HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education

Department of Research evaluation

Report on research unit:

Plasticity of Airway Epithelium in Normal and Pathological Conditions

P3Cell

Under the supervision of the following institutions and research bodies:

Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne

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

Evaluation Campaign 2016-2017 (Group C)

Report published on February, 24 2017

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]

Didier Cataldo, chairman of the committee

Under the decree N°.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:	Plasticity of Airway Epithelium in Normal and Pathological Conditions
Unit acronym:	P3Cell
Label requested:	UMR Inserm – Université Reims Champagne-Ardenne
Current number:	UMR_S903
Name of Director (2016-2017):	Ms Myriam POLETTE
Name of Project Leader (2018-2022):	Ms Myriam POLETTE

Expert committee members

Chair:	Mr Didier CATALDO, Université de Liège, Belgium
Experts:	Ms Marie-Laure FRANCO-MONTOYA, Université Paris Est Créteil (representative of the supporting personnel)
	Mr Jean-François MUIR, Université de Rouen (representative of the CNU)
	Ms Marina PRETOLANI, Université Paris Diderot (representative of the CSS Inserm)
Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:	
	Ms Catherine SCHUSTER
Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:	
	Mr Guillaume GELLE, Université Reims Champagne-Ardenne
	Ms Chantal LASSERRE, Inserm
	Ms Anna LAZAR, Inserm
Head of Doctoral School:	
	Ms Sandrine BOUQUILLON, Doctoral School n°547 “Sciences Technologie Santé”

1 • Introduction

History and geographical location of the unit

The unit originates from the Inserm unit 314 created in 1989 by Ms Édith PUCHELLE. The current unit Inserm UMR-S 903 unit "Plasticity of Airway Epithelium in Normal and Pathological Conditions" was created jointly by the Inserm and the University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne (URCA) on January 2008 (director: Mr Philippe BIREMBAUT) and renewed in January 2012. Ms Myriam POLETTE leads the unit since September 2015.

The unit also belongs: (1) to the Federative Structure of Research "CAP-Santé" (SFR CAP-Santé), created in 2012 and composed of research laboratories from URCA and University of Picardie; and (2) to the Multi-Organisations Thematic Institute (ITMO) "Physiopathologie, métabolisme, nutrition" (PMN). Moreover, some of the research programs are integrated into the "Cancéropôle Grand Est" network.

The unit is situated in the University Hospital of Reims (CHU) and hosts the Platform for Innovative Biology ("Plate-forme Régionale de Biologie Innovante", PRBI) of the CHU of Reims. The unit benefits from a convention between Inserm, URCA and CHU for the financial management of the structure. An additional team (originally the research unit EA 4687) will join the unit for the next period.

Management team

Head: Ms Myriam POLETTE

HCERES nomenclature

SVE5 Physiologie, Physiopathologie, Cardiologie, Pharmacologie, Endocrinologie, Cancer, Technologies Médicales

Scientific domains

The unit expertise resides in the field of repair, modifications and remodelling of the airway epithelium and its plasticity in "Cystic Fibrosis" (CF), "Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease" (COPD), "Non-Small-Cell Lung Carcinoma" (NSCLC) and "Head and Neck Cancers" (HNC).

Unit workforce

Unit workforce	Number on 30/06/2016	Number on 01/01/2018
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	10	14
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions	3	3
N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	10	13
N4: Other researchers (Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)	1	
N5: Emeritus		
N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	5	
N7: PhD students	9	
TOTAL N1 to N7	**38**	
Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions	8	

Unit record	From 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2016
PhD theses defended	8
Postdoctoral scientists having spent at least 12 months in the unit	4
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period	

2 • Assessment of the unit

Global assessment of the unit

The research programs are developed by highly diversified groups, including scientists from different and complementary disciplines: biologists, computer specialists (software development for data management, image analysis) and physicians (pneumologists, head and neck specialists, pediatricians, pathologists, physiologists, geneticists, thoracic surgeons). Expert technicians support all the research activities. The unit has a unique access to human pathological specimens obtained in a prospective and retrospective manner, through collaborations with various clinical departments, at the CHU of Reims and abroad, allowing developing translational projects. Specifically, samples from CF patients, a rare resource, are available through the collaboration with the Resource Center for Cystic Fibrosis ("Centre de Ressources et de Compétence pour la Mucoviscidose", CRCM, Reims). The unit is recognized among the european and french research communities as a long-standing expert in the field of epithelium plasticity, with a high potential to test novel therapeutic strategies designed to restore a well-differentiated and functional airway epithelium in order to prevent lung remodeling and/or to limit lung cancer cell dissemination. In support, patents have been filed leading potentially to industrial development and/or to strengthen industrial collaborations. The unit is able to obtain sufficient financial ressources from national funding agencies to support the different research projects and to establish interactions with local and national research teams and with some international groups. Finally, the unit develops a

strategy to ensure its attractivity for young researchers, and encourages young clinicians to take part to its research projects through MD/PhD programs.

Overall, this unit is in an excellent position in the scientific landscape in France via: (1) its long-standing expertise in the field of epithelium plasticity; (2) an access to human biological samples in various diseases, including CF, COPD and lung cancer; (3) a collaboration with clinicians allowing the development of translational research projects and to coordinate clinical trials, as recently proven.