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The CerCo and the TMBI

To whom it may concern,

Given that I am both the director of the Brain and Cognition Research Center (CerCo), and the director of the *Institut des Sciences du Cerveau, de la Cognition et du Comportement de Toulouse* (ISC3T), and because I am also the person responsible for putting together the Institut Convergences project called the Toulouse Mind and Brain Institute (TMBI), it will not come as a surprise to learn that I am extremely enthusiastic about the whole project.

But can I just take a moment to say a little about my own laboratory and why it can make a big contribution to the TMBI. The lab is home to [83 scientists and support staff](#) plus around 20 Masters students. There are 6 different teams, all working on themes that are directly relevant to the TMBI :

- [Action, Apprentissage et plus \(AA+\)](#) : [Pier-Giorgio Zanone](#)
- [Crossmodal Compensation & Cortical Plasticity \(C3P\)](#) : [Pascal Barone](#)
- [Space & 3D Context \(ECO-3D\)](#) : [Yves Trotter](#)
- [Images & Modèles pour l'exploration du Cerveau \(IMPEC\)](#) : [Caroline Fonta](#)
- [Memory & Learning of Objects & Scenes \(MAOS\)](#) : [Emmanuel Barbeau](#)
- [Perceptual & Attentional Fluctuations \(PAF\)](#) : [Rufin VanRullen](#)

Two of the labs researchers have prestigious ERC grants. Rufin Van Rullen obtained an ERC Consolidator grant in 2013 called "[P-Cycles : Exploring and controlling the perceptual consequences of brain rhythms](#)", while I obtained an ERC Advanced Grant in 2012 called "[M4 : Memory mechanisms in Man & Machine](#)". Again, both projects are very directly relevant to the central themes of the TMBI.

The lab was recently reviewed by an International Review Panel, and their report dating from April 2015 (which can be [downloaded here](#)) was very favorable. Here is their Global Assessment of the Unit

"CerCo is a world-class center of cognitive science, staffed by creative and productive scientists of high international visibility, producing excellent well-cited research published in good international scientific journals. Much of the research is financed by prestigious national and international grants.

The approach of the laboratory is fundamentally interdisciplinary and holistic, with expertise in almost all state-of-the-art brain recording techniques. It is rare to find such a range of techniques and approaches within the same laboratory, integrated within a common general purpose.

The laboratory is well managed, creating a pleasant and productive work atmosphere. They have exciting plans for research over the next five years, continuing their more successful lines of research, and branching into new terrain. They also intend to start a new, innovative masters program. CerCo is very likely to continue in its role as a major international player over the next five years, and beyond."

Centre de Recherche Cerveau et Cognition



It is this positive approach to science that I hope to promote within the TMBI, and so I have been delighted to see that my enthusiasm seems to be shared by many people in the Toulouse Research Community. I sincerely hope that the ANR Committee will give me the chance to make the TMBI dream a reality.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Simon Thorpe", is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Simon Thorpe, D.Phil (Oxford) DRCE CNRS,

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