

REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:

Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Biology of Eukaryotes (LBMCE)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH BODIES:

Université Pierre et Marie Curie

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique - CNRS

ÉVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018
GROUP D



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the expert committee²:

Monica Bettencourt-Dias, Chairwoman 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 expert 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).

This report is the sole result of the unit's 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 PRESENTATION

| | |
|--|--|
| Unit name: | Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Biology of Eukaryotes |
| Unit acronym: | LBMCE |
| Requested label: | UMR |
| Application type: | Renewal |
| Current number: | UMR 8226 |
| Head of the unit (2017-2018): | Mr Stéphane LEMAIRE |
| Project leader (2019-2023): | Ms Maria Teresa TEIXEIRA |
| Number of teams: | 5 |

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| | |
|--|--|
| Chair: | Ms Monica BETTENCOURT-DIAS, Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, Oeiras, Portugal |
| Experts: | Mr Johannes BUCHNER, Technical University Munich, Germany Ms Sophie LEBOUCHER, Institut Curie, Orsay (supporting personnel) Ms Anne Catherine SCHMIT, Institut de biologie moléculaire des plantes, Strasbourg (representative of CoNRS) Mr Petr SVOBODA, Institute of Molecular Genetics ASCR, Prague, Czech Republic Mr Benedikt WESTERMANN, University of Bayreuth, Germany |
| HCERES scientific officer: | Mr Carsten JANKE |
| Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies: | Mr Sebastien STAERCK, CNRS Mr Sébastien THOMINE, CNRS |

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The Institut de Biologie Physico-Chimique (IBPC) is a multidisciplinary research site in biology. It integrates research on macromolecular interactions, gene expression, membrane and cell biology, structural biology and bioenergetics. After a renovation of the building by the CNRS that lasted 10 years and which liberated 250 m² of new laboratories, IBPC, launched an international call in 2009 to host new research teams in biology, able to interact with the research units already installed at IBPC. Three teams were grouped together in the Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Biology of Eukaryotes (FRE3354), a joint research unit created on 1 January 2010 and associated with the CNRS and Pierre and Marie Curie University (UPMC). The unit was therefore composed at its creation of 3 young teams developing complementary research topics on unicellular eukaryotic organisms such as the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* or the unicellular green alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*.

The management of the unit was entrusted to Stéphane LEMAIRE. In 2010, the IBPC launched a second call for the hosting of new teams, which resulted in the selection of 2 teams that joined FRE3354 in 2011: the team "RNA Metabolism in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*" (M. Lionel BENARD) and the team "Molecular chaperones and biogenesis of macromolecular assemblies" (M. Philippe MEYER). In 2013, FRE3354 was positively evaluated by AERES and became UMR8226 on 1 January 2014, with the same teams, same director and same affiliations (CNRS and UPMC), all inherited from FRE3354. UMR8226 is part of the 5 units of the IBPC located 13 rue Pierre and Marie Curie, 75005 Paris.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Director's name (current contract): M. Stéphane LEMAIRE.

Director's name (next contract): Ms Maria Teresa TEIXEIRA.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

SVE2_1; SVE2_2.

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The research projects developed by the 5 groups focus on fundamental processes of eukaryotic cells (DNA and RNA metabolism, post-translational modifications, folding and conformational activation of proteins, membrane fusion), using two model unicellular eukaryotes; the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and the green alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*.

UNIT WORKFORCE

| Unit workforce | Number 30/06/2017 | Number 01/01/2019 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Permanent staff | | |
| Full professors and similar positions | 0 | 0 |
| Assistant professors and similar positions | 4 | 5 |
| Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions | 2 | 3 |
| Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions | 5 | 4 |

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| 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) | 6 | 7 |
| TOTAL permanent staff | 17 | 19 |
| Non-permanent staff | | |
| Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus | 0 | |
| Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs | 10 | |
| Non-permanent supporting personnel | 1 | |
| PhD Students | 2 | |
| TOTAL non-permanent staff | 13 | |
| TOTAL unit | | |
| | 30 | |

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

This is a small and young unit, which is very cohesive and participative in its organisation, with broad research interests in important fields. Since 2012, individual teams in the unit have produced exciting scientific findings in different fields, such as molecular biology and macromolecular assemblies (mRNA stability and translation; telomere length regulation and consequences in physiology; chaperones and macromolecular assembly) and bioenergetics and membrane dynamics (structural and biochemical studies in the mechanism of mitochondrial fusion, studies on redox signalling and new developments in synthetic biology). Some teams in the unit obtained highly competitive international research grants and distinctions. The unit is now well established, and the overall performance is very good, with several excellent scientific projects.

The unit managed to increase its CNRS & UPMC funding and permanent staff during the reference period. However, there is still some disparity in external research funding and group composition between the different teams. To attract more postdocs and PhD students, it will be important to obtain more grants and to increase the visibility of the unit and of the entire hosting institute (IBPC). While the small size of the unit and lack of collaborations was a concern in the last evaluation, this situation has improved. Despite their small size, the unit developed internal and external collaborations, which will lead to joint publications within the unit. Overall, the unit and IBPC may benefit from more joint activities and the establishment of additional platforms such as they have already done for the mass spectrometry unit.

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