

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Metabolic and systemic aspects of oncogenesis
for new therapeutic approaches (METSU)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Université Paris-Sud

Centre national de la recherche scientifique -
CNRS

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2018-2019
GROUP E



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the experts committee²:

Jean-Claude Martinou, 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 experts committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5);

² 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

Unit name:	Metabolic and systemic aspects of oncogenesis for new therapeutic approaches
Unit acronym:	METSY
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	de novo creation
Current number:	n/a
Head of the unit (2018-2019):	Ms Catherine BRENNER
Project leader (2020-2024):	Ms Catherine BRENNER
Number of teams:	3

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Jean-Claude MARTINOU, Université de Genève, Switzerland
Experts:	Mr Marc BILLAUD, CNRS Lyon (representative of CoNRS) Ms Elaine DEL NERY, Institut Curie Paris (supporting personnel) Ms Juana María GARCIA PEDRERO, Universidad de Oviedo, Spain Ms Claire VOURCH, Inserm Grenoble (representative of CNU)

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Jean Edouard GAIRIN

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mr Etienne AUGÉ, Université Paris-Sud
Mr Yvan DE LAUNOIT, CNRS
Mr Eric SOLARY, Institut Gustave Roussy

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The objective is to create a new research unit, called METSY for Metabolic and systemic aspects of oncogenesis for new therapeutic approaches, by bringing together scientists, clinicians and ITA with an expertise in oncogenesis and in the development of anticancer therapies. Currently all these scientists are working in different research units located either at Institut Gustave Roussy (IGR) (UMR 8126 Signaling, Nuclei and Innovations in Oncology, UMR 8203 Vectorology and Anticancer Therapies, both being not renewed) and UMR 1030 Molecular Radiotherapy, or in Chatenay- Malabry, (UMR 1180 Signalisation and Cardiac Pathophysiology).

The METSY unit will be localized within the IGR campus.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The head of METSY will be Catherine Brenner and the deputy head Karim Benihoud.

HCÉRES NOMEMCLATURE

SVE2_1; SVE2_3; SVE5_3; SVE5_4.

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

Three main research topics will be developed around oncogenesis and development of cancer therapies: i) Metabolic plasticity in health and disease; ii) Host-tumor interactions in Head and Neck carcinomas; and iii) Chromatin dynamics and metabolism in B cell lymphomas.

UNIT WORKFORCE

	Unit workforce		
	UMR 8126 Signaling, nuclei and innovations in oncology	UMR 8203 Vectorology and anticancer therapies	Metabolic and systemic aspects of oncogenesis for new therapeutic approaches
Active staff	Number 30/06/2018	Number 30/06/2018	Number 01/01/2020
Full professors and similar positions	1	4	2
Assistant professors and similar positions	0	3	0
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	5	2	7
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	2	3	3
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	0	0	2
High school teachers	0	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	6	10	9

Permanent staff	14	22	23
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	1	0	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	5	3	
<i>PhD Students</i>	11	15	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	10	6	
Non-permanent staff	27	24	
Total	41	46	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The proposed new unit METSY will be composed of internationally recognized scientists aiming at understanding key mechanisms of oncogenesis, identifying therapeutic targets and developing new therapeutic strategies. The diversity of scientific expertise and the willingness of the respective group leaders to work together on related research themes are among the major assets of METSY.

The unit will benefit from its location at the Institut Gustave Roussy, which is one of the best centers of excellence for cancer research worldwide.

Current research has identified key therapeutic targets and the search for small molecule inhibitors will be initiated in the near future. Furthermore, therapeutic tools such as antibodies, siRNAs, oncolytic viruses or physical strategies to disrupt tumor cells are being currently investigated for various cancers including Head and Neck cancers and lymphomas. Translational research can therefore be expected to be a key aspect of the work at METSY, and the goal of the unit will be to advance the therapeutic strategies into the clinical phase within the next few years. The research proposed by METSY is original, well in phase with the overall objectives of the IGR and is expected to strengthen the research and international visibility of this prestigious site.

The performance and longevity of METSY will rely strongly on the successful replacement of several principal scientists who are about to retire and on hiring imaginative and dynamic post-docs and PhD students. Therefore careful consideration should be given to the recruitment of new personal including MD/PhDs. Publication in high-impact journals will be key to ensuring international visibility and long-term leadership of the unit in this highly competitive field.

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