

HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research
and Higher Education

Department of Research Evaluation

report on research unit:

Central and Peripheral Mechanisms of
Neurodegeneration
MCPN

under the supervision of
the following institutions
and research bodies:

Institut National de la Santé Et la Recherche Médicale -
INSERM

Université de Strasbourg

Evaluation Campaign 2016-2017 (Group C)

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In the name of HCERES,¹

Michel Cosnard, president

In the name of the experts committee,²

Sven G. Meuth, chairman of the committee

Under the decree No.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:	Central and Peripheral Mechanisms of Neurodegeneration
Unit acronym:	MCPN
Label requested:	UMR-S
Current number:	1118
Name of Director (2016-2017):	Mr Jean-Philippe LOEFFLER
Name of Project Leader (2018-2022):	Mr Luc DUPUIS

Expert committee members

Chair:	Mr Sven G. MEUTH, University Clinic, Neurology Clinic and Institute of Translational Neurology, Münster, Germany
Experts:	Mr Abdelkrim ALLOUI, INSERM, University of Clermont-Ferrand (representative of supporting personnel) Mr Jean-René CAZALET, CNRS, University of Bordeaux Mr Denis FURLING, CNRS, Sorbonne University, Paris Mr Vincent PREVOT, University of Lille 2 (representative of the INSERM) Mr Alain TREMBLEAU, Neuroscience Paris (representative of the CNU)
Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:	Ms Catherine HEURTEAUX
Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:	Ms Catherine FLORENTZ, Université de Strasbourg Ms Marie-Ange LUC, INSERM Ms Meriem MAROUF-YORGOV, INSERM
Head of Doctoral School:	Ms Catherine SCHUSTER, ED n° 414, “Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé”

1 • Introduction

History and geographical location of the unit

The unit UMR-S1118 “Central and Peripheral Mechanisms of Neurodegeneration” was created in 2012 from the previous UMR-S692 INSERM unit), and attached to INSERM and Unistra. The laboratory is located within the campus of the Faculty of Medicine of Strasbourg University and is intended to move to the new next-door CRBS building (Centre de Recherches en Biomédecine de Strasbourg) in 2017.

Management team

The current director of the unit is Mr Jean-Philippe LOEFFLER and the new director will be Mr Luc DUPUIS in 2018.

HCERES nomenclature

Domaine principal: SVE4 Neurologie.

Domaines secondaires:

- SVE2 Biologie cellulaire, Imagerie, Biologie Moléculaire, Biochimie, Génomique, Biologie Systémique, Développement, Biologie Structurale;
- SVE5 Physiologie, Physiopathologie, Cardiologie, Pharmacologie, Endocrinologie, Cancer, Technologies Médicales.

Scientific domains

This laboratory is specifically focused on the physiology and physiopathology of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and on Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD), two diseases that are considered as the two extremes of a pathophysiological continuum. The unit project aims at understanding the mechanisms underlying ALS and FTD, identify diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers, and develop predictive preclinical models for effective therapeutic options. This is a translational research strategy bridging the gap between clinic and basic research.

Unit workforce

Unit workforce	Number on 30/06/2016	Number on 01/01/2018
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	5	6
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions	3	3
N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	7	6
N4: Other researchers (Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)	2	
N5: Emeritus	0	
N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	3	
N7: PhD students	7	
TOTAL N1 to N7	27	
Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions	6	

Unit record	From 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2016
PhD theses defended	6
Postdoctoral scientists having spent at least 12 months in the unit	3
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period	1

2 • Assessment of the unit

Global assessment of the unit

During the previous funding period, the unit managed to produce excellent output and achievements. Scientifically the unit's activity facilitates the understanding of new pathophysiologic mechanisms in ALS/FTD diseases. Thus, it evolved as a driving force in the ALS/FTD community/field. The team leaders are renowned experts in their field. There is a growing visibility of the team that is involved in several international networks and collaborative funded projects. The academic reputation and appeal of the team can be considered as excellent. The unit policy is in adequacy with the social, economic and cultural environment. The group also has an excellent national and excellent international recognition as indicated by the involvement of group members in the organization of international meetings, the invitations to give lectures and the recruitment of foreign PhD students. On the organizational level, the current management of this small unit has proven its efficacy. The unit appears attractive since two researchers with permanent position have joined this structure in the last 5 years. Finally, the committee of experts considered the working plan as well justified and promising, with excellent long-term design for fundamental understanding and translational research in ALS/FTD.