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Physiopathologie et diagnostic des infections microbiennes

Rapport Hcéres

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

Section des Unités de recherche

Evaluation report

Research unit

Physiopathologie et Diagnostic des Infections

Microbiennes

University of Versailles St Quentin



March 2009



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Evaluation report

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Physiopathologie et Diagnostic des Infections
Microbiennes

University of Versailles St Quentin



Le Président
de l'AERES

Jean-François Dhainaut

Section des unités
de recherche

Le Directeur

Pierre Glorieux

March 2009



Evaluation report



The research unit :

Name of the research unit : Physiopathologie et Diagnostic des Infections Microbiennes

Requested label : EA

N° in case of renewal : 3647

Head of the research unit : M. Jean-Louis HERRMANN (former director: M. Jean-Louis GAILLARD)

University or school :

University of Versailles St Quentin

Other institutions and research organization:

Date of the visit :

December 1st, 2008



Members of the visiting committee

Chairman of the committee :

M. Brian ROBERTSON, Imperial College, London, UK

Other committee members :

M. Frederic BOCCARD, Centre de Génétique Moléculaire, Gif-sur-Yvette

Ms. Cecile WANDERSMAN, Institut Pasteur, Paris

M. Roland BROSCHE, Institut Pasteur, Paris

Ms. Christine CITTI, INRA, Toulouse

CNU representative :

Ms. Marie-Cécile PLOY, Limoges

Observers

AERES scientific representative:

M. Stéphane MERESSE, CIML, Marseille

University or school representative:

M. Didier GUILLEMOT, University Versailles St. Quentin



Evaluation report



1 • Short presentation of the research unit

- Numbers of lab members : 13 including
 - 7 researchers with teaching and clinical duties
 - 1 postdoctoral fellow
 - 4 PhD students, all with funding
- Numbers of HDR : 6
- Numbers of PhD students who have obtained their PhD during the past 4 years : 4
- Numbers of PhD students currently present in the research unit : 4 all with fellowships
- Numbers of lab members who have been granted a PEDR : 0
- Numbers of “publishing” lab members : 7 out of 7

All the students have hospital and teaching duties and are only able to carry out their research on a part-time basis; two members of staff are the thesis advisors for the four PhD students.

Four students have gained their PhD in the past 4 years; no data was available on the average time taken. All of the lab members have published in this period; none been granted a PEDR. The existence in the team of several promising young researchers was noted.

2 • Preparation and execution of the visit

A detailed report was provided in advance of the meeting, which contained all of the required information. The visit started with overview talks by the laboratory leaders, followed by two more detailed scientific presentations. A poster session followed during which members of the committee discussed in some detail the posters with the scientist or student presenting it. The committee then interviewed the various members of the laboratory team, followed by a tour of the facilities. The facilities were extremely well organised and equipped, making good use of a relatively small laboratory space.



3 • Overall appreciation of the activity of the research unit, of its links with local, national and international partners

The committee noted that the research team displays a high degree of originality in their particular areas of expertise, namely *Mycobacterium abscessus* and on bone and joint infections. They have a large number of national collaborations and make good use of the specialist expertise available in other laboratories. A lack of international collaboration was noted. The team have strong links with the hospital and there are several potential clinical applications for their work; a spin-off company started by the team director is already in place. The team is well managed and we received only positive feedback from the staff interviewed. Although it should be noted that this may in part be due to the fact that most of the team have positions in the hospital, and are not reliant on the research-based funding. There was evidence that the team had performed well under the current director, and there were signs that it should continue to perform well in the future. A new thematic on respiratory viruses is proposed for the next period, but there was no presentation of the planned work, no discussion with the team member involved either. The team will move to new space in the next few years and this will provide them more space and access to better facilities.

