

# HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research  
and Higher Education

Research units

## HCERES report on Federative structure:

Institute of Research and Innovation in Biomedecine  
IRIB

Under the supervision of  
the following institutions  
and research bodies:

Université de Rouen

Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche  
Médicale - INSERM

# HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research  
and Higher Education

Research units

*In the name of HCERES,<sup>1</sup>*

Michel Cosnard, president

*In the name of the experts committee,<sup>2</sup>*

Jose Boucraut, chairman of the committee

---

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

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

## Federation

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.

Federation name: Institute of Research and Innovation in Biomedecine

Federation acronym: IRIB

Label requested:

Present no:

Name of Director  
(2015-2016): Mr Olivier BOYER

Name of Project Leader  
(2017-2021): Mr Olivier BOYER

## Expert committee members

Chair: Mr Jose BOUCAUT, Aix-Marseille Université, Marseille (representative of the CNU)

Experts: Ms Yolande RICHARD, Institut Cochin, Paris (representative of the INSERM)  
Mr Cassian SITARU, University of Freiburg, Germany

Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:

Ms Sophie EZINE

Ms Véronique DONZEAU-GOUGE

## 1 • Introduction

### History and geographical location of the federative structure and its member research units and brief description of its activities

The IRIB, “Institute of Research and Innovation in Biomedecine” was created in 2012 by several units that decided to share their respective equipment and human resources.

This federative structure is supported by the University of Rouen, the CHU of Rouen, the CNRS, the Inserm, the regional council of “Haute Normandie”, the Henri Becquerel Center. It includes several platforms and facilities: flow cytometry (material and equipment from the INSERM U905), cell imaging, genomic and proteomic, animal’s facilities with animal behaviour analysis and small animal MRI.

IRIB has also set up an oxidative stress analysis facility.

At present, the platforms are used by 19 Inserm, CNRS, University and hospital structures.

IRIB, as a regional research network, has been supported by the Normandy region and the ERDF European program. Three IRIB platforms, PISSARO, PRIMACEN and SCAC, have obtained the IBISA label.

### Management team

The management team consists of the direction and an executive committee. Each month, the executive committee, with representatives of every unit, meets to decide on the investment policy, the organization of meetings and presents the financial report.

### Specific workforce allocated to the federative structure

6 engineers (5 Inserm and 1 CNRS, 3 with HDR) are allocated to the federative structure; one of them is also helping the director (50% of his time). Historically, it was stated that they are devoted to the platforms and to the director unit in charge of the IRIB.

The other people of the workforce at IRIB are affiliated to different research units and work part time for the platforms.

## 2 • Overall assessment of the federative structure

### Global assessment of the federative structure

The assessment of the IRIB platforms is very positive. Indeed, this platform has been a great support for the laboratories of the Normandy region and has brought a major technical help within the biomedicine domains and the chemistry departments. It played a complementary role with the other neighboring platforms and has, thus, contributed to open and extend the analytic area.

Moreover, the executive committee anticipated the fusion of the two regions of Normandy by initiating a fusion project with the federative structure ICORE. The platform will play the same role in this new setting.

### Strengths and opportunities in the context

The federative structure offers all the facilities for biomedical and biological research and mainly for the priority scientific axes of the region.

One of the major strengths is its training program. Approximately twenty students followed a training course in imaging. Most of them found a job after the training either in a private company or in public institutions including platforms.

IRIB organized 5 national and 5 international congresses (Congrès du Groupement Français des Peptides et Protéines, 17<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Chromaffin Cell Biology ...) and contributed to classes as “Formation permanente” by specific workshops and schools (Journées Scientifiques du réseau LARC-Neurosciences ...).

An Inserm member assigned to the PRIMACEN platform has developed a new laboratory software, Easy Lab Manager, which will be distributed to all Inserm units.

The ambition of the project is in adequacy with the available budget.

### Weaknesses and threats in to the context

The visiting committee did not identify particular weakness except the fact that only a few private companies use the federative structure (approximately 5% but they contribute to 20% funding), but this is the case with the vast majority of French core facilities.

### Recommendations

- Maintain the coordination established in Rouen towards the entire Normandy region;
- improve the scientific priorities by the scientific council in order to target future actions;
- pursue the complementary actions with the other platforms of the region;
- improve the development of the web site to make more visible the actions/opportunities put together by the IRIB platforms, mainly regarding the equipments;
- strengthen the position of IRIB as an interlocutor and partner for financial support from the region and Europe.