

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT
Neurocentre Magendie

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH
BODIES:

Université de Bordeaux
Institut national de la santé et de la recherche
médicale - INSERM

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2020-2021
GROUP B



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Mr Thiery Coulhon, President

In the name of the experts committee²:

Mr Etienne Audinat, 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 certified data submitted by the supervising body on behalf of the unit.

UNIT PRESENTATION

Unit name:

Neurocentre Magendie

Unit acronym:

acronyme

Current label and N°:

U1215

ID RNSR:

201622

Application type:

Renewal

Head of the unit (2020-2021):

Mr. Stéphane Oliet

Project leader (2021-2025):

Mr. Stéphane Oliet

Number of teams:

11

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:

Mr Etienne Audinat, Institut de Génomique Fonctionnelle, Université de Montpellier, CNRS, INSERM Montpellier

Experts

Mr Jacques Barik, Institut de pharmacologie moléculaire et cellulaire, CNRS, Valbonne

Ms Rosa Cossart, Institut de neurobiologie de la méditerranée, INSERM, Marseille

Ms Valerie Crépel, Institut de neurobiologie de la méditerranée, INSERM Marseille (Representative of the CSS INSERM)

Mr. Orestis Faklaris, BioCampus, CNRS, Montpellier

Mr Pascal Legendre, Neuroscience Paris Seine, Sorbonne Université, CNRS, INSERM, Paris

Mr Ayikoe Guy Mensah-Nyagan, Université de Strasbourg (Representative of the CNU)

Mr Bruno Poucet, Laboratoire de Neurosciences Cognitives, Aix-Marseille Université, CNRS, Marseille

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Ms Nadia Soussi-Yanicostas

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mr Etienne Hirsh, INSERM

Mr Philippe Moretto, University Bordeaux

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The Neurocentre Magendie is a multidisciplinary institute dedicated to an integrated study of Neuroscience ranging from molecular and cellular mechanisms of neural activity to neurological and behavioral pathologies, with a focus on psychiatric diseases. Located on the Medical and Health Science campus of the University of Bordeaux, the institute was founded in 2007 and grew from 95 to about 190 people (including students and postdoctoral fellows) between its creation and 2020. This increase in personnel occurred mostly during the first four-years term (2007-2010) through the recruitment of new teams. This was accompanied by an important budget growth, in part due to the efficiency of the different teams to obtain competitive grants. During the second term (2011-2014), the institute slowed down the recruitment of external teams, consolidated the existing ones and the common services through the recruitment of tenured personnel and through an increase of the available space. This strategy was successful and the Neurocentre Magendie became one of the leaders in neuroscience research, as attested in particular by high profile publications in outstanding journals (*Nature, Science, Cell, PNAS, Neuron, Nature Neuroscience, Biological Psychiatry...*).

This leadership was maintained during the current term (2016-2021), which has been also marked by the development of the translational activities of the Neurocentre Magendie toward the clinic and the industry. Several clinicians joined the institute and partnerships with several companies were established. One of these companies, Aelis Farma, was developed by members of the institute, based on the results of several teams. One consequence of the successful development of Aelis Farma was the replacement of the director of the institute, Mr P.V. Piazza who became the CEO of the company, by his deputy director Mr S. Olliet in January 2018. Another consequence was the emergence of two new teams, as a result of the split of Mr P.V. Piazza's team. Finally, during the current term, another team joined the institute, headed by a team leader recruited by the institute through a competitive call, who benefited from a Neurocampus package (2017) and from the support of the ATIP/Avenir Program (2018) and who obtained recently an Inserm permanent position (2020).

