

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:  
Nuclear Receptors, Metabolic and  
Cardiovascular Diseases

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE  
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND  
RESEARCH BODIES:

Université de Lille

Centre hospitalier régional et universitaire de  
Lille – Chru Lille

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

Lille - Institut Pasteur

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**EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2018-2019**  
GROUP E



In the name of Hcéres<sup>1</sup>:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the experts committee<sup>2</sup>:

Béatrice Desvergne, Chairwoman of the committee

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

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

Tables in this document were filled with data provided by laboratories and supervising bodies in the unit's application and in the Excel files "Données du contrat en cours" and "Données du prochain contrat".

## UNIT PRESENTATION

<b>Unit name:</b>	Nuclear Receptors, Metabolic and Cardiovascular Diseases
<b>Unit acronym:</b>	n/a
<b>Requested label:</b>	UMR
<b>Application type:</b>	Renewal
<b>Current number:</b>	UR 1011
<b>Head of the unit (2018-2019):</b>	Mr Bart STAELS
<b>Project leader (2020-2024):</b>	Mr Bart STAELS
<b>Number of themes:</b>	5

## EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>Chair:</b>	Ms Béatrice DESVERGNE, Université de Lausanne, Switzerland
<b>Experts:</b>	Ms Dominique BONNEFONT-ROUSSELOT, Groupe hospitalier Pitié-Salpêtrière (representative of CNU)
	Mr Dirk DUNCKER, University Medical Center Rotterdam, Netherland
	Mr Juergen ECKEL, German Diabetes Center, Germany
	Ms Cécile FREMOND, CNRS Orléans (supporting personnel)
	Mr Pierre-Louis THARAUX, Inserm Paris (representative of Inserm CSS)

## HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Jean-Paul LALLES

## REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mr Raymond BAZIN, Inserm  
Ms Fabienne JEAN, Institut Pasteur de Lille  
Mr Frédéric GOTTRAND, Chru de Lille  
Mr Lionel MONTAGNE, Université de Lille

## INTRODUCTION

### HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The UMR1011 was created in January 2010, evolving out of the U545. The unit has a double geographical location: on the Campus of the Institut Pasteur de Lille and the Research Campus of the CHU de Lille and at the medical faculty of the University of Lille (Regional University Hospital). The UMR1011 is a founding member of the European Genomic Institute for Diabetes (EGID).

### MANAGEMENT TEAM

Unit's head: Mr Bart Staels.

Deputy Director: Mr François Chartier.

### HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE5\_1; SVE5\_2.

### SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

While maintaining the nuclear receptor field of research in the context of cardiovascular diseases and diabetes as a key molecular anchor across the unit teams, the present project of the unit opens the field towards functional and integrated systems approaches. These approaches are applied to metabolic regulations in the liver, the muscle, and at the organism level, and to cardiovascular disorders, and their relationship to inflammation and immune disorders.

### UNIT WORKFORCE

	Unit workforce	
	Nuclear Receptors, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes	
Active staff	Number 30/06/2018	Number 01/01/2020
Full professors and similar positions	10	10
Assistant professors and similar positions	16	16
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	2	2
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	3	3
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)	33	42
<b>Permanent staff</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>73</b>

Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	36	
Including PhD Students	20	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	19	
<b>Non-permanent staff</b>	<b>55</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	

## GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The unit "Nuclear Receptors, Metabolic, and Cardiovascular diseases" is pursuing its long-standing excellence. Its publication record, with more than 220 articles published in the period 2013-2018, its remarkable level of funding from international agencies, including ERC, FP7, COST, and Fondation Leducq grants, and numerous national and local grants, and its high reputation manifested through the high number of invited conferences, is putting the unit at the top of internationally recognized research units. Through the important collaborative projects in which the unit is involved, the unit has an important role in structuring the research at the regional level.

Two particularly impressive aspects of the scientific output are on the one hand, the high quality of the medically-oriented activities and, on the other hand the very efficient industrial contacts (particularly the close interactions with Genfit), with a remarkable number of patents and private-public partnership in relationship with the University Hospital. The diversity, quality and quantity of activities for public outreach are also excellent.

The involvement in training through research is good, with emphasis on the scientific communication skills through journal clubs, lab meetings, and participation to meetings and conferences. The unit is hosting a good number of Erasmus students. The numbers of researchers with HDR is increasing, allowing to foresee more possibilities for increasing the number of PhD students.

The gender balance across the unit is reasonably well equilibrated and 2 team leaders out of 6 are women. The management of the unit is well structured, with a Director, a deputy Director, a management committee, and a statutory unit council, which meet on regular basis. The responsibilities of the platforms, which are accessible to all, are distributed among the teams. The financial rules are transparent. There are a number of tools implemented to ensure scientific integrity. However, some more subtle aspects of management could be improved.

For the coming years, the unit is putting the 'deciphering of the inter-organ cross-talk in targeted metabolic diseases' as the organizing theme across the individual teams' projects. This approach has all chances to be efficient, as it respects the present competencies of each team, while adding new opportunities for collaborations between the teams. The originality is not in the concept, which is being discussed quite widely since many years, but in the research design for maximising the chances of success. With that respect, the pluri-competences of the unit, from molecular epigenetics, animal physiology to human clinical studies, form an excellent asset. Clinical and translational approaches will remain an important strength of the output of such studies. All needed tools are available, particularly through the various platforms. However, in the context of this Systems Biology approach, the competences in bioinformatics approaches need to be further developed.

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