



SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD REPORT

The international scientific advisory board met in Nantes on April 19-20 2018 to evaluate the LabEx IGO program. They had an overall presentation of LabEx IGO and a presentation of the project for LabEx IGO renewal. The funded projects initiated in 2016 were also presented and their advances assessed. The SAB members also evaluated the new 2018 internal proposals through a two-tier process, which finally selected 4 projects that will receive funding for the next triennium. Finally, the SAB members had discussion with LabEx IGO Direction and steering committee members (COPIL).

SAB comments on LabEx IGO 2018 projects

All projects were considered sound and competitive. After a discussion on the relative merits of all the projects, the SAB arrived at a unanimous decision for the 4 fundable projects.

SAB comment on LabEx IGO report 2016-2018

The SAB is pleased to share its enthusiasm for the results achieved by the LabEx IGO between 2016-2018, which are very impressive for the organization, accomplishments, and trajectory for high impact, multidisciplinary research, education, and training. The objectives initially outlined by the IGO coordinators (Ignacio Anegón and Nathalie Labarrière) to the SAB were completely achieved. Through the years, LabEx IGO has rapidly become a unique international model for the integration of research between transplantation, cancer and, more recently, autoimmunity. The translational aspect is the key quality of this program, and the collaboration between clinicians and fundamental research should be kept and further implemented in the future. The calls for internal projects were perfectly organized and assessed externally for their scientific merit by the SAB, which could verify the progression of the selected ones. The projects fostered new collaborations between different areas of transplantation, oncology and autoimmunity, leading to several and increasingly relevant publications, unique cross-disciplinary training for young scientists, and the commercialization of a number of filed patents that have attracted interest from biotech industry. Through the organization of several high profile international meetings, some specifically directed at junior scientists inside, but also outside, IGO has worked well in terms of promoting educating. The attractiveness of IGO for

international scientists has also increased and new recruitments were made at the junior faculty level, ensuring adequate turnover and new opportunities for fostering new talent.

In conclusion, the SAB fully supports the renewal of the LabEx IGO funding. IGO may continue to leverage its unique interdisciplinary translational research environment towards new objectives, and possibly incorporate new and different research directions around novel technical platforms, such as high throughput molecular and/or flow cytometry single cell analysis, which will be used in novel projects centered around unmet clinical needs, or biological problems concerning the immune response vs tolerance, that can be addressed by investigating at the same time transplantation, cancer and autoimmunity.

The SAB members:

Marc Bonneville, Institut Mérieux, Lyon, FRANCE

Jonathan Bromberg, University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Pierre Coulie, Faculty of Medicine of the Université catholique de Louvain, BELGIUM

Paolo Dellabona, Experimental Immunology Unit, San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milano, ITALY

Barbara Seliger, Martin Luther University, Institute for Medical Immunology, GERMANY

Megan Sykes, Columbia University, USA

Hans-Dieter Volk, Inst.Med.Immunology, Charité, Berlin, GERMANY