

Research evaluation

EVALUATION REPORT OF THE UNIT
LabNOF – Laboratoire de neurobiologie
orofaciale

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING ESTABLISHMENTS AND
ORGANISMS:
UP Cité – Université Paris Cité

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2023-2024
GROUP D

Rapport publié le 26/04/2024



In the name of the expert committee¹ :

Frédérique Liégeois, Chairwoman of the committee

For the Hcéres² :

Stéphane Le Bouler, acting president

Pursuant to Articles R. 114-15 and R. 114-10 of the French Research Code, evaluation reports drawn up by expert committees are signed by the chairmen of these committees and countersigned by the Chairman of Hcéres.

To make the document easier to read, the names used in this report to designate functions, professions or responsibilities (expert, researcher, teacher-researcher, professor, lecturer, engineer, technician, director, doctoral student, etc.) are used in a generic sense and have a neutral value.

This report is the result of the unit's evaluation by the expert committee, the composition of which is specified below. The appreciations it contains are the expression of the independent and collegial deliberation of this committee. The numbers in this report are the certified exact data extracted from the deposited files by the supervising body on behalf of the unit.

MEMBERS OF THE EXPERT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ms Frédérique Liégeois, University College London, Royaume-Uni

Experts: Mr Sylvain Redon Centre hospitalier universitaire de Marseille -
Assistance Publique Hopitaux de Marseille – Aphm, Marseille
Ms Catherine Strazielle Université de Lorraine - UFR d'Odontologie,
Nancy (representative of CNU)

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Giovanni Stevanin,

REPRESENTATIVE(S) OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Not applicable (evaluation performed on files).

CHARACTERISATION OF THE UNIT

- Name: Laboratoire de Neurobiologie OroFaciale
- Acronym: LabNOF
- Label and number: EA 7543
- Composition of the executive team: Yves Boucher

SCIENTIFIC PANELS OF THE UNIT

SVE Sciences du vivant et environnement
SVE5 Neurosciences and nervous system disorders
SVE6 Human physiology and physiopathologie, aging
SVE7 Prevention, diagnosis and treatment of human diseases

THEMES OF THE UNIT

LABNOF (EA 7543) is a single team research unit originally created by the present director and composed of odontologists previously integrated in neuroscience research laboratories. It is dedicated to clinical research in orofacial sensory disorders and is linked to several hospitals in Paris. According to the skills and expertise of its members, the unit research focuses particularly on trigeminal pain, dysesthesia, and taste alterations, three axes showing central interconnections in their physiopathological mechanisms.

HISTORIC AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The LABNOF (University Paris Cité, initially University of Paris Diderot) was created *ex nihilo* in 2017-2018 by the present director with the aim to, first, transfer the scientific data and research results on trigeminal pain in the clinic through clinical research and, secondly, to offer young odontologist practitioners the opportunity to be trained in this domain. The research staff members have previously worked in research units (Centre de recherche de l'Institut du Cerveau, Centre de Psychiatrie et Neurosciences) and are all hospital practitioners with university functions. LABNOF does not have a dedicated specific location. As a clinical research unit, the members use the odontological hospital services to perform their research. As they are distributed across different services depending on their dental speciality, the clinical research unit is attached to three hospitals: Pitié Salpêtrière University Hospital, Rothschild hospital and Bretonneau hospital. However, affiliated to the same faculty, they have an office for working meetings in the functional odontology research unit (UFR) of ParisCité University, on the 'Garancière' site.

RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT OF THE UNIT

The LABNOF is part of the University Hospital Federation Dental Diseases Network in Paris 'DDS Parisnet', officially created in 2020, a project involving the 'Assistance Publique — Hôpitaux de Paris' (AP-HP), the 'Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale' (INSERM), and the Universities of Ile-de-France. The objective was to link the research units directly with the medical teams, therefore fostering collaboration between research units, and sharing skills, techniques, and projects. It collaborates with a CNRS unit (UMR 6602–UCA/CNRS) at the University of Clermont-Ferrand as well as European teams (University Aarhus, Denmark; Kings College London, UK, University of Zagreb, Croatia, and University of Poznan, Poland). The LABNOF has two clinical platforms, a quantitative sensory evaluation platform located in the Pitié Salpêtrière hospital and a taste evaluation platform located in the Rothschild hospital. It benefits from the clinical research units present in the hospitals to assist them in the preparation and execution of their clinical research projects.

