

HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research
and Higher Education

Department of Research Evaluation

report on research unit:

Molecular Genetics, Genomics, Microbiology

GMGM

under the supervision of
the following institutions
and research bodies:

Université de Strasbourg

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique - CNRS

HCERES

High Council for the Evaluation of Research
and Higher Education

Department of Research Evaluation

In the name of HCERES,¹

Michel Cosnard, president

In the name of the experts committee,²

Pascal Simonet, chairman of the committee

Under the decree N°2014-1365 dated 14 november 2014,

¹ The president of HCERES "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 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: Molecular Genetics, Genomics, Microbiology

Unit acronym: GMGM

Label requested: UMR

Current number: UMR 7156

Name of Director (2016-2017): Mr Ivan TARASSOV

Name of Project Leader (2018-2022): Mr Ivan TARASSOV

Expert committee members

Chair: Mr Pascal SIMONET, École Centrale de Lyon, Écully

Experts:

- Mr Didier BUISSON, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris
- Mr Jacques MAHILLON, Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium
- Mr Bernard MIGNOTTE, Université de Versailles-Saint-Quentin (representative of the CNU)
- Mr Marc MIRANDE, CNRS, Gif-sur-Yvette
- Ms Violette MORALES, Université Paul Sabatier, Toulouse (representative of supporting personnel)
- Mr Michel WERNER, CEA, Gif-sur-Yvette (representative of the CoNRS)

Scientific delegate representing the HCERES:

Mr Pierre COUBLE

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Mr Frédéric BOCCARD, CNRS

Ms Catherine FLORENTZ, Université de Strasbourg

Representative of Doctoral School:

Ms Catherine SCHUSTER, Doctoral School n° 414, "Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé"

1 • Introduction

History and geographical location of the unit

The Joint Research Unit (UMR 7156 "Molecular Genetics, Genomics, Microbiology" (Génétique Moléculaire, Génomique, Microbiologie, GMGM) supported by the University of Strasbourg and the CNRS was created in 2005 by merging the two former units FRE 2326 and 2375. In 2005, GMGM was headed by Mr Serge POTIER, professor at the University of Strasbourg and Mr Ivan TARASSOV replaced Mr Serge POTIER, as the director of the unit in 2013. Mr Philippe BERTIN, professor at the University of Strasbourg, acted as a deputy-director.

The GMGM unit is located on the campus of the University of Strasbourg but split between 2 distant buildings.

Management team

The current director (2013-2017) is Mr Ivan TARASSOV who is completing his first contract with Mr Philippe BERTIN as deputy director. The same team will lead the unit GMGM for the coming 5 year period.

HCERES nomenclature

Main domains: SVE2; Cellular Biology, Imagery, Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Genomics, System Biology, Development, Structural Biology.

Scientific domains

The unit GMGM is involved in studying various fundamental aspects of the organization, evolution, and function or dysfunction of genomes. The unit is conceptually interested in deciphering the mechanisms that rule genome evolution both in prokaryotic and eukaryotic systems. Their work also includes some studies on population and community dynamics of microorganisms in natural environments under stressful conditions (pollutions).

The unit uses the whole range of genetics, molecular (micro) biology (including high-throughput sequencing), genome evolution (including bioinformatics) and biochemical approaches to address their fundamental questions that pave the way for potential environmental and biomedical applications.

Unit workforce

Unit workforce	Number on 30/06/2016	Number on 01/01/2018
N1: Permanent professors and similar positions	14	13
N2: Permanent researchers from Institutions and similar positions	7	8
N3: Other permanent staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	13	13
N4: Other researchers (Postdoctoral students, visitors, etc.)	5	
N5: Emeritus	0	
N6: Other contractual staff (technicians and administrative personnel)	1	
N7: PhD students	16	
TOTAL N1 to N7	56	
Qualified research supervisors (HDR) or similar positions	13	

Unit record	From 01/01/2011 to 30/06/2016
PhD theses defended	20
Postdoctoral scientists having spent at least 12 months in the unit	16
Number of Research Supervisor Qualifications (HDR) obtained during the period	1

2 • Assessment of the unit

Global assessment of the unit

The research performed by the unit is between very good to excellent based on quantity and quality of the scientific production.

The global activity is well balanced between acquisition of knowledge, research management, academic teaching and research training.

The unit was structured in 2 departments acting almost as separate units with a separate budget because of a split in 2 separate buildings. The situation should improve in 2019 with the move of the entire unit in a single renovated building. This evolution will be a challenge for the unit's organization and the opportunity to maintain or not the splitting into departments.

The unit was able to secure funding thanks to their strong involvement, and leadership, in the MitoCross Labex and their good success mainly to national calls (and to some international ones) for contracts and subventions. The unit was dynamic and succeeded to attract new teams (2) and to recruit scientists (3). Teaching is consuming a large part of the time of the unit staff (two-thirds are professors or associate professors and CNRS scientists are also involved) and the unit was very active in training young researchers with 22 PhD thesis defended between 2011 and 2016 and 12 currently in progress.

The evolution of human resources in some teams should be thoroughly considered in order to avoid a too strong disequilibrium between teams.