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GENHOTEL-EVRY - Laboratoire de recherche européen pour la polyarthrite rhumatoïde

Rapport Hcéres

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

Department for the evaluation of
research units

AERES report the research unit:

GenHotel-Evry

Under the supervision of the following
institutions and research bodies:

Université d'Évry-Val-d'Essonne - UEVE





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

Department for the evaluation of
research units

*On behalf of AERES, pursuant to the Decree
of 3 november 2006¹,*

- Mr. Didier HOUSSIN, president
- Mr. Pierre GLAUDES, head of the evaluation
of research units department

On behalf of the expert committee,

- Mr. Jean ROUDIER, chair of the
committee

¹ The AERES President "signs [...], the evaluation reports, [...] countersigned for each department by the director concerned" (Article 9, paragraph 3 of the Decree n ° 2006-1334 of 3 November 2006, as amended).



Evaluation report

This report is the result of the evaluation by the experts committee, the composition of which is specified below. The assessments contained herein are the expression of an independent and collegial deliberation of the committee.

Unit name:	GenHotel
Unit acronym:	
Label requested:	EA
Present no.:	
Name of Director (2013-2014):	Ms Elisabeth TEIXEIRA
Name of Project Leader (2015-2019):	Ms Elisabeth TEIXEIRA

Expert committee members

Chair:	Mr Jean ROUDIER, Université d'Aix-Marseille
Experts:	Mr Yannick ALLANORE, Université Paris Descartes
	Ms Natacha BESSIS, Université Sorbonne Paris Cité (representative of CNU)
	Ms Wendy THOMSON, University of Manchester, United Kingdom

Scientific delegate representing the AERES:

Mr Joost VAN MEERWIJK

Representatives of the unit's supervising institutions and bodies:

Ms Florence GONNET (Doctoral School UEVE n°423)

Mr Philippe HOUDY, Université d'Évry-Val-d'Essonne

Mr Pierre TAMBOURIN, Genopole



1 • Introduction

History and geographical location of the unit

The Genhotel Evry laboratory was created by Mr François CORNELIS in 1999 on the Genopole campus in Évry. It is a research unit of the Université d'Évry-Val-d'Essonne.

Management team

This is a one-team laboratory lead by Ms Elisabeth TEIXEIRA, a professor at the Université d'Évry-Val-d'Essonne. It includes three teaching researchers, three hospital practitioners, and two PhD students.

AERES nomenclature

SVE1_LS2 Genetics, genomics, bioinformatics

Unit workforce

Unit workforce	Number as at 30/06/2013	Number as at 01/01/2015
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	3	3
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions		
N3: Other permanent staff (without research duties)	3	3
N4: Other professors (Emeritus Professor, on-contract Professor, etc.)		
N5: Other researchers from Institutions (Emeritus Research Director, Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)		
N6: Other contractual staff (without research duties)		
TOTAL N1 to N6	6	6

Unit workforce	Number as at 30/06/2013	Number as at 01/01/2015
Doctoral students	2	
Theses defended	3	
Postdoctoral students having spent at least 12 months in the unit*		
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) taken		
Qualified research supervisors (with an HDR) or similar positions	2	2



2 • Overall assessment of the unit

GenHotel is a small research unit that develops good genetics research thanks to original cohorts of patients affected with Rheumatoid Arthritis. Based on the Evry campus, it offers a special service to any researcher asking for it: it can organize the testing of any kind of genetics project using its facilities and its cohorts.

Strengths and opportunities related to the context:

The availability of cohorts of patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis. They include hundreds of:

- trio families (a patient and his two parents);
- affected sibling pairs;
- multicase families (four patients or more in one family).

The local environment is very strong in genetics, with the presence of Genopole.

Weaknesses and threats related to the context:

This very small team lacks manpower and has a tendency to dispersion.

It lacks a strong clinical link with a rheumatologist to help direct the projects.

Recommendations

The experts committee suggests to recruit postdocs and to rebuild the link with the local rheumatology department.



3 • Detailed assessments

Assessment of scientific quality and outputs

This laboratory studies the genetics of RA, has collected samples from RA families and DNA samples from multi-case RA families and trio families (one patient and his/her two parents). Its projects are:

- 1/ characterizing the transcriptome in pre RA;
- 2/ characterizing rare variants in RA by whole exome sequencing and analysis of copy number variation.

This small team has published 34 articles in the past 5 years, half of them originate from the lab and are piloted by lab's members, half of them are published in the top ranked Rheumatology journals. For instance, the lab has published three articles in collaboration with a Pavia immunologist on the influence of RA susceptibility genes on autoantibodies in RA in 2012 and 2013. Conversely, studies of the transcriptome in the PBMCs of RA patients have been directed from the lab (PLOS One, 2009).

Assessment of the unit's academic reputation and appeal

This work has national, but not international impact.

Assessment of the unit's interaction with the social, economic and cultural environment

There is good interaction with patient's associations; the principle of Genhotel (i.e. hosting scientists to perform genetics projects using the GenHotel Facilities and cohorts) is also a good way to attract collaborations.

However, there is little interaction with economical environment.

Assessment of the unit's organisation and life

The unit's life is marked by a friendly atmosphere and good interaction between students and staff. Interaction with rheumatologists is lacking.