UNIT WORKFORCE: in physical persons at 31/12/2022

Catégories de personnel	Effectifs
Professeurs et assimilés	2
Maîtres de conférences et assimilés	4
Directeurs de recherche et assimilés	0
Chargés de recherche et assimilés	0
Personnels d'appui à la recherche	0
Sous-total personnels permanents en activité	6
Enseignants-chercheurs et chercheurs non permanents et assimilés	1
Personnels d'appui non permanents	1
Post-doctorants	0
Doctorants	0
Sous-total personnels non permanents en activité	2
Total personnels	8

DISTRIBUTION OF THE UNIT'S PERMANENTS BY EMPLOYER: in physical persons at 31/12/2022. Non-tutorship employers are grouped under the heading 'others'.

Nom de l'employeur	EC	C	PAR
UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-CITÉ	7	0	0
Total personnels	7	0	0

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT

LabNOF is a small unit with seven staff members who have clinical commitments and no dedicated administrative or technical support to carry out research activities. This should be taken into account as well as the significant disruption caused by the pandemic. The unit's profile was good overall. During the period, LabNOF has mainly developed local clinical research projects, including some highly relevant to the Covid pandemic. Their scientific production has been good despite modest funding (220 K€, mainly with foundations (Dellesert, Analgesia institute) or French academic institutions (one PHRC managed by the team) and from a private company (Septodont). They have published a reasonable amount of articles (average 6 per FTE per year and 1.5 article per researcher per year, to which can be added a total of 12 reviews), mostly in national journals, and a few in top tier international peer reviewed journals (e.g. JAMA Network). Their attractiveness is fair, and mainly at the local and national level, with particular strengths in the training of clinicians (10 yearly). They have been heavily involved in continued professional development and postgraduate courses on the topic of pain at the national level, particularly with the UPC and Sorbonne universities. Among its main achievements, one can cite the demonstration that neuropathic pain post trauma can be favoured by exposure to pro-inflammatory bacterial products or the identification of dopaminergic deficits in patients with oro-facial pain. In addition, LabNOF has developed two specific platforms dedicated to the quantitative evaluation of oro-facial sensory functions located in the Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital, and to the taste evaluation located in Rothschild's hospital.

DETAILED EVALUATION OF THE UNIT

A – CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE PREVIOUS REPORT

The first recommendation of the previous HCERES committee was to consider the slow production in clinical research. The expert committee recommended to develop observational studies in the themes of the laboratory in addition to their clinical projects.

The LabNOF has responded to the recommendation by developing observational studies during the pandemic period. Through its patient cohorts, the unit also carried out retrospective or specific medical case studies. Several additional publications reflect this work.

Secondly, the team was advised to consider the importance of the visibility of the laboratory and to the scientific value of the research through the participation and organisation of seminars, congress, conferences at national and international levels.

The expertise of the unit is known in the regional and national networks of medical professionals working on trigeminal pain. Team members are particularly active in the SFETD (French Society on pain study and treatment), a scientific society affiliated to the INSERM network of researchers studying pain mechanisms, in which they have organised a meeting in 2019 and several workshops.

The unit reaches only partially the objective to establish an international profile because the scientific outreach outside France is only promoted through participation to international meetings on pain and chemoreception. However, the pandemic disruption has considerably limited international collaborations and creation or participation in training programs, particularly in the context of a recently created unit (2017).

Thirdly, according to the previous report, the technical and administrative coordination should be performed by a permanent supporting staff member.

The unit has had difficulties implementing this recommendation. They have not obtained a technical assistant position but received partial support from a state nurse for the quantitative sensory evaluation platform. The unit benefits from some secretarial time for administrative support, and the financial management is performed by a staff member located in another research unit.

