

## FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT: Institute of Human Genetics (IGH)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE  
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND  
RESEARCH BODIES:

Université de Montpellier

Centre National de la Recherche  
Scientifique - CNRS

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**EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2019-2020  
GROUP A**

Report published on September, 30 2020

High Council for evaluation of research and higher education



In the name of Hcéres<sup>1</sup>:

Nelly Dupin, acting  
President

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

Geneviève Almouzni, Chairwoman 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>	Institute of Human Genetics
<b>Unit acronym:</b>	IGH
<b>Current label and N°:</b>	UMR 9002
<b>ID RNSR:</b>	201722404H
<b>Application type:</b>	Renewal
<b>Head of the unit (2019-2020):</b>	Mr Monsef Benkirane
<b>Project leader (2021-2025):</b>	Mr Philippe Pasero
<b>Number of teams and/or themes:</b>	23

## EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>Chair:</b>	Ms Geneviève Almouzni, Institut Curie, Paris
	Mr Peter B. Becker, Federal State of Bavaria, Planegg, Germany
	Ms Florence Besse (Épouse Aubry), CNRS, Nice
	Mr Marc Blondel, Université Bretagne Loire, Brest
	Mr Simon Boulton, The Francis Crick Institute, London, United-Kingdom
	Ms Déborah Bourc'his, Institut Curie, Paris (representative of CNRS)
	Mr Fabrizio D'adda Di Fagagna, IFOM, The FIRC Institute of Molecular Oncology, Milan, Italy
	Ms Cathie Erb, Inserm, Illkirch (supporting personnel)
<b>Experts:</b>	Ms Anne Hosmalin, CNRS, Paris
	Mr Helder Maiato, Institute for Research and Innovation in Health, Porto, Portugal
	Mr Jean-Christophe Marine, VIB-KU Leuven Center for Cancer Biology, Belgium
	Mr Ramesh Pillai, University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland
	Mr Jan Rehwinkel, University of Oxford, Oxford, United-Kingdom
	Ms Fatima Sanchez-Cabo, CNIC, Madrid, Spain
	Mr Mikhail Spivakov, MRC London Institute of Medical Sciences, London, United-Kingdom

## HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Hinrich Gronemeyer

## REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING BODIES

Due to the Coronavirus epidemic, the site visit has been cancelled and the committee, following the instructions from the HCERES and in agreement with the unit director, conducted the evaluation of the unit under these exceptional circumstances based on the documentation no site visit and the various updates provided by the unit. There has been no request of the supervising bodies for a specific interaction with the committee.

# INTRODUCTION

## HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The Institute of Human Genetics (Institut de Génétique Humaine, IGH) was founded in 1998 by Professor Jacques Demaille, former director of the CRBM institute of Montpellier. The IGH was originally a CNRS unit and became associated with the University of Montpellier in 2017. IGH is located within the fast-growing biomedical campus Arnaud de Villeneuve in Montpellier, which includes several CNRS and Inserm laboratories (Centre de Biochimie Structurale (CBS), Institut de Génomique Fonctionnelle (IGF), Laboratoire de Physiologie et Médecine Expérimentale (PHYMEDEXP), academic hospitals and the new University of Montpellier School of Medicine (Montpellier University) that opened in 2017. It is close to the site of the University of Montpellier and the Center for Cancer Research (IRCM). The Institute has a total surface area of 3800 m<sup>2</sup> and has around 220 active personnel. Two teams are relocated, one (IMGT) to the Faculty of Pharmacy and the other (part of the "Maintenance of genome integrity during DNA replication" team which focuses on multiple myeloma) to St Eloi Hospital.

A project for a business building is also underway, pending funding from the Occitanie region.

## Management team

The Institute Director Monsef Benkirane is assisted by a Deputy Director, Dominique Giorgi. The future director proposed is Philippe Pasero.

## HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE2 - Cell Biology, Imaging, Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Genomics, Systemic Biology

SVE3 - Microbiology, Virology, Immunology

## THEMATICS

There are three major thematics covered in scientific departments: (i) Genome Dynamics, (ii) Genetics and Development, (iii) Molecular Bases of Human Diseases. The unit has developed a set of technologies that are constantly updated to ensure the availability of the most appropriate tools for the questions of interest and their model systems.

