

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Virology (VIRO)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

École Nationale Vétérinaire d'Alfort - ENVA

Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique -
INRA

Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de
l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail -
ANSES

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2018-2019
GROUP E



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the experts committee²:

Gerhard Dobler, 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:	Virology
Unit acronym:	VIRO
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	1161
Head of the unit (2018-2019):	Mr Stephan ZIENTARA
Project leader (2020-2024):	Mr Stephan ZIENTARA
Number of teams and/or themes:	5

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Gerhard DOBLER, Institut für Mikrobiologie der Bundeswehr, Germany
Experts:	Mr Xavier BAILLY, Inra Clermont-Ferrand-Theix
	Mr Alain KOHL, University of Glasgow, UK
	Ms Jennifer MOLLE, Centre de Recherche en Cancérologie de Lyon (supporting personnel)
	Mr Hans NAUWYNCK, Ghent University, Belgium
	Mr Didier VILETTE, ENV Toulouse (representative of Inra CSS)

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Ms Birke BARTOSCH

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mr Pascale BOIREAU, ANSES

Mr Fabrice LAURENT, INRA

Mr Thierry PINEAU, INRA

Mr Gilles SALVAT, ANSES

Mr Renaud TISSIER, ENVA

Ms Muriel VAYSSIER-TAUSSAT, INRA

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

UMR 1161 was created in 2002 and is located at the French National Veterinary School at Maisons-Alfort. Since the last evaluation, there was no change in the organization and structure of the unit. UMR 1161 is governed by three supervising institutions: the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), the French national veterinary school of Alfort (Envv) and the National Agency for Food, environmental and occupational health safety (ANSES). Since 1st January 2008, UMR 1161 has been directed by Mr Stephan Zientara (Director) and Ms Jennifer Richardson (Deputy Director).

MANAGEMENT TEAM

UMR1161 will be led by Mr Stephan Zientara (director) and 3 deputy directors Ms Jennifer Richardson, Ms Nicole Pavio and Mr Bernard Klonjkowski.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE3 Microbiologie, virologie, immunité

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The unit's scientific domain is veterinary virology. The unit is dealing with major viral zoonoses of veterinary importance and covers all aspects of virological diagnosis and research. Besides research, the unit covers many of the national reference tasks for France.

UNIT WORKFORCE

	Unit workforce	
	UMR Virology	
Active staff	Number 30/06/2018	Number 01/01/2020
Full professors and similar positions	1	1
Assistant professors and similar positions	3	3
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	5	5
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	7	7
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)	20	20
Permanent staff	36	36
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	2	
<i>PhD</i> Students	6	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	3	
Non-permanent staff	11	
Total	47	36

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The unit has over the last evaluation period again increased its scientific output (basic and applied) and shows an excellent track record for publication. The quality of publications, reviews and presentations is very high although there are some differences between the teams due to variation in workloads relating to reference tasks, service work or teaching. Some of the team leaders are involved in national surveillance programs and 4 of the 5 teams are in charge of national and international reference activities. All teams are involved and funded by national and international research programs. The scientists of the unit document a high number of lectures and scientific presentations and a high percentage of them are invited for lectures. They present at national and international conferences underlining their high international visibility and reputation. The unit is well connected to other national and international research facilities. The strategic plan for the coming years is strong and focused on specific subjects with high scientific potential. Reference diagnostic activity and diagnostics form a core activity. While some of the target viruses are not prevalent in France and Europe, they pose nonetheless important threats to Europe and the activities of the unit thus play an important role for animal health. The translational research potential for some of the target viruses is high and UMR1161 is contributing towards the development of tools and reagents, though ultimately application and use are beyond of what a research unit can achieve. Besides research, the unit is heavily involved in teaching and training of PhD students. This training activity is essential for the unit to educate the scientific offspring for future research. The interaction with the social and economic sector can be improved regarding the transfer of technology and it was encouraging to see that the three supervising institutions of UM1161 actively support (patents, technology transfer) these interactions.

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