B – EVALUATION AREAS

EVALUATION AREA 1: PROFILE, RESOURCES AND ORGANISATION OF THE UNIT

Assessment on the scientific objectives of the unit

The scientific objectives of the unit are very good to excellent with the development of platforms dedicated to the clinical evaluation of patients and the clinical trial of pain in patient with post-trauma trigeminal neuropathies using botulinic toxin. The unit operates in a scientific niche in France and then fills a gap on taste and pain disorders.

Assessment on the unit's resources

The unit's resources are good with a total of eight people including six permanent researchers with teaching or medical duties, one non-permanent researcher and one non-permanent technical staff. However, the lack of administrative and technical resources has been an obstacle in the development of the labNOF projects. The absence of full-time researchers, postdocs and PhD students also has to be mentioned, partially compensated by the training of many medical students for their thesis (10 per year). Funding was modest but reasonable relative to the size of the unit (200K€ for 6 FTE).

Assessment on the functioning of the unit

The functioning of the unit is very good with a flexibility of team members to help in other projects when necessary, as for example their involvement in evaluation taste sensitivity during the Covid pandemic.

1/ The unit has set itself relevant scientific objectives.

Strengths and possibilities linked to the context

The LabNOF has focused their research themes on taste disorders and oro-facial pain, particularly trigeminal post-traumatic neuropathic pain, idiopathic stomatodynia and temporomandibular disorders. The members of this research team (8 people including 6 permanent researchers) have clinical and fundamental experience and have published substantial research in these areas before the creation of the LabNOF in 2017. There is a lack of teams specialised in clinical care and fundamental research in these research areas in France, and LabNOF has therefore contributed to filling this gap.

Despite recruitment difficulties due to the pandemic period, several clinical research projects have been completed or are being carried out, in the area of neuropathic pain (TRIGTOX - Use of Botulinum Toxin for Peripheral painful traumatic trigeminal neuropathy), gustation (AlimaPAC - Study of food intake in totally edentulous subjects wearing complete removable maxillo-mandibular prosthesis) or pain related to dental care (URGDENT- Evaluation of care in the odontology emergency reception service). During the Covid period, the LabNOF developed a research project related to the pain related to dental care in this specific period, covering nine weeks (Urgdent-Covid).

Weaknesses and risks linked to the context

No weaknesses were detected regarding the scientific objectives of the unit.

2/ The unit has resources that are suited to its activity profile and research environment and mobilises them

Strengths and possibilities linked to the context

The LabNOF is composed of seven teacher researchers and one non-permanent support staff. All the researchers are employed by the Université Paris-Cité. Gender balance is excellent (4/4). The funding of this unit comes from the University (since 2019, dotation of around 18K€ per year), the hospital clinical research program (PHRC) TRIGTOX, tenders and private contracts (foundation Dellesert, Institut Analgesia, Septodont society) for a total amount of ~220K€ for the full evaluated period. The LabNOF has collaborated with other research units (e.g., Unités de recherche clinique URC « PSL » and URC « Est »), to obtain logistic assistance in clinical research projects. A non-permanent support staff, responsible for University training is employed by the University. A financial manager is employed by the University.

Weaknesses and risks linked to the context

The labNOF did not receive any dedicated institutional funds and lacked administrative and technical resources for the period 2017–2022. The absence of postdocs and students may have been detrimental to the development of some aspects of the unit research.

3/ The unit's practices comply with the rules and directives laid down by its supervisory bodies in terms of human resources management, safety, environment, ethical protocols and protection of data and scientific heritage.

Strengths and possibilities linked to the context

The LabNOF is a small research team, allowing flexibility in the management of resources. During the Covid period, the LabNOF collaborated in the drafting of professional practice recommendations. The research members participated in health reinforcement according to needs and participated in clinical research assessing the protection practices of healthcare workers. Despite the withdrawal of a student in charge of the Trigttox project, the LabNOF mobilized their resources to achieve this hospital clinical research program. All hospital – university practitioners are trained in the prevention of professional risks.

Weaknesses and risks linked to the context

No weaknesses were detected by the committee except that there is no permanent support staff in this research unit.

