

OPINION

by

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Regarding: competition for the occupation of the academic position "Professor" Field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1 Medicine, specialty "Skin and Venereal Diseases" - one, 0.75 full-time position for the needs of the Educational Sector "Medical Cosmetologist" to the Medical College - Varna, announced in State Gazette issue No 59 of 26.07.2022.

At a meeting of the Academic Council at the Medical University of Varna, according to protocol No. 53/19.09.22 and by order of the Rector No. 109-369/21.09.22, I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury. According to protocol No. 1/5.10.22 from the first meeting held of the Scientific Jury, I have been assigned to provide an opinion on the procedure for occupying the academic position of "professor".

Only one candidate submitted documents for participation in the competition - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ilko Georgiev Bakardzhiev, MD.

Autobiographical data and professional development

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ilko Georgiev Bakardzhiev, MD, was born on 28.05.1968 in the city of Varna. He completed his medical education in 1994 at Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna. In 2001 acquired the "Skin and Venereal Diseases" specialty. During the period 2001-2007 he was a doctoral student at the Skin Clinic, Aleksandrovsk Hospital Sofia, and in 2007 he obtained the educational – scientific degree "Doctor". The dissertation's topic was "Modern aspects in the etiology, diagnosis and treatment of non-gonococcal urethritis". From 2001 until now, he has been working as a dermatology doctor at the Chayka Diagnostic and consultation center, Varna. From 2007 to 2012, he was a part-time lecturer at the Medical College, MU-Varna. In 2013, he was elected as an associate professor at the Medical College - Varna, where he works until now, and since 2015 until now he has been the head of the Medical Cosmetology Department, Medical College - Varna.

Scientific and research activity

The total publication activity of the applicant contains **102** scientific works, of which **5** are related to the dissertation work, **47** were presented in a competition for the "Associate professor" academic position, and have a total IF = 10,312. **50 publications with a total IF =**

18,693 were presented in the competition for "Professor" academic position. Abstract and dissertation – 1, monograph, non-habilitation work - 1, publications in refereed publications - 21, publications in non-refereed publications - 27, including published reports or summaries of reports from scientific forums - 14.

The academic reference No. 641/16.08.2022 for the publications, citations and scientific profiles of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ilko Bakardzhiev, prepared by the library of MU-Varna, based on information provided by the applicant and automated information from international scientific databases in compliance with the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Varna, certifies that the candidate's publications and citations correspond to, and according to some criteria, exceed the minimum scientometric requirements for holding AP "Professor". The academic reference certifies: indicator A1 - Dissertation work for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "doctor" - 50 points, indicator B4 - Habilitation work or equivalent scientific publications of at least 10 in editions that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information -11 items, (120, 93 items), indicator G7-Publications and reports published in scientific editions, which are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information-10 items, (130.17 p.), indicator G8 - Publications and reports published in scientific editions in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes - 11 items (92.79 p.), indicator G9 - 1 item (10 p.). Total indicators G5-G9 mandatory minimum 200 points, and the candidate's are 232, 96 points, minimum 80 points for clinical specialties from indicator 7 - the candidate's are 130, 17 points. Citations reflecting the scientific activity of the candidate (indicator D10 -12) - 9 issues, total number of points 135, according to indicators E13-E 22 - 160 p. 16 full-text publications in scientific journals and anthologies beyond the minimum scientometric requirements for occupying AP "Professor" with a total number of points 272,79 were also presented. The distribution of the author's places in the scientific works is: independent author in 1 publication, first author in 10, second author in 19, third and next author in 19. The scientific research activity of Assoc. Prof. Bakardzhiev reflects the versatility of scientific interests, originality and a propensity to implement new therapeutic options dictated by modern advances in dermatological science. The thematic areas of scientific works can be divided into the following groups:

I. Diagnosis and therapy of skin and venereal diseases

(A_1, V_4-1, V_4-9, V_4-10, G_7-4, G_7-8, G_8-1, G_8-4, G_8-5, G_8-6, G_8-7, G_8-9, G_8-11, add-3, add-4, add-5, add-8, add-9, add-10, add-12, add-13)

