

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT: Mycology department

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH BODIES:

Institut Pasteur Paris

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -
CNRS

Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique -
INRA

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2018-2019 GROUP E



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the experts committee²:

Geraldine Butler, 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 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:	Mycology department
Unit acronym:	None
Requested label:	Inra, CNRS, Institut Pasteur
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	None
Head of the unit (2018-2019):	Ms Françoise DROMER
Project leader (2020-2024):	Ms Françoise DROMER and Mr Guilhem JANBON
Number of teams and/or themes:	5

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Ms Geraldine BUTLER, University College Dublin, Ireland
Experts:	Mr Antonio CASSONE, Università degli Studi di Perugia, Italy
	Ms Sophie DUCHEZ, Sorbonne Paris Cité (supporting personnel)
	Mr Paul VERWEIJ, Radboud University, The Netherlands

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Ms Sophie EZINE

REPRESENTATIVE OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mr Patrick TRIEU-CUOT, Institut Pasteur

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

To increase its national and international visibility, in 2014 the Pasteur Institute decided to create a department of mycology. Three teams carrying out research on pathogenic fungi at the Institute directed by Mr Christophe d'Enfert (Team1), by Ms Françoise Dromer (Team4) and the *Aspergillus* team by Mr Jean-Paul Latgé, were joined by two emerging Teams: Team3, directed by Ms Jessica Quintin in March 2015 and Team5 by Mr Guilhem Janbon (originally from Christophe d'Enfert's team) in November 2015. Subsequently, after a successful application, Mr Eugene Gladyshev (Team2), joined the teams in 2017. In October 2018, the department lost one of the founding teams, the *Aspergillus* team directed by Mr Jean-Paul Latgé who decided to retire in December 2017. The five current teams (2 seniors and 3 juniors) are located in four different buildings on both sides of the Institute Campus, in Paris area (15^e arrondissement).

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Ms Françoise Dromer is the chair of the Department of Mycology, and Mr Guilhem Janbon is the deputy chair. For the next mandate, Ms Françoise Dromer and Mr Guilhem Janbon will chair the department.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE3, SVE2 and SVE6

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The new Department of Mycology addresses the main missions of the Institute, namely to study, prevent and treat diseases, mainly those of infectious origin. The Department of Mycology has the ambition to improve the management of fungal infections by improving basic knowledge of the biology of fungi, and of their interactions with the environment, including the host. They are thus interested in analysing the mechanisms of pathogen-mediated host damage, as well as the specific attributes of virulence of the fungi. The main fungi studied in the department are *Candida albicans*, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, *Aspergillus fumigatus* and *Neurospora crassa*.

UNIT WORKFORCE

	Unit workforce	
	Department of Mycology	
Active staff	Number 30/06/2018	Number 01/01/2020
Full professors and similar positions	2	4
Assistant professors and similar positions	3	2
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	3	3
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	5	4

Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	1	2
High school teachers	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	11	9
Permanent staff	25	24
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	15	
<i>PhD Students</i>	5	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	0	
Non-permanent staff	15	
Total	40	24

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

This is the first evaluation of this department which includes 2 senior teams and 3 junior ones. The scientific outputs of the Department are very strong, with >75% of the publications in first quartile journals. Team members have outstanding international reputation, have had a major influence on their fields, and are among the top international teams studying *Candida* and *Cryptococcus* biology, particularly in the area of genomics and genome diversity. They have been invited to present at and serve on organising committees for all the major international conferences on fungi.

Team members have also made very strong contributions to scientific training, including participating in one EU Marie-Curie PhD training network. However, the number of HDR is still low and the number of PhD students should be improved.

Department members have an excellent record of obtaining external national and international funding. The interaction with the non-academic world is very good, though it comes mostly from one team.

The future plans include developing competitive new areas of research, such as new tools for the diagnosis of invasive fungal infections, studying epigenetic phenomena in relation to recombination, characterising genotype-phenotype relationships in *Candida*, and characterizing the host immune response to components of the fungal cell wall. Overall the assessment of the performance is excellent, both in fundamental and translational science, although the junior teams are small and are therefore vulnerable.

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