Research evaluation

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT

CRIBL - Control of the Immune B cell Responses and Lymphoproliferations

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH BODIES:

Université de Limoges
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique - CNRS
Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale - INSERM

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2020-2022
GROUP B

Report published on July, 15 2021

High Council for evaluation of research and higher education

In the name of Hcéres[1]:	In the name of the experts committee[2]:
Mr Thierry Coulhon, President	Mr Stefano Casola, 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:	Control of the Immune B cell Responses and Lymphoproliferations
Unit acronym:	CRIBL
Current label and N:	UMR CNRS-7276, Inserm-1262
ID RNSR:	
Application type:	
Head of the unit (2020-2021):	Mr Michel Cogné
Project leader (2021-2025):	Mr Éric Pinaud
Number of teams:	3

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Stefano Casola, The FIRC Institute of Molecular Oncology, Italy
Experts :	Mr Jean-Christophe Andrau, CNRS, Montpellier
	Mr Emmanuel Bachy, Université de Lyon (representative of CNU)
	Mr Ulrich Blank, CNRS, Paris (representative of CoNRS)
	Mr Thierry Defrance, Inserm, Lyon (representative of Inserm CSS)
	Mr Emmanuel Derudder, University of Innsbruck, Austria
	Ms Sandrine Roulland, Inserm, Marseille
	Mr Niclas Setterblad, Sorbonne Paris Cité (supporting personnel)

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Ms Sophie Ezine

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mr Dominique Cros, Université de Limoges

Ms Sylvie Guerder, and Ludovic Hamon CNRS

Mr Richard Salives, Inserm

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The CRIBL was founded in 1994 by Mr M. Cogné at the Faculty of Medicine in Limoges. It focuses its research activities on the biology of B cells in both healthy and disease settings. Since 2014, CRIBL has moved to the new CRBS building and is in direct connection with the Limoges hospital diagnosis laboratories.

RESEARCH ECOSYSTEM

CRIBL is part of the Genomics, Environment, Immunity, Health and Therapeutics (GEIST) Institute in Limoges that federates biology, chemistry and environment research units. GEIST shares technological and bioinformatics platforms, focusing on animal models, cell and tissue analyses, and molecular analyses. GEIST activities will converge into 'OMEGA_HEALTH', dedicated to the development of innovative therapies and studies on environment, cancer and natural substances.

CRIBL has built a privileged partnership with the Limoges University Hospital and its Biological Resource Center. CRIBL has built strong collaborations with industrial partners and developed CUTE-I2 to facilitate technology transfer, which has been instrumental to setup the CARAT project and ensure participation to the CALYM Carnot Consortium. CRIBL contributes to GEIST sharing high-end technological platforms such as advanced mouse genetic engineering. CRIBL members are affiliated to the University of Limoges graduate program and have teaching and mentoring duties in several Master programs.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE AND THEMATICS OF THE UNIT

SVE-5

CRIBL is a unit studying basic mechanisms controlling B cell development and immunity, and translating the findings into the clinical setting to understand the pathogenesis of B cell disorders.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The present management team (2021) is composed of Mr Yves Denizot (Director) and Mr Éric Pinaud (deputy director). As for 2022, Mr Éric Pinaud will take the direction of the Unit. Ms Nathalie Faumont and Fatouma Touré will be deputy directors

UNIT WORKFORCE

Active staff	**Number 06/01/2020**	**Number 01/01/2022**
Full professors and similar positions	11	9
Assistant professors and similar positions	6	7
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	4	3
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	6	4
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)	14	15
Permanent staff	**41**	**38**
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	3	

Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs (except PhD students)	3	
PhD Students	17	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	5	
Non-permanent staff	**28**	
Total	**68**	**38**

