

HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research
and Higher Education

Research units

HCERES report on interdisciplinary
research unit:

Comportement et noyaux gris centraux

Under the supervision of
the following institutions
and research bodies:

Université de Rennes 1

HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research
and Higher Education

Research units

In the name of HCERES,¹

Michel COSNARD, president

In the name of the experts committee,²

Kathy DUJARDIN, 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 sole result of evaluation by the expert committee, the composition of which is specified below. The assessments contained herein are the expression of an independent and collegial reviewing by the committee.

Unit name: Comportement et noyaux gris centraux

Unit acronym:

Label requested: EA

Current number: EA4712

**Name of Director
(2015-2016):** Mr Marc VÉRIN

**Name of Project Leader
(2017-2021):** Mr Marc VÉRIN

Expert committee members

Chair: Ms Kathy DUJARDIN, INSERM, Université Lille 2

Experts: Mr Philippe DAMIER, CHU Nantes, INSERM CIC, Nantes
Mr Alexandre GRAMFORT, CNRS, Telecom ParisTech, Université Paris-Saclay
Ms Chantal HENRY, Université de Paris Est, Créteil

Scientifics delegates representing the HCERES:

Ms Véronique DONZEAU-GOUGE

Mr Jean-Marie ZAJAC

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Mr Éric BELLISSANT, Université de Rennes 1

Mr Claude LABIT, Université de Rennes 1

Head of Doctoral School:

Ms Nathalie THERET, Doctoral School n° 92 "Vie-Agro-Santé"

1 • Introduction

History and geographical location of the unit

The research unit called “comportement et noyaux gris centraux” was firstly certified as University Research Unit (URU) and thereafter, as EA4712 in 2012 at the University of Rennes 1. It follows the creation of the deep brain stimulation center at the university medical center of Rennes in 2006.

Management team

The research unit is headed by Mr Marc VÉRIN. It consists of six senior members. Five of them are qualified research supervisors.

HCERES nomenclature

SVE, SVE1, SVE1_LS4, ST6

Scientific domains

The team is multidisciplinary. The fields covered are those of neurology, psychiatry, neurosurgery, neurophysiology and neuroimaging. It also integrates the methods of neuropsychology and biostatistics.

Unit workforce

Unit workforce	Number on 30/06/2015	Number on 01/01/2017
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	5	5
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions		
N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	1	1
N4: Other professors (Emeritus Professor, on-contract Professor, etc.)		
N5: Other researchers from Institutions (Emeritus Research Director, Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)		
N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel)		
N7: PhD students	6	
TOTAL N1 to N7	12	
Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions	5	

Unit record	From 01/01/2010 to 30/06/2015
PhD theses defended	2
Postdoctoral scientists having spent at least 12 months in the unit	
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period	2

2 • Overall assessment of the interdisciplinary unit

Introduction

The research topics of the EA4712 unit mainly concern the role of the basal ganglia in the control of behaviour (action, emotion and motivation) through the model of deep brain stimulation in neurological and psychiatric disorders. The unit emerged in 2006 with the creation by Mr Marc VÉRIN of the deep brain stimulation center at the university medical center of Rennes. It was certified as a research unit in 2012. It is thus a relatively young unit whose perimeter is being consolidated. The strategy for the next five years is ambitious and mainly aims to broaden and deepen the key themes of the unit. The goal is to join an INSERM unit at the end of the contract.

Global assessment of the unit

Considering the ratio between the number of publications and the size of the unit, the scientific quality is excellent with a good international outlook.

The unit is attractive and has a good academic reputation. It is involved in national and international projects as well as in local and national networks. Members are involved in training through research mainly through the supervision of PhD students. They will also be involved in a master degree during the next contract.

The ability to find public and private funding is noteworthy.

The unit has more than 20 projects for the five coming years. All are ambitious with a strong interdisciplinary dimension. However, this may be too ambitious considering the size of the unit and the fact that all members are clinicians and none of them is involved full time in research. There is a real risk of dispersion.

Strengths and opportunities in the context

The strengths of the unit are: interdisciplinarity, attractiveness and originality of the main theme. Moreover, the unit can rely on a good regional scientific ecosystem (INSERM, CNRS, INRIA, and IRISA).

The opportunities are real (partnerships with the industry, international collaborations) and will allow to reinforce and extend multidisciplinary.

Weaknesses and threats in the context

The weaknesses are the lack of an EPST label and consequently the lack of permanent researchers from institutions, the lack of permanent professors from non-medical university departments, the lack of methodological support to develop multimodal neuroimaging and a dispersion of the themes.

The main threat comes from competition with other neuroscience teams at the national and international level.

Recommendations

The committee strongly recommends that the team consider from now on a consolidation or even an integration with other local units (in particular, U746 VISAGES) to benefit from a better administrative and scientific environment. This will help obtaining an EPST label and provide better opportunities for the future.