

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:

Animal mycoplasmoses (MYCO)

Under the supervision of the following institutions and research bodies:

VetAgro Sup Lyon

Anses

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2019-2020
GROUP A



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Nelly Dupin, Acting
President

In the name of the experts committee²:

Filip Boyen, 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:	Animal mycoplasmoses
Unit acronym:	MYCO
Current label and N°:	
ID RNSR:	200420645C
Application type:	Renewal
Head of the unit (2019-2020):	Ms Florence TARDY
Project leader (2021-2025):	Ms Florence TARDY (with a scheduled transition of the unit head)
Number of teams and/or themes:	2

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Filip BOYEN, Ghent University, Belgique
	Ms Émilie DOZ-DEBLAUWE, Inra, Nouzilly
Experts:	Ms Armelle MARAIS, INRAE, Villenave d'Ornon (personnel d'appui à la recherche)
	Mr Yves MILLEMANN, École Nationale Vétérinaire d'Alfort, Maisons-Alfort (représentant du CNECA)

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Jean-François HOCQUETTE

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING BODIES

Ms Estelle LOUKIADIS, VetAgroSup
Mr Gilles SALVAT, Anses

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The JRU (Joint Research Unit) « Ruminants' mycoplasmoses, MYCO » was created in April 2014 under a common push from the two leading administrations, The Veterinary School in Lyon (now VetAgro Sup, since 2010, state institution of Scientific, Cultural and Professional teaching (EPCSCP)) and the French Food safety Agency (Afssa, now Anses, The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety, since 2010, a Public Administrative Establishment (EPA)). It was born from the logical merging of two research units that had been working on the same topics and in collaboration for years : the unit « Mycoplasmoses des Ruminants » (1997), department of livestock pathology in the Lyon Veterinary School directed by P. Bézille and the unit "Mycoplasmodologie" (2003) at Afssa directed by F. Poumarat. Due to a strong orientation in descriptive epidemiology, the JRU used to count also (from 2004 until 2012), some scientists from the Epidemiology unit of Afssa Lyon. The MYCO staff is located both on the veterinary campus (Marcy l'Etoile) of VetAgro Sup and in Anses, Lyon's laboratory (Gerland, Lyon 7^{ème}), the 2 sites being 20 km distant.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The director for the current contract is Florence Tardy. A management transition is scheduled in the future contract.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE3, SVE6, SVE2

THEMATICS

MYCO missions are i) research and research training in ruminants (cattle and small ruminants) mycoplasmodology; ii) expertise and reference at Anses and veterinary teaching (mainly livestock pathology) in VetAgro Sup.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Animal mycoplasmoses (MYCO)		
Active staff	Number 06/30/2019	Number 01/01/2021
Full professors and similar positions	2	2
Assistant professors and similar positions	1	1
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	0	0
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	1	1
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	1	2
High school teachers	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	6	6

Permanent staff	11	12
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus		
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs (except PhD students)		
PhD Students	2	2 at least
Non-permanent supporting personnel		
Non-permanent staff	2	
Total	13	12

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

Despite the structural difficulties linked to the distribution of the unit staff between two locations (Marcy l'étoile and Lyon), the unit is well organized and managed, even though not all staff members are able to equally contribute to research activities.

The Vigimyc strain database combined with innovative molecular approaches and intense national and international collaborations, result in a high quality scientific output. In addition, unit actively contributes to (inter)national scientific conferences. Local and European academic research grants are regularly obtained, but do not seem to allow the unit to significantly increase their human or technical resources. Both the « antibioresistance » theme and the « virulence and emergence of mycoplasmas » themes are originally approached and show a high valorization potential.

The unit shows real effort to communicate their results to veterinary practitioners and diagnostic laboratories and to interact with the non-academic world. It seems that these efforts should be optimized for obtaining grants from private companies, interactions with media and increased PhD fellowships, including on clinical topics.

Excellent PhD theses and veterinary student theses are combined within the unit. However, there are probably opportunities to improve the interaction between the various training activities within the unit and to be involved in a Master degree programme.

Future scientific projects are ranging between continuation of on-going, mainly applied, low risk approaches (such as vigimyc based activities and antimicrobial resistance testing) and very innovative, more fundamental, higher risk approaches (such as on genomic diversity and evolution, *in vitro* models and secretome characterization), ensuring both a minimum number of publications on the one hand and offering possibilities for breakthrough science and high-impact papers on the other hand. It is not entirely clear whether sufficient human/technical resources are present or will be available for all described mutagenesis/heterologous expression/genomics/secretomics approaches, since the described techniques are quite challenging.

The number of staff members actively involved in scientific research needs to increase, including through joining a bigger team and maintaining/increasing national and international collaborations. The unit is also encouraged to apply for national and European research grants with a budget for personnel and larger laboratory equipment.

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