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S T A T E M E N T

By Prof. Dr. Antonia Dencheva Tsonevska, PhD

Head of the Nuclear Medicine Clinic

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REGARDING: the application of Assoc.Prof. BORISLAV GEORGIEV CHAUSHEV, MD, D.M. to occupy the academic position "PROFESSOR" in the SCIENTIFIC SPECIALTY "NUCLEAR MEDICINE", professional direction 7.1. Health and sports, according to the competition announced in SG no. 41 of 03.06.2022, for the needs of the Department of Periodontology and Dental Implantology, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Varna University.

In the contest thus announced, within the legally established deadline for participation, only one candidate submitted regular documents and was admitted - Prof. Borislav Georgiev Chaushev. All the candidate's materials are submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at MU-Varna and ZRASRB.

Qualities of the candidate and their compliance
with the requirements of ZRASRB and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at MU-Varna
The creative biography of Assoc.Prof. Dr. Borislav Chaushev shows a successfully traveled path of a well-established doctor and scientist, fully meeting all the requirements for occupying the academic position of professor. Dr. Chaushev graduated from the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna in 2001. He specialized in Nuclear Medicine at the University of Varna from 2002 to 2006, after which he successfully acquired a specialty in Nuclear medicine in 2007 From 2007 to 2010, he was a free doctoral student at the Department of Imaging Diagnostics (Clinic of Nuclear Medicine, Metabolic Therapy and Radiotherapy) Medical University - Varna and in 2010 obtained the PhD "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Medical radiology and radiology (including the use of radioactive isotopes). He walked the path from a resident doctor in the Clinic of Nuclear Medicine and Metabolic Therapy, through assistant, chief assistant, associate professor, head of the clinic since 2004. until now.

Assoc.Prof. Chaushev participated in a number of qualification courses: Course RET/ST Zagreb, Republic of Croatia; Pediatric Oncology and Nephro-Urology Learning Course. ESNM, Vienna, Austria; Imperial PET-CT course; Imperial College, London, Great Britain; PET-CT and Neurodegenerative Disease; Leipzig, Germany; Regional Training Course on Management of Thyroid and Parathyroid Diseases Limassol, Cyprus; BNMS UKINETS Meeting. Austin Court, Birmingham; Course PET-CT and 68Ga. Leipzig, Germany.

Assoc.Prof Chaushev is the organizer of a scientific forum of ESNM (2005, 2012).
He is the head of a national scientific project « Study of the dynamics of healing processes in peri-implant tissues by means of scintigraphy with 99mTc-MDP at the Science Fund of MU-Varna 2016-2021.

Assoc Professor Chaushev is an established specialist in nuclear medicine, a respected and sought-after doctor, with indisputable professional skills and qualifications.
His professional activity finds realization in active membership in the Bulgarian Association of Radiology, the European Association of Nuclear Medicine

Teaching activity. Assoc.Prof Chaushev has a long-term teaching career that fully meets the requirements for the position of "professor". He is the head of the Department of Periodontology and Dental Implantology at the Varna University of Medical Sciences. He began teaching as an assistant in the Department of Imaging, chief assistant and associate professor for a total of 10 years, 1 month and 8 days.
He leads lectures and exercises with an average annual workload of 86-176 hours.
Therefore, to the qualities of a competent and devoted doctor is added the high teaching erudition of Assoc. Chaushev.
Assoc. Chaushev is the supervisor of 4 PhD students who have successfully defended their degrees and the supervisor of 4 residents in nuclear medicine at UMBAL "St. Marina".

The research activity of Prof. Chaushev meets the requirements for holding the academic position of "professor".
To participate in the current competition, he submitted a total of 112 scientific works, of which 74 were related to the award of the academic position "Associate Professor" and 35 published after the award of the academic position "Associate Professor".
The papers are divided into categories as follows:

Full-text articles - 16 items;

Participation in a collective monograph – 2 items;

Published summaries of reports from scientific forums at home and abroad - 17 items;

In the works submitted for opinion, Prof. Chaushev is an independent author in 1 publication, first author in 2 publications, second author in 5 publications, third and subsequent author in 27 publications.

