

## STATEMENT

**By Prof.D-r Irena Dimitrova Kostadinova, MD, DSc.**

From Acibadem City Clinic-Mladost, Sofia, member of the Scientific Jury on the competition for the academic position "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Clinical Laboratory", in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports", professional direction 7.1."Medicine ", for the needs of the "Clinical Laboratory" Department at the Faculty of "Medicine", MU-Varna, announced in SG No. 59/26.7.2022.

**Regarding:** The candidacy of Yana Dimitrova Bocheva, MD, PhD, Head of the Clinical Laboratory Department at the Faculty of Medicine, MU-Varna.

- **Professional development**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yana Dimitrova Bocheva was born in Yambol in 1976, where she studied at an English language high school till 1995, and in 2001, graduated with honors from the Medical University of Varna. Subsequently, after winning competitions, she successively became a full-time doctoral student at the Department of "General Medicine and Clinical Laboratory", scientific specialty "Clinical Laboratory" and assistant as after defending a dissertation on the topic "Predictive value of some tumor markers in the follow-up of oncological patients - verification with FDG PET-CT", was selected as an associate professor in 2016. She is the founder of the Department of Clinical Laboratory and its first Head since 2021. He has a Master's degree in Health Management. Since 2009 she is a Head of the Central Clinical Laboratory at St. Marina UMBAL, Varna

The general impression of Assoc. Bocheva's work is that she is very dedicated and fully dedicated to her activities as a doctor and professional consultant, and thanks to her completed higher education in health management, she copes very successfully with all administrative tasks, such as a Head of the Central Clinical Laboratory and Head of the Department.

She masters, applies, validates and optimizes not only traditional laboratory tests, but also introduces the most modern and necessary for diagnosis and monitoring the effect of treatment in various current diseases such as the Covid-19 infection, markers for obesity and metabolic risk, markers for evaluation and prognosis in patients with sepsis and multiple organ failure, new markers of renal impairment in children and adults with type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus .

The creative activity and innovative spirit of the candidate is also confirmed by her participation in numerous research projects in which she participated - 16 in total, in one of which she was a leading researcher, and in another - an international one under the European Union Horizon 2020 program, for changes in lifestyle and prevention of diabetes, the laboratory tests were conducted under her supervision in the CL at the "St. Marina" UMBAL and she was the Bulgarian expert who participated in the final meeting of the project in Brussels. He speaks English, German and Russian.

- **Scientific and research activity**

In the current competition, the candidate participated with a total of 45 scientific papers, 41 of which - real publications . / 8 full-text articles in foreign journals, 25- in Bulgarian journals and 8 reports presented at prestigious International Congresses with published author's abstracts in journals with IF/, 2 university manuals for continuing education and a chapter from a published university textbook.

For the last 10 years, there have been 76 publications in journals and collections, 1 monographic work "Serum tumor markers in solid tumors-clinical interpretation", 7 scientific manuals and parts of 2 university textbooks.

It is clear that a large part of her publications were developed in the last 5 years, which shows that the candidate is increasingly motivated and developing as a productive scientist, considering her very high overall IF=169.938.

The author has many innovative for the country scientific and methodical contributions, and some of international importance in the field of clinical laboratory, with the introduction of new laboratory markers and defining the place of already known ones in the overall diagnostic algorithm, the most important of which are:

- In the field of medical oncology, the monograph on the optimal application and interpretation of the most frequently used tumor markers, with a positive predictive value based on the practical experience of Dr. Bocheva, has been published, which is a valuable guide for behavior of doctors from many medical specialties.

- Competently and professionally she adapted numerous working procedures in the field of endocrinology, neurology, pulmonology, cardiology, pediatrics, nephrology and participated in the creation of centers for thrombolytic treatment of ischemic stroke and the center of "sleep medicine" in St. Marina UMBAL, Varna.

- In the laboratory practice of great clinical importance are: the first introduced robotic system for laboratory diagnostics in Bulgaria, the determination of inhibitors against Factor 8 and 9, as well as the determination of the limit values for the assessment of kidney damage in patients with type 1 and 2 diabetes

- **Public activity**

Assoc. Prof. Bocheva is one of the leading experts in the field of clinical laboratory in our country, who, even after starting work at the clinical laboratory department, fought tirelessly to establish the prestige of the specialty, which earned the respect of his colleagues and patients. She was successively elected as a member of the Board of Directors of Bulgarian society of Clinical laboratory (BSCL) and the Expert Council in clinical laboratory in the Ministry of Health and was confirmed as the future chairman of BSCL for the period 2023-2025. Assoc Prof. Bocheva is the National Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria for the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC) since 2018.

She is business-like, with a high sense of responsibility towards the assigned tasks and her colleagues, has the ability to work in a team, to train students, specialists and PhD students, devoted to solving problems and developing the activity of the Clinic and the Department of Clinical Laboratory.



She is a member of the prestigious professional Bulgarian and international associations organizations - Bulgarian Society of Clinical Laboratory, Bulgarian Scientific Society of Endocrinology, Joint Oncology National Network (SONM), International Society of Thrombosis and Hemostasis (ISTH), European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM).

- **Educational and teaching activity**

It is clear from the submitted documents that Assoc. Bocheva has a significant study load, varying over the next 5 years between 130-205 hours with a norm of 126 hours. She already has a long-term teaching experience of over 17 years, giving lectures and leading exercises to Bulgarian and foreign medical students, specialists from various medical disciplines and laboratory assistants at the Medical College at the University of Varna. Under her guidance, 2 PhD students successfully finished the program, two more are awaiting final procedure in acquiring the degree, and she was the supervisor of a total of 5 specialists in clinical laboratory.

The submitted academic reference of the candidate, in accordance with the evidentiary material from the competition, shows that Yana Bocheva, Ph.D., Ph.D. covers, and in some groups of indicators significantly exceeds the scientometric requirements for occupying the academic position "Professor", according to the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the MU-Varna. So, for example, with the required 550 points, for the candidate, they are 760.27.

**CONCLUSION: Associate Professor Bocheva is the only candidate in the competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Clinical Laboratory", for the needs of the "Clinical Laboratory" Department at the Faculty of Medicine, MU-Varna.**

**Prof. Bocheva is a leading specialist in the field of clinical laboratory in our country with active social activities. She already has a lot of accumulated professional experience, which not only scientifically summarizes in prestigious publications for our and the international medical community, but also has a high impact factor and citations, which in most of the indicators exceeds the requirements for holding the position. With the innovative methods she introduced for the first time in our country and with the optimization of some of the existing ones, in accordance with the requirements of modern clinical practice, she raises the prestige of the specialty and helps clinicians to make an optimal decision about therapeutic behavior for the individual patient. She manages to pass on her practical and theoretical skills and experience to PhD students, specialists, Bulgarian and foreign students and medical technicians. In accordance with the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at MU-Varna, I believe that she is a very promising scientist and professional who fully meets the requirements for holding the position. I give a positive assessment and strongly recommend to the members of the scientific jury to choose as "Professor" the candidate Associate Professor Yana Dimitrova Bocheva, PhD.**

Reviewer:.....

/Prof.Dr. Irena Dimitrova Kostadinova, MD, DSc