

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Institute of Pharmacology and Structural Biology
(IPBS)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -
CNRS

Université Toulouse 3 - Paul Sabatier - UPS

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2019-2020
GROUP A



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Nelly Dupin, acting
President

In the name of the experts committee²:

Adriano Rossi, Chairman of the committee

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

¹ The president of Hcéres "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 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

Unit name:	Institute of Pharmacology and Structural Biology
Unit acronym:	IPBS
Current label and N°:	UMR 5089
ID RNSR:	199911775H
Application type:	Renewal
Head of the unit (2019-2020):	Mr Jean-Philippe GIRARD
Project leader (2021-2025):	Mr Olivier NEYROLLES
Number of teams and/or themes:	14

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Adriano ROSSI, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Experts:	Ms Cécile ARRIEUMERLOU, Inserm Paris
	Mr Wilbert BITTER, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands
	Mr Stéphane DEDIEU, Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne (representative of CoNRS)
	Ms Florence GAZEAU, CNRS Paris
	Ms Hamida HAMMAD, University of Ghent, Belgium
	Mr Bernhard KUSTER, Technical University of Munich, Germany
	Mr Laurent MARTINY, Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne (representative of CNU)
	Mr Ivan MATIC, CNRS Paris
	Mr Hartmut OSCHKINAT, Leibniz-Institut für Molekulare Pharmakologie, Germany
	Ms Almudena RAMIRO, Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares, Spain
	Mr Jean-Michel SALLENAVE, Inserm Paris
	Mr Quentin SATTENTAU, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
	Ms Emmanuelle SCHMITT, CNRS Palaiseau
	Mr Gerhard SCHUTZ, Vienna University of Technology, Austria
	Mr Niclas SETTERBLAD, Sorbonne Paris Cité (supporting personnel)

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Ms Sophie EZINE

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Ms Florence NOBLE, CNRS

Mr Alexis VALENTIN, University Paul Sabatier

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The IPBS is a CNRS research centre in the CNRS 205 campus, located within the University of Toulouse (University of Toulouse 3, University Paul Sabatier). The IPBS consists of 17 research teams clustered into 3 departments: Cancer Biology, Structural Biology & Biophysics, and Tuberculosis and Infection Biology, and is supported by multiple core facilities, including proteomics, advanced imaging (e.g. TRI), high-throughput screening platforms (e.g. PICT), and a transgenic animal facility. The proteomics facility is one of the three national core French Proteomics facilities (French Proteomics National Infrastructure - PROFI).

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The head of the IPBS is JP GIRARD helped with 2 deputy heads, A. MILON and O. NEYROLLES. For the next mandate O. NEYROLLES will take over the direction of the Center.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE1_LS1 Biologie moléculaire et structurale, biochimie
 SVE1_LS6 Immunologie, microbiologie, virologie, parasitologie
 SVE1_LS4 Physiologie, physiopathologie, biologie systémique médicale
 SVE1_LS3 Biologie cellulaire, biologie du développement animal

THEMATICS

The Cancer Cell Biology Department carries out research into the broad area of molecular cell and tissue biology underpinning mechanistic understanding of cancer. Specific themes incorporate: radiobiology, DNA repair, cancer and ageing, inflammation and cancer, genetic instability, stem cell biology and cancer, and tissue microenvironment, adipocytes and cancer.

The Tuberculosis and Infection Biology Department is involved in structure-function-pathogenesis analyses of mycobacteria and other bacterial and viral pathogens. Specific themes include: mycobacterial envelope structure and function, mycobacterial interaction with host cells and pathogenesis, interaction of mycobacteria and other pathogens with the immune system including pathogen detection, phagocytosis and elimination.

The Structural Biology and Biophysics Department uses advanced technology to apply biophysical analysis to biological problems. Specifically it investigates cellular structure/function at the level of lipid membranes, nucleic acids and proteins.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Name of the unit : Institute of Pharmacology and Structural Biology		
Active staff	Number 06/30/2019	Number 01/01/2021
Full professors and similar positions	14,0	10,0
Assistant professors and similar positions	23,0	22,0
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	18,0	18,0
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	33,0	29,0
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)	59,5	59,3
Permanent staff	147,5	138,3
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	2,0	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs (except PhD students)	11,0	
PhD Students	31,8	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	24,0	
Non-permanent staff	68,8	
Total	216,3	138,3

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The Institute of Pharmacology and Structural Biology (Institut de Pharmacologie et de Biologie Structurale, IPBS) located in Toulouse is an excellent and unique research institute that will consolidate its research focus into three main themes; namely cancer, infection and inflammation. This new focus is an exciting and unique direction especially as many of the fundamental mechanisms involved in regulating inflammation will link the cancer and infection research themes and will allow new interactions between the research teams.

Highlights of the scientific output, since the last evaluation, report on DNA repair, asthma and tuberculosis, among others. These programs are underpinned by strong common scientific and state of the art technology platforms. Their excellence has been exemplified through publications, which have been published in top peer-reviewed journals that report seminal, world leading and groundbreaking findings. The research teams continue to attract funding from external sources, public, private and charities. In addition, IPBS is actively involved in scientific dissemination and training through teaching at master and PhD levels as well as engagement with the wider general public.

The strengths of IPBS are many, as summarized above. The major weaknesses identified in this evaluation are: 1) with the retirement of team leaders, vibrant young and brilliant junior staff have been promoted and they should be mentored; 2) it would be beneficial that the management proactively increases collaborations with clinicians and hospital-based clinician scientists and researchers as well as industrial partners. Like the current director, the new director is of outstanding caliber and, together with his management team and research teams, has developed a clear vision and plan for the future. Only by renewing and building for the future will the excellence of the institution be maintained.

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