## UNIT WORKFORCE

Institute of Human Genetics		
Active staff	Number 06/30/2019	Number 01/01/2021
Full professors and similar positions	4	4
Assistant professors and similar positions	7	7
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	23	23
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	27	27
Other scientists ("Conseillers, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	0	0
High school teachers	0	0

Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	42	40
<b>Permanent staff</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>101</b>
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	2	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs (except PhD students)	37	
PhD Students	29	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	58	
<b>Non-permanent staff</b>	<b>58</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>101</b>

## GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

Since its inception in 1998, the development of IGH has enabled to promote a research of high standard, with a success that is confirmed over time. This is due to an effective combination of active teams successful in securing funding, along with the developments of technological regional platforms (Biocampus) providing high level quality technological services (deep sequencing, microscopy, etc.) and the particular context of the Laboratory of Excellence (LabEx) EpiGenMed initiated at IGH. The latter enabled not only to bring together excellent teams in Montpellier life sciences which engaged in collaborative works towards new frontiers in Sciences, unexplored fields of research and develop new paradigms, but also to set up international PhD and postdoc programs that could fuel their laboratories with talented people and preparing new generation of scientists. The capacity to build on this instrument to attract teams of excellence by offering a generous package after a highly competitive selection by an ad hoc committee also proved very efficient. The scientific output is remarkable with major contributions in understanding the organization, dynamics and expression of the genome at the molecular, cellular and whole organism levels, and further engaging into elucidating the mechanisms leading to pathologies associated with disruption of these biological processes with implications in translational and possibly even clinical work.

Within the period from 2014 to April 2019 IGH had 175 publications which were considered by the panel as major contributions to the field. This scientific excellence is also supported by their success to the highly prestigious ERC grant applications.

The current Director of IGH and the current deputy director with the general administrator should be praised for their great leadership and engagement for the future with the establishment of shared services (Project Office, TTO) and projects of expansion for the construction of two buildings, respectively IncubaSciences and a building devoted to an Artificial intelligence and Cancer department, a timely and important area to develop for which the Bettencourt Schueller foundation has been solicited. They also managed to create an international laboratory with Oxford. Thus, the future director is now well placed to pursue and further develop the capacities of IGH with the trust of the group leaders and the personnel.

The IGH has thus at hands the key ingredients to produce outstanding research and continues to be a central piece in the international arena. They should be encouraged to pursue and strive for the best science in an attractive working place.

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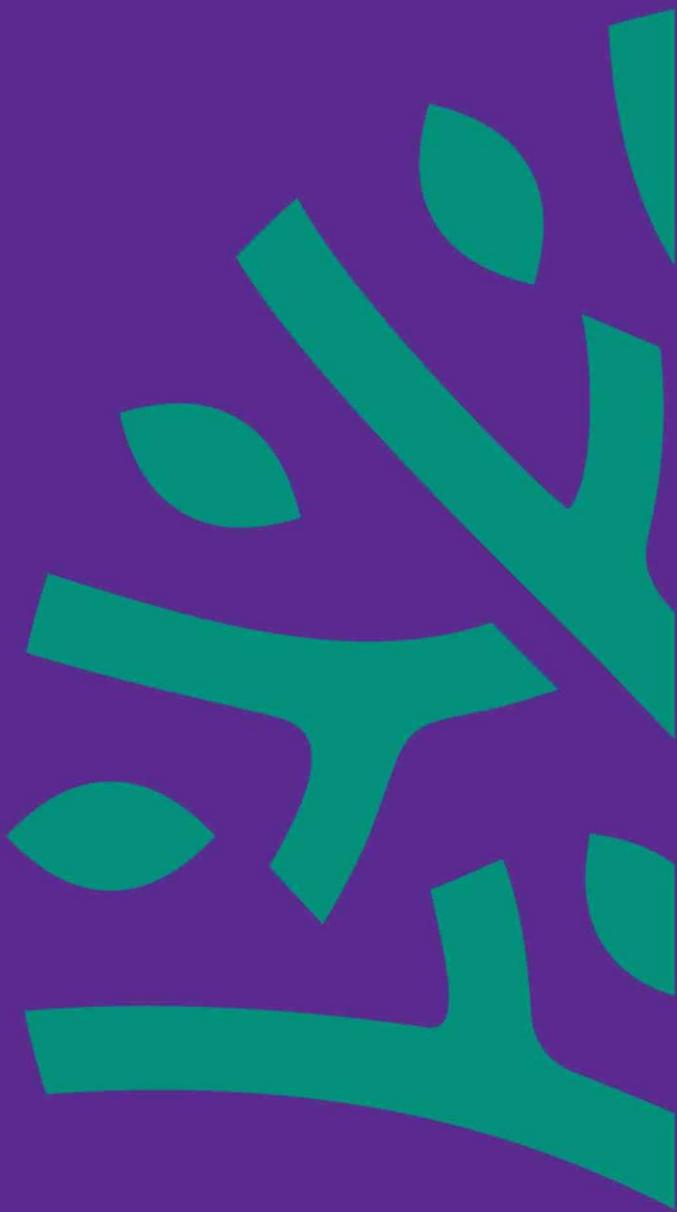
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2 rue Albert Einstein  
75013 Paris, France  
T. 33 (0)1 55 55 60 10



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