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT AT THE END OF THE VISIT

CRIBL, a three-team unit (2MB2C, B-NATION, BioPIC) is a dynamic research unit studying basic mechanisms controlling B cell development and immunity, and translating the findings into the clinical setting to understand the pathogenesis of B cell disorders. It is internationally recognized for its expertise in immunoglobulin gene regulation in normal and pathological conditions, including B cell malignancies and antibody-mediated diseases. Team 2MB2C has built its success on the strong integration between basic and clinical research, focusing on the biological and clinical implications of deregulated NF-kB signaling and genetic rearrangements targeting immunoglobulin loci, on the pathogenesis of B cell malignancies and tumor immune escape for which it has established a national reputation in its research field. Team B-NATION has built a solid international scientific reputation through the creation and analysis of a unique set of genetically engineered mouse models aiming to investigate basic mechanisms of immunoglobulin (Ig) gene regulation and their contribution to B cell immunity and malignant B cell transformation. Team BioPIC scientific uniqueness is based on the merging of fundamental aspects of Ig gene regulation with studies on the pathogenesis of plasma cell diseases, including Ig deposition disorders and multiple myeloma, rapidly and has emerged as one of the leading laboratories in the field of Ig-deposition disorders and plasma cell biology at the international level.

In the past five years, CRIBL scientific productivity (91 scientific articles, including twelve reviews and 26 clinical articles, 68 % with leading position in high-ranking journals such as *Nature Communications, Cell Reports, Journal of Experimental Medecine, Blood, Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, *PNAS*, and many in well recognized specialty journals) has been excellent. CRIBL teams secured an impressive amount of research grants (~ 7.5 M €) from regional and national funding bodies from the National Funding Agency ANR (2 as coordinator and 3 as partner) and from charities (La Ligue contre le Cancer, ARC, FFRMG, ...) for most of them (> 90 %) as coordinator. Despite the strong five-year publication track record, the unit has margin for improving its international visibility. Expansion of CRIBL's scientific network could be achieved by sharing its unique set of genetically engineered mouse models with colleagues within international networks and consortia focused on the study of B cell disorders, by engaging into long-standing international collaborations with leaders in complementary areas of expertise, by organizing international conferences on mechanisms of B cell disorders in Limoges, and initiating a program of virtual seminars on topics of CRIBL interest, which may involve major experts in the fields worldwide. All such actions are expected to attract excellent young PhD students and postdoctoral fellows. Given the strong infrastructure in gene editing and mouse transgenesis established in CRIBL, the unit has the potential to become a national and possibly a European reference center for the creation of mouse models devoted to the study of (B cell) immune disorders.

CRIBL has established strong and fruitful interactions with extra-academic partners, facilitating technology transfer to the industrial sector, filing four patents, having eleven R&D contracts with industrial partners. Many examples demonstrate the dynamism of the members in building interactions outside of the academic circle (i.e., creation of the CRIBL CUTE-I2, an internal office developed to foster technology development with industrial partners in the fields of immune pathology and hematological disorders, the involvement in the CALYM Carnot Institute, or collaboration with Roche and Pfizer for specific projects). CRIBL has also developed a strong communication program of scientific outreach.

CRIBL has trained a robust number of students (more than 60 Master students and 40 PhD students) for a total of 20 habilitated scientists HDR. While the average duration of a PhD at CRIBL is in the French average, the mean number of publications per PhD student is very good, with the majority of PhD students trained in the unit securing a postdoctoral contract or a permanent position in academy or industry, all acknowledging that the PhD training in the unit is globally fruitful and prepares well the students for their future career, 27 % of PhD that completed their PhD defense lack at present time a paper signed as first author.

Life and organization of the CRIBL unit is excellent, with strong feeling of unit cohesion.

CRIBL presents a solid, highly ambitious, clinically-relevant and strongly integrated five-year research program. The strategies to implement the research programs of the unit are excellent based on strong background knowledge in B cell biology, shared advanced technological platforms, and the close link between the bench and the bedside. Prioritization of the projects will provide CRIBL team leaders with the opportunity to increase competitiveness for publication of their work in high-profile generalist journals.

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