

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Pathophysiology and Clinical Pharmacology of
Pain (LPPD)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines
- UVSQ

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:

Giandomenico Iannetti, 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:	Pathophysiology and Clinical Pharmacology of Pain
Unit acronym:	LPPD
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	987
Head of the unit (2018-2019):	Mr Didier BOUHASSIRA
Project leader (2020-2024):	Mr Didier BOUHASSIRA
Number of teams and/or themes:	

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Giandomenico IANNETTI, University College London, UK
Experts:	Mr Youssef AISSOUNI, Université Clermont-Auvergne (supporting personnel) Mr Alain CARIOU, AP-HP, Paris Descartes University (representative of CNU) Ms Nathalie KUBIS, Université Paris Diderot (representative of Inserm CSS) Mr André MOURAUX, Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Jacques NOËL

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mr Etienne HIRSCH, Inserm
Mr Alexis CONSTANTIN, Université Versailles Saint Quentin

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

UMR 987, entitled « Pathophysiology and Clinical Pharmacology of Pain », is a mixed Inserm/UVSQ single theme ('mono-thématique'), single team ('mono-équipe') research unit hosted by Assistance Publique Hôpitaux de Paris (APHP) at Ambroise Paré University Hospital in Boulogne-Billancourt (Paris Île-de-France West Medical Faculty). The research activity of this group is almost exclusively devoted to clinical research and includes studies both in patients with acute (postoperative) or chronic pain syndromes and in healthy volunteers. The Pathophysiology and Clinical Pharmacology of Pain laboratory was formed at the end of the 1990s by a small group of clinician researchers specialized in pain medicine. The main objective of this group was to develop research programs focused on patients, such studies lacking in France. The group, which has been located since its creation at the Pain Clinic of the Ambroise Paré Hospital in Boulogne-Billancourt, has rapidly expanded to become truly multidisciplinary, and the medical team has been reinforced by the addition of technicians, scientific officers ('ingénieurs') and students. The group was recognized and accredited as a mixed research unit ('UMR') by Inserm and Université Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UVSQ) in 2002 (UMR 332), and was renewed in 2006 (as UMR 792). Following another AERES assessment in 2009, the group was again recognized as an UMR by Inserm and UVSQ in 2010 (UMR 987) and renewed in 2015.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

This single team research unit is headed by Mr Didier Bouhassira.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE4 Neurosciences

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The research aims to investigate pathophysiology and therapeutic strategies in 3 categories of painful patients, nociceptive pain (e.g. surgery), neuropathic pain (e.g. diabetic neuropathy) and dysfunctional pain or nociplastic pain (e.g. fibromyalgia). Regarding the 20-30% of patients affected by chronic pain in Europe and the poor/incomplete response of the last two categories to treatment, developing efficient therapeutic strategies is a major health issue. Unit members have previously developed DN4 and NPSI, pain questionnaires now widely used and enabling the launch of several epidemiological studies and surveys (ARIZONA, DIANEP, DLNC). Main results are i/ identification of predisposing factors to pain after surgery: psychologic factors (alexitymia or difficulty to identify feelings, anxiety) suggesting a specific preventing care (cognitive behavioural therapy), cognitive dysfunction, pain characteristics; ii/development of new strategies such as botulinum toxin A injections and neuromodulation (rTMS, theta burst, tDCS). Given that the same patient may present a combination of symptoms relying on different mechanisms, the unit members work on a tailored approach to treat painful patients. Lastly, they investigate, using healthy volunteers, mechanisms underlying the "thermal grill illusion of pain" model (simultaneous cutaneous application of warm and cold stimuli), pharmacologically modulated. The unit's work is primarily focused on studies in patients, along four axes: (1) understand better the pathophysiological mechanisms responsible for the development of chronic pain; (2) to identify the risk factors for developing chronic pain, and (3) to develop novel and tailored therapeutic strategies to achieve personalized treatments in various forms of chronic pain, also through (4) the development of novel experimental and clinical tools.

UNIT WORKFORCE

	Unit workforce	
	LPPD	
Active staff	Number 30/06/2018	Number 01/01/2020
Full professors and similar positions	4	5
Assistant professors and similar positions	1	0
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	1	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)	4	4
Permanent staff	12	12
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus		
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	2	
PhD Students	3	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	0	
Non-permanent staff	5	
Total	17	12

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The unit "Pathophysiology and Clinical Pharmacology of Pain" leads the clinical research in the field of chronic pain in Europe. Chronic pain is a major healthcare issue, and therefore the outcome of the activities of the unit has immediate and important societal impact. This unit is a dynamic team of clinical pain researchers, with extremely high international visibility and recognition, a smooth and effective operational mode as a network with a good diversity-focus balance, and truly excellent scientific productivity in their field of research. Importantly, this research will continue to produce significant societal impact in the field. Further demonstration of the unit's international recognition is the participation of its members to the scientific boards of several international scientific societies. Their active participation to the scientific editorial boards of several leading national and international journals in the field of pain research (*Pain*, *Eur J Pain*, *Douleur et Analgésie*, *British Journal of Anaesthesia*) is a natural consequence of its scientific quality. It would be unfair not to mention the unit's high capacity to raise funds. Overall, this is an excellent unit, with an impressive ability to produce high-quality scientific work that makes an immediate impact on patients' wellbeing.

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