

## FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT

ImmunoConcEpT - IMMUNOlogy, from  
CONCcepts and ExPeriments to Translation

### UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH BODIES:

Université de Bordeaux

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -  
CNRS

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

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### **EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2020-2022** GROUP B



In the name of Hcéres<sup>1</sup>:

Mr Thierry Coulhon, President

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

Ms Anne Caignard, 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 certified data submitted by the supervising body on behalf of the unit.

## UNIT PRESENTATION

<b>Unit name:</b>	IMMUNOlogy, from CONCepts and ExPeriments to Translation
<b>Unit acronym:</b>	ImmunoConcEpT
<b>Current label and N:</b>	UMR 5164
<b>ID RNSR:</b>	200311838J
<b>Application type:</b>	Restructuration
<b>Head of the unit (2020-2021):</b>	Ms Julie Dechanet-Merville
<b>Project leader (2021-2025):</b>	Ms Julie Dechanet-Merville
<b>Number of teams:</b>	4

## EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>Chair:</b>	Ms Anne Caignard, INSERM, Paris
<b>Experts :</b>	Ms Véronique Braud, CNRS, Valbonne Ms Sophie Duchez, CNRS, Paris (supporting personnel) Mr Nicolas Fazilleau, INSERM, Toulouse (representative of INSERM CSS) Mr Denis Hudrisier, CNRS, Toulouse (representative of CoNRS) Mr François Lemoine, Sorbonne Université, Paris (representative of CNU) Ms Hélène Moins-Teisserenc, Université de Paris Mr Jean-Luc Perfettini, INSERM, Villejuif Mr Immo Prinz, Medizinische Hochschule Hannover, Germany Mr Marcel Weber, University of Geneva

## HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Ms Sophie Ezine

## REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mr Alain Gadeau, Université de Bordeaux  
Ms Karine Gionnet, INSERM  
Ms Sylvie Guerder, CNRS  
Ms Evelyne Jouvin-Marche, INSERM

## INTRODUCTION

## HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The UMR 5164 created in Bordeaux University in 2003 and renewed in 2007 and 2011 was headed by Mr Jean-François. Moreau. It associated two teams, focused on T cell activation and stem cell biology. The structure evolved in two independent units in 2016. The UMR 5164 unit with CNRS created in 2016 was based on a unique team ALYSAI (~30 members) and headed by Ms Julie Déchanet-Merville.

The evaluated unit ImmunoConcEpt headed by the same director is a restructuration of ALYSAI in a unit with four teams. It is located at Bordeaux University (BU), affiliated to the Research Department of Biology and Medical Sciences in the campus Carreire Nord bordering the campus of the Pellegrin Hospital.

## RESEARCH ECOSYSTEM

The University of Bordeaux (classified in the top 150-200 universities on different ranking services) has structured its research activities in 2019 based on "Grands Programmes de Recherches" (GPR) to increase international visibility. The GRP programs allow a financial support of ten projects in eight years. The structuration of research was accompanied by the creation of research, valorization and innovation directions. The research at BU is based on 73 structures gathering more than 5, 000 people and producing around 3, 500 publications per year. Research organisms represent 40 to 50% of the research staff. The research is structured in eleven departments, several ones focused on biology. A federation of the platforms (27 labellized platforms) was created in 2019 to coordinate the technical actions and means proposed to the units.

ImmunoConcEpt is linked to "Sciences Biologiques et Médicales" (SBM) department composed of eleven units gathering 450 people (150 teacher-researchers, 103 EPST researchers, 150 ITA and BIATSS). One doctoral school «ED des Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé» is linked to the SBM department (100 students/year). ImmunoConcEpt is the only unit devoted to immunology. Two labelled (TBM core and CBIC) and thirteen others platforms (Imaging, Cytometry...) are linked to SBM.

Partners of the department are the CHU, Bergonié Institute, ENSTBB (Biomolecule technology), EFS and patient association in oncology.

## HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE AND THEMATIC OF THE UNIT

SVE1 Biology, health; SVE1 LS6 Immunology, Microbiology, Virology, Parasitology  
SHS; SH4 Human Mind and its Complexity

## MANAGEMENT TEAM.

The unit is directed by Ms Julie Déchanet-Merville and the deputy head is Mr Patrick Blanco.

## UNIT WORKFORCE

<b>ImmunoConcEpt</b>		
	<b>Active staff</b>	
	<b>Number 06/01/2020</b>	<b>Number 01/01/2022</b>
Full professors and similar positions	11	17
Assistant professors and similar positions	5	10
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	2	3
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	4	5
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)	5	8
<b>Permanent staff</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>43</b>

Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	1	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs (except PhD students)	3	
PhD Students	16	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	5	
<b>Non-permanent staff</b>	<b>25</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>43</b>

## GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The unit had made original contributions in human Immunology, inflammation and autoimmunity. The main scientific achievements are : i) the identification of two new antigenic ligands for  $\gamma\delta$ T cells, a landmark scRNA-seq of V $\delta$ 1 and V $\delta$ 2 subsets; ii) the role of P-selectin on T reg cells in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) and the role of the OX40/OX40L in regulating aberrant follicular T cells in SLE patients; iii) the role of ILC2 in the pathophysiology of systemic sclerosis of the skin; iv) the development of conceptual biology programs (ERC project) emphasizing the importance of cross feeding between science and philosophy.

The unit has an impressive publication track with results published in *Immunity*, *Arthritis and Rheumatology* PNAS, *Nature Medecine*, *Journal of American Society of Nephrology*, *JCI Insight*, *Journal of Infectious diseases*, *American Journal of Transplantation* in 2016 and 2020. The future will add a link between inflammation, cancer and aging. The unit associates a team focused on philosophy in sciences that interacts with all the other teams of the unit. ImmunoConcEpt has attracted national and international talented researchers to reinforce its thematic and additional new forces and competence in immuno-oncology. This reflects its international visibility. Moreover, numerous grants and funding on dedicated national and European programs have been raised, including an ERC starting grant. The unit has trained Master and PhD students which have now good placement records. Because of its impressive expansion and its new organization in four teams, the unit has to consolidate the structuration of the new pluri-team unit. The unit represents a unique structure focused on fundamental and translational immunology at Bordeaux University. Overall, the global assessment was rated as excellent.

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