

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:  
Institute for Integrative Biology of the Cell (I2BC)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE  
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND  
RESEARCH BODIES:

Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux  
énergies alternatives – CEA

Université Paris-Sud

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -  
CNRS

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**EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2018-2019**  
GROUP E

Report published on April, 24 2019



In the name of Hcéres<sup>1</sup>:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the experts committee<sup>2</sup>:

Catherine Ann Royer, Chairwoman of the  
committee

Under the decree No.2014-1365 dated 14 November 2014,

<sup>1</sup> The president of Hcéres "countersigns the evaluation reports set up by the experts committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5);

<sup>2</sup> 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

<b>Unit name:</b>	Institute for Integrative Biology of the Cell
<b>Unit acronym:</b>	I2BC
<b>Requested label:</b>	UMR
<b>Application type:</b>	Renewal
<b>Current number:</b>	9198
<b>Head of the unit (2018-2019):</b>	Mr Thierry MEINNEL
<b>Project leader (2020-2024):</b>	Mr Thierry MEINNEL
<b>Number of teams and themes:</b>	75 teams and 6 themes

## EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>Chair:</b>	Ms Catherine Ann ROYER, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, United States
<b>Experts:</b>	Mr Frédéric ALLAIN, ETH Zurich, Switzerland
	Ms Eva Mari ARO, University of Turku, Finland
	Mr Antonio BARRAGAN, Stockholm University, Sweden
	Ms Anke BECKER, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany
	Mr Oliver BISCHOF, Institut Pasteur, Paris
	Mr Marc BOUTRY, Université de Louvain, Belgique
	Ms Emmanuelle BOUVERET, CNRS Paris (representative of CoNRS)
	Mr Richard COGDELL, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom
	Mr Bernard DE MASSY, CNRS Montpellier
	Mr Jacky DE MONTIGNY, Université de Strasbourg
	Ms Andrea DESSEN, Institut de Biologie Structurale, Grenoble
	Ms Shaynoor DRAMSI, Institut Pasteur, Paris
	Ms Catherine ETCHEBEST, Université Paris Diderot
	Mr Stefan FINKE, Friedrich Loeffler Institut, Germany
	Mr Vincent GELI, CNRS Marseille
	Mr Marie-Thérèse GIUDICI-ORTICONI, CNRS Marseille (representative of CoNRS)

Mr Wolfgang R HESS, University of Freiburg, Germany

Mr Karl-Peter HOPFNER, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany

Ms Gwyneth INGRAM, ENS, Lyon

Mr Krzysztof JAGLA, CNRS Université de Clermont-Ferrand (representative of Inserm CSS)

Mr Alain LACAMPAGNE, Inserm Montpellier

Mr Gilles LABESSE, CNRS Montpellier

Ms Emmanuelle LERAT, Université de Lyon

Ms Evelyne MANET, CNRS Lyon (representative of CoNRS)

Mr Christian MUNZ, University of Zurich, Switzerland

Mr Franz NARBERHAUS, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany

Mr Jose R PENADES, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom

Mr Holger PROKISCH, Technical University Munich, Germany

Mr Han REMAUT, Vlaams Instituut for Biotechnology, Belgium

Mr Andre RIBEIRO, Tampere University of Technology, Finland

Ms Marina RODNINA-WINTERMEYER, Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Germany

Mr David RUBINSZTEIN, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Ms Isabelle SCHALK, CNRS Strasbourg

Mr Ola SODERBERG, Uppsala Universitet, Sweden

Mr Claus Storgaard SORENSEN, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Ms Nathalie SPASSKY, ENS Paris

Mr Mikhail SPIVAKOV, London Institute of Medical Sciences, United Kingdom

Ms Françoise STUTZ, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Ms Gerlind SULZENBACHER, CNRS Marseille

Ms Joëlle THEPOT, Sorbonne Université, Paris (representative of CNU)