The presented scientific works and the results of the research work of Assoc. Dr. Borislav Georgiev Chaushev, are thematically divided into the following scientific areas:

I. Nuclear Gastroenterology
(A-1)
II. Nuclear oncology
(B_ 4-2, B_4-3, B_ 4-5, B_ 4-7, B_ 4-8, B_ 4-9, D_7-1, D_7-2, D_7-3, D_7-4, D_7-5, Д_7-6, Д_7-7, Д_7-8, Д_7-9, Д_7-10, Д_7-12, Д_7-13, Д_7-14, Д_7-15, Д_7-16, Д_7-17, Д_8-1, Д_8- 2, , D_8-3, D_8-4, D_8-5, D_9-1, D_9-2, DOP-1)
III. Others
(B_ 4-1, B_4-4, B_4-6, B_4-10, D_7-11)

Assoc.Prof Chaushev's scientific contributions are indisputable and fully meet the requirements for holding the position of "professor". I agree with the approach in preparing the self-assessment of scientific contributions.
First direction - gastroenterology: a thorough analysis of the motor-evacuator function of the stomach in dysautonomous manifestations of Parkinson's disease, Multiple Sclerosis, as well as functional disorders in diabetes mellitus was performed by applying a non-invasive highly sensitive scintigraphic method in conditions of normal nutrition. The motor-evacuatory function of the stomach was studied in healthy volunteers and qualitative and quantitative criteria for normal gastric motility were created.
A diagnostic algorithm for the inclusion of serial gastroscintigraphy in socially significant diseases such as diabetes mellitus, Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis is proposed.

The second main direction is clinical contributions in the field of oncology.
In this category, generalization is made difficult by the extraordinary breadth and scope of the works.
For carcinoma of the cervix:
The role of FDG PET/CT in detecting early asymptomatic recurrences in cervical carcinoma patients with high SCC tumor marker values and negative conventional imaging studies at follow-up has been studied and proven.
The high specificity and sensitivity of the method makes it possible to establish distant metastases, staging and monitoring of patients with carcinoma of the cervix. (B_ 4-2)
In colorectal carcinoma:
RIPK3 expression was investigated as a potential predictive and prognostic marker in metastatic colon cancer.
A high level of RIPK3 expression was found to be associated with longer overall survival in patients with metastatic colon cancer. (B_ 4-7)
The predictive and prognostic performance of the maximum standardized uptake value (SUVmax) on pretreatment 18F-fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography in patients with colon cancer

and unresectable liver metastases and the relationship of this value with Beclin-1 expression was studied and evaluated.

High values of the maximum standardized value of 18F-fluorodeoxyglucose did not have a statistically significant correlation with progression-free survival, but significantly proved poor overall survival. There is an inverse negative correlation between Beclin-1 values and the maximal standardized uptake value of 18F fluorodeoxy-glucose. (B_ 4-5)

In prostate cancer:

The diagnostic value of 68Ga-PSMA PET/CT in patients with biochemical recurrence after radical treatment of prostate carcinoma has been studied and proven.

68Ga-PSMA PET/CT is a method superior to conventional CT in the diagnosis of recurrent lesions and local recurrence of prostate carcinoma even at low a PSA levels. (B_ 4-8, D_7-9, D_7-14)

The role of 68Ga-PSMA as an imaging method in the diagnosis of distant metastatic lesions in the initial staging of patients with high-risk prostate carcinoma has been studied and proven. (D_7-15, D_7-16)

For head and neck carcinomas:

The diagnostic value of 18F-FDG PET/CT as an imaging modality in the detection of local recurrence of synchronous laryngeal tumor in restaging primary colorectal carcinoma was evaluated. (B_ 4-9)

The high sensitivity and negative predictive value of FDG PET/CT as a non-invasive method in identifying local recurrence in patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck, even if there is diagnostic doubt after physical examination/endoscopy, has been evaluated. (D_7-8)

The role of 18F-FDG PET/CT in monitoring the complete clinical response from chemotherapy and radiotherapy in patients with malignant epithelial tumors of the head and neck has been studied and proven. (D_7-17, D_8-5

The role of 18F-FDG PET/CT as a non-invasive imaging modality offering a great opportunity to successfully identify the localization of previously undetected primary tumors in metastatic cervical lymph node data from squamous cell carcinoma alone was investigated. (D_8-4)

Data from the literature confirming 18F-FDG PET/CT as a modality with an important role in nodal and distant staging of head and neck epithelial carcinomas and complementing the results of conventional imaging studies were confirmed. (DOP-1)

In lymphomas and multiple myeloma:

The prognostic and diagnostic value of increased maximum standardized value (SUV max) of FDG accumulation in regional lymph nodes in patients with pre-treatment NSCLC, which is associated with poor overall survival. has been studied and proven.(D_7-2)

The superior role of 18F-FDG PET/CT as an effective imaging method compared to CT-CE for the evaluation of extranodal involvement of diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) has been proven. (B_4-3)

The high specificity and sensitivity of 18F-FDG PET/CT in the diagnosis of bone lesions in multiple myeloma compared with conventional radiography was evaluated. (G_7-5)

It has been evaluated and studied that the degree of FDG accumulation in PET positive lesions does not always represent malignancy, which requires mandatory confirmation of the diagnosis with fine needle biopsy. (G_7-3)

The high diagnostic value of 18F-FDG PET/CT as an imaging method in the diagnosis of synchronous tumors and distant metastatic lesions was evaluated. (D_7-4, