

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT: Biology and Biotechnology for Health (BIOSANTE)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH BODIES:

Université Grenoble Alpes - UGA

Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux
énergies alternatives – CEA

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:

Franck Perez, 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).

UNIT PRESENTATION

Unit name:	Biology and Biotechnology for Health
Unit acronym:	BIOSANTE
Current label and N°:	U1036; U1038; UMR 5628
ID RNSR:	201119446U; 201119439L; 200319572R
Application type:	Restructuration
Head of the unit (2019-2020):	Mr Jean-Jacques FEIGE; Mr Xavier GIDROL; Ms Catherine PICART
Project leader (2021-2025):	Ms Catherine PICART
Number of teams and/or themes:	8

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Franck PEREZ, Institut Curie
Experts:	Mr Jean-Paul BORG, Aix-Marseille Université
	Ms Chantal BOULANGER, Inserm Paris
	Ms Joanna CHLUBA, Université de Bourgogne (representative of CNU)
	Mr Kris GEVAERT, Ghent University, Belgium
	Mr Jean-René HUYNH, CNRS Paris
	Ms Véronique LE BERRE - ANTON, CNRS Toulouse (representative of Inserm CSS)
	Ms Perrine PAUL-GILLOTEAUX, CNRS Nantes (supporting personnel)

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Pierre COUBLE

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING BODIES

Mr Hervé Courtois, University Grenoble Alpes

Mr Jérôme GARIN, CEA

Ms Marie-Joséphine LEROY ZAMIA, Inserm

Mr Hervé PELLOUX, University Grenoble Alpes

Mr Jean ROSENBAUM, Inserm

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The BIOSANTE Unit will be located in the CEA, Grenoble. Its eight teams are dispersed over three buildings (C3, 42B and 40.2) of the CEA campus of the Scientific Polygone in Grenoble. The unit will have strong contacts with the CHU and the University Grenoble Alpes (UGA).

The UMR will be composed of about 110 people, who are employees of five institutions: CEA, Inserm, CNRS, University of Grenoble Alpes (UGA) and University Hospital (CHUGA). In the past, one of the founding Units has been linked to the LabEx GRAL (Grenoble Alliance for Integrated Structural & Cell Biology). The Unit results from the merging of teams originating from three Units (BCI and BGE from CEA, and the UMR5628). Three of the teams are novel teams that were generated from splitting of one of the BCI teams. The UMR will be composed of 8 teams and 5 supporting platforms.

Management team

The unit will be directed by Catherine PICART.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

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

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

THEMATICS

The study of cell signaling is central in the BIOSANTE unit with a strong focus on angiogenesis and vascular development. The role of the extracellular matrix as well as cytokines/chemokines are also preeminent. There is a strong will to cover fundamental as well as clinical aspects, in particular in the field of oncology, and ambitious projects related to organ-on-chip and mini-tumors are carried out. The unit is also investing in several technological developments and in particular in (quantitative) proteomics, High Content Screening, 3D culture and synthetic extracellular environment.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Biology and Biotechnology for Health	BCI	BGE	LMGP	BioSanté
Active staff	Number 06/30/2019	Number 06/30/2019	Number 06/30/2019	Number 01/01/2021
Full professors and similar positions	3	0	7	10
Assistant professors and similar positions	4	0	6	11
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	5	1	2	7
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	4	4	8	12
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	7	15	0	21
High school teachers	0	0	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	17	29	13	41
Permanent staff	40	49	36	102
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	0	1	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs (except PhD students)	2	5	17	
PhD Students	7	9	34	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	2	12	4	

Non-permanent staff	11	26	56	
Total	51	75	92	102

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The assessment of the unit BIOSANTE past mandate is complicated by the fact that this is a novel unit which aggregates teams originating from three different units. Tracing the new scheme and its history is quite difficult as some of the novel teams were together during the past mandate while other group leaders either retired or left the unit for another Institute.

The committee could not assess the collective achievements of the teams of BIOSANTE as a "Unit" as it did not exist as such during the present mandate. The present assessment thus considers the 8 individual teams in the context of the proposed project. When viewed globally, the teams that will form BIOSANTE have a good to outstanding quality. Though, the committee believes that the 5 teams whose achievements are excellent to outstanding, as well as the remarkable platforms, will play an essential role to drive quality and visibility to the unit and will help the whole structure to stay at the upfront. The committee sees a lot of potential in the different projects. Internal collaboration and common development should be increased between these teams but there is a clear will toward cross-feeding expressed by the team leaders of these teams and the novel direction. The presence of outstanding proteomics and drug-screening platforms, as well as the strong technological investment carried out by these teams will help to create these bridges while increasing the visibility of the unit.

The committee was less convinced by the ex-BCI team, IMAC, that is proposed to be split into three novel and independent teams. Here again, the assessment of the new teams is complicated because the common production and project of the past IMAC team cannot be used to evaluate the new separated teams. However, the committee evaluated the output, reputation and appeal of the ex-IMAC team to be only good and the reason for the split was not clear. The projects proposed by the new teams 1, 2 and 3 resulting from the split of IMAC was considered too large and too diverse taking in account the available human and financial resources. As a result, splitting this team seems to weaken and not strengthen the unit.

In conclusion, the BIOSANTE unit is built on very solid bases, with a lot of potential, bringing together complementary expertise and developing original and ambitious projects. The committee however suggests that the situation of the ex-IMAC team should be carefully reconsidered.

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