

HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research
and Higher Education

Department of Research Evaluation

report on research unit:

Department of Genomes & Genetics

Under the supervision of
the following institutions
and research bodies:

Institut Pasteur

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique - CNRS

Evaluation Campaign 2016-2017 (Group C)

HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research
and Higher Education

Department of Research Evaluation

In the name of HCERES,¹

Michel Cosnard, president

In the name of the experts committee,²

David Leach, 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: Department of Genomes & Genetics

Unit acronym:

Label requested: Department of Pasteur Institute

Current number: UMR 3525 (partial) - URA 3012 (partial)

Name of Director (2016-2017): Mr Didier MAZEL

Name of Project Leader (2018-2022): Mr Didier MAZEL

Expert committee members

Chair: Mr David LEACH, University of Edinburgh, UK

Experts:

- Ms Nathalie CAMPO, Université Paul Sabatier, Toulouse (representative of CoNRS)
- Mr Martin DONNELLY, Wellcome Genome Campus, UK
- Mr Hinton JAY, University of Liverpool, UK
- Mr Edward LOUIS, University of Leicester, UK
- Ms Bénédicte MICHEL, Institut de Biologie Intégrative de la Cellule, Gif sur Yvette
- Mr Stefan NIEMANN, National Reference Center for Mycobacteria, Germany
- Ms Françoise STUTZ, University of Geneva, Switzerland
- Mr Chris TYLER-SMITH, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, UK
- Mr Daniel WILSON, University of Oxford, UK

Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:

Mr Pierre COUBLE

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Mr Alain ISRAEL, Institut Pasteur

Mr Frédéric BOCCARD, CNRS

Mr François RENAUD, CNRS

Head of Doctoral School:

Ms Emmanuelle MOUCHEL-VIELH, Doctoral School n°515 “Complexité du vivant”

1 • Introduction

History and geographical location of the unit

The Genomes and Genetics Department has been created in 2006. It comprises 12 individual teams and encompasses 7 of the 8 teams of the CNRS UMR 3525 (directed by Mr Alain JACQUIER) and 3 of the 6 teams of the CNRS URA 3012 (directed by Mr Luis QUINTANA-MURCI).

The different teams are distributed in five buildings of the campus of Institut Pasteur in Paris.

Management team

The Genomes and Genetics Department is directed by Mr Didier MAZEL since 2009 with Ms Micheline FROMONT as deputy director since 2013.

HCERES nomenclature

Main scientific domains:

SVE2: Cell Biology, Imagery, Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Genomic, System Biology, Development, Structural Biology.

Secondary scientific domain:

SVE5 Physiology, Physiopathology, Cardiology, Pharmacology, Endocrinology, Cancer, Medical Technologies.

Scientific domains

The Genomes and Genetics Department exploits the genetic information in organisms of growing complexity from microorganisms such as bacteria and yeast to humans.

Unit workforce

Unit workforce	Number on 30/06/2016	Number on 01/01/2018
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	5	4
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions	32	32
N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	38.33	26.33
N4: Other researchers (Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)	35	
N5: Emeritus		
N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	5.25	
N7: PhD students	25	
TOTAL N1 to N7	140.58	
Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions	22	

Unit record	From 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2016
PhD theses defended	18
Postdoctoral scientists having spent at least 12 months in the unit	40
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period	2

2 • Assessment of the unit

Global assessment of the unit

The Department of Genomes & Genetics has maintained its position as a leader in the field of genomes and genetics in France with an outstanding international reputation. It has an outstanding record of productivity over the period of evaluation, with particular strengths in the fundamental science of bacteria and yeasts, the biology of bacterial and viral pathogens and the evolution of human lineages. The thread that binds the unit together is the widespread use of genomic technology and the unit is at the international forefront of the development of 3C genomic technology for bacteria and yeast. The unit contributes very effectively to the training of PhD students and post-docs. It is very effectively organised and led. It has exciting plans to strengthen biophysics and population genetics - fields at the two ends of its broad spectrum of interest.

The weaknesses of the unit reflect issues that are at least partially wider than the unit itself. The unit has a very skewed gender balance at the group leader level. It has suffered from the centralisation of services in the provision of bioinformatic support, media services and wash up and most recently administrative and secretarial services. Although there are good examples of societal impact of the work in the unit, it lacks a deeply embedded culture of public engagement.