II. Oncodermatology

(V_4-2, V_4-3, V_4-4, V_4-6, V_4-7, V_4-8, G_7-1, G_7-3)

III. Dermatomycology

(V_4-5, G_7-5, G_7-7, G_7-9, G_7-10)

IV. Case studies

(V_4-6, V_4-7, V_4-11, V_9, G_7-6, G_8-10, G_8-8)

V. Applied cosmetology and dermatocosmetics

(G_8-2, G_8-3, add-2, add-6, add-7, add-8, add-14, add-15, add-16)

The contributions of the presented scientific publications are also diverse: For the first time, a prospective systematic clinical-laboratory study of patients with non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU) is being conducted in our country with the aim of searching for prognostic and diagnostic criteria and optimizing therapeutic schemes (A_1). The correlation with demographic, social and professional activity was analyzed. The importance of specific risk factors has been identified. (A_1) For the first time in Bulgaria, a computer program has been developed and implemented for registering and monitoring patients with NGU, in accordance with world standards. (A_1) For the first time in our country, the role of genital mycoplasmas in the etiology of NGU has been reported. (A_1) The role of the skin microbiome in the etiopathogenesis of atopic dermatitis and skin immunity in childhood is reviewed. (B_4-1) Large-scale studies of patients with urethritis, epididymitis, prostatitis, cervicitis, endocervicitis, pelvic inflammatory disease and sterility were carried out and correlations between standardized diagnostic methods were prioritized and established: EIA, ELFA, PCR for diagnosis of *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Mycoplasma genitalium* and *Ureaplasma urealyticum*. (B_4-9) Randomized - prospective cohort studies were conducted on the susceptibility of different blood groups to androgen-associated sapromycoses, dermatophyte onychomycoses and their comorbidity to common diseases, as well as to assess the causal relationship of endodemographic polymorphism in patients with epidermophytoses and onychomycoses. A new paradigm is proposed. (G_7-5, G_7-7, G_7-9, G_7-10) The "fingerprint method" was applied and implemented for microbiological examination of pathogenic yeasts from skin lesions and evaluation of the effect of antimycotic treatment. The primary etiological role of *Malassezia* yeast (*Pityrosporum ovale*) in the occurrence of seborrheic dermatitis has been proven (add-4). The importance of the dermatoscopic examination (trichoscopy) and interpretation in modern dermatological practice for increasing the diagnostic value in patients with seborrheic dermatitis of the scalp is emphasized. Due to its applicability, efficiency, non-invasiveness, easy access to the hair and scalp and minimal discomfort for the patient, it is particularly useful and accessible in clinical practice for the diagnosis of a number of skin diseases with localization along the capilitium and allows the avoidance of skin biopsy. The presented different types of dermatoscopic criteria and algorithms for clinical behavior enable their use by a wider range of specialists, as well as follow-up and the degree of effectiveness in the use of different topical products (add-3). An algorithm was developed for diagnosis and therapy in patients with dry skin of different etiology (add-5). Numerous therapeutic methods and original therapeutic schemes for local and general effects have been implemented: local therapy with Pimecrolimus 1% in *Annular Lichen planus on penis* (G_8-11); glycyrrhizic acid for the treatment of *Condylomata acuminata* with an individual approach and comparative assessment (G_7-4); local therapy with fusidic acid in the treatment of bacterial skin infections and systemic therapy in bacterial

and soft tissue infections in childhood (G_8-5, G_8-6); photodynamic therapy (G_8-1); CO₂ laser therapy in *Disseminated trichoblastomas* (G_7-8), *CO₂ laser ablation of facial angiofibromas in a patient with tuberous sclerosis* (G_8-7). An original contribution with therapeutic and practical significance is the developed strategy for aesthetic laser removal of multiple seborrheic keratoses and their impact on the patients' self-esteem and appearance (G_8-9). Various therapeutic aspects for the treatment of lichen sclerosus have been reviewed (V_4-10).