4 • Specific appreciation team by team and/or project by project

Both thematics have produced a large number of publications over the last period, including thirty four on which laboratory members are either first or last author. Nine of these publications are in journals with an impact factor greater than four (top IF is 12.6), with another eleven in journals with factors between three and four. There is also evidence of many talks and posters presented at national and international meetings. The work on bone and joint infections has produced some particularly interesting information about the wear of artificial joints and how the uptake of particulate material interferes with the killing of bacterial pathogens. There was also mention in the report of the creation of a translational research team based around a project "Air and environment around the patient", but no further information about this was provided and it was not clear to the committee what this involved or how it fitted with the rest of the research programme. Overall the committee was impressed with the output from what is a relatively small focussed team.

5 • Appreciation of resources and of the life of the research unit

The research unit is well managed with tightly focussed research topics that make the most of the available staff and expertise. They make good use of their links with the diagnostic microbiology laboratory, and this allows them to leverage value for money from the resources they have. The team lacks full-time researchers, but seems to have made up for this with the dedication and enthusiasm of the staff. The doctoral students are well integrated into the research programme. The diagnostic and research components seem tightly integrated and this is reflected in a high standard of health.



6 • Recommendations and advice

– Strong points :

The thematics are cohesive and work well together, with tightly focussed areas of research. The main research topic has been chosen to fit with clinical needs, and is well suited to the expertise of the staff. There are extensive national collaborations.

– Weak points :

There is a lack of external research funding, and of international collaborations. The team would benefit from more full time researchers.

– Recommendations :

The team is in a good position to seek external grant funding, which would enable them to employ more full time researchers. In addition seeking international collaborations would increase the profile of the team as well as increase opportunities for funding, such as through EU and ERC programmes.

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



UNIVERSITÉ DE VERSAILLES SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES

LA PRESIDENCE

Versailles, le 26 mars 2009

La Présidente de l'Université de
Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-
Yvelines

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à

Monsieur Pierre GLORIEUX
Directeur de la section des unités
de recherche à l'AERES

Objet : Evaluation EA 3647 – Physiopathologie et Diagnostic des
infections microbiennes

Monsieur,

Ayant pris connaissance du rapport d'évaluation de l'AERES communiqué le 19 mars 2009 concernant le laboratoire de Physiopathologie et Diagnostic des infections microbiennes (EA 3647), je vous adresse ci-dessous les commentaires du professeur Jean-Louis Herrmann, directeur de cette unité de recherche et du professeur Gérard Caudal, vice-président du conseil scientifique à l'UVSQ :

➤ **Commentaires du directeur de laboratoire :**

1. Le rapport mentionne qu'aucun membre du laboratoire n'a la PEDR. Nous souhaitons que soit noté le fait que nous sommes bi-appartenants (Hospitalier et Enseignant chercheur), ce qui nous donne une double base salariale. Nous avons donc fait le choix d'emblée, de laisser la demande de prime PEDR aux mono-appartenants. Nous espérons que cela ne sera pas considéré comme un élément négatif pour le laboratoire (notamment avec 4 thèses soutenues durant ces 4 années et 4 thèses actuellement en cours, toutes financées).

2. Nous avons fait part d'une nouvelle activité: « Les virus respiratoires », mais en précisant que celle-ci ne se mettrait en place qu'à mi-parcours, expliquant ainsi l'absence de présentation orale. Nous souhaiterions que cela soit pris en compte dans le rapport.

Commentaire de l'UVSQ :

Cette équipe d'accueil s'intégrera dans le projet de fédération de recherche « Biologie et Biotechnologies » (FB2) de l'UVSQ. Elle viendra s'installer sur

le site de la faculté de médecine de l'UVSQ à Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, dont le bâtiment devrait être livré fin 2011, et qui comportera des surfaces dédiées pour les laboratoires. Cette future implantation à Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines est au cœur de la politique de l'UVSQ de développement du dispositif de recherche en bio-médecine. L'université a donc toutes les raisons de poursuivre son soutien à cette équipe d'accueil dans les années à venir.

Je vous prie de croire, Monsieur le Directeur, à l'expression de ma respectueuse considération.

Sylvie FAUCHEUX
Professeur des Universités

