

SIRIC PROGRAMME 2018-2022- MID-TERM REPORT (2020) EVALUATION FORM

Project number	SIRICEval20-011
Name of the SIRIC	CARPEM
Name of the SIRIC Director	LAURENT-PUIG Pierre
Name of the Reviewer	1

General information

The SIRIC designation aims to offer new opportunities for conducting translational cancer research, thus helps optimising, accelerating and disseminating the production of new knowledge and its application to cancer care. The SIRIC programme should increase the link between the different dimensions of research (basic, clinical, public health, epidemiology, and human and social sciences), by concentrating a critical mass of experts (physicians, researchers, engineers, healthcare workers and patients).

The role of a SIRIC is to make big improvements in the quality of research organisation, knowledge production, transfer of innovation into practice and care organisation, and new outcomes dissemination to all potential beneficiaries.

The SIRIC programme is a French National Cancer Institute's policy in research structuring initiated in 2011. The importance and priority of this flagship programme have been reinforced in the 2014-2019 Cancer Control Plan with a second call for designation, launched in 2017.

This second (2017) call for designation was open to previously designated sites and to new applicants. It has resulted in the designation of 2 new SIRICs (CURAMUS and ILIAD) and the renewal of 6 SIRICs (BRIO, CARPEM, CURIE, LYriCAN, MONTPELLIER and SOCRATE 2.0) for a 5-year designation period (2018-2022). It is addressing specific challenges related to anticipated needs, in order to fight cancer more effectively.

The current mid-term evaluation aims at obtaining a first scientific assessment of the progresses and achievements made by the 8 SIRICs during the 1st period (from January 2018 to June 2020) in order to make recommendations to them on scientific objectives and/or strategies for the 2nd period (July 2020-December 2022).

The mid-term report will be evaluated using 13 criteria (see below).

Each criterion should be scored from 0 to 5 as follows:

0: null ; 1: very weak ; 2: weak ; 3: good; 4: very good; 5: excellent.

1. SIRIC governance and management structure with executive and scientific committees

- Adequacy of the governance organisation for the scientific, administrative and financial management of the SIRIC
- Director of the SIRIC: appropriateness of his/her commitment for the SIRIC organisation, administrative and financial management
- SIRIC managerial and scientific committees: adequacy, role and responsibility of the members
- Respect of the gender equality within the governance
- Commitment of the partner institutions in the SIRIC organization and shared resources
- Adequacy of the scientific management of the SIRIC: progress of the integrated research programmes, inter-programme exchanges, national and international collaborations, dissemination activities
- Appropriateness of the SIRIC administrative services: oversight of shared resources, budget management and accounting processes

Comments on criterion 1:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

There is evidence of restructuring of institutions into groups e.g. AP-HP which will lead to increase synergy. There seems to be a robust governance infrastructure, advisory board and translational ethics board to provide oversight.

Specific recommendations for the 2nd period of the SIRIC designation:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

None

2. Establishment of shared resource facilities to support the SIRIC integrated research programmes

- Development or creation of efficient and operational transversal platforms (genomics, imaging, animal models, etc)
- Development or creation of shared facilities and joint services (methodology, biostatistics, bioinformatics, regulatory and ethical procedures, etc)
- Establishment or development of high-quality biobanks with linkage to clinical and follow-up data and subsequent sharing
- Contribution of the transversal platforms and shared facilities and services in the integrated research programmes

Comments on criterion 2:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

The genomics, pathology and biobank activities of this consortium have shown good output and high profile publications.

Specific recommendations for the 2nd period of the SIRIC designation:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

The biobank has had impressive collections in the last few years. Because of the constraints of space in the grant report it is sometimes difficult to see how the samples have been used (maybe mention a few projects). It would be good to high light that in a section. The strength of a biobank is its use by researchers and that was not clear

3. Commitment to support the emergence of research projects (e.g., pump-priming grants)

- Implementation of SIRIC call for projects for emerging/high risk projects funding
- Follow-up and support of these projects' maturation into more ambitious grant applications
- Support for the creation of emerging research teams with integrated research programmes

Comments on criterion 3:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

A good number of Post Doc fellowships have been handed out. They are in scientific areas that are aligned with PIs and general research expertise of the consortium and seem to be of high quality but it is hard to judge how 'high risk' they are.

Specific recommendations for the 2nd period of the SIRIC designation:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

As the Programme matures an important metric of such activities is to show how many of these pump priming grants have led to larger grants or publications.

4. Commitment to a training programme in translational and integrated research

- Enlargement and reinforcement of the training opportunities on the specificity and constraints associated to the translational and integrated research (quality insurance, ethical and regulatory affairs, transversal management, etc)
- Programmes/activities proposed to scientists for training in the medical environment and programmes/activities proposed to clinicians for training in a scientific environment (bridges between basic science and clinical practice, and vice versa)
- Programmes/activities proposed to foster the continuum of research and integration of all disciplines, specially human and social sciences, epidemiology and public health

Comments on criterion 4:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

Four PhDs and 2 masters degrees have been funded and relate to interesting pieces of work. In addition an inter-university diploma of molecular medicine in cancer has been funded which has an uptake of just under 30 each year and that is a good achievement.