RESEARCH ECOSYSTEM

The Neurocentre Magendie is one of the six research units of the Bordeaux Neuroscience community. There is also a service unit, the Bordeaux Imaging Center, providing high quality equipment and support in the field of cellular imaging. The strength and high international visibility of these research units have led the regional government to support significantly the neuroscience community through the Neurocampus project. This initiative enabled the extension of the Neurocentre Magendie, the construction of a new building, hosting two research units (i.e. the Institute for Interdisciplinary Neuroscience and the Neurodegenerative Disease Institute) and the Bordeaux Imaging Center near the Neurocentre Magendie, and provided competitive starting packages to attract new groups. The Neurocampus project, coordinated by the former director of the Neurocentre Magendie, provided Bordeaux with one of the best ecosystem in Europe for neuroscience research. Eventually, this project led to the creation of the neuroscience department of Bordeaux University in 2019. This department named Bordeaux Neurocampus is headed by a member of the Neurocentre Magendie. This strong institutional support for an already efficient and very visible community generated a very positive synergy with regard to the attractiveness of the site and to the success of this community in competitive French and European calls (LabEx, EquipEx, IHU, Ecole Universitaire de Recherche, ERC...). The Neurocentre Magendie has been a leader in many of the initiatives that have led to the development of this ecosystem and is still very much involved in the life and support of the Bordeaux Neuroscience community.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE AND THEMATICS OF THE UNIT

SVE2 Biologie Cellulaire, Imagerie, Biologie Moléculaire, Biochimie, Génomique, Biologie Systémique, Développement, Biologie Structurale.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The director Mr. S. Olliet is assisted of two deputy directors Ms N. Sans and Mr G. Marsicano and one general secretary Mr F. Burgen.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Neurocentre Magendie

Active staff	Number 06/01/2020	Number 01/01/2022
Full professors and similar positions	9	10
Assistant professors and similar positions	4	5
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	13	13
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	15	15
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	0	1
High school teachers	0	
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	50	50
Permanent staff	91	94
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	1	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs (except PhD students)	38	
PhD Students	32	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	23	
Non-permanent staff	94	
Total	185	94

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The Neurocentre Magendie is with no doubt one of the major Neuroscience research institutes in France, gathering internationally recognized experts in different fields with a strong emphasis on behavior and psychiatric disorders. The scientific outputs of the Institute as a whole are outstanding with highly competitive groups at the international level dealing with glia-neuron interactions (Team 2), endocannabinoids and neuroadaptation (Team 4) and neuronal circuits of fear and associated pathologies (Team 8). The quality and originality of the work carried out and the excellent visibility of the different teams are key elements contributing to the strong attractiveness and excellent reputation of the Neurocentre.

The Neurocentre Magendie has been instrumental in the emergence and consolidation of a strong and highly visible Neuroscience community in Bordeaux.

Members of the Neurocentre Magendie have been major contributors of the efficient structuration of the University department Bordeaux Neurocampus. The Neurocentre Magendie has continued its efforts to improve its interactions with industry and the clinic and the results of this strategy are excellent. The institute is also very active in terms of disseminating science and research work to a wide audience.

The unit organization is highly efficient and allows all categories of personnel of the Neurocentre Magendie to participate actively in the research and in the life of the unit. However, the communication between management and the different categories of staff could be improved. The presence and the organization of the common services and platforms constitute a strong support to the production of the unit.

The frequent organization of internal, local and international meetings by the Neurocentre and the Bordeaux Neurocampus is a very important aspect for the training of the students and postdoctoral fellows.

In terms of management and organization, the unit made the decision to fit out the new premises for common areas to allow more experiments, to improve the working conditions of the personnel of the animal facility, and the preservation of the health status of animals. Accordingly, the center will not recruit new groups immediately but will help the development or stabilization of the three groups that have emerged over the past 2-3 years. The unit has also decided to strengthen its platforms, which already constitute a clear competitive advantage for the Magendie teams.

The scientific strategy and projects of the Neurocentre Magendie are outstanding. The Neurocentre will maintain its efforts to improve the transfer of its activity toward the clinic and the industry. Clinicians are now present within the institute and there are some ongoing clinical research programs but this needs to be intensified. The fruitful collaboration with Aelis Farma in the context of developing and positioning CB1 receptor inhibitors will continue. Finally, the Neurocentre Magendie made important efforts to implement a new operating model for the EquipEx Optopath with the goal of using this platform as a vector of development of the transfer activity of local teams toward industrial partners.

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