

Research evaluation

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:

Molecular Microbiology and Structural Biochemistry (MMSB)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH BODIES:

Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 – UCBL

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique – CNRS

EVALUATION CAMPAINGN 2019-2020 GROUP A

Report published on June, 03 2020



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Nelly Dupin, Acting President In the name of the experts committee²: Victor Sourjik, 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).



Molecular Microbiology and Structural Biochemistry, MMSB, U Lyon 1, CNRS, Mr Christophe GRANGEASSE

Tables in this document were filled with data submitted by the supervising body on behalf the unit.

UNIT PRESENTATION

| Unit name: | Molecular Microbiology and Structural Biochemistry |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Unit acronym: | MMSB |
| Current label and N°: | UMR5086 |
| ID RNSR: | 199411772B |
| Application type: | Renewal |
| Head of the unit (2019-2020): | Mr Jean-Michel JAULT |
| Project leader (2021-2025): | Mr Christophe Grangeasse |
| Number of teams and/or themes: | 10 |

EXPERTS COMMITEE MEMBERS

| Chair: | Mr Victor Sourjik, Max Planck Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology, Marburg, Germany |
|----------|---|
| Experts: | Ms Isabelle Callebaut, CNRS, Paris |
| | Mr Xavier DE BOLLE, Université de Namur, Belgique |
| | Ms Inès Gallay, CNRS, Orsay (supporting personnel) |
| | Mr Clemens GLAUBITZ, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany |
| | Ms Claudine MAYER, Université Paris Diderot, Paris (representative of CNU) |
| | Ms Isabelle SCHALK, CNRS, Illkirch (representative of CoNRS) |
| | Mr James Sturgis, Aix-Marseille Université |
| | Mr Nassos Typas, European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg, Germany |
| | Mr Vincent VILLERET, Institut de Biologie de Lille |
| | |

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Pierre COUBLE

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING BODIES

Mr Hugues Lortat Jacob, CNRS

Ms Dominique Mouchiroud, Université Lyon 1



INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The research unit MMSB is supported by the CNRS and the University Claude Bernard Lyon 1. The unit is located in the CNRS-owned IBCP (Institute of Biology and Chemistry of Proteins) building that it shares with another unit LBTI (Laboratory of Tissue Biology and Therapeutic Engineering). The IBCP building is situated in the Bio-District of Lyon-Gerland that hosts several other laboratories doing research in infection biology as well as pharma companies. This unit was named MMSB in 2015 prior to the previous evaluation. MMSB with 7 neighboring research units is a member of the SFR Biosciences (UMS3444/US8), a federative structure of services which offers 10 top-level technological platforms. Also, four teams of the unit are included in the LabEx Ecofect (Dynamic of ecology-evolution of infected diseases).

Management team

The unit is presently headed by Jean-Michel Jault as a Director since 2015, with Christophe Grangeasse being Deputy Director since 2016. From 2021, Christophe Grangeasse will become the new Director of the unit, with Patrice Gouet as a Deputy Director.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

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

THEMATICS

Research within the unit is focused on biochemistry and structural biology of microbial and viral proteins, including membrane proteins. It further includes molecular, cellular and infection biology of bacteria. The teams within the unit work on a variety of pathogenic microorganisms and viruses, using a range of technologies, from X-ray crystallography and NMR to bioinformatics, molecular modeling and fluorescence microscopy. Many of the projects address topics related to pharmacological targets and drug resistance in microbes.

UNIT WORKFORCE

| Molecular Microbiology and Structural Biochemistry (MMSB) | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Active staff | Number 06/30/2019 | Number 01/01/2021 |
| Full professors and similar positions | 1 | 1 |
| Assistant professors and similar positions | 6 | 6 |
| Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions | 7 | 7 |
| 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) | 10 | 13 |
| Permanent staff | 35 | 38 |
| Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus | 0 | |
| Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs (except PhD students) | 6 | |
| PhD Students | 21 | |
| Non-permanent supporting personnel | 5 | |



| | 32 | Non-permanent staff |
|----|----|---------------------|
| 38 | 67 | Total |

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The global assessment of the unit is highly positive. The unit as a whole performs excellent and in many case outstanding research, and teams within the unit have high national and also international visibility within their field of research. The unit is highly attractive to researchers and also to PhD students, and it has very good interactions with the non-academic environment. The unit is very well functional and current management of the unit puts efforts in maintaining communication and making collegial decisions among the team leaders. Very good communication among PhD students and post-docs further contributes to the spirit of the unit. Supervision of the PhD students and inner organization of individual teams is mostly excellent. The current and future management of the unit has a clear vision and excellent plans for the future, including perspective research directions and strengthening of existing and recruitment of new teams.

Globally, the unit has a very strong track record in acquisition of national grants (i.e., ANR). Altogether, unit teams coordinated 30 national grants and were partners on further 13 grants. Three teams have acquired European research grants (H2020, European flagship projects and ESCMID) and 4 teams are partners in the LabEx Ecofect.

Research impact and international visibility of the unit could be further enhanced by strengthening cooperations between individual teams and by increasing emphasis on publications in top journals. Although several teams are actively involved in public relations and interact with industry, these interactions should be further encouraged. Closer involvement with the University of Lyon would be highly beneficial to increase involvement in teaching and resolve limitations imposed by the graduate program of the university.

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