Specific recommendations for the 2nd period of the SIRIC designation:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

These initiatives are very good. Sometimes one can get good value for money for short training courses in areas of unmet need after doing a short survey e.g. 1 day training course for nurses to try and engage them in research or ethics or a one day course on ethics for the public or one day course on data management to undergraduate students. These in the long term sometime lead to more people looking for jobs or volunteering to committees that eventually help research.

5. Progress of the SIRIC multidisciplinary integrated programmes

For each integrated research programme, consider:

- Overall scientific quality and relevance of the programme
- Quality and quantity of the 1st achievements, the outstanding performances and the successful developments
- Robustness of the action plan for the 2nd period
- Anticipated outcomes in terms of production and dissemination of knowledge and practice
- Impact of the SIRIC label on the integrated research programme
- Joint actions with the other SIRIC research programmes

INTEGRATED RESEARCH PROGRAMME 1	
	<p>Comments: <i>(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)</i> Metabolism/genetics/immunity/environment At first glance it is quite a disparate group of subjects put together but looking at progress, integration between institutions and output it seems to achieved its core goals. Some significant publications in little understood areas such as stress and cancer risk/outcomes.</p>
	<p>Specific recommendations for the 2nd period of the SIRIC designation: <i>(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)</i> Metabolism is the real core of this research Programme and dividing it into 2 work packages is slightly distracting but may be necessary for administrative purposes. Some areas like mesothelioma did not really fit into the section on digestive cancers in WP2 but that is only a very minor comment</p>

INTEGRATED RESEARCH PROGRAMME 2	
	<p>Comments: <i>(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)</i></p> <p>Very competitive area and very high quality research outputs. Good mix of biobank materials to study patient samples while studying methylation, basic research like CRISPR screens and technology development like microfluidics.</p>
	<p>Specific recommendations for the 2nd period of the SIRIC designation: <i>(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)</i></p> <p>A very large number of cancer types are studied e.g. leukemia to NSCLC to sarcoma. This is both a strength and a weakness as it can reduce focus on a few diseases which could be studied in more detail. On the other hand, if the science is leading the research into different, then it should be encouraged.</p>
INTEGRATED RESEARCH PROGRAMME 3	
	<p>Comments: <i>(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)</i></p> <p>Probably the weakest of the three research programs but still OK in some areas and have resulted in some interesting work on lynch syndrome.</p>
	<p>Specific recommendations for the 2nd period of the SIRIC designation: <i>(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)</i></p> <p>Focusing the effort on easy deliverables. There are some areas like bio banking that is very well established in the consortium. Maybe some research into the ethics and public participation in this area could result in relatively quick wins.</p>

6. Availability of a sufficient patient population to support bench to bedside studies in all integrated research programmes

- Adequacy of the cancers/topics targeted in the integrated research programmes with the medical activity (sufficient number of patients)
- Sufficient rate of patient recruitment in the integrated research programmes : collection of biological samples, inclusion in clinical trials, etc

Comments on criterion 6:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

Bio banking initiatives good and a few population based projects in the metabolism area. This does not seem limiting.

Specific recommendations for the 2nd period of the SIRIC designation:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

No specific comments.

7. Effective integration between basic and applied scientists (e.g., clinicians, population scientists)

For each integrated research programme, consider:

- Experience and involvement of the programme leaders (scientific/medical expertise, management of teams, commitment to the programme, meetings organisation, etc)
- Relevant and justified selection of the members of the programme, representativeness of the multidisciplinary
- Quality of the Intra-SIRIC collaboration (active participation, regular meetings, other animation activities), added-value of the multidisciplinary and integrated organisation of the programme
- Commitment of the multidisciplinary research team to achieve translational goals

Comments on criterion 7:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

Good mix of basic and applied research. Have good training programs and post doc projects across a range of research areas.

Specific recommendations for the 2nd period of the SIRIC designation:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

As there are some areas in the metabolism area of research such as obesity and cancer risks etc it may be worth building on the good science to focus some research/resource into areas of behavioral modification. This can even be fed into the integrated research Programme 3 which is the weakest part of the application and could turn it around.

8. Commitment to develop and integrate human and social sciences, epidemiology and public health studies

- Strategy to develop and integrate human and social sciences, epidemiology and public health studies in the overall SIRIC objectives as well as in each research programme
- Activities effectively implemented by the SIRIC for the development and integration of the human and social sciences, epidemiology and public health studies and associated results

Comments on criterion 8:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

Very high quality translational medicine but evidence of how this links to larger population is less evident

Specific recommendations for the 2nd period of the SIRIC designation:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

A Programme can not do everything. I think changing the focus from the excellent translational research will be a distraction so although ranked slightly lower in this section, I would not suggest changing the research focus. May be change the way the papers written to reflect this slightly better.

