

REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Interdisciplinary Center for Research in Biology
(CIRB)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Collège de France

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:

Britta Eickholt, Chairwoman 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:	Interdisciplinary Center for Research in Biology
Unit acronym:	CIRB
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	UMR 7241
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Mr Alain PROCHIANZ
Project leader (2019-2023):	Ms Marie-Hélène VERLHAC
Number of teams:	20

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Ms Britta EICKHOLT, CHARITÉ Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany
Experts:	Mr Marin BARISIC, Danish Cancer Society Research Center Copenhagen, Denmark
	Mr Jacques GHYSDAEL, Institut Curie Orsay
	Mr Jacky GOETZ, Inserm Strasbourg (representative of CoNRS)
	Mr Nicolas GOMPEL, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany
	Mr Christoph HARMS, Charité, Center for Stroke Research Berlin, Germany
	Mr Cyril HERRY, Université Bordeaux Segalen
	Ms Sandrine HUMBERT, Institut de Neurosciences, Grenoble (representative of Inserm CSS)
	Mr Krzysztof JAGLA, Inserm Clermont-Ferrand
	Mr Madan Babu MOHAN, LMB MRC Cambridge, United Kingdom
	Mr Francois RASSENDREN, IGF Montpellier
	Ms Anne REYNAUD, Institut Curie Orsay (supporting personnel)

HCERES scientific officer:

Mr Carsten JANKE

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Mr Alain EYCHENE, CNRS

Mr Thierry GALLI, Inserm

Mr Stéphane MAZEVET, PSL

Mr Clément SANCHEZ, Collège de France

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Biology (CIRB) is a research structure jointly funded by the "Collège de France", CNRS and Inserm, and located at the "Collège de France" in the Center of Paris. It was established with the ambition and long-term goal to foster excellence in research across different biological disciplines. Current groups in the CIRB work in the fields of developmental and cell biology, as well as infectious disease, neuroscience and cardio-vascular research. It also includes chemists, physicists and mathematicians, who pursue their strong interest in addressing modern questions in the biological sciences. In 2009, Mr Alain PROCHIANTZ was put in charge of the restructuring of biological research at "Collège de France" and created CIRB through the merging of all units into a single unit. The process took about 18 month and official opening of the unit followed in January 2011. Since the last evaluation in 2013, 3 new groups were recruited and 2 groups emerging from established teams are proposed to attain group status in the next two years.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Currently, the unit is headed by Mr Alain PROCHIANTZ. Because he will not be in a position to renew his appointment as director of the centre, the current deputy director Ms Marie-Hélène VERLHAC will take over the leadership.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

SVE2_1; SVE2_2; SVE2_3; SVE3_1; SVE4_1; ST1_2; ST2_3.

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The research unit CIRB focuses on a broad aspect of contemporary problems in biology.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	7	5
Assistant professors and similar positions	4	4
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	17	16
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	18	21
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	0	4
High school teachers	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	50	48
TOTAL permanent staff	96	98

Non-permanent staff		
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	1	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	15	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	12	
PhD Students	43	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	71	
TOTAL unit	167	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

CIRB's progress since the previous evaluation in 2013 has been remarkable. It presents itself as a competitive, internationally visible research unit, consisting of permanent and non-permanent groups that are headed by, mostly, clearly distinguishable, independent principle investigators. The unit consists of established groups as well as of a number of recently appointed, young research groups, which were invited following an international call and recruited after rigorous evaluation by the international scientific advisory board. Individual laboratories benefit from state-of-the-art infrastructure and access to modern core facilities, making the CIRB today an exciting multidisciplinary center of scientific excellence in biological research. In turn, the groups within the CIRB have produced - as a whole - impressive publications both in terms of quantity and in terms of quality (as measured by their impact factor and the importance of the scientific questions addressed). Similarly, research income through third party funding, the engagement in outreach activities and teaching are, overall, excellent. CIRB fosters scientific excellence and, since the last evaluation five years ago, has manifested its position as an internationally competitive institution. It appears to have succeeded in the complex tasks to organize a research structure that addresses fundamental, multidisciplinary research activities in the analyses of molecular processes important for living cells in health and disease.

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