EVALUATION AREA 2: ATTRACTIVENESS

Assessment on the attractiveness of the unit

The team's attractiveness is fair to good. Although they welcomed a foreign researcher, they had no post-doctoral scientist and they had no doctoral thesis supervision. It is noteworthy that they trained ~10 medical theses per year during the whole contract period. However, in their scientific field, the team has a very good reputation in the academic community of dental practitioners and educators involved in pain management. In particular, their involvement in continued professional development and postgraduate degrees on the topic of pain is a strength. Staff members teach on several Masters courses and University diplomas (Université Paris-Cité and Sorbonne Université). They have also organised a meeting in France and are regularly solicited for seminars or editorial duties.

- 1/ *The unit has an attractive scientific reputation and is part of the European research area.*
- 2/ *The unit is attractive because for the quality of its staff support policy.*
- 3/ *The unit is attractive through its success in competitive calls for projects.*
- 4/ *The unit is attractive for the quality of its major equipment and technical skills.*

Strengths and possibilities linked to the context for the four references above

The scientific attractiveness of the unit is mainly at the national level and via teaching: it was created in the aim to propose a training in the domain of chronic trigeminal neuralgia for graduate, postgraduate students and medical residents in odontological specialities, in most part through the master 2 'orofacial pain' program. Moreover, in addition to the training in clinical research, members of the unit can also offer a training in therapeutic care of chronic pain as the directors of the laboratory have both the responsibility of a consultation in chronic orofacial pain and temporo-mandibular joint disorders. Members of the unit are invited to take part in the education and training of medical students in the therapeutic care of pain through several postgraduate university degrees. Such training in the specific domain of chronic orofacial pain is poorly developed in the dental faculties of France or even of Europe while it is proposed for the new post-graduate program of the reform as a transversal specialised formation (TSF or FST in French) for dental residents. In this context, the unit is a benefit for its university. Members of the unit are regularly invited to national meetings in the domain of pain and orofacial disorders (e.g. the *French Society on pain study and treatment (SFETD)*, *French dental association (ADF)*, *Altered taste Symposium*, *National College of Gnathology (CNO)*). They are board members of the main scientific society on the topic (SFETD), with scientific responsibilities for one of them. They organised the annual meeting of the INSERM network of researchers studying pain mechanisms in 2019 and contributed to the activities of the SFETD by conducting workshops. They sit on editorial boards of national journals (JOMOS, EMC). The team gathers expertise that is unique at the national level and collaborate with several European teams in Denmark, Poland, Croatia and the UK, although they do not lead any international consortia. The research work enabled members of the unit to realise their hospital-University career plans with validation of three HDR (ability to supervise research students), the recruitment of two master students, one as hospital practitioner on pain management at Lyon, the other at the University of Dakar. LabNOF members regularly attend conferences. The team has a good policy of publication; however, members with the highest levels of publications are the seniors who previously worked on pain in fundamental research units. The LabNOF team welcomed a young researcher with teaching duties in 2021. They hosted one foreign researcher (Brazil) during the period, but no postdoctoral researcher. LabNOF successfully applied for several PHRC and AAP grant programs, e.g. TRIGTOX, and NERVIMPLANT centred on post-traumatic neuropathic pain, AlimaPAC for taste evaluation, and URGDENT Covid. In addition to the annual grant from the University, LabNOF obtained one PHRC as coordinator (190 keuros and two PHR applications are pending), two charity grants from foundations (total 32 keuros) as well as a private contract with a dental product manufacturer (Septodont), for a total of ~220K€. The team is also integrated in an ANR program obtained by the vision Institute (CONNECTPAIN) but without financial benefit. The unit used a part of its grants to install the two platforms for quantitative sensory evaluation and taste tests. The unit has developed tools for sensory and taste analysis: a quantitative sensory evaluation platform located in the Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital and a taste evaluation platform located in the Rothschild hospital. They are a

noticeable benefit in clinical research on trigeminal dysesthesia and pain by leading to better training of the investigators and a better analysis in clinical trials.

