

REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Pathophysiology, Targets and Therapies of
Rheumatoid Arthritis (Li2P)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Université Paris 13

Institut national de la santé et de la recherche
médicale - Inserm

ÉVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018
GROUP D



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the expert committee²:

Jean Michel Dayer, 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 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:	Pathophysiology, Targets and Therapies of Rheumatoid Arthritis
Unit acronym:	Li2P
Requested label:	UMR U
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	UMR U1125
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Mr Marie-Christophe BOISSIER
Project leader (2019-2023):	Mr Marie-Christophe BOISSIER
Number of team:	1

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Jean Michel DAYER, University of Geneva, Switzerland
Experts:	Ms Florence APPARAILLY, Inserm Montpellier (representative of Inserm CSS)
	Mr Maxime BREBAN, APHP Boulogne-Billancourt (representative of CNU)
	Ms Sophie DUCHEZ, Université Paris Diderot (supporting personnel)
	Mr Diego KYBURZ, University of Basel, Switzerland
	Mr Rik LORIES, KU Leuven, Belgium
HCERES scientific officer:	Ms Anne CAIGNARD
Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:	Ms Camille CHAUDONNERET, Inserm
	Mr Didier FRANDJI GROUPE, CHU
	Ms Chantal LASSERRE, Inserm
	Ms Anne PELLE, Université Paris 13

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

Rheumatology research was introduced at the Paris 13 University (UP13) in Bobigny in 1991 within a UPRES (University research unit). From 1997 to 2004, the "Groupe de Recherche in immunopathologie et immuno-intervention" (Immunopathology and Immunointervention Research Group, UPRES 2361 then 3408), focused on "Rheumatoid arthritis" (RA) among its axes of investigation. The group obtained the Associated Training seal of approval from the Claude Bernard Association (1999-2004) and was subsequently granted an Inserm team status as "Contrat de Recherche Externe" (CRE), then as ERI18 "Physiopathologie et Biothérapies de la Polyarthrite Rhumatoïde" (Pathophysiology and Biotherapies of Rheumatoid Arthritis, 2006-2008), and Inserm U1125 in 2014. This new status enabled further scientific development within UP13; the focus on this translational research aimed chiefly at rheumatoid arthritis (RA). The unit is located on the campus of Bobigny of the UP13, within the building of the UFR de Santé, médecine et biologie humaine (SMBH), Northeast of Paris.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The research unit is headed by Mr Marie-Christophe Boissier.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

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

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The team is focused on Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), studying innate and adaptive immune cells and cytokine involvement. Its research is mostly pre-clinical, with an investment in appropriate murine models for testing new therapeutic principles.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	5	7
Assistant professors and similar positions	3	3
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	0	1
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	0	0
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	2	2
High school teachers	0	0

Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	5	4
TOTAL permanent staff	15	17
Non-permanent staff		
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	1	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	2	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	1	
PhD Students	5	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	9	
TOTAL unit	24	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The unit has successfully translated the proof of concept studies in animal models to clinical trials with very high quality. In addition, other original approaches on new cytokines have been studied.

The scientific production is very good and the unit's reputation excellent. The unit has been highly active in communication of research by informing the public to general topics. The interaction with the non-academic world and the industry is excellent to outstanding. The involvement in training through research in a translational approach to clinic is one of the most important features of the unit and the quality is very high with excellent implication in Master programs. Only training in complementary skills such as learning to write manuscripts and grants is limited. The organization is excellent as well as the interaction with the clinical staff. However, teaching and clinical duties are important in the unit, and the time allocated to research by some clinical staff members appears somewhat limited. The management is transparent and consensual with an outstanding collaboration with the Institutions. University Paris 13 and hospital Institution are highly supportive. The research, teaching and clinical rheumatology has been a major implementation at the UP13 and Hospital.

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2 rue Albert Einstein
75013 Paris, France
T. 33 (0)1 55 55 60 10

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