Assessment of the unit's involvement in training through research

PhD-students, which are from the Doctoral School "Sciences and engineering" (ED n°423), are well supervised. They meet with their supervisor once a week. Lab meetings are held every other week. The PhD students sign their articles as first authors. The current students all have published or are writing a first author paper. They travel abroad to present their data.

Assessment of the strategy and the five-year plan

This laboratory has expertise in the genetics of RA and has collected its own samples from RA families. They include DNA samples from multi-case RA families (more than four patients per family) and trio families (one patient and his/her two parents). It develops two strong projects on the genetics of RA:

- 1/ characterizing the transcriptome in pre RA (This project is developed in collaboration with laboratories in Clermont-Ferrand and in Geneva);
- 2/ characterizing rare variants in RA by whole exome sequencing and analysis of copy number variation.

Whole exome sequencing will be performed in multicase RA families whereas copy number variation analysis will be performed in trio families.

Both projects are solid and their strength stems from the unique collection of families (trio and multicase) collected by this lab over the years.



4 ● Conduct of the visit

Visit date:

Start: Tuesday, November 26th 2013 at 08.30 am

End: Tuesday, November 26th 2013 at 04.00 pm

Visit site:

Institution: Genopole

Address: 2 rue Gaston Crémieux, Evry

Conduct or programme of visit:

09.00 to 09.30 am	Closed door meeting: expert committee members and AERES scientific delegate (DS)
09.30 to 10.30 am	Presentation of past activity and projects of the unit by Ms Elisabeth TEIXEIRA (director)
10.30 to 11.00 am	Coffee-break
11.00 to 11.45 pm	Parallel meetings of expert committee members and DS with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PhD students and postdoctoral fellows• researchers with permanent position (except the unit's director)
11.45 to 12.15 pm	Meeting with representatives of the Université d'Evry-Val-d'Essonne and Genopole : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Philippe HOUDY, president of the Université d'Evry-Val-d'Essonne• Mr Patrick CURMI, chairman of the Scientific Counsel• Mr Pierre TAMBOURIN, general director of the Genopole• Mr Francis QUETIER, "Chargé de Mission" of research, Genopole
12.15 to 12.30 pm	Meeting with the representative of the Doctoral School "Sciences and engineering" (ED n°423), Ms Florence GONNET
12.30 to 01.30 pm	Lunch buffet
01.30 to 02.00 pm	Closed door meeting of the experts committee and DS with the unit's director
02.00 to 04.00 pm	Closed door meeting of the experts committee and DS



5 • Supervising bodie's general comments



Evry, le 25 Mars 2014

Michel GUILLARD
Administrateur Provisoire de l'Université
d'Evry Val d'Essonne

4, Boulevard François Mitterrand
91025 Evry Cedex

Réf. AERES : S2PUR150007908

**Direction de la Recherche, de la Valorisation et du
Transfert**

Objet : Réponse au rapport du comité de visite du
laboratoire GenHOTEL

à :

Didier HOUSSIN
Président
Agence d'Evaluation de la Recherche
et de l'Enseignement Supérieur
20 rue Vivienne - 75002 PARIS

Monsieur le Président,

Nous avons pris connaissance avec le plus grand intérêt de votre rapport concernant le projet GenHOTEL porté par Mme Elisabeth PETIT-TEIXEIRA. Nous tenons à remercier l'AERES et le comité pour l'efficacité et la qualité du travail d'analyse qui a été conduit.

Ce rapport a été transmis au directeur du laboratoire qui nous a fait part en retour de ses commentaires que vous trouverez ci-joint.

Nous espérons que ces informations vous permettront de bien finaliser l'évaluation du laboratoire.

Restant à votre disposition pour de plus amples informations, je vous prie de croire, Monsieur le Président, à l'expression de mes salutations respectueuses.



Bd François Mitterrand
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Tél. 01 69 47 70 00/78 00
Fax. 01 69 47 70 07

M. Michel GUILLARD

Administrateur Provisoire
de l'Université d'Evry Val-d'Essonne

Michel GUILLARD



Response to the AERES evaluation report – March 2014

GenHotel-Evry, UEVE, Ms Elisabeth TEIXEIRA

Thank you for your report and advices concerning our team. We would like to add some comments:

- Regarding *Weakness and threats related to the context* (2.Overall assessment of the unit): *It lacks a strong clinical link with a rheumatologist to help direct the projects and Recommendations: The expert committee suggests to recruit postdocs and to rebuild the link with the local rheumatology department*

Pascal Hilliquin, hospital practioner in Centre Hospitalier Sud Francilien, was mentioned in the functional organization chart of the unit. He could not be present on the day of the evaluation visit but he is involved in phenotypic expertise essential for our research projects. We will emphasize this local interactivity organizing regular meetings.

Recruitment of postdocs is one of our major current priority and we are currently applying for grants from ANR and European funds.

- Regarding *Assessment of the strategy and the five-year plane* (2.Detailes assessments):*It develops two strong projects on the genetics of RA*

We agree with the AERES report concerning the *very small size* of the team but we do not think that we have a *"tendency to dispersion"*: Our projects aim to combine our expertise in genetics with the genomic environment provided by Genopole® campus, always in the field of the rheumatoid arthritis (RA). We think that it is the best thing to do in order to compensate the small size of the team.

A project has been forgotten in this report. It concerns the environmental and epigenetic aspects of RA. Integration of those data requires statistical skills that are now "in house" after the recent arrival in our unit of V. Chaudru.

Best regards,

E. Teixeira