

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Paris-Saclay Institute of Neuroscience
(Neuro-PSI)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Université Paris-Sud

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique –
CNRS

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2018-2019
GROUP E

Report published on July, 29 2019



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the experts committee²:

Juan Lerma Gómez, 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:	Paris-Saclay Institute of Neuroscience
Unit acronym:	Neuro-PSI
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Restructuration
Current number:	UPR3293 and UPR3294
Head of the unit (2018-2019):	Mr Philippe VERNIER
Project leader (2020-2024):	Mr François ROUYER
Number of teams and/or themes:	24

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Juan LERMA GOMEZ, Instituto de Neurociencias de Alicante, Spain
Experts:	Ms Sophie CHAUVET, Aix-Marseille Université
	Ms Valérie CREPEL, Institut de neurobiologie de la méditerranée, Inserm/Aix-Marseille Université
	Mr Alberto FERRUS, Institut Cajal CSIC, Spain
	Mr Vincent HAKIM, École Normale Supérieure Paris
	Mr Sylvain HARQUEL, CNRS/Université Grenoble Alpes (supporting personnel)
	Mr Peter JANSSEN, KU Leuven, Belgium
	Ms Catherine LE MOINE, Institut de Neurosciences Cognitives et Intégratives d'Aquitaine, CNRS/Université de Bordeaux (representative of CoNRS)
	Ms Guillermina LOPEZ-BENDITO, Instituto de Neurociencias de Alicante, Spain
	Mr Pascal MAMASSIAN, École Normale Supérieure Paris
	Mr Miguel MARAVALL, University of Sussex, UK
	Ms Chantal MATHIS, CNRS/Université de Strasbourg
	Ms Michela MATTEOLI, Humanitas University, Italy
	Ms Andrea STREIT, King's College London, UK
	Mr Alain TREMBLEAU, Université Pierre et Marie Curie - UPMC (representative of CNU)

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Jacques NOËL

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mr Étienne AUGER, Université Paris-Sud

Mr Bernard POULAIN, CNRS

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The Institute of Neuroscience Paris-Saclay (Neuro-PSI) constitutes a new unit (joint unit between CNRS and the Université Paris-Saclay) emerging from a large-scale and ambitious project to establish a multidisciplinary and internationally recognized Institute for basic Neuroscience research in the south of Paris area. The last five-year period (2015-2019) should culminate in the relocation of all participating teams of Neuro-PSI within the new building. The teams previously belonged to three units located on the grounds of University Paris-Sud in Orsay and the CNRS Research Center of Gif-sur-Yvette: the "Paris-Sud Center for Neuroscience" (CNPS, UMR8195, dir. S. Laroche), the Unit "Neuroscience, Information and Complexity" (UNIC, UPR3293, dir. Y. Frégnac) and the Unit "Neurobiology & Development" (N&D, UPR3294, dir. Ph. Vernier), the latter two previously associated in the Institute of Neurobiology Alfred Fessard. The first version of the Paris-Saclay Institute of Neuroscience (called Neuro-PSI.0) was created on 1st January 2015 as a new multidisciplinary scientific Institute dedicated to fundamental investigations of the central nervous system. From the organizational point of view, the initial Saclay Plateau Neuro-PSI (existing until 31st December 2018) has been constituted by 3 departments, "Development & Evolution", "Molecules & Circuits", "Cognition & Behavior". The CNRS Unit Neuroscience, Information and Complexity (UNIC) merged with Neuro-PSI.0 in January 2019, as an additional department ("Integrative and Computational Neuroscience") headed by Daniel Shulz and Alain Destexhe.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

During the period evaluated, the Neuro-PSI.0 has been headed by Mr Philippe VERNIER. Mr François Rouyer will be the future director of the Neuro-PSI, with Mr Alain Destexhe and Ms Muriel Perron as deputy directors.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE_4 Neuroscience

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

Neurosciences

UNIT WORKFORCE

	Unit workforce	
	Paris-Saclay Institute of Neuroscience	
Active staff	Number 30/06/2018	Number 01/01/2020
Full professors and similar positions	8	6
Assistant professors and similar positions	20	16
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	18	16

Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	23	14
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	4	4
High school teachers	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	67	60
Permanent staff	140	116
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	1	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	28	
PhD Students	46	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	44	
Non-permanent staff	108	
Total	248	116

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The research in the Institute yielded important discoveries on the development, evolution and functional organization of the nervous system, as well as on the knowledge on brain mechanisms underlying behavior, during this past period (2013-2018). The teams that constitute Neuro-PSI.0 exhibit a good scientific outcome with projects and achievements in a wide range of topics in the area of Neuroscience. Several of the publications are in prestigious journals (*Nat Comm*, *PNAS*, *J Neurosci*, etc.) and the level of productivity could be said to be satisfactory, although new impetus could be expected after moving to the new building.

The international recognition of Neuro-PSI researchers is globally satisfactory based on invitations to international conferences (e.g. Gordon Research Conferences) and contributions to review papers and grants from prestigious journals and agencies. Obviously, some teams are more attractive and receive more frequent invitations to national and international meetings and symposia: indeed, members of these teams have been active in the organization of several meetings. There is a growing capacity to protect the knowledge generated in the labs already merged into Neuro-PSI, as several patents have been filed during the period.

Concerning UNIC, which is now being integrated into Neuro-PSI as a new department, the scientific activities continue to be internationally recognised and the research outcome is impressive more in terms of quality than quantity.

The overall assessment of the whole institute is excellent, but not outstanding.

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