

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT: Center of Structural Biochemistry (CBS)

Under the supervision of the following
institutions and research bodies:

Université de Montpellier

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -
CNRS

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

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2019-2020 GROUP A



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Nelly Dupin, Acting
President

In the name of the experts committee²:

Patrick Schultz, 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:	Center of Structural Biochemistry
Unit acronym:	CBS
Current label and N°:	INSERM U1054, CNRS UMR 5048
ID RNSR:	200717455X
Application type:	Renewal
Head of the unit (2019-2020):	Mr Pierre-Emmanuel MILHIET
Project leader (2021-2025):	Mr Pierre-Emmanuel MILHIET
Number of teams and/or themes:	10 (+2 ATIP-Avenir)

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Patrick SCHULTZ, IGBMC, Illkirch
Experts:	Ms Patricia BASSEREAU, Institut Curie, Paris Ms Catherine BIRCK, CNRS, Illkirch (supporting personnel) Mr Martin BLACKLEDGE, Institut de biologie structural, Grenoble Mr Yves BOURNE, CNRS, Marseille Mr Daniel CHOQUET, CNRS, Bordeaux Mr Sébastien FRIBOURG, Inserm, Bordeaux (representative of Inserm CSS) Mr Yves GAUDIN, CNRS, Gif-sur-Yvette (representative of CoNRS) Mr Michael HABECK, Jena University, Jena, Deutschland Ms Maria A. MITEVA, Inserm, Paris Ms Helen SAIBIL, Birkbeck College London, London, United Kingdom

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Hinrich GRONEMEYER

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING BODIES

Mr Jacques CAVAILLE, Inserm
Ms Carine GIOVANANGELI, Inserm
Mr Hugues LHORTAT-JACOB, CNRS
Mr Jacques MERCIER, Université de Montpellier

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The Centre de Biologie Structurale (CBS) has been created in 1992 under the auspices of the national IMABIO program to reinforce structural biology approaches outside the Paris area. First scattered in different places, CBS was unified in 2005 on the "Navacelles" Inserm site. Currently counting 96 employees, the site is now deployed on two sites.

The research ecosystem in Montpellier is very rich in biology and the CBS benefits full from this close geographic proximity with the IGH and the IGF. The CBS is part of the Arnaud de Villeneuve site, a prototype BioHealth campus gathering scientific and medical faculties, hospitals, academic institutes and start-up situation. The unit director is also head of the BioHealth pole in Montpellier and the deputy head is in charge of the quantitative biology axis. The PIs of the CBS are involved in 7 international networks and contribute to 11 national research or technology networks (6 GDR, 3 infrastructures and the canceropôle Grand Sud Ouest). The CBS is involved in two LabEx structures (EPIGENMED and NUMEV). Only two professors and 2 assistant professors are affiliated to the CBS but due to the strong involvement of the researchers, the institute contributes significantly to teaching and is involved in 5 Masters.

Management team

The CBS is headed by Pierre Emmanuel MILHIET and his deputy director will be Emmanuel MARGEAT.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE2_1 Biologie moléculaire et structurale, biochimie

THEMATICS

The CBS is an interdisciplinary research unit with three major areas of expertise: structural biology, cellular imaging and synthetic biology. In structural biology, the CBS has know-how in biological Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, X-Ray crystallography, (cryo)electron microscopy and structural bio-computing. Cellular microscopy expertise of the CBS lies essentially in super resolution microscopy, atomic force microscopy and micromanipulation. Synthetic biology, bioengineering and biotechnology for health form the third axis of the centre.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Center of Structural Biochemistry (CBS)		
Active staff	Number 06/30/2019	Number 01/01/2021
Full professors and similar positions	2	2
Assistant professors and similar positions	2	2
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	9	9
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	19	19
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	0	
High school teachers	0	
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	22	22

Permanent staff	54	54
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs (except PhD students)	20	
PhD Students	13	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	9	
Non-permanent staff	42	
Total	96	54

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The CBS is an internationally recognized research center using a wide range of molecular biology, structural biology, imaging, computational and biophysical methods to address a large panel of scientific questions ranging from membrane biology, membrane proteins, virology, synthetic biology and biomedical applications, chromosome organization and segregation, plant immunity, nuclear receptors, chemo informatics, medical chemistry, molecular modelling of IDPs, and contributing to important methodological developments. The unit integrated most of the recommendations formulated by the previous evaluation committee. The management performed strategic investments, notably in cryo-EM, in recruitment of two new team leaders, and in team reorganizations not only to address the previous recommendations, but also to drive new scientific directions towards biotechnology, without compromising on the existing pole of competences. Over the reviewing period the scientific output of the CBS has continued to be excellent both in terms of quality and quantity of the publication record. The Unit's academic reputation and appeal is witnessed by an increased capacity to raise competitive funding both at the national and the international level including 7 prestigious European (ERC, PoC, ITN, H2020), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and ATIP-Avenir grants for newly recruited team leaders. The CBS has developed very promising interactions with industrial partners and several teams had the opportunity communicate their findings to the general public on topics with important societal implications. The CBS provides a very good training environment for master and PhD students, as well as for post-doctoral scholars. The visiting committee was impressed by the exceptional working atmosphere and the human relationships between all categories of personnel in the unit.

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