06. HEALTH SCIENCES PFR (PUSH)

Introduction

The Lyon Saint-Étienne health sciences research and training PFR (PUSH) will consolidate most of the health research and training structures. The PFR will be involved in training at all levels, from the first year of the undergraduate cycle to post-doctoral level, and in the various types of biomedical research: clinical research, fundamental research and translational research. Training will be delivered in partnership with the two University Hospitals of Lyon (HCL) and Saint-Étienne, as well as the Léon Bérard Centre (CLB, Lyon anti-cancer centre) and the Vinatier hospital centre, in conjunction with national research organisations.

The Inserm and CNRS statutory researchers from the research units whose primary and secondary affiliations are with the PFR will be represented and will be involved in the project and the trajectory of the PFR.

At the beginning of 2019, when the PFR was launched, it comprised more than 19,000 students from all training cycles from undergraduate to post-doctoral level. The PFR employs around 800 university hospital professors, 60 university staff and 300 BIATSS staff.

Ambition

The ambition of the PFR thus formed is to develop strong international visibility in the health sector for the second French region. Its missions will thus be at the heart of the Target University project:

- To promote, coordinate and support training and research in all areas of health sciences;
- To facilitate transversality, interdisciplinarity and double degree programmes;
- To make innovation a priority for training and research;
- To develop synergies with other PFRs, in particular the Biosciences and Pharmaceutical Sciences (BSP) PFR, given that health sciences play a key role in the One Health concept;
- To develop continuous improvement, evaluation and quality approach practices; and
- To pool all available resources to ensure national and international clarity.

Scope

The PFR is built around five components of the Universities of Lyon 1 and of Saint-Étienne, with their UFR and institute statuses: the Lyon-Est medicine UFR, the Lyon-Sud Charles Mérieux medicine and maieutics UFR, the Saint-Étienne medicine UFR, the dentistry UFR and the Institute of Rehabilitation Sciences and Techniques (ISTR). There are 16 affiliated research units.

Collaboration with the BSP PFR is based on an inter-PFR coordination committee to develop common strategic focus areas for training and research and to define the rules for pooling the human and financial resources allocated to them (research units and scientific platforms).

The main areas of research are currently: the musculoskeletal system, rehabilitation – nutrition, diabetology, metabolism – cardio-neuro-vascular pathology – oncology, lymphoma, therapeutic targeting – public health, epidemiology, prevention, risks, quality – therapeutic engineering, ultrasound – human genetics, rare diseases, in particular with the AURAGEN platform.
Partnerships and interactions

National research organisations, particularly Inserm and the CNRS, will play a key role in the PFR’s strategy since many researchers from these organisations are part of the large accredited research units affiliated to the PUSH and BSP PFRs. The resulting interaction will be essential to ensure consistency between the two PFRs’ study programmes.

Similarly, the health sciences research field creates a strong interconnection with the departments of clinical research and innovation (DRCI) of the two partner university hospitals (the Hospices civils de Lyon (HCL) and the Saint-Étienne CHU), as well as with the CLB research commission. These interactions and partnerships already have a place of joint expression and representation within the Lyon and Saint-Étienne biomedical and public health research committees (CRBSPs), which are ultimately expected to be grouped together.

In addition to the BSP PFR, other natural interactions would include the Engineering, Sciences and Humanities, Law, and Management and Actuarial Sciences PFRs. These interactions will help to identify double degree programmes and support the emergence of a transversal theme specific to the Target University, entitled “global health, individuals and technology”. Other interconnections outside the Target University will also enrich the project.

Governance

The PFR’s governance is designed with a view to ensuring the equitable representation of the PFR’s constituent staff (elected members) and of the institutional representatives of the partners mentioned above (designated members), as well as outside members, in three governing bodies: the PFR board (the PFR’s decision-making body), the training and research board, and the restricted management committee, which is the day-to-day executive management body. The PFR will also establish a strategic steering committee.

PFR board (40 members)

The board will deliberate on all the missions delegated to the PFR: global strategy, student recruitment, control of syllabuses and degrees, recruitment campaign, research and project management, as well as the distribution of the PFR’s human and financial resources.

