



Research evaluation

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Laboratory of Pathogen Host Interactions

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -
CNRS

Université de Montpellier

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2019-2020
GROUP A

Report published on April, 15 2020

High Council for evaluation of research and higher education



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Nelly Dupin, Acting
President

In the name of the experts committee²:

Michael Blackman, 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:	Laboratory of Pathogen Host Interactions
Unit acronym:	LPHI
Current label and N°:	UMR 5235
ID RNSR:	200711902L
Application type:	Renewal
Head of the unit (2019-2020):	Mr Georges LUTFALLA
Project leader (2021-2025):	Mr Georges LUTFALLA
Number of teams and/or themes:	8

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Mike BLACKMAN, Francis Crick Institute, United Kingdom
Experts:	Mr Laurent ARGIRO, Inserm Marseille (supporting personnel)
	Mr Nicolas BIDERÉ, Inserm Nantes (representative of CoNRS)
	Ms Joanna CHLUBA, Université de Bourgogne
	Mr Alexandre De BREVERN, Université de Paris
	Ms Anne-Marie PRET, Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-En-Yvelines (representative of CNU)
	Ms Agathe SUBTIL, CNRS Paris (representative of Inserm CSS)

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Théophile OHLMANN

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Ms Evelyne JOUVIN-MARCHE, CNRS

Mr Jacques MERCIER, Université de Montpellier

Mr Jocelyn MERE, CNRS

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The CNRS-University of Montpellier (UM) UMR 5235-LPHI (Laboratory of Pathogen Host Interactions) was created in 2007 from the fusion of two pre-existing UMRs. Its first director was Ms Catherine BRAUN-BRETON (Professor at UM), who led the unit until December 2014. The unit was renewed in 2011 and 2015. Since 2014, the entire unit has been based on the second floor of Building 24 of the UM Triolet Campus.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

UMR 5235 has been led since January 2015 by its current Director Mr Georges LUTFALLA with Ms Maryse LEBRUN acting as Deputy Director. For the next 5-year period (2020-2025), Georges LUTFALLA has been proposed to remain as Director, with Ms Rachel CERDAN taking over as the new Deputy Director.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

ST1 Mathématiques

ST2 Physique

SVE2 Biologie cellulaire, imagerie, biologie moléculaire, biochimie, génomique, biologie systémique, développement, biologie structurale

SVE3 Microbiologie, virology, immunité

THEMATICS

The research work of UMR 5235 focuses on interactions between pathogenic microorganisms or cells with their vertebrate hosts, with a major focus on parasitic protozoa (Plasmodium and Toxoplasma), bacteria (Mycobacterium, Staphylococcus, Salmonella, Legionella and other intracellular bacterial pathogens) and viruses as well as cancer. A key expertise of the unit is the use of the zebrafish model to study host-pathogen interactions and innate immune responses, including haematopoiesis.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Laboratory of Pathogen Host Interactions		
Active staff	Number 06/30/2019	Number 01/01/2021
Full professors and similar positions	5	5
Assistant professors and similar positions	6	4
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	8	8
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	11	11
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	0	0
High school teachers	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	21	21
Permanent staff	51	49
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	

Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs (except PhD students)	3	
PhD Students	13	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	17	
Non-permanent staff	33	
Total	84	49

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The unit's work on host-pathogen interactions, innate immunity, haematopoiesis and cytokines, often involving the zebrafish model, represents important contributions to these fields. This is reflected by the unit's continued competitive publication record. Efforts to translate these basic research findings have been impressive, with the formation of 3 start-up companies that retain active collaborations with scientists at the unit. The unit has been successful in attracting external funding as well as bringing in new teams to maintain critical mass. The unit also contributes substantially to training through hosting interns and PhD students and through extensive links with national and international training networks. It will be important for the unit to develop a clear strategy for its future research direction that enhances internal synergies and interactions with industry, as well as with regard to expansion of its premises and research support infrastructure in the context of its location at the University of Montpellier.

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