Physiopathologie de la plasticité neuronale

Rapport Hcéres

HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education

Research units

HCERES report on research unit:

Pathophysiology of neuronal plasticity

Neurocentre Magendie

Under the supervision of the following institutions and research bodies:

Université de Bordeaux

Institut National de la Santé Et de la Recherche Médicale – INSERM

Evaluation Campaign 2014-2015 (Group A)

HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education

Research units

In the name of HCERES,[1]

Didier HOUSSIN, president

In the name of the experts committee,[2]

Daniela PAROLARO, chairwoman of the committee

Under the decree No.2014-1365 dated 14 november 2014,

[1] The president of HCERES "countersigns the evaluation reports set up by the experts 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)

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:	Pathophysiology of neuronal plasticity
Unit acronym:	Neurocentre Magendie
Label requested:	UMR
Present no.:	U 862
Name of Director (2014-2015):	Mr Pier Vincenzo PIAZZA
Name of Project Leader (2016-2020):	Mr Pier Vincenzo PIAZZA

Expert committee members

Chair:	Ms Daniela PAROLARO, University of Insubria, Italy
Experts:	Ms Catherine BARTHELEMY, Inserm, Tours
	Mr Jeremy HENLEY, University of Bristol, UK
	Mr Pierrick POISBEAU, CNRS, Strasbourg (representative of the CNU)
	Mr Jean-Luc PUEL, Inserm, Montpellier (representative of the CSS Inserm)
	Ms Nathalie ROUACH, Collège de France, Paris

Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:

Mr Jean-Marie ZAJAC

Representatives of the unit's supervising institutions and bodies:

Mr Yannick LUNG, Université de Bordeaux

Mr Roger MARTHAN (representative of the Doctoral School n°154 "Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé")

Ms Anne ROCHER, Inserm

1 • Introduction

History and geographical location of the unit

The Neurocentre Magendie, located on the Campus of the Pharmacy and Medical Sciences of the University of Bordeaux, was founded in 2007 and is a multidisciplinary Institute focused on understanding the pathophysiology of neuronal plasticity. After a first phase (2007-2010) during which the main aim was to develop integrated structures sharing common scientific goals with high attractiveness for young people, the strategy of the second phase (2011-2015) was to increase the number of personnel through the recruitment of new teams and to provide new energy to the senior team in order to improve its competitiveness. At the end of the second period, 9 teams reached the status of senior team and the work force was around 175 people. At the same time, much effort was made to increase the available space (increase of about 3850 m^2) and to increase the number of tenure personnel (23 new tenure personnel). This strategy has been successful and year-by-year the Neurocentre Magendie has increased its visibility becoming one of the leaders in neuroscience research as also attested by the very high profile of publications in outstanding journals.

Management team

The Neurocentre is governed by three bodies each of them with different powers: 1) the Board of Directors constituted by the director, the general secretary and all the group leaders; 2) the Executive Committee constituted by the director, the general secretary and two deputy directors and 3) the Institute Council constituted by all the team leaders, the general secretary, the health and safety officers and the veterinarian in charge of the animal facilities. Moreover other members are elected at the beginning of each term as follows: 5 representatives of researchers, 5 of technicians, 2 of PhD and 2 of post-docs.

The board of directors takes decisions concerning both day-to-day management issues and more important decisions concerning the purchase of new equipment, hosting new teams, redistribution of space, etc. It generally works by consensus, or when impossible, after a positive vote of a two thirds majority.

The Executive Committee decides how to implement the decisions taken by the Board of Directors. Moreover the Executive Committee also takes care of the organizational aspects of the center.

The Institute Council meets every 3 months and reports and gives updates on the board of director's decisions and their implementation by the Executive Committee. It also suggests new actions and points out problems that should be resolved.

This organization works very efficiently allowing decisions to be reached rapidly, agreement reached on their implementation and notably, allowing the choices to be shared with the Institute Council thus receiving an important feedback from the users.

Finally, the center has a centralized administrative services organized in specialized departments that provides administrative assistance allowing the research team to spend minimum time on administrative tasks and offers personalized assistance for all administrative issues.

In 2013, 50% of the Neurocentre Magendie total budget was dedicated to salaries and 50% to the operational budget. 10% of the operational budget is allocated to a common budget while the remaining 90% is directly managed by the team leaders. The common budget is administered by the director and general secretary after approval of a provisional budget by the Board of Directors. It is divided into two areas, one for general services and the other for the common services and platform.

HCERES nomenclature-

SVE1_LS4

SVE1_LS5

Unit workforce

Unit workforce	Number as at 30/06/2014	Number as at 01/01/2016
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	13	16
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions	27	24
N3: Other permanent staff (without research duties)	44	44
N4: Other professors (Emeritus Professor, on-contract Professor, etc.)	1	1
N5: Other researchers (Emeritus Research Director, Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)	46	15
N6: Other contractual staff (without research duties)	41	18
TOTAL N1 to N6	**171**	**118**

Unit workforce	Number as at 30/06/2014	Number as at 01/01/2016
Doctoral students	30	19
Theses defended	22	29
Postdoctoral students having spent at least 12 months in the unit	39	15
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) taken	8	8
Qualified research supervisors (with an HDR) or similar positions	21	33

2 • Overall assessment of the unit

Global assessment of the unit

The Neurocentre Magendie is an outstanding institute where young teams study the pathophysiology of behavioural pathologies. The center has gained an outstanding international reputation producing very original results on the basic mechanism of the pathologies studied and opening a new focus on the translation of the data for new therapies. The unit organization is of such an excellent, dynamic and positive standard that it could be proposed as a model for other institutions. The interaction between the different teams is excellent and extremely productive allowing them to integrate their knowledge for a common aim. Several important awards and international funding has been obtained and the center contributes in an excellent manner to improving the training programmes in Neurosciences and Neuropharmacology at the University of Bordeaux and is extremely active in the recruitment of PhD students. The center is very well integrated with the environment supporting several cultural activities and organizing national and international events. The presence of common and modern services and platforms is a valuable asset allowing the rapid development of research. The future 5-year plan is very ambitious and aims to put the center in pole position for the discovery of new therapies for the diseases studied. The strategy is excellent and well delineated and will allow the center to maintain its outstanding profile.

Strengths and opportunities in relation to the context

- outstanding scientific output;
- outstanding academic appeal;
- outstanding organization of the unit;
- excellent interaction with environment;
- excellent activity of training through research;
- excellent /outstanding future plan with participation of clinicians;
- involvement in network of excellence;
- free access to top-notch facilities within the unit;
- collaboration with pharmaceutical companies.

Weaknesses and threats related to the context

Collaboration with companies and clinicians could be improved.

Recommendations

- extending partnership with industry;
- extending partnership with clinicians.