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GIENS WORKSHOPS 2015 / *Clinical Research*

## What specifications for a centre or network of excellence in clinical research? ☆



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Received 12 November 2015; accepted 20 November 2015

Available online 3 February 2016

DOI of original article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.therap.2015.11.002>.

☆ Articles, analyses and proposals from the Giens workshops are those of the authors and do not prejudice the proposition of their parent organization.

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.therap.2015.11.003>

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**KEYWORDS**

Clinical research;  
Centre of excellence;  
Centre/network;  
Specifications;  
Expertise;  
Performance;  
Quality;  
Communication

**Summary** The Giens 2015 Workshop Round Table entitled “What specifications for a centre or network of excellence in clinical research?” took a viewpoint distinct from earlier work and studies on changes in clinical research activities in France. The purpose of the present work was to identify, starting from concrete examples, the main strengths and advantages of clinical research activity in France related, in part, to the background environment and also to the specific characteristics of the investigation centres considered to be among the most high-performance units in activity. The criteria retained were grouped into a set of specifications that could be used to establish a “label of excellence” upon which the different teams and clinical research centres could model themselves. It was thus considered that belonging to a centre or structured network with at least a national configuration, when this is possible for the medial topic in question, constitutes a real advantage. Four benchmarks were identified: the scientific and clinical expertise of the head investigator, as well as the qualification and operational capacity of the centre’s team; definition and measurement of performance using clearly displayed indicators and evaluation procedures; the quality of the overall trial “process” and of each of its component steps; communication, because know-how and promotion go hand in hand, with the main objective of informing the professional and general public about the value of the research centre meeting the above-mentioned criteria, about its networks of competencies, and more generally, about the important assets of the background of clinical research in France. This sector of research is funded by the public authorities via calls for public grants, financial aids for structures supporting clinical research in the University Hospital Centres and other healthcare institutions allowing for a professionalization of the research occupations, and the national public health plans (cancer, rare disease, HIV).

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**Abbreviations**

AERES	Agency for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education ( <i>Agence d'évaluation de la recherche et de l'enseignement supérieur</i> )	CRC	Centre of Clinical Research ( <i>Centre de recherche clinique</i> )
ANSM	National Agency for the Safety of Drugs and Health Products ( <i>Agence nationale de sécurité des médicaments et des produits de santé</i> )	CSF-ITS	Strategy Committee for the Health Technologies Industrial Sector ( <i>Comité stratégique de filière des industries technologies de santé</i> )
ARS	Regional Agency of Health ( <i>Agence régionale de santé</i> )	CSIS	Strategy Council for the Health Industries ( <i>Conseil stratégique des industries de santé</i> )
CCTIRS	Consultative Committee for Data Processing for Research in the Field of Health ( <i>Comité consultatif sur le traitement de l'information en matière de recherche dans le domaine de la santé</i> )	DHU	University Hospital Department ( <i>département hospitalo-universitaire</i> )
CeNGEPS	National Centre for the Management of Health Product Trials ( <i>Centre national de gestion des essais de produits de santé</i> )	DRCI	Delegation for Clinical Research and Innovation ( <i>Délégation à la recherche clinique et à l'innovation</i> )
CHU	University Hospital Centre ( <i>centre hospitalier universitaire</i> )	EQUIPEX	Equipments of excellence ( <i>équipements d'excellence</i> )
CIC	Centre of Clinical Investigation ( <i>Centre d'investigation clinique</i> )	F-CRIN	French Clinical Research Infrastructure Network
CNCR	National Committee for the Coordination of Clinical Research ( <i>Comité national de coordination de la recherche clinique</i> )	FHU	University Hospital Federation ( <i>Fédération hospitalo-universitaire</i> )
CNIL	National Commission on Informatics and Freedoms ( <i>Commission nationale de l'informatique et des libertés</i> )	GCS	Grouping for Healthcare Cooperation ( <i>Groupement de coopération sanitaire</i> )
CRB	Centre of Biological Resources ( <i>Centres de ressources biologiques</i> )	GIE	Grouping of Economic Interest ( <i>Groupement d'intérêt économique</i> )
		GIRCI	Grouping for Inter-Regional Clinical Research and Innovation ( <i>Groupement inter-régional de recherche clinique et innovation</i> )
		HCERES	High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education ( <i>Haut conseil de l'évaluation de la recherche et de l'enseignement supérieur</i> )
		IHU	University Hospital Institute an instrument of the investments in the future programme (PIA)
		IRB	Institutional review board
		KQI	key quality indicators

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