

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:  
Toulouse Institute for Infectious and  
Inflammatory Diseases (INFINITy)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE  
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND  
RESEARCH BODIES:

Centre national de la recherche scientifique –  
CNRS

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

Université Toulouse 3 - Paul Sabatier – UPS

École nationale vétérinaire de Toulouse - ENVT

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**EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2019-2020**  
GROUP A



In the name of Hcéres<sup>1</sup>:

Nelly Dupin, Acting  
President

In the name of the experts committee<sup>2</sup>:

Christophe Combadière, Chairman of the  
committee

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

<sup>1</sup> The president of Hcéres "countersigns the evaluation reports set up by the experts committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5);

<sup>2</sup> The evaluation reports "are signed by the chairman of the experts committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2).

Tables in this document were filled with data submitted by the supervising body on behalf the unit.

## UNIT PRESENTATION

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Unit name:</b>                     | Toulouse Institute for Infectious and Inflammatory Diseases |
| <b>Unit acronym:</b>                  | INFINITy  |
| <b>Current label and N°:</b>          | UMR 5282  |
| <b>ID RNSR:</b>                       | 200311839K and 201119370L                                   |
| <b>Application type:</b>              | Restructuration   |
| <b>Head of the unit (2019-2020):</b>  | Mr Roland LIBLAU (CPTP) and Mr Guy SERRE (UDEAR)            |
| <b>Project leader (2021-2025):</b>    | Mr Nicolas FAZILLEAU  |
| <b>Number of teams and/or themes:</b> | 12  |

## EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Chair:</b>   | Mr Christophe COMBADIÈRE, Inserm Paris                                 |
| <b>Experts:</b> | Mr Ian ADCOCK, Imperial College of London, United Kingdom              |
|                 | Mrs Sandra AMOR, Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherland                    |
|                 | Mrs Christine BOURGEOIS, Université Paris-Sud (representative of CNRS) |
|                 | Mrs Myriam LABALETTE, University of Lille (representative of CNU)      |
|                 | Mrs Viet Loan DAO THI, University Hospital Heidelberg, Germany         |
|                 | Mr Nicolas MANEL, Institut Curie (representative of Inserm CSS)        |
|                 | Mr Salah MECHELI, Institut Pasteur Paris                               |
|                 | Mr Michael MILDNER, Medical University Vienna, Austria                 |
|                 | Mrs Catherine THORNTON, Swansea University, United Kingdom             |

## HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs Birke BARTOSCH

## REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mrs Armelle BARELLI, Inserm  
Mrs Marie-Christine CADIERGUES, ENVT  
Mr Yvan DE LAUNOIT, CNRS  
Mr Christophe GIRAUD, CNRS

Mrs Christelle GUÉGAN, Inserm

Mrs Carina PRIP-BUUS, CNRS

Mr Alexis VALENTIN, University of Toulouse Paul Sabatier

Mr Yazdan YAZDANPANAHA, Inserm

## INTRODUCTION

### HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

Dr Nicolas FAZILLEAU proposes the merger of two academic research units, respectively the 'Centre de Physiopathologie Toulouse-Purpan' (CPTP; Inserm UMR1043-CNRS 5282-UPS) and the 'Epithelial Differentiation and Rheumatoid Autoimmunity Unit (UDEAR, Inserm UMR1056-UPS), into a new interdisciplinary institute named 'Toulouse Institute for Infectious and Inflammatory Diseases' (INFINITY).

CPTP and UDEAR, both located in Purpan hospital campus, were created about 15 years ago and last renewed in 2016 as a "multi research teams" unit and a "single research team" unit, respectively. Because of their common scientific interests, shared technological approaches and geographic proximity, CPTP and UDEAR propose to merge in a unified "multi research team" unit called INFINITY. This would create at the local level the third Biomedical research site; with the Cancer Center located in Langlade (CRCT) and the Institute for Metabolic and Cardiovascular Diseases located in Rangueil (I2MC).

CPTP and UDEAR buildings are adjacent, and in the vicinity of the animal facility (US006), the Toulouse Neuro Imaging Center (ToNIC), the Digestive Health Research Institute (IRSD) and the Federative institutes of biology of Toulouse university-hospital. CPTP and UDEAR are key members of this local network. They are strongly involved in the development of technological facilities: Imaging and Cytometry platforms are part of the Genotoul (a large network of platforms in the Occitanie region) and two other platforms are internal activities to the CPTP. Both units participate to several public investment programs such as Labex (Parafrap and Toucan), Equipex (Aninfimip) and RHU (Betpsy). They are well connected to the clinical departments of Toulouse university-hospital and to the health industrial environment.

INFINITY partners are engaged in two larger strategies; one supported by the Occitanie Region promoting the INSPIRE project that aims to develop a world-renowned campus devoted to aging and the other guided by Inserm and University to federate the local 7 Inserm units in a single campus dedicated to bio health.

### MANAGEMENT TEAM

Pr Roland LIBLAU and Pr Guy SERRE were the heads of the CPTP and UDEAR, respectively. The new Institute is proposed to be run by Dr Nicolas FAZILLEAU.

### HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE3 Microbiologie, virologie, immunité

SVE5 Physiologie, physiopathologie, cardiologie, pharmacologie, endocrinologie, cancer, technologie médicale

### THEMATICS

INFINITY will focus on Infectious and Inflammatory diseases; from molecules to patients; from fundamental to clinical studies. It will provide new insights and understanding in the functions of the immune system, both under normal and pathological conditions. The strategy strongly relies on long-standing expertise in cell biology and immunology.

