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Centre de production et infection des anophèles

Rapport Hcéres

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agence d'évaluation de la recherche
et de l'enseignement supérieur

Section des Unités de recherche

AERES report on the research unit

Center for the production and Infection of Anopheles

From the

Pasteur Institute

May 2010



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Le Président
de l'AERES

Jean-François Dhainaut

Section des unités
de recherche

Le Directeur

Pierre Glorieux

May 2010



Research Unit

Name of the research unit : Center for the Production and Infection of Anopheles

Requested label : Pasteur Unit

N° in the case of renewal :

Name of the director : Ms. Catherine BOURGOUIN

Members of the review committee

Committee chairman

Ms. Deborah SMITH, University of York, UK

Other committee members

M. David ROOS, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA

M. Graham BROWN, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Australia

Ms. Alistair CRAIG, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK

M. Mike FERGUSON, University of Dundee, UK

M. Neil GOW, University of Aberdeen, UK

M. José RIBEIRO, NIH, Bethesda, USA

M. Mats. WAHLGREN, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

M. Michel NUSSENZWEIG, The Rockefeller University, NY, USA

M. David SIBLEY, Washington University, St. Louis, USA

M. Jérôme ESTAQUIER, IMRB, Paris, France

Observers

AERES scientific advisor

M. Nicolas GLAICHENHAUS

University, School and Research Organization representatives

M. Alain ISRAEL, Pasteur Institute



Report

1 • Introduction

- Date and execution of the visit :

This unit was evaluated as part of the Department of Parasitology and Mycology on October 5, 2009.

- History and geographical localization of the research unit, and brief presentation of its field and scientific activities :

This unit belongs to the Department of Parasitology and Mycology of the Pasteur Institute.

- Management team :

The head of this team is Ms. Catherine Bourguin.

- Staff members :

	Past	Future
N1: Number of researchers with teaching duties (Form 2.1 of the application file)	0	0
N2: Number of full time researchers from research organizations (Form 2.3 of the application file)	1	1
N3: Number of other researchers including postdoctoral fellows (Form 2.2 and 2.4 of the application file)	1	0
N4: Number engineers, technicians and administrative staff with a tenured position (Form 2.5 of the application file)	7	7
N5: Number engineers, technicians and administrative staff without a tenured position (Form 2.6 of the application file)	0	0
N6: Number of Ph.D. students (Form 2.7 of the application file)	0	0
N7: Number of staff members with a HDR or a similar grade	1	1



2 • Overall appreciation on the research unit

- Strengths and opportunities

Impressive efficiency in the mass production of high quality anopheline mosquitoes for research (among the best in the world).

Production of Plasmodium falciparum gametocytes infectious to mosquitoes.

Excellent record of staff management and motivation.

Creative product development research to assure the optimal delivery of quality mosquitoes.

Enables the institute, and other French institutions, to conduct cutting-edge research in the challenging area of malaria vector biology. Actively engaged in an impressive array of collaborative projects.

- Weaknesses and threats

Increased demand for P. falciparum-infected mosquitoes places a stress on personnel, especially given suboptimal facility size and design.

Friction can occasionally arise between user expectations and realistic facility deliverables.

Failure to develop a strategy for more effectively meeting the needs of rodent malaria researchers could compromise the potential of this highly successful line of research.

- Recommendations to the head of the research unit

Remodeling existing space so as to maximize operational efficiency.

Develop a carefully thought-out assessment of the full cost of mosquito production and infection, taking into consideration all labor, equipment and supplies.

Implement (i) an oversight committee to help with project prioritization, (ii) a user group to facilitate timely discussion of concerns as they arise, and (iii) metrics for evaluating performance.

Establish a realistic set of expectations for the platform director, including (i) continued active facility management and oversight, (ii) opportunities for product development research (which should be appropriately recognized and supported), and (iii) clearly-defined expectations for collaborative research projects.

- Production results

A1: Number of lab members among permanent researchers with teaching duties who are active in research (recorded in N1 and N2)	0
A2: Number of lab members among permanent researchers without teaching duties who are active in research (recorded in N3, N4 and N5)	1
A3: Ratio of members who are active in research among staff members $[A1/(N1+N2)]$	1 / 1
A4: Number of HDR granted during the past 4 years	0
A5: Number of PhD granted during the past 4 years	0



Note de l'unité	Qualité scientifique et production	Rayonnement et attractivité, intégration dans l'environnement	Stratégie, gouvernance et vie du laboratoire	Appréciation du projet
non noté	non noté	non noté	non noté	non noté



INSTITUT PASTEUR

Plate-forme CEPIA

Paris, le 30 Avril 2010

A l'attention du comité AERES

Regarding the evaluation report of the CEPIA (EVAL-0755366A-S2110044821-UR-RPRELIM), I am not sure to fully understand the following statement

“Failure to develop a strategy for more effectively meeting the needs of rodent malaria researchers could compromise the potential of this highly successful line of research.”

Indeed, within the technical and human resources of the CEPIA, the needs in mosquitoes requested by the rodent malaria researchers have always been filled, and much effort has been developed for providing the most efficient equipment with the help of numerous climatic engineers. Increasing the human resources for the benefit of a single research Unit is beyond the concept of a Plate form. Implementing such a strategy is rather under the decision of the Direction of the Institut.

With kind regards

Catherine Bourguin

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