



Research evaluation

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT
SPURBO - Primary care, Public Health and
cancer register of western Brittany

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Université de Bretagne Occidentale - UBO

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2020-2022
GROUP B

Report published on February, 08 2022

High Council for evaluation of research and higher education



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Mr Thierry Coulhon, President

In the name of the experts committee²:

Mr Jean-François Chenot, 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 experts committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5);

² The evaluation reports "are signed by the chairman of the experts committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2).

Tables in this document were filled with certified data submitted by the supervising body on behalf of the unit.

UNIT PRESENTATION

Unit name:	Primary care, Public Health and cancer register of western Brittany
Unit acronym:	SPURBO
Current label and N:	
ID RNSR:	201722604A
Application type:	Renewal
Head of the unit (2020-2021):	M. Jean Yves Le Reste
Project leader (2021-2025):	M. Jean Yves Le Reste
Number of teams:	1

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Jean-François Chenot, Universitätsmedizin Greifswald, Germany
Experts :	Ms Aurélie Bourmaud, Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris, Université de Paris, Inserm Ms Gladys Ibanez, Sorbonne Université, Paris Mr Florian Naudet, Inserm, CHU de Rennes, Université de Rennes

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Bernard Tardy

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mr Christian Brosseau, Université Bretagne Occidentale
Ms Fanny Gaudin, CHU Brest

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The SPURBO unit is located in Brest, as part of the "Université de Bretagne Occidentale" (UBO), and hosted at the medical faculty of the UBO. The department of general practice ("Département Universitaire de Médecine Générale" - DUMG) was founded in 1990 and was initially only active in undergraduate and graduate teaching. In 2005, they started first doing research projects. Since 2012, SPURBO organized clinical training in general practice for 350 trainees and have built a network of 320 clinical trainers dispersed in the region. This created an increased need to supervise professional theses. Since 2015, a methodologist (attaché de recherche clinique (ARC)) is supporting research activities of the unit.

In April 2014, the DUMG was merged with the Department of Public Health and the Cancer Registry to form the new unit SPURBO. Later Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Geriatrics were added. This was triggered by high prevalence above national average of mental health problems and addiction disorders in the region. The unit was locally recognized as a Research Unit (Équipe Reconnue par la Commission Recherche de l'UBO). There is a strong commitment to European General Practice Research Network (EGPRN) and several members of the general practice-Group are actively involved in working groups on depression, gut feeling in medical-decision-making, multimorbidity and job satisfaction and retention. In 2014, the unit was evaluated for the first time by HCERES.

The unit is included inside the University research field named "Santé, Agro, Matière" (SAM), of the University of Brest. Inside this research field, SPURBO coexists with two other research units specialized in thrombosis and neurology research, respectively and three UMR INSERM. The research field SAM is included in the Institute of the Brest University. This Institute aims at federating research units together, by launching internal calls for projects, organizing internal symposiums and encouraging co-directions in PhD subjects. The medical research science is considered as a strong field of research in this university.

Involvement in national excellence programs (IdEx, LabEx, EquipEx, etc.) is not reported. No participation in regional clusters is reported.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE AND THEMATICS OF THE UNIT

The unit is divided in six subunits related to medical specialties, Public Health and Addiction Medicine, Primary Care / General Practice, Cancer Registry, Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Geriatrics.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mr Jean Yves Le Reste is the director.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Active staff	Number 06/01/2020	Number 01/01/2022
Full professors and similar positions	8	8
Assistant professors and similar positions	3	3
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	0	0
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	0	0
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)	0	0
Permanent staff	11	11

Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus		
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs (except PhD students)		
PhD Students		
Non-permanent supporting personnel		
Non-permanent staff	4	
Total	15	11

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

SPURBO is the only unit in France focusing on prevention in primary care. The unit is organized in six subunits dedicated to primary care/general practice, public health and addiction medicine, cancer registry, psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry and geriatrics. Their objective is to produce theoretical models from patient and health services research to identify patterns that lead to limitation or cessation of prevention strategies, using mixed qualitative-quantitative methodologies.

The unit published a modest number of publications (55 out of which 56 % were published as first or last author in journals of medium profile such as *PLOS One*, *Journal of American Geriatric Society*, *European Psychiatry*, *Journal of Medicine Internet Journal Mental Health*, ...).

They managed to obtain multiple local and national grants (PREPS PHRCI, ARS, INCa). The Primary Care subunit is the most visible component of the SPURBO unit with participation in a H2020 program (SPICES) on cardiovascular prevention coordinated by the University of Antwerp (Belgium). The addiction medicine subunit is developing strong and only recently added subunits (Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Geriatrics) started promising. A high number of projects has not yet been translated in a corresponding number of research publications. The degree of collaborations between the subunits is varying and the range of topics covered by the unit as a whole seems too dispersed. The number of doctoral students is low relative to the staff qualified to supervise them.

The overall research output is modest and not in line with the number of funded research projects, the size of the unit, and the number of qualified staff. Some subunits are too small to allow much future development. The SPURBO unit is drowned in a list of projects without a guiding line. Thus, there is room for improvement regarding internal cooperation and development of a common research strategy for the next five years.

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