

REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Center of Research in Inflammation (CRI)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Université Paris Diderot

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -
CNRS

Institut national de la santé et de la recherche
médicale - Inserm

ÉVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018
GROUP D



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the expert committee²:

Jeremy Hughes, 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 expert 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).

This report is the sole result of the unit's 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 PRESENTATION

Unit name:	Center of Research in Inflammation
Unit acronym:	CRI
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	UMR 1149
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Mr Renato MONTEIRO
Project leader (2019-2023):	Mr Renato MONTEIRO
Number of teams:	11

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Jeremy HUGHES, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Vice-Chair:	Mr Jean-Louis GUEANT, Univ. Lorraine, Nancy (representative of CNU)
Experts:	Mr Jonathan BARRATT, University of Leiceister, United Kingdom
	Ms Carmen BERASAIN, University of Navarra, Spain
	Mr Xavier DE DEKEN, Univ. Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium
	Mr Laurent DUBUQUOY, LIRIC, Lille (representative of Inserm CSS)
	Ms Roxane FABRE, CIML, Marseille (supporting personnel)
	Mr Hans-Jürgen HOFFMANN, Aarhus University, Denmark
	Mr Hugues LELOUARD, CIML, Marseille (representative of CoNRS)
	Mr Tom MACDONALD, Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom
	Ms Alessandra MANGIA, IRCCS Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, Italy
	Ms Isabelle MARIDONNEAU-PARINI, IPBS, Toulouse
	Mr Luc PENICAUD, CNRS, Toulouse
	Mr Fritz SCHICK, University of Tübingen, Germany
	Mr Simon TAYLOR-ROBINSON, Imperial College, London, United Kingdom

HCERES scientific officer:

Mr Jean-Paul LALLES

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Mr Nicolas DE ROUX, Université Paris Diderot

Mr Bruno LUCAS, CNRS

Ms Sabrina SAHOUN, Inserm

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The CRI was created on the Bichat and Beaujon sites in 2014 following a merger of 3 previous research units (UMRS699, Inserm U773 and Inserm U843) and became the first research centre to focus upon the study of medical inflammation in France.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Director: Mr Renato MONTEIRO. Deputy Director: Mr Richard MOREAU.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

SVE3_4; SVE5_1; SVE5_3.

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

Although the focus of the CRI is inflammation, the current and proposed teams have a broad range of research interests including: inflammation of various organs (kidney, gut, liver); the regulation of antigen presentation; the role of mast cells and basophils in autoimmune and sterile inflammation; the contribution of phagocytes and NADPH-oxidases as well as heme-iron to inflammatory disease; the interface between inflammation and liver and pancreas cancer; viral hepatitis; the response of the gut to surgery; and novel imaging methods to detect and quantify the severity of inflammation and fibrosis as well as cancer. Within many of these domains there is work that involves both preclinical basic science and clinical research that aims to translate key findings to patients.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	53	57
Assistant professors and similar positions	23	24
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	8	12
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	18	17
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)	64	18
TOTAL permanent staff	166	128
Non-permanent staff		

Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	19	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	68	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	17	
PhD Students	99	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	203	
TOTAL unit	369	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The research interests within the CRI are broad with some areas of significant overlap and potential synergy. The CRI is composed of 2 departments: Nephrology and Immuno-Haematology (NIH) and Hepatology and Gastroenterology (HGE). Areas of research include sterile and immune inflammation in multiple organs, the regulation of immune response initiation and the roles of particular leukocytes (e.g. mast cells, basophils) in disease. The contribution of NADPH-oxidases and heme-iron interactions to inflammatory disease is studied as well as viral infection of the liver. The relationship between inflammation and the transition to cancer is examined together with gut inflammation and the gut response to surgery. Novel imaging methods using MRI to detect and quantify inflammation, fibrosis and cancer are used in both experimental and clinical research. The teams within the CRI have discrete research interests but also undertake bench-to bedside research that cuts across multiples disciplines and themes (inflammation, imaging, immunity, metabolism experimental models, human disease etc.). As a result, the totality of the CRI is significantly greater than the sum of the individual teams. The CRI has exhibited significant progress since the last evaluation with an excellent publication record, strong research grant funding, the successful generation of patents and licenses and solid research training for students. In addition, 2 start-up companies have been created including Inatherys focused on developing therapeutic monoclonal antibodies for the fields of inflammation and cancer and Inception IBD that focuses upon new therapeutic approaches to inflammatory bowel disease.

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