Weaknesses and risks linked to the context for the four references above

The LabNOF had an intelligent policy by linking a research master's degree in orofacial pain to the laboratory but it did not have the desired effect at local and national levels. Except for the supervision of master degree students, the LabNOF has not supervised any doctoral student or had post-doctoral students for the contract period. Regardless of the sanitary crisis (Covid-19 pandemic and hospital crisis) partly responsible for the lack of students, the LabNOF has suffered from the little interest young graduates have currently for a long course of study with a view to a hospital-University career. The European collaborations are insufficiently developed to create attractiveness for the laboratory at the international level. The wide variety of clinical research projects (with different types of chronic pain) could possibly hinder the attractiveness of the unit because LabNOF is not recognised by foreign scientists as expert in any specific pathology. Despite its collaborations with European laboratories, the LabNOF has not developed a policy of foreign practitioners or research student exchange to consolidate its scientific network through a European research project. The suspension of the research master 2 'orofacial pain' is unfortunate while it was attractive for the students issued from international collaboration and young odontologists or doctors destined for a hospital-University career. As the members have different clinical specialities (oral surgery, prosthesis, endodontics, etc.) wanting to study pain in their respective domains, the research axes are too numerous for the small team, dispersing the forces and progressing slowly. In addition, the great delay in the preparation phase of each project slowed down their performance. There is an absence of European contracts. They have initiated collaborations with fundamental research laboratories but, at the moment, they have limited added value. The technical resources are weak. The developed tools do not allow involvement in collaborative programs and do not seem to contribute to the attractiveness of the laboratory. The dispersion of the equipment and a lack of a unique site of investigations can possibly reduce the effectiveness of investigations.

EVALUATION AREA 3: SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION

Assessment on the scientific production of the unit

The scientific production of the unit is globally good (61 publications including 34 original papers and 50% being led by PIs of the unit) representing 1.5 publications per year per researcher. Only few publications are found in journals with large readership such as JAMA network or in journals dedicated to pain (only 6), surprisingly.

- 1/ *The scientific production of the unit meets quality criteria.*
- 2/ *The unit's scientific production is proportionate to its research potential and properly shared out between its personnel.*
- 3/ *The scientific production of the unit complies with the principles of research integrity, ethics and open science. It complies with the directives applicable in this field.*

Strengths and possibilities linked to the context for the three references above

The list of publications provided by the LabNOF includes a total of 61 publications in international peer-reviewed journals for the period 2017–2022. The list includes research papers (34), reviews (12) and case reports (9). When divided by the number of research staff, this is equivalent to 1.5 publications per researcher per year. Among these publications, the first or last author is a research staff member in 29 publications. All research staff members have published in peer-reviewed journals. At least half of these publications are in open access journals. Some papers are published in high-profile specialist journals: JAMA Network open (1), PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases (1) and journal of dental research (1). The labNOF published in official journals of different European learned societies: the French society of oral surgery (journal of oral medicine and oral surgery, medicine buccale, 20 publications), the French Society of Stomatology Maxillofacial Surgery and Oral Surgery and Swiss Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (J. Stomatol Oral Maxillofac Surg, 3 publications). There was an effort to publish the research outputs of some dental medicine students in peer-reviewed journals. The LabNOF

published in national journals, allowing to aware the specific expertise of the team. The LabNOF regularly published in international journals. All research staff members provided publications. Subsequent publications are expected, linked to current research work. The LabNOF appears to have appropriate mechanisms in place to ensure that the scientific production of the lab complies with the principles of research integrity, ethics and open science.

Weaknesses and risks linked to the context for the three references above

In view of the expertise of the LabNOF in the area of pain, there are relatively few publications in journals specialised in pain area: Pain medicine (2) Molecular Pain (1), Journal of oral & facial pain and headache (1), Douleurs (1), Douleur et analgésie (2). These journals may improve the visibility of the LabNOF in algologists. There are relatively few publications in high quality international peer-reviewed journals. The committee found no publication in the official organ of the American association of oral and Maxillofacial surgeons (Journal of oral and maxillofacial surgery). Among the twenty most cited papers of the LabNOF, only half concern the laboratory's specific themes: orofacial pain, gustation or trigeminal nerve injury. The distribution of publications is not equitable between research staff members. Almost half of the publications are attributed to the director (7.25 articles per year), the associated director of LabNOF (9.25 articles per year), or both. Two research staff members have published one or two papers during the full period evaluated (0.2-0.4 articles per year). No weakness was detected regarding the ethics/open access/integrity themes, except that only 50% of the articles were in open access.

EVALUATION AREA 4: CONTRIBUTION OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES TO SOCIETY

Assessment on the inclusion of the unit's research in society

The contribution to society during the period was overall good to excellent, mainly through teaching and interaction with patients 'associations', as well as involvement in clinical guidelines at the national level.

- 1/ *The unit stands out for the quality and the amount of its interactions with the non-academic world.*
- 2/ *The unit develops products for the cultural, economic and social world.*
- 3/ *The unit shares its knowledge with the general public and takes part in debates in society.*

Strengths and possibilities linked to the context for the three references above

During the period, team members took part in conferences in their areas of expertise through national learned societies e.g. the *Société Française d'Etude et de Traitement de la douleur* (SFETD), the *Société Française d'Etudes des Migraines & Céphalées* (SFEMC), the *Groupe d'Etudes de la MUqueuse Buccale* (GEMUB) and international ones, e.g. the *International Association for the Study of Pain* (IASP), the *European Pain Federation* (EFIC), the *Association for Chemoreception Sciences* (AChems), the *Pangborn sensory Science Symposium*, and the *European College of Gerodontology*. They were also actively involved in continuous professional development at the national level through the *Association dentaire de Française* (ADF) and the SFETD and in teaching at postgraduate levels for Odontologists, in a specialised certificate (CES of oral Biology) and in the master 2 Endodontics and Parodontology as well as for scientists in the master 2 Integrative Biology and Physiology, option Neurosciences (BIP-neurosciences). During the pandemic crisis, several team members were involved in the drafting of professional practice recommendations against infectious risks for the national council of dental surgeons, as well as in the evaluation of the protection practices specific to the dental profession because of the aerosolisation. The LabNOF has initiated a collaboration with a company (Septodont) that develops anaesthetic and anti-inflammatory dental products. The facilities in quantitative sensory evaluation are means to create new perspectives of academic collaborations but also public-private partnerships. During the period, team members took part in two public engagement activities in the form of scientific programs on national television. A general public project of an information website on orofacial pain is currently in progress. For the pandemic crisis, the LabNOF made contact with two associations of patients with long-Covid disorders suffering from dysgeusia with the aim to offer better management of this condition.

Weaknesses and risks linked to the context for the three references above

The term of platforms is perhaps overstated but their role in clinical evaluation is clear.

ANALYSIS OF THE UNIT'S TRAJECTORY

The unit closes and all members will join the future UMRS Odontologie of Paris Cité University. The future unit, which will be made up of two teams, will bring together all the university's strengths in odontology, creating a unique cluster in France and significantly raising the national and international profile of research in this field. The restructuring will allow the unit to apply for INSERM accreditation.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE UNIT

Recommendations regarding the Evaluation Area 1: Profile, Resources and Organisation of the Unit

The unit should keep up with the excellent gender balance and the support of staff members to their promotion/HDR. Administrative support would be beneficial.

The theme of the unit is original and constitutes an important clinical axis in the way that very few practitioners are involved in orofacial pain care, at the national but also at the international level.

Collaborations with pain specialised neurologists would be valuable in the clinic and not only in teaching.

In addition to reducing the different axis of the unit, we encourage the team to develop projects at the interface between experiments on animals in the laboratory to inform the physiopathological substrate of specific types of pain. Recruitment of full-time researchers is then needed to increase capacity.

The evaluation tools should be grouped together, and their use is organised with a specific person in charge to provide the services.

Recommendations regarding the Evaluation Area 2: Attractiveness

The unit could attract more external funding for their clinical projects. Charities may be interested in funding some of their work in rare conditions. To increase their success rate, they could apply for competitive funding (e.g. ANR or hospital) alongside more investigators in their future unit. Supervising at least one PhD student per staff member with HDR will be expected and will increase their outputs and visibility. Transversal projects with practitioners from other medical and paramedical specialities (neurologists, radiologists, etc.) or translational projects on specific pain model could reinforce the recognition of the team.

