

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Models of malignant and therapeutic stem cells
(ONCOSTEM)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Université Paris-Sud

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

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2018-2019
GROUP E

Report published on February, 21 2019



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the experts committee²:

Roméo Paul Henri, 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:	Models of malignant and therapeutic stem cells
Unit acronym:	ONCOSTEM
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Restructuration
Current number:	UMRS 935
Head of the unit (2018-2019):	Ms Annelise BENNACEUR-GRISCELLI
Project leader (2020-2024):	Ms Annelise BENNACEUR-GRISCELLI
Number of teams:	3

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Roméo PAUL HENRI, CEA Paris
Experts:	Ms Nathalie BENDRISS-VERMARE, Université de Lyon
	Ms Hélène GILGENKRANTZ, Inserm Paris
	Mr Simon MENDEZ-FERRER, Cambridge University, United Kingdom
	Mr Karim MESBAH, CNRS Montpellier (supporting personnel)
	Mr Juerg SCHWALLER, University of Basel, Switzerland
	Mr David TREGOUET, Inserm Paris (representative of Inserm CSS)

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Ms Urszula HIBNER

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mr Etienne AUGÉ, Université Paris Sud
 Mr Marc HUMBERT, Université Paris Sud
 Ms Laurence PARMENTIER, Inserm
 Ms Corinne SEBASTIANI, Inserm

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The Inserm UMR_S_935 "Models of Malignant and Therapeutic Stem Cells" was created in 2009 and renewed in January 2014. This research unit was directed by Annelise Bennaceur-Griscelli and focused its research on pluripotent and cancer stem cells with the goal of developing innovative therapeutic strategies in leukemias and solid tumors and the use of iPSC technology. Two additional research teams headed by Eric Rubinstein and René Adams joined this UMR and two ATIP-Avenir teams have been recruited.

The unit is hosted in CNRS building of the Andre Lwoff Institute at Paul Brousse Hospital, linked to the Faculty of medicine of University Paris Sud.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Annelise Benaceur-Griscelli is the head of this proposal.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE2_3; SVE5_3; SVE5_4; SVE6_3; ST1_2.

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

Two scientific axes are studied in the unit: "Biology of Cancer Stem Cells" and "Innovative Biotherapy Strategies".

UNIT WORKFORCE

	Unit workforce	
	Malignant and Stem cell Models	
Active staff	Number 30/06/2018	Number 01/01/2020
Full professors and similar positions	6	8
Assistant professors and similar positions	8	14
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	1	2
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	4	3
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)	14	18
Permanent staff	33	45

Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	4	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	9	
PhD Students	7	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	9	
Non-permanent staff	29	
Total	62	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The research performed in this unit aims at developing innovative assays and treatments in the fields of cancer and regenerative medicine in hematology, immunology and hepatology. This unit contains three teams that use common technological tools based on the use of human induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC). The strength of this unit relies on the approach that spans the whole spectrum of research from *in vitro* experiments to human clinical studies. This strength is attested by numerous national public grants and European grants, such as the "InCasa" telehealth project named by EU Commission as one of the top 25 influential projects. However, despite this recognized strength, the scientific production of the three teams, although very good, has not quite reached the expected level of excellence. This is probably due to pursuing a very large number of ambitious goals, which tends to decrease the competitive advantage of the unit in specific research areas. Although the projects of the three teams of the proposed unit are well defined, the overall scientific strategy of the unit is less clear and the scientific interactions between the three teams are not obvious. Increased focus on the most important and productive aspects could improve the quality of scientific production and strengthen the connections of the team researchers with science and medicine. The interactions with the non-academic world and the impacts on economy are excellent, as exemplified by numerous accepted patents, among which some are licenced to international companies, the creation of a start-up, numerous consulting activities, participations as experts to national agencies and clinical studies testing their findings. Finally, senior members of this unit have a high science popularization activity. The unit is strongly involved in the scientific organization and governance of University Paris-Saclay. Numerous PhD students have successfully graduated but without high number of publications. The gender balance is very good and the scientific integrity is a major focus of the leaders of the unit.

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