

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:  
Neuromyogène Institute – INMG

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE  
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND  
RESEARCH BODIES:

Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 – UCBL

Institut national de la santé et de la  
recherche médicale – INSERM

Centre national de la recherche scientifique  
– CNRS

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**EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2019-2020**  
GROUP A



In the name of Hcéres<sup>1</sup>:

Nelly Dupin, Acting  
President

In the name of the experts committee<sup>2</sup>:

Margaret Buckingham, Chairwoman of the  
committee

Under the decree No.2014-1365 dated 14 November 2014,

<sup>1</sup> The president of Hcéres "countersigns the evaluation reports set up by the experts committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5);

<sup>2</sup> 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:** Neuromyogène Institute

**Unit acronym:** INMG

**Current label and N°:** 5310

**ID RNSR:** 201622204V

**Application type:** Renewal

**Head of the unit (2019-2020):** Mr Laurent Schaeffer

**Project leader (2021-2025):** Mr Laurent Schaeffer

**Number of teams and/or themes:** 16 teams

## EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>Chair:</b>	Ms Margaret Buckingham, Professeur honoraire de l'Institut Pasteur
	Ms Juliette Azimzadeh, CNRS Paris
	Ms Carmen Birchmeier, Max Delbrueck Centrum for Molecular Medicine, Berlin, Germany
	Ms Françoise Dantzer, CNRS Illkirch (representative of Inserm CSS)
	Mr Mario De Bono, IST Austria Klosterneuburg, Austria
	Mr Pierre-Antoine Defossez, CNRS Paris
<b>Experts:</b>	Ms Anne Gaignerie Ilunga, Inserm Nantes (supporting personnel)
	Mr Mathias Gautel, Kings College, London, UK
	Ms Pura Munoz Canoves, Pompeu Fabra University and ICREA, Barcelona, Spain
	Mr Laurent Nguyen, Université de Liège, Belgique
	Ms Dagmar Timmann, University Hospital Essen, Germany
	Mr Philippe Vernier, CNRS Gif-sur-Yvette (representative of CoNRS)

## HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Yacine Graba

## REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING BODIES

Mr Yvan De Launoit, CNRS  
Mr Thierry Galli, INSERM  
Ms Dominique Mouchiroud, UCBL1

## INTRODUCTION

### HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The INMG was established in 2016, in the Rockefeller Medical Faculty on the Health East campus of the University of Lyon. It occupies the third floor of the building (3500m<sup>2</sup>), with another floor housing platforms used by the Institute. These floors have been extensively renovated, with major financing from the Auvergne Rhone Alpes region, with investment also from the University and city of Lyon. The CNRS and INSERM provided funds to help with the installation and the Faculty of Medicine paid for the moving of teams from other University sites. By the end of 2017, 14 teams had moved to the new INMG premises, representing about 175 people, with a further 57 trainees and guest staff in June, 2019. Since then, 3 new research groups have been recruited.

The East campus also houses the Cancer (CRCL) and Neuroscience (CRNL) research centres which concert with the INMG for shared technology platforms, as well as providing a propitious scientific environment for scientific exchange and collaboration. Five teams in the Institute are actively involved in the LabEx CORTEX for brain research, co-ordinated by an INMG team leader and also two teams are part of the cancer oriented LabEx DevWeCan. Another INMG team leader co-ordinates the Equipex Phenocan which supports animal and cellular phenotyping of disease models, with five teams of the Institute as participants. The presence of the hospital and medical school is also important for fostering clinical research. An important partnership with clinicians on brain autoimmune disorders, RHU INTEREST, is co-ordinated by an INMG team leader, as is the TOXIMUS study on botulinum toxin administration to spastic children.

### MANAGEMENT TEAM

The management team consists of Laurent Schaeffer who is the Director of the INMG, with two assistant directors, Jean-Louis Bessereau and Guy Mouchiroud.

### HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE1\_LS3 Biologie cellulaire, biologie du développement animal  
 SVE1\_LS4 Physiologie, physiopathologie, biologie systémique médicale  
 SVE1\_LS5 Neurobiologie  
 SVE1\_LS2 Génétique, génomique, bioinformatique

### THEMATICS

Research at the INMG mainly focuses on the nervous system and on skeletal muscle. They study the physiology and cell biology of the neuromuscular system, cellular and molecular neurobiology and nuclear dynamics. They use a range of model systems as well as carrying out clinical studies, with the aim of understanding both normal and pathological processes.

### UNIT WORKFORCE

<b>Neuromyogène Institute (INMG)</b>		
<b>Active staff</b>	<b>Number 06/30/2019</b>	<b>Number 01/01/2021</b>
Full professors and similar positions	15	15
Assistant professors and similar positions	19	19
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	10	10
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	20	22
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	3	4
High school teachers	0	0

Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	40	42
<b>Permanent staff</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>112</b>
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	3	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs (except PhD students)	22	
PhD Students	39	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	20	
<b>Non-permanent staff</b>	<b>84</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>112</b>

## GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The INMG received a very favorable scientific review with almost all teams in the very good to outstanding range. They have published many high quality papers in leading international journals. Furthermore team leaders and senior scientists are invited speakers at major international conferences. A number of the members of the Unit have received prizes and European awards. The teams have succeeded in obtaining competitive grants to support their research. All teams are carrying out basic research but many of them have also combined this with clinical research so that the overall contribution of the Unit to public health is important. In addition to links with hospitals, a number of clinicians are members of the research teams and there is an ongoing effort to foster this clinical interface through a seminar programme in the Unit. There is also a culture of interactions with industry, manifest through collaborative contracts and also the formation of two start-up companies. The INMG is active in public outreach, with many of its members taking part in TV and radio programmes and also in communicating science through meetings with school children and the community.

The INMG has a solid governance structure, with appropriate representation of the personnel. Staff members are also active in teaching, both in University courses and in training young scientists in their labs. The Unit has seminar programmes where young people have a chance to present their work as well as to listen to invited external experts. In order to make major scientific advances, it is essential to have access to state of the art technological facilities. The INMG has developed a number of technical platforms within the Unit and they have also been very successful in developing major platforms, for imaging for example, with other research centres on the campus. This policy of collaborative sharing and interaction with their scientific environment is commendable.

The scientific policy of the INMG has been mainly devoted to bringing the teams together geographically and creating an operational environment which fosters good science and collaboration. In the next period the aim is to consolidate what has been achieved. They plan to maintain the research focus on the nervous system and on skeletal muscle. In the last year, three new young team leaders have been recruited and the plan is to continue such recruitment in the next period. As previously, this will be done in consultation with their scientific advisory board, in accordance with good international practice. Further increase in the number of teams is facilitated by the availability of space in their building. However, a concern is the low level of recurrent funding and of replacement of support staff, so that further expansion will depend on improving this situation. It will also depend on the renewal of the major funding that they receive from the AFM. This funding to the regional network MyoNeurAlp is evidence of the national recognition of the INMG which is also involved in a number of other national networks. While many team leaders have achieved international recognition, the Unit itself is not yet so well-known and improving the international visibility of the INMG is one of the priorities over the next period.

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