9. Involvement of patient advocates

- Consultation of patients' representatives for the SIRIC strategic decisions (governance and management structure)
- Involvement of patients' representatives in the research integrated programmes
- Participation of patients' representatives in activities related to the dissemination of knowledge and practice to the patients and the public

Comments on criterion 9:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

There has been a change in key posts etc and there seems to be robust efforts towards recovery.

Specific recommendations for the 2nd period of the SIRIC designation:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

Having training programs for ethics and advocacy usually brings volunteers into this area.

10. National and international synergistic collaborations as well as public-private partnerships

In each integrated research programme, quality of the extra-SIRIC collaboration:

- Effective national collaborations (including inter-SIRIC joint actions): regular meetings or teleconferences, operational exchanges, common publications
- Integration within the regional network: interaction and joint actions with the Cancéropôle (regional cancer hubs) or other regional structures
- Active international collaborations: regular meetings or teleconferences, operational exchanges, common publications
- Public-private partnerships (existence of collaborative contracts, licensing, creation of spin-off, etc)

Comments on criterion 10:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

Some interesting global collaborations in studies on metabolism and stress with publications in nature medicine and nature communications. Also impactful work on immune profiling validating immunoscores resulting in recommendations in the WHO edition of digestive tumour classification.

Specific recommendations for the 2nd period of the SIRIC designation:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

Did not see much evidence of spin offs but 12 million euros leveraged is a good achievement. Maybe a few training programs/seminars for post docs about patenting and spin off companies may have long term value.

11. Dissemination of new knowledge and good practices resulting from the research towards health professionals and patients, incitation in technology transfer for economic development

- Appreciation of the networks supporting the dissemination programmes: public research institutions, public and private hospitals, charities, private companies, etc
- Efficiency of the activities performed for dissemination of knowledge and good practices towards professionals: information on new scientific knowledge, training on new practices (for screening, diagnosis, and treatment), knowledge transfer in management of quality of life, observance, inequalities, etc
- Efficiency of the activities performed for communication, dialogue and meetings towards patients and the public in order to share experience and progress expected before, during or after the disease
- Support and incentive measures in technology transfer for economic development of the research outcomes

Comments on criterion 11:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

Interesting that academics are encouraged to write reviews to disseminate knowledge. This is sometimes frowned upon as a distraction from research and a way of increasing citations but in moderation, is a powerful tool to disseminate knowledge.

Specific recommendations for the 2nd period of the SIRIC designation:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

In the post covid 19 era, should try and host virtual national/global meetings.

12. Ability to leverage funding and/or resources obtained as a result of an “excellent” designation

- Capacity of the SIRIC managerial structure to gain local and regional public funding (or equipment, facilities, etc)
- Capacity of the integrated research programmes to acquire other national or European important co-fundings
- Capacity of the SIRIC operational platforms and joint services to obtain innovative equipment or the associated funding

Comments on criterion 12:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

Well linked with other national and relevant European programs.

Specific recommendations for the 2nd period of the SIRIC designation:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

No specific recommendation

13. Global vision of the SIRIC, scientific directions, goals and perspectives for the 2nd designation period

- General understanding of the definition and objectives of the SIRIC designation
- Adequacy of the SIRIC activities with the initial objectives and workplan submitted in the application dossier for the designation in 2017
- Integration of the designation scientific committee recommendations
- Added-value of the SIRIC designation for the site and the local organisation
- Appropriateness of the SIRIC workplan and perspectives for the 2nd period of the designation
- Global expected impacts of the SIRIC at the end of the designation period regarding the 2 main objectives: improvement of integrated research and dissemination of knowledge
- Long-term vision beyond the end of the current designation (after 2022)

Comments on criterion 13:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

High quality translational research. Some integrated programs on metabolism are areas that are relatively less resourced/studied internationally and there is a real chance of making a big contribution in global research in these areas. The areas around heterogeneity are highly competitive but the research produced by the consortium is of excellent quality with a good mix of basic/translational research and technology development.

Specific recommendations for the 2nd period of the SIRIC designation:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

Could not see much evidence of commercialization of some of the research and maybe more interactions of researchers with tech transfer teams and seminars/workshops in this area will improve this.

Financial report 2018-2020

- Adequacy of the 2018-2020 financial plan with the SIRIC workplan
- Adequacy of the allocated budget to the general SIRIC managerial services
- Appropriateness of budget allocation between the different categories of expenses: staff, operating costs, equipment, etc
- Appropriateness of budget allocation between the integrated research programmes, the transversal platforms and the dissemination activities

Comments on the financial report:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

Adequate

Specific recommendations for the 2nd period of the SIRIC designation:

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

None

General comments and recommendations

General comments on the SIRIC mid-term report and final recommendations for the 2nd period of the designation

(Please feel free to use as much space as needed)

Very good progress made. There are bound to be significant challenges in 2020-2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Invest in on-line working and virtual training/seminars etc to tide over this period.