A special place is devoted to the efficacy of biological therapy in psoriasis, concomitant psoriatic arthritis and nail involvement (add-8). For the first time, Bulgarian authors reported in the international scientific literature an effective method for the treatment of Granuloma annulare with thin-layer CO₂ laser ablation and its advantage over various other laser methods (add-12). A dermatocosmetic product "Intiman" has been developed (add. 7). For the first time in Bulgaria, data is presented describing the opinion of consumers on the control of parabens in dermatocosmetics and the awareness and behavior when choosing dermatocosmetic products (add-2, add-6). A special contribution of scientific-theoretical and scientific-practical importance is the monograph "*Dermatopathology of the male genitalia*". The object of this scientific work are infectious diseases with localization on the penis, balanitis and balanoposthitis, precancers and tumors of the penis, diseases of the scrotum, testicles, urethritis. The monograph is richly illustrated. A number of diagnostic and therapeutic problems, subtleties and approaches with practical application in the everyday practice of not only practicing dermatovenerologists, but also a wide range of specialists were discussed (G_9) .

Scientific and teaching activity:

From the report submitted (Out. No. 112-339/01.08.2022) for the last 4 years, the applicant's workload is 1578 hours. It includes lectures and exercises in Bulgarian on general and special dermatology, dermatology, dermatology, lasers in dermatology, medical cosmetics for students from the Medical College – Varna. The total teaching experience at the time of submitting the documents for participation in the competition is 09 years, 03 months, 23 days (certificate no. 099-2428/ 02.08.2022).

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bakardzhiev supervised three successfully defended doctoral students: Dr. Argir Vasilev Argirov, who obtained the educational – scientific degree Doctor on 29.06.2017, Dr. Katrin Konstantinova Krahtova – Nasteva, who obtained the educational – scientific degree Doctor on 12.12.2017, and Dr. Yuliyana Zlatkova Penev, who obtained the educational – scientific degree "Doctor" on 18.05. 2022. Currently, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bakardzhiev is the scientific supervisor of Dr. Zhenya Stoyanova Borisova, a doctoral student in an independent form of study in the doctoral program "Skin and Venereal Diseases" at the Department of "Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Dermatovenerology", Faculty of Medicine.

Therapeutic and diagnostic activity:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ilko Bakardzhiev is an established and excellently prepared specialist, with more than 20 years of professional experience and experience in the specialty, who enjoys a positive evaluation from his patients and colleagues.

Administrative and expert activity, participation in projects and memberships in organizations:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bakardzhiev is a member of the College Council of MC-Varna; member of the Program Board of the "Medical Cosmetologist", MC-Varna; member of the Scientific Jury for the acquisition of ESD/AP. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bakardzhiev participates in the editorial boards of a number of magazines – *Symbiosis. Clinical Research of Dermatology: Open Access*; "Dermatological examination"; "Journal of Varna Medical College". He is a member of the organizing committee of the annual national scientific-practical conference "Spring Varna Dermatology Days". Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bakardzhiev is the head of project No. 21013/2021 to the Science Fund of MU-Varna: "Investigation of the expression of immunohistochemical markers for apoptosis and necroptosis in basocellular and spinocellular carcinoma." He participated in a working group for the development of a municipal strategic document for the prevention of HIV/AIDS, acc. order No. 2393/03.07.2020 of the Mayor of Varna Municipality. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bakardzhiev is a member of Bulgarian Medical Association, Bulgarian Dermatological Society (BDS), Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, Balkan Association for the History of Medicine, International Dermoscopy Society.

Conclusion:

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ilko Georgiev Bakardzhiev, MD fully meets the requirements of LDASRB, Rules for application of the LDASRB and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the Medical University - Varna, regarding the occupation of the academic position "professor". Assoc. Prof. Bakardzhiev is a well-established doctor – dermatovenerologist with extensive clinical experience, with a scientific activity sufficient in volume, with high quality indicators and real theoretical-practical contributions.

Considering the above, I strongly recommend to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to vote with a **positive vote** for the election of **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ilko Georgiev Bakardzhiev**, MD for occupying the academic position of "**professor**" in the scientific specialty "**skin and venereal diseases**" for the needs of the Academic Sector "Medical Cosmetologist" at the Medical College of the Medical University - Varna.

Varna
23.10.22

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