Mr Laszlo TORA, Université de Strasbourg

Mr Juanma VAQUERIZAS, Max Planck Institute, Germany

Ms Luísa TRINDADE, Wageningen University, The Netherlands

Mr Lucas WALTZER, CNRS Clermont-Ferrand

## HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVES

Mr Jean-Marc CAVAILLON

Mr Pierre COUBLE

Mr Hinrich GRONEMEYER

## REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mr Jacques BITOUN, CEA

Mr Thierry GALLI, Inserm

Mr Loïc LE CLAINCHE, CEA

Mr Domenico LIBRI, CNRS

Mr Hugues LORTAT-JACOB, CNRS

Mr Hervé MOREAU, CNRS

Ms Catherine RECHENMANN, CNRS

Ms Armelle REGNAULT, University Paris Saclay

Ms Sylvie RETAILLEAU, University Paris Sud

Mr Eric SIMONI, University Paris Sud

## INTRODUCTION

### HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The Institute of Integrative Biology of the Cell (I2BC) was created in 2015 as a flagship project of the IDEX program of Paris-Saclay University from the fusion of 10 research institutes located in Gif, Orsay and Saclay. It is a very large institute, bringing together approximately 440 permanent employees, 740 people in total. The trustees are the CNRS, the CEA and the University of Paris-Saclay. The I2BC was designed to restructure research in biology in the region. In 2012, the creation of the physical institute was programmed for the end of 2017 on the Gif-sur-Yvette campus, and now due to renovation and construction delays, it is reprogrammed for mid 2019.

### MANAGEMENT TEAM

The head of the unit, Thierry Meinnel, is assisted by two Deputy head: Stéphanie Bury-Moné and Bruno Robert, a General Secretary: (Olivier Grenet) and five Department Heads: Bruno Robert (Department of Biochemistry, Biosphysics and Structural Biology), Jacques Montagne (Department of Cell Biology), Mireille Betermier (Department of Genome Biology), Denis Faure (Department of Microbiology) and Yves Gaudin (Department of Virology).

### HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE1\_1; SVE1\_3; SVE2\_1; SVE2\_2; SVE2\_3; SVE3\_1; SVE3\_2; SVE5\_1.

### SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The I2BC research unit aims at understanding the functioning of the cell and at deciphering the network of interactions among its components (chromosomes, membranes, cytoskeleton, photosynthetic antennas, etc), in relation to its environment. The different teams exploit a variety of virus, prokaryotic and eukaryotic (animals and plants) model systems.

### UNIT WORKFORCE

	Unit workforce	
	Institute for Integrative Biology of the Cell	
Active staff	Number 30/06/2018	Number 01/01/2020
Full professors and similar positions	22	39
Assistant professors and similar positions	55	99
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	109	139
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	58	90
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)	169	211

<b>Permanent staff</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>578</b>
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	6	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	78	
<i>PhD Students</i>	105	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	180	
<b>Non-permanent staff</b>	<b>369</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>782</b>	

## GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

This large institute dedicated to the study of cellular mechanisms includes teams working at the highest international levels in their respective fields. These groups are highly productive, publishing significant results in top tier journals. They are well-funded and recognized and attractive internationally. Present in all five departments, these teams form the backbone of the institute. The unit is further enhanced by a high performance technical platform which includes state of the art genomic, proteomic, microscope and structural biology approaches. These platforms are a fundamental strength of the institute, and play a major role in its attractiveness. In contrast to these high levels, productive teams, a significant number of teams have had productivity well below par, leading to a heterogeneous level of quality across departments and the institute. Training of PhD students has been good, but the number of students is in decline, which presents a threat to the future of the institute. Given that fundamental cell biology constitutes the major objective of the institute, interactions with the private sector in biotechnology and health sciences remain modest. The genesis of the I2BC in 2014 was the result of grouping nearly all of the teams on multiple sites in the Gif-Orsay-Saclay area working on disparate aspects of cell biology. The delayed unification of the unit on a single site has delayed as well the integration of these many groups and their ultimate re-organization to form a highly visible internationally attractive institute. The organizational life of the unit has been planned with the notion of integrating ideas and people, and a sincere effort has been made by the direction towards this goal. However, the committee perceived a distinct lack of integrative vision and ambition in the projects at all levels, that of the individual teams, the departments and the institute as a whole. Based on the strengths of the unit, the integrative vision of the I2BC should be reinforced and refined with the unification of all teams on the Gif site. Much work remains to be done if the I2BC is to one day become an internationally competitive and recognized institute. The I2BC project can be seen as an evolving effort, the success of which will require the continued and reinforced support of the stakeholder organizations. Likewise, the success of the institute will necessitate a renewed engagement and enhanced ambition on the part of the institute personnel at all levels.

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