## UNIT WORKFORCE

| Name of the unit INFINITY   | CPTP                 | UDEAR                | INFINITY             |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Active staff  | Number<br>06/30/2019 | Number<br>06/30/2019 | Number<br>01/01/2021 |
| Full professors and similar positions   | 20                   | 8                    | 21                   |
| Assistant professors and similar positions  | 16                   | 6                    | 18                   |
| Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions                    | 10                   | 1                    | 10                   |
| Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions                      | 16                   | 4                    | 20                   |
| Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.") | 0                    | 0                    | 0                    |
| High school teachers  | 0                    | 0                    | 0                    |
| Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)                               | 44                   | 10                   | 49                   |
| <b>Permanent staff</b>  | <b>106</b>           | <b>29</b>            | <b>118</b>           |
| Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus                           | 4                    | 2                    |                      |
| Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs (except PhD students)         | 16                   | 3                    |                      |
| PhD Students  | 37                   | 2                    |                      |
| Non-permanent supporting personnel  | 21                   | 14                   |                      |
| <b>Non-permanent staff</b>  | <b>78</b>            | <b>21</b>            |                      |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>184</b>           | <b>50</b>            |                      |

## GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

Collectively, the CPTP and UDEAR mainly focused on the functions of the immune system in normal or pathological conditions and the scientific strategy includes three main axes (microbial infections, inflammation and autoimmune diseases). The overall achievements of the teams are remarkable and they made a very positive impression on the committee. Since their renewal in January 2016, their main scientific achievements represent several seminal publications in major journals of biology and medicine. Involvement in translational research is greatly facilitated by the access to valuable cohorts and the strong interaction of the teams with the hospital departments.

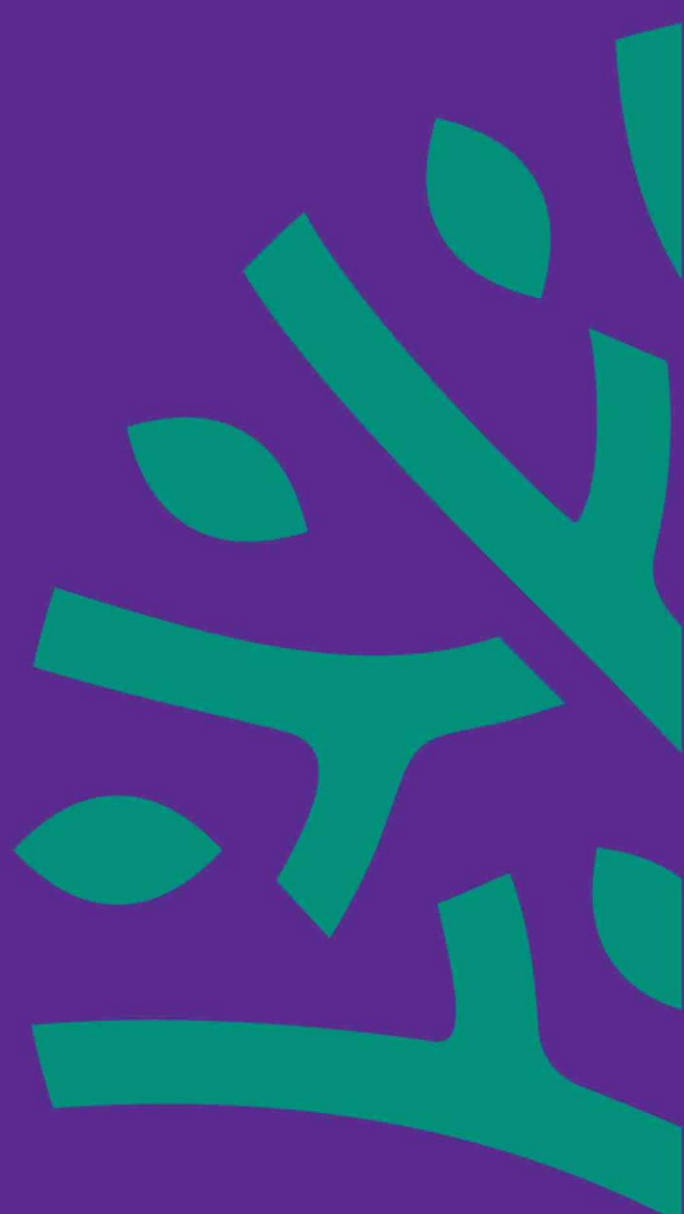
CPTP and UDEAR attracted new teams and developed multiple efficient core facilities over the last five years. Moreover, both units have an excellent interaction with the economic environment. Funding is excellent as demonstrated by national and international grants, as well as industrial partnerships.

Overall, CPTP and UDEAR are unique and excellent units, successfully performing fundamental and translational, research. They are actively involved in scientific dissemination and training through teaching at master and PhD levels as well as engagement with the wider general public. Academic reputation is excellent.

INFINITY is undergoing a transition where new teams are being formed and a rearrangement of the scientific structure, especially by developing a bridge between the two main research units (CPTP and UDEAR). It proposes a well-balanced structure with newly-composed teams that bring new momentum in technology and science, and larger "historical" teams that perpetuate or even extend the national and international visibility. This transition is an opportunity 1) to maintain and further build up on the high scientific quality of the unit, and 2) to promote young emerging scientist as team leaders for the future. Globally, INFINITY proposes a very promising program combining a strong leadership and a rejuvenating strategy of the institute with young talents. Efforts on equalizing gender ratios among senior team leaders needs to be pursued actively.

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