Recommendations regarding Evaluation Area 3: Scientific Production

The unit should concentrate its efforts on a smaller set of unique scientific objectives that are most likely to generate external income and develop their reputation at an international level, focusing on their area of expertise. The panel recommends topics where there is limited international competition, such as for example, on the topic of orofacial pain.

The percentage of open access publications should be increased, in order to increase the visibility of the laboratory's research.

We recommend sharing publication work equitably among researchers.

The submission of more articles in international specialised journals (e.g. Journal of oral and maxillofacial surgery) would also improve the international visibility of the LabNof research and create opportunities for collaborations.

Recommendations regarding Evaluation Area 4: Contribution of Research Activities to Society

If provided with the right support, the unit could explore partnerships with more pharmaceutical companies (e.g. Botox) for their most innovative projects or to develop clinical trials.

Their contribution to teaching should be maintained, as Masters programs may attract PhD students. As their field is very specialised, they could also develop a MOOC. Their suggestion of a website with evidence-based information is promising, and will necessitate some administrative support. This website could be coupled with the use of social networks to broaden the audience, particularly targeting patients concerned with the unit's research topics.

The unit could consider Joining the UMRS Odontologie.

Interactions with clinical networks on pain management at national and international levels should be developed.

Contacts and partnerships with patient associations involved in specific chronic pain management should be developed. As the population is ageing and neuropathic pain becomes greater and more specific with age, gerontology and geriatric associations might be interested in the labNOF work and should not be ignored.

CONDUCT OF THE INTERVIEWS

Not applicable.

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Not applicable.

PARTICULAR POINT TO BE MENTIONED

The evaluation was based on the analysis of the autoevaluation document without interview of the unit. The committee thank the unit director for answering some questions during this review process.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS OF THE SUPERVISORS

Le Président

Paris, le 28 mars 2024

HCERES
2 rue Albert Einstein
75013 Paris

Objet : Rapport d'évaluation de l'unité DER-PUR250024181 - LabNOF - Laboratoire de neurobiologie orofaciale.

Madame, Monsieur,

L'Université Paris Cité (UPCité) a pris connaissance du rapport d'évaluation de l'Unité de Recherche **LabNOF - Laboratoire de neurobiologie orofaciale**.

Ce rapport a été lu par la direction de l'unité, qui a noté une erreur factuelle, par le vice-doyen Recherche et le doyen de la Faculté de Santé d'UPCité, par la vice-présidente Recherche d'UPCité et par moi-même. L'ensemble des acteurs UPCité remercie le comité pour son travail d'évaluation.

Présidence

Référence

Pr/DGDRIVE/2023

Affaire suivie par

Christine Debydeal -
DGDRIVE

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Le doyen de la Faculté de Santé et moi-même souhaitons souligner que le laboratoire de neurobiologie orofaciale LabNOF est une unité propre de recherche (anciennement Équipe d'Accueil) créée en 2018 au sein de l'ex université Paris Diderot. L'unité se focalise sur la recherche clinique des troubles sensoriels orofaciaux et est adossée à plusieurs hôpitaux parisiens. Dans le futur, cette unité va rejoindre une UMR unique en odontologie et y intégrer son savoir-faire. En effet, suite à la fusion des deux UFR d'odontologie, il est proposé, dès 2025, une très forte restructuration de la recherche au sein de la nouvelle UFR avec la création d'une seule unité demandant une labellisation INSERM. Cette restructuration a été accompagnée par l'ensemble des partenaires institutionnels et s'inscrit totalement dans la politique de la faculté de santé et de l'UPCité qui souhaitent que les URP se transforment en UMR. La future unité, qui sera constituée de deux équipes, regroupera l'ensemble des forces de l'université en odontologie, ce qui créera un pôle unique en France et augmentera ainsi nettement la visibilité nationale et internationale de la recherche dans cette thématique.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Madame, Monsieur, l'expression de ma considération distinguée.

Édouard Kaminski



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