It will comprise:

- **23 elected members**, equally distributed among the constituent entities: professors from college A (5) and college B (5), representatives of the DUs of affiliated research units (3, including at least one from Saint-Étienne), BIATSS staff representatives (5) and student representatives (5). The idea is to have a board representing professors, BIATSS staff and students elected from the boards of the constituent structures;
- **Five ex-officio members**: the five deans or directors of the components;
- **Two appointed members**: the two presidents of the medical commissions (CMEs) of the Lyon and Saint-Étienne CHUs; and
- **Ten outside members** comprising: the directors general of the Lyon and Saint-Étienne CHUs or their representative (two), the director of the Lyon-Bron military medical schools (one), the director of the Léon Bérard Centre (one), the coordinating academic practitioner from the Vinatier medical centre (one), one representative from the public scientific and technical research institutes, “EPST” (one), one regional authority representative (one), and three representatives from the strengthened partnerships (three).
The PFR’s director will be appointed by the president of the Target University on the recommendation of the PFR board. The candidate(s) proposed shall be identified from among the academic staff (including tenured university hospital staff). The term will be five years and the director will participate in the Target University’s COMEX.

Given the regional characteristics, in particular the specific nature of the Saint-Étienne CHU and its regional hospital group (GHT Loire), the Saint-Étienne medicine UFR will retain its autonomy in the context of the Target University’s strategy on the following points:

- reception and training capacities for the 2nd year of medical studies;
- training capacities in conjunction with the ARS regional health authority (ARS) for admission to the 4th year of medical school;
- management of the doctoral cycle (3rd cycle) of medical studies (internal) and in particular the number of positions in the various disciplines;
- review of university hospital staffing levels in conjunction with the Saint-Étienne CHU; and
- continuing medical education.

Lyon will maintain its medical studies coordination committee (CCEM) in order to coordinate medical training paths, review hospital and university staffing levels, assign university hospital staff, and manage agreements with the CHUs, etc.

**Training and research board**

This board will comprise: the deans of the constituent entities (five), the deputy deans or deputy directors of the constituent entities, six representatives from the research laboratories (including at least two from Saint-Étienne), one doctoral school director, one research representative per constituent entity, one undergraduate representative per constituent entity, one Master’s representative per constituent entity, one doctoral studies and continuing education representative per constituent entity, one director of the midwifery school, the administrative director of the PFR, the director of the department of clinical research and innovation (DRCI) of each CHU, one BIATSS staff member per constituent entity, and two students per constituent entity.

The board will elect a deputy research director and a deputy training director for the PFR from the tenured university hospital or university staff or research directors, for a five-year term.

In order to define a joint training and research strategy, a coordination committee will be set up between the Health Sciences and BSP PFRs. This committee, composed of the directors/deputy directors of the two PFRs and the heads of components, will meet quarterly to develop a common policy in terms of scientific equipment, research and training on health sciences topics. The committee will discuss the development of the professor position for hospital physicians (mono-appartenant) at the science/health interface, new science/health training courses and interactions between health training courses, and responses to calls for proposals relating to the two poles. This coordination committee may be extended to the various commissions of the two PFRs and may include outside members depending on the topics discussed.

This committee also aims to propose joint research focus areas, relating to the Target University’s transversal themes, with respect to scientific scope of the two poles (global health, individuals and technology). It must also work within the framework of the joint management of the research units (units with secondary affiliations with each of the two PFRs) and the scientific platforms involved in these themes. This place of exchange naturally interacts with the CRBSPs of the two CHUs.
Management committee (10 members)

- the director of the PFR board;
- the PFR's deputy research director;
- the PFR's deputy training director;
- the deans/directors of the constituent entities;
- the president of the medical studies coordination committee; and
- the PFR's administrative director.

The PFR will also have its own strategic steering committee (COS), which will contribute to discussions on the definition of its objectives and trajectory for matters within its academic scope. It will be composed exclusively of members external to the Lyon Saint-Étienne site.