

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:  
Institut de Chimie des Substances Naturelles  
(ICSN)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE  
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND  
RESEARCH BODIES:

Université Paris Sud

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -  
CNRS

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**EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2018-2019**  
**GROUP E**



In the name of Hcéres<sup>1</sup>:

Michel Cosnard, President

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

Valentine Ananikov, Chairman 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>	Institut de Chimie des Substances Naturelles
<b>Unit acronym:</b>	ICSN
<b>Requested label:</b>	UPR
<b>Application type:</b>	Renewal
<b>Current number:</b>	2301
<b>Head of the unit (2018-2019):</b>	Ms Angela MARINETTI
<b>Project leader (2020-2024):</b>	Mr Boris VAUZEILLES
<b>Number of teams and/or themes:</b>	4

## EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>Chair:</b>	Mr Valentine ANANIKOV, Zelinsky Institute of Organic Chemistry, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia
<b>Experts:</b>	Mr Karl GADEMANN, University of Zurich, Switzerland
	Mr Steve LEY, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
	Mr Laurent MICOUIN, Université Paris Descartes
	Ms Christa MUELLER, University of Bonn, Germany
	Ms Virginie NAHOUM, CNRS Toulouse (supporting personnel)
	Mr Guido PINTACUDA, CNRS Lyon (representative of CoNRS)
	Ms Svetlana TSOGOEVA, Friedrich-Alexander Universität, Germany

## HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Georges MASSIOT

## REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mr Étienne AUGE, Université Paris-Sud  
Mr Erick DUFOURC, CNRS  
Ms Mélanie ETHEVE-QUELQUEJEU, CNRS  
Mr Christophe MULLER, CNRS  
Ms Armelle REGNAULT, Université Paris-Saclay

## INTRODUCTION

### HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The “Institut de Chimie des Substances Naturelles” is located on CNRS premises in Gif-sur-Yvette, close to Paris Sud and Paris-Saclay University campuses. It occupies three buildings on CNRS campus for a total superficies of 10 000 m<sup>2</sup> as well as an annex in the IRD center of Noumea, New Caledonia.

ICSN was created in 1959 and is at the origin of the discoveries of taxotere and navelbin, two widely used anticancer drugs of natural origins. The associated patents brought the laboratory and CNRS large amounts of royalties, which allowed purchase and maintenance of very high level equipment in the analytical field especially. The institute was notably headed by Mr Edgar Lederer, Mr Guy Ourisson, Mr Derek Barton and Mr Pierre Potier, among others.

### MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

The current head of the laboratory is Ms Angela Marinetti assisted by a board comprising the departments’ and platform’ heads. For the next term, Mr Boris Vauzeilles will be the director with Mr Marc Litaudon as deputy director.

### HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

ST4: chemistry.

### SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The main domain of interest of ICSN is the chemistry of natural products, from isolation, structural elucidation, assessment of biological activities to commercial development. It also has strong interest in many fundamental aspects of molecular chemistry including synthetic methodology, catalysis, chemical biology, structural biology and analytical chemistry.

### UNIT WORKFORCE

	Unit workforce	
	Institut de Chimie des Substances Naturelles	
Active staff	Number 30/06/2018	Number 01/01/2020
Full professors and similar positions	0	0
Assistant professors and similar positions	0	0
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	16	15
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	21	18
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)	46	42
<b>Permanent staff</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>75</b>
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	51	
<i>PhD</i> Students	36	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	34	
<b>Non-permanent staff</b>	<b>85</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>75</b>

## GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The unit, named “Institut de Chimie des Substances Naturelles” (ICSN), has excellent national and international visibility and holds a unique combination of multidisciplinary high profile expertises in the area of natural products chemistry. Taking into account that natural products represent one of the cornerstones in chemistry, and that their paramount impact will further increase in the future, the aim should not only be to preserve the current level, but to additionally address emerging challenges since the area of natural products chemistry has significantly changed in the recent decades.

During the preceding five years, under the sensitive and insightful leadership of its director, the unit has made a notable transition by fundamentally restructuring research groups and acquiring competitive research funding; these efforts should be further strengthened.

Strong leadership should be established to promote an ambitious collaborative joint project so that the unit can fully benefit from synergistic utilization of complementary skills, competences and expertise of all four departments.

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