistant professors and similar positions	11	15
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	12	14
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	18	21
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)	18	20
TOTAL permanent staff	65	79
Non-permanent staff		
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	22	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	0	
PhD Students	29	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	51	
TOTAL unit		
	116	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The Centre of Research in Myology (CRM) is a unique young institute, which aims to perform research on unravelling muscle function and muscle disease. The generated knowledge will be applied to finding innovative therapies to ultimately cure patients with neuromuscular disorders. This is greatly facilitated by the strong interaction with the hospital. Some of the team leaders are also clinicians. A notable development, which will strengthen this relationship, is that the unit director will become Head of the Clinical Myology integrated service to be established in the hospital.

CRM includes 9 teams that focus on a limited set of neuromuscular diseases. There is a strong will to strengthen collaboration between the teams, which is currently hampered by their physical separation.

The scientific output (articles in medical journals with a high impact factor, patents, and collaborations with industry) is very good, but there is certainly room for more improvement. This is an institute with high potential in which rejuvenation is taking place. The future director is keen to stimulate new leadership and strives for so-called disruptive discoveries. For that, competitive grants in the EU arena are required.

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