

REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:

Institut de Biologie de l'École Normale Supérieure (IBENS)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH BODIES:

École Normale Supérieure - ENS

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique - CNRS

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

ÉVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018

GROUP D



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the expert committee²:

Patrick Mehlen, 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:	Institut de Biologie de l'École Normale Supérieure
Unit acronym:	IBENS
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	UMR 8197
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Mr Antoine TRILLER
Project leader (2019-2023):	Mr Pierre PAOLETTI
Number of teams:	27

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Patrick MEHLEN, Centre de Recherche en Cancérologie de Lyon
Vice chair:	Ms Chantal VAURY, GReD Faculté de Médecine, Clermont-Ferrand
Experts:	Mr Stein AERTS, Laboratory of Computational Biology, Belgium
	Mr Emmanuel BOURINET, Université de Montpellier
	Ms Maria Cristina CARDOSO, Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany
	Ms Valérie CASTELLANI, Université Claude Bernard, Villeurbanne
	Mr Mark COCK, Roscoff Marine Station
	Mr Christophe DOUADY, Université de Lyon
	Mr Sébastien FRIBOURG, Inserm de Bordeaux (representative of INSERM CSS)
	Mr François GUILLEMOT, The Francis Crick Institute, United Kingdom
	Mr Romain GUYOT, IGFL Lyon (supporting personnel)
	Mr Laurent KODJABACHIAN, IBDM Marseille (representative of CoNRS)
	Ms Anne MAGURRAN, University of St Andrews, United Kingdom
	Mr Ramesh PILLAI, University of Geneva, Switzerland
	Mr James POULET, Max Delbrück Center, Germany

Mr Lluís QUINTANA-MURCI, Institut Pasteur

Ms Nathalie ROCHEFORT, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Ms Erin SCHUMAN, Max Planck Institute, Germany

HCERES scientific officer:

Mr Pierre COUBLE

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Mr Hervé ENSLEN, CNRS

Mr Christian CASSIER, Inserm

Mr Yves LASZLO, École Normale Supérieure

Ms Sylvie ROBINE, Inserm

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The "Institute of Biology of the École Normale Supérieure" (IBENS), created in 2010 at the ENS (Paris), resulted from the fusion of four ENS-CNRS units and two ENS-INSERM units. The IBENS gathers 29 teams grouped in 4 sections: Functional Genomics, Environmental and Evolutionary Genomics, Developmental Biology, and Neuroscience.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The founding and current director of the IBENS is Mr Antoine TRILLER, The future Director is Mr Pierre Paoletti.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

SVE1_1; SVE1_2; SVE1_3; SVE2_1; SVE2_2; SVE2_3; SVE3_1; SVE4_1; ST1_2.

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The IBENS carries out research at the forefront of the modern biological sciences. It has the unique privilege of being part of the École Normale Supérieure, one of the most prestigious academic institutions in France where biologists can rub shoulders daily with some of the best physicists, chemists and mathematicians world-wide. The IBENS main scientific orientations are 4 interconnected topics of functional genomics, environmental and evolutionary genomics, developmental Biology, and Neuroscience with a strong will to perform interdisciplinary research and develop quantitative biology.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	6	6
Assistant professors and similar positions	14	16
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	27	25
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	28	33
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)	64	61
TOTAL permanent staff	139	141

Non-permanent staff		
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	3	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	75	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	35	
PhD Students	54	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	167	
TOTAL unit	306	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The basic research in biology performed at IBENS is without any doubt one of the best carried out in France at the moment. An obvious indicator of the quality of research is that more than 25% of the teams hold an ERC grant. Moreover, the quality of the teams evaluated and the quality of the projects presented support the view that even more IBENS teams will obtain ERC funding in the coming years. One remarkable trait of the research performed at IBENS is its interdisciplinary nature with tight links with mathematics and physics. A good balance between senior and more junior groups with a relatively fair gender balance was also noted. The impressive quality of the science achieved at IBENS is obviously supported by the quality of the core facilities. While the HCERES committee was thrilled by the originality and quality of the science which is IBENS major asset, a main concern was raised by the antiquated nature of the housing. In conclusion, the IBENS has been on the overall extremely well evaluated by the HCERES committee.

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2 rue Albert Einstein
75013 Paris, France
T. 33 (0)1 55 55 60 10

hceres.com

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