

To the Chair of the Scientific Jury,
Designated by Order No P-109-358/21.09.2022
of the Rector of Medical University – Varna

I enclose:
Opinion

In connection with the competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the specialty "Clinical Laboratory", professional field 7.1. 7. Health and Sport, with candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yana Dimitrova Bocheva, Ph.D., announced in the Official Gazette, 59 issue/26.07.2022

The opinion stated below was prepared by
Prof. Savelina Lyubenova Popovska, MD, PhD, DSc
Scientific specialty "Pathology and Cytopathology"
Institution: Medical University - Pleven

I. Data about the candidate, based on the CV submitted

Assoc. Prof. Bocheva was born on 02.11.1976 in Yambol, where she graduated from the language high school with a major in English in 1995. In 2001 she received a master's degree in Medicine at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, and in 2008 she completed a master's degree program in Health Management at the Medical University – Varna. She has been recognized as a specialist in "Clinical Laboratory." Assoc. Prof. Bocheva also completed her Master's degree in "Health Management" at MU-Varna.

From 2004 to 2005, she was a full-time Ph.D. student at the Department of General Medicine and Clinical Laboratory in the scientific specialty "Clinical Laboratory." From 2005 to 2016, he held the position of Assistant Professor at the Department of General Medicine and Clinical Laboratory and was a member of the Clinical Laboratory Board.

In 2015 she defended a dissertation on "Predictive value of some tumor markers in follow-up of cancer patients: verification with FDG PET-CT". In 2016 she was awarded an academic degree in the scientific field of Clinical laboratory. Also, in 2016 she published a monograph

titled "Serum markers in solid tumors: a clinical interpretation" She has been head of the newly established Department of Clinical Laboratory at the Medical University – Varna since 2021.

Her professional development includes the position of the Head of the Central Clinical Laboratory at St. Marina" EAD- Varna from 2009 to present.

Assoc. Prof. Bocheva is the supervisor of 5 postgraduate students in the Clinical Laboratory and 4 Ph.D. students. Two of her doctoral students have successfully defended their Ph.D. dissertations.

Since 2021. Assoc. Prof. Bocheva has been Secretary of the Board of the Bulgarian Scientific Society of Clinical Laboratory and was elected as future President of the Society for the 2023-2025 period.

She is a member of the Expert Council on the same specialty at the Ministry of Health. The candidate is a full member of the Bulgarian Society of Endocrinology and the International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH).

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yana Bocheva is also the National Representative of Bulgaria in the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC).

II. Status of required documentation

Assoc. Bocheva has submitted in electronic form all the necessary documents by the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of this Law, as well as the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff of Medical University - Varna required for participation in the competition for the position of Professor.

III. Reference of scientific production and publication activity

The report on the scientific production and publication activity of Assoc. Prof. Bocheva unambiguously shows that her scientific and applied clinical-laboratory work includes almost the entire spectrum of modern medical practice.

Multidisciplinarity is significant in areas such as medical oncology, imaging diagnostics, and Nuclear Medicine.

Based on the presented scientific works published between 2005 and 2022, including the abstract of a dissertation, a monograph, full-text publications, and abstracts of

communications presented at scientific forums, it is evident that Assoc. Prof. Bocheva works and builds her professional development, predominantly in the field of medical oncology, and has consistently expand the scope of her scientific searches in the field of endocrinology, hematology, pulmonology, infectious diseases, and nephrology with significant contributions in the respective areas.

The candidate participates in the present competition with a total of 45 scientific papers, of which 41 have been published: 8 full-text articles in foreign journals, 25 in Bulgarian journals, and 8 papers presented at prestigious International congresses with abstracts published in IF journals, a dissertation for the degree of Ph.D., 2 university manuals for continuing education and a chapter from a published university textbook.

In the last 10 years, there have been 76 publications in journals and conference proceedings, 1 monograph- "Serum markers in solid tumors-clinical interpretation", and parts of 2 university textbooks.

Reference to the World Scientific Databases Google Scholar, ORCID, SCOPUS ID, Web of Science Researcher, and Research Gate for the candidate shows a total number of publications 126:

Of these, 63 are with impact factor or impact rank.

Number of scientific publications in the last five years: 69

Of these with impact factor or impact rank: 33

H index (according to Scopus or Web of Science): 5 (Scopus); 5 (Web of Science)

Total IF=169,938

IV. Data concerning citations of scientific production

Number of citations of scientific publications: 81 (Google Scholar)

V. Candidate's teaching activity

A reference from MU-Varna shows that Assoc. Prof. Bocheva started teaching in 2005. Her teaching load includes giving lectures and exercises in English and Bulgarian to students of the Faculty of Medicine and the Medical College of MU-Varna.

VI. Scientific metrics

Taking into account the submitted evidence - copies of publications and references in a database, as well as the candidate's self-assessment for the position, which I find correct, it can be said that the quantitative and qualitative scientific metrics of Assoc. Prof. Bocheva

meets the requirements for the minimum and mandatory conditions according to the Law of Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, its Regulations, and the Regulations of the Medical University of Varna (see Table 1) and in individual groups, exceeds these requirements (groups C, D, E, and F).

Indicator group	Number of points required/ Minimum and mandatory requirements/	Number of points based on the evidence presented by the candidate
A	50	50
B	100	108,62
C	200	236,55
D	100	105
E	100	260,1

Table 1. Minimum scientometric requirements of Medical University - Varna For Professional field 7.1. Medicine, 7.2. Dentistry, 7.3. Pharmacy, 7.4. Public Health, 7.5. Health Care and 7.6. Sport with a comparison of the applicant's performance.

VII. Personal impressions of the candidate

I know Assoc.Prof. Bocheva as a loyal colleague and professional in the field of the clinical laboratory. The candidate's qualifications as a broad laboratory diagnostician with interests in almost all major therapeutic medical specialties are undeniable.

I have personal impressions of our work together as experts on national multidisciplinary boards, where she performs as a medical professional who can work in a team and solve complicated diagnostic cases.

Besides her career as a physician and a clinical laboratory specialist, it is my opinion that she has been pursuing an ascending career in National and International institutions and organizations, which undoubtedly has strengthened the image of MU-Varna as an institution that creates and develops nationally significant professionals with a public realization and position.

Considering the above, as well as the fact that Assoc.Prof. Bocheva meets the specific requirements of the laws and regulations for the academic position for which she is applying, I can confidently state that I support her election as "Professor", I will vote FOR her to be awarded this scientific position.

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The review has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Section III/Section IV of the application rule of of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria - Conditions and procedure for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" / "Professor" .

Date:17.11.2022

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script that is difficult to decipher but appears to be the name of the signatory.

/Prof. Savelina Popovska, MD, PhD, DSc/