

REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:

Membrane and Molecular Physiology of Chloroplast (PMMC)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH BODIES:

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -
CNRS

Université Pierre et Marie Curie

ÉVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018
GROUP D



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the expert committee²:

Richard Cogdell, 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 expert 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).

This report is the sole result of the unit's 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 PRESENTATION

Unit name:	Membrane and Molecular Physiology of Chloroplast
Unit acronym:	PMMC
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	UMR 7141
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Mr Francis-André WOLLMAN
Project leader (2019-2023):	Ms Angela FALCIATORE
Number of themes:	6

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Mr Richard COGDELL, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom

Experts: Mr Debashish BHATTACHARYA, Rutgers University, United States
Ms Véronique BRUNAUD, IPS2 INRA Saclay (supporting personnel)
Mr Michael DUBOW, Université Paris-Sud (representative of CNU)
Mr Philippe GIÉGÉ, CNRS, Strasbourg (representative of CoNRS)
Mr Félix KESSLER, Université de Neuchâtel, Switzerland

HCERES scientific officer:
Mr Jean-François HOCQUETTE

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:
Mr Bertrand MEYER, Université Pierre et Marie Curie
Ms Catherine RECHENMANN, CNRS

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The laboratory is located in Paris on the “Rue Pierre et Marie Curie”. It was founded in 1967 when most of its research was in the area of biophysical studies of photosynthesis. The laboratory belongs to IBPC (“Institut de Biologie Physico-Chimique”).

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The current director of the laboratory is Mr Francis-André WOLLMAN. The future director will be Ms Angela FALCIATORE.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

SVE2; ST2; SVE1; ST4.

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The laboratory works in the general area of the Physiology and Molecular Biology of the Chloroplast and will soon shift its emphasis to include studies on Diatoms. Over the subsequent years, the main emphasis of their research work has moved into more molecular studies aimed at understanding how photosynthesis is regulated and how it develops. In recent years, a lot of their work has exploited *Chlamydomonas* as a model organism.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	0	0
Assistant professors and similar positions	4	6
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	4	5
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	2	2
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)	3	6
TOTAL permanent staff	13	19
Non-permanent staff		

Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	1	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	12	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	0	
PhD Students	7	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	20	
TOTAL unit	33	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The committee found that overall the laboratory was in very good shape. It was very impressed with the high quality of the science and the lab's productivity. Previously most of the research was in the general area of the biology of the chloroplast membrane, with a focus on the regulation of photosynthesis. In the next funding period the lab will get a new director and the research program will shift to include work with Diatoms and have a greater focus on genomics and bioinformatics. The committee endorses this change of emphasis, which was especially well justified in the talks from the theme leaders. In its core activities the lab was rated excellent/outstanding. It was clear from the committee's meetings with all categories of staff that the lab was well run and the staff were happy and enthusiastic about their science. The lab clearly functions as one integrated unit where everybody contributes to the development of its strategy and the delivery of its research program. The one weak area was that of interaction with the outside world to which the lab needs to pay much more attention in the future. The way the lab operates strongly encourages synergy and collaboration, however, this approach requires significant outside grant funding. The lab will need to prioritise seeking such funding if this approach is to remain sustainable.

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