

HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research
and Higher Education

Research units

HCERES report on research unit:

Bordeaux Research Centre for Population Health

CRSP

Under the supervision of the following
institutions and research bodies:

Université de Bordeaux

Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche

Médicale - INSERM

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and Higher Education

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In the name of HCERES,¹

Didier HOUSSIN, president

In the name of the experts committee,²

Marie-Aline CHARLES, chairwoman of the
committee

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

¹ The president of HCERES "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 expert committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2)

Evaluation report

This report is the result of the evaluation by the experts committee, the composition of which is specified below.

The assessments contained herein are the expression of an independent and collegial deliberation of the committee.

Unit name: Bordeaux Research Centre for Population Health

Unit acronym: CRSP

Label requested:

Present no.:

Name of Director
(2014-2015): Mr Christophe TZOURIO

Name of Project Leader
(2016-2020): Mr Christophe TZOURIO

Expert committee members

Chair: Ms Marie-Aline CHARLES, Inserm, Université Paris Descartes

Experts: Mr Fabrice CARRAT, Inserm, Université Pierre et Marie Curie

Mr Nathan CLUMECK, CHU St Pierre Bruxelles, Belgium

Mr Michel COT, IRD, Université Paris Descartes

Ms Emmanuelle GENIN, Inserm, Université de Brest

Mr Pascal GUÉNEL, Inserm, Paris Villejuif

Mr Francis GUILLEMIN, Université de Lorraine (representative of the CSS Inserm)

Mr Olaf KLUNGEL, University of Utrecht, Netherland

Ms Lucie LAFLAMME, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

Mr Giancarlo LOGROSCINO, University of Bari, Italy

Ms France MENTRE, Inserm, Université Paris Diderot

Mr Robert PERNECZKY, Imperial College London, UK

Ms Elke SCHAEFFNER, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany

Mr Michael SCHEMPER, Medical University of Vienna, Austria

Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:

Mr Claude-Gilles DUSSAP

Representatives of the unit's supervising institutions and bodies:

Mr Bernard BÉGAUD (representative of the Doctoral School "Sociétés, Politique, Santé Publique" ED SP2)

Mr Pierre Dos SANTOS, Université Bordeaux 2

Ms Christine GUILLARD, Inserm

Mr Philippe LECONTE, Inserm

Mr Joaquin MARTINEZ, CHU

Mr Pierre SOUBEYRAN, Institut Bergonié

Ms Monique THONNAT, INRIA

1 • Introduction

History and geographical location of the unit

The Centre was established in 2008 and first renewed in 2010. It is located in Bordeaux, in close vicinity with the University Hospital. The centre has close links with the ISPED (*Institut de Santé Publique, Épidémiologie et Développement*) which offers a Master program, university diplomas and a summer school.

Management team

The current and future director of the Centre took office in September 2013 following the retirement of the previous director. The former deputy director stayed in position. The management team also includes a secretary-general. The centre includes 11 research teams and two emerging teams.

HCERES nomenclature

SVE1_LS7 *Recherche clinique, Santé publique*

SHS1_1 *Économie et gestion*

SVE1_LS2 *Génétique, Génomique, Bioinformatique, Biologie des systèmes*

SVE1_LS5 *Neurosciences*

SHS4_2 *Psychologie*

Unit workforce

Unit workforce	Number as at 30/06/2014	Number as at 01/01/2016
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	36 (10.40 FTE)	70 (25.24 FTE)
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions	14 (12.70 FTE)	18 (15.70 FTE)
N3: Other permanent staff (without research duties)	40 (24.70 FTE)	57 (35.63 FTE)
N4: Other professors (Emeritus Professor, on-contract Professor, etc.)	-	-
N5: Other researchers (Emeritus Research Director, Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)	11 (7.03 FTE)	23 (17.87 FTE)
N6: Other contractual staff (without research duties)	146 (123.15 FTE)	159 (135.11 FTE)
TOTAL N1 to N6	247 (177.98 FTE)	327 (229.55 FTE)

Team workforce	Number as at 30/06/2014	Number as at 01/01/2016
Doctoral students	40	
Theses defended	44	
Postdoctoral students having spent at least 12 months in the unit	3	
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) taken	5	
Qualified research supervisors (with an HDR) or similar positions	35	62

2 • Overall assessment of the unit

Global assessment of the unit

The scope of the research centre (Centre de Recherche en Santé des Populations: CRSP) covers three important domains of epidemiology and public health: 1) aging and age-related diseases, mainly ocular, neurovascular and neurodegenerative diseases, cancer; 2) injury prevention; 3) HIV infection and other infectious diseases with a strong orientation towards lower income countries. Research in biostatistics is also conducted within CRSP, well fed by questions that arise in epidemiological analyses. CRSP has successfully developed research with high impact over the past 5 years. It has shown a capacity to strengthen and attract top ranking scientists in major fields of epidemiology, biostatistics and public health and to lead large population based cohorts and international and multicentre clinical trials. With the new director in charge since 2013, a new organisation has emerged, involving more responsibilities to younger and female researchers heading these teams. The research activities are characterized by an opening to social sciences (first of all psychology). Strength is the geographic unity of most teams, with the need now to expand offices space resources. The research projects and the strategy over the next 5 years are deemed excellent to outstanding.

Strengths and opportunities in relation to the context

The major strengths and opportunities are enumerated in the following 9 points:

- top ranked scientists in major domains of epidemiology, biostatistics and public health;
- international associated laboratory in Africa;
- large cohorts and clinical trials led by the centre;
- development of new methods in biostatistics for longitudinal analysis of cohort data;
- impressive number of massive grants collected, including some from the national "*investissements d'avenir*" call;
- major involvement in teaching and training through research;
- openness to new disciplines such as health psychology;
- new management strategy;
- strong commitment of the university and the IDEX to bring together humanities, social sciences and public health.

Weaknesses and threats related to the context

The weaknesses and threats mentioned by the experts committee are enumerated as follows:

- several young leaders with no previous experience of team direction;
- some key persons are overloaded with responsibilities;
- huge number of non permanent positions especially in administrative and technical positions;
- lack of office space and different locations for researchers in some teams;
- international visibility and appeal needs to be improved.

Recommendations

The global recommendations formulated by the experts committee are the followings:

- build further on internal synergies;
- improve international reputation;
- keep the geographical unity;
- make sure that the centre keeps its coherence while growing and integrating new disciplines;
- attraction of young international researchers.