

# HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research  
and Higher Education

Department of Research Evaluation

report on research unit:

Morphogenèse et Antigénicité du VIH et des Virus des  
Hépatites  
MAVIVH

Under the supervision of  
the following institutions  
and research bodies:

Université François-Rabelais De Tours

Institut National de la Santé Et de la Recherche  
Médicale - INSERM

Evaluation Campaign 2016-2017 (Group C)

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*In the name of HCERES,<sup>1</sup>*

Michel Cosnard, president

*In the name of the experts committee,<sup>2</sup>*

Ben Berkhout, chairman of the committee

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Under the decree No.2014-1365 dated 14 november 2014,

<sup>1</sup> The president of HCERES "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 expert committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2)

## Evaluation report

This report is the sole result of evaluation by the expert committee, the composition of which is specified below.

The assessments contained herein are the expression of an independent and collegial reviewing by the committee.

Unit name:	Morphogenèse et Antigénicité du VIH et des Virus des Hépatites
Unit acronym:	MAVIVH
Label requested:	UMR
Current number:	966
Name of Director (2016-2017):	Mr Philippe ROINGEARD
Name of Project Leader (2018-2022):	Mr Philippe ROINGEARD

## Expert committee members

Chair:	Mr Ben BERKHOUT, Center for Infection and Immunity Amsterdam, CINIMA, The Netherlands
Experts:	Mr Ali AMARA, Institut Universitaire d'Hématologie, Paris (representative of the CSS Inserm)  Ms Véronique CATROS, Université de Rennes 1 (representative of the CNU)  Mr Christophe CHAMOT, PLATIM, Lyon Bio Image facility (representative of supporting personnel)  Mr Arvind H PATEL, MRC-University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK

### Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:

Ms Catherine SCHUSTER

### Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Marianne DESMEDT, Inserm

Mr Emmanuel LESIGNE, Université de Tours

Ms Stéphanie POMMIER, Inserm

### Head of Doctoral School:

Mr Thierry MOREAU, ED n°549, "Santé Sciences Biologiques et Chimie du vivant"

## 1 • Introduction

### History and geographical location of the unit

The unit, established in 2009, underwent its second and thus far last evaluation in 2010. The unit is located on the Faculty of Medicine, Campus of the University of Tours. It contains the French National Reference Center for HIV and has links with the Federative Research Structure in Infectious Diseases, the National Research Institute on Agronomy, the Regional Cluster in Infectious Diseases (with Angers, Orleans, Poitiers and Limoges), and the university hospital. The central research theme of "Infectiology" (Infectious diseases) of this research unit is nicely in line with priorities set by some of the stakeholders (university, hospital, medical school, Inserm). The focus is on basic and translational research concerning the Human Immunodeficiency Virus type 1 (HIV-1), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), three pathogenic viruses that cause a chronic infection. Traditionally, there has been strong virology research in this place, e.g. the development of the first hepatitis B vaccine by Mr Philippe MAUPAS in 1976. Currently the unit uses two medical school locations in different, but adjacent buildings, and the EM-facility is present within the very close hospital building. One of the medical school locations will be renovated, such that all activities can be clustered in one location, which includes the Biosafety laboratory.

### Management team

The unit is headed by Mr Philippe ROINGEARD with the help of Mr Francis BARIN as deputy head. For the next period Mr Denys BRAND will act as deputy head.

### HCERES nomenclature

SVE3 Microbiologie, Immunité

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

SVE6 Santé Publique, Épidémiologie, Recherche Clinique

### Scientific domains

The unit's research are focused on viral morphogenesis primarily of HIV and HCV and to a lesser extent on HBV, on studying the impact of viral genetic variability on infection outcomes, studying neutralizing antibody responses, and vaccine design.

## Unit workforce

Unit workforce	Number on 30/06/2016	Number on 01/01/2018
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	12	13
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions	1	2
N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	6	7
N4: Other researchers (Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)	1	
N5: Emeritus	1	
N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	3	
N7: PhD students	8	
TOTAL N1 to N7	32	
Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions	9	

Unit record	From 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2016
PhD theses defended	11
Postdoctoral scientists having spent at least 12 months in the unit	5
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period	2

## 2 • Assessment of the unit

## Global assessment of the unit

The unit has a strong research focus on viral pathogens that cause persistent infections in humans (HIV, HCV and HBV). The research of the unit combines basic research (virus structure and function) and several more applied research lines (HIV surveillance, HCV/HBV vaccine development). There are several distinct strengths. The unit plays a prominent local role for everything related to Infectious Diseases and is strongly supported, also towards the near future, by the medical school and Tours University. The unit also plays a major regional role in education and research in the Région Centre-Val de Loire. The unit performs important national surveillance activities for the HIV-1 epidemic, which is strengthened by several lines of translational research. There are a few weaknesses or points for improvement. The unit is less visible at the international level, e.g. by participation in editorial boards, international committees or the organization of international meetings. The unit entertains quite a lot of different research topics and concentration on the most competitive subprojects is advised, with the occasional initiation of new timely activities. A unique opportunity to engage international students is the new EU Erasmus Mundus Joint Master program in "Infectious Diseases and One Health". Team members repeatedly published at leading author positions in high impact factor journal of this specific field, but no publications have been obtained in general top journals. Training is a strong asset. For instance, the unit trained several PhDs students over the evaluation period that all continued in science, nationally or internationally. The near future of the unit is bright, with strong support from the institutions.