

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Drugs and Molecules for Living Systems (M2SV)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Université de Lille

Institut Pasteur de Lille

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

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2018-2019
GROUP E



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the experts committee²:

Ad Ijzerman, 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 experts committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5);

² The evaluation reports "are signed by the chairman of the experts committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2).

Tables in this document were filled with data provided by laboratories and supervising bodies in the unit's application and in the Excel files "Données du contrat en cours" and "Données du prochain contrat".

UNIT PRESENTATION

Unit name:	Drugs and Molecules for Living Systems
Unit acronym:	M2SV
Requested label:	U
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	1177
Head of the unit (2018-2019):	Mr Benoît DEPREZ
Project leader (2020-2024):	Mr Benoît DEPREZ
Number of teams and/or themes:	1

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Ad IJZERMAN, Leiden University, The Netherlands
Experts:	Mr Frédéric CANTAGREL, CNRS Talence (supporting personnel)
	Mr Hervé GALONS, Université Paris Descartes (representative of CNU)
	Ms Odile LECOMPTE, Université de Strasbourg (representative of Inserm CSS)

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Georges MASSIOT

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mr Bertrand DECAUDIN, Université de Lille

Ms Carine GIOVANNANGELI, Inserm

Ms Fabienne JEAN, Institut Pasteur Lille

Mr Lionel MONTAGNE, Université de Lille

Mr Samir OULD-ALI, Inserm

Ms Christelle USEILLE, SATT

Mr Patrick VERMERSCH, Université de Lille

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The unit named "Drugs and molecules for living systems" was founded as U761 in 2006 by Mr Benoît Deprez.. The present unit is now referred to as U1177. It has two sites of activity with distinct fields of work. The medicinal chemistry is performed at the Université de Lille (Faculty of Pharmacy) and the pharmacology is developed at the Lille Pasteur Institute.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The unit is directed by Mr Benoît Deprez.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

ST4: Chemistry.

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The scientific domain of M2SV is drug discovery and early development of compounds acting through an unprecedented mechanism of action, with the objective of identifying and establishing proof-of-concept of compounds to potentially become first-in-class drugs.

UNIT WORKFORCE

	Unit workforce	
	Drugs and Molecules for Living Systems	
Active staff	Number 30/06/2018	Number 01/01/2020
Full professors and similar positions	3	3
Assistant professors and similar positions	5	5
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.")	1	1
High school teachers	0	
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	12	12
Permanent staff	21	22
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	

Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	20	
<i>PhD Students</i>	9	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	2	
Non-permanent staff	31	
Total	52	22

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The unit “Drugs and molecules for living systems (M2SV)” has performed very well in terms of scientific output, in particular through a number of high-impact papers, either through own research activities or in collaboration. Equally convincing is the focus on valorization with a number of clinical candidate drugs, e.g., NCEs for tuberculosis evaluated by “big pharma”. A spin-off company has been founded as well, addressing a rare disease. The focus for the next five years is balanced, since two work packages build on the successes of the last term, while two new work packages are logical additions, all geared towards the further expansion of academic drug discovery the team has adopted so successfully. The unit’s team consists of eager and confident learners, performing at a high level of lab safety and data management/stewardship. Training through research appears to meet with the best international standards.

Laboratory life is excellently organized and appreciated as such by the team members, from technicians to colleague professors. The laboratories are exemplary in e.g., the available equipment, including an HTS and HCS platform. The unit’s director should strive for further financial support to allow maintenance of the platform infrastructure and recruitment of a microscopy specialist. The current two-site location is not ideal; the move of all labs to the Institut Pasteur de Lille, taking place in 2020, will effectively resolve this concern.

The committee advises the team to exploit its successful track record even more by setting up further international/European collaborations, also serving the team’s wish to accommodate scientists from abroad. Secondly, the expansion of the team into the realm of cheminformatics is encouraged. In this context, the recent arrival of a renowned specialist is a logical step forward, but for this to be fully rewarding the director should devise a strategy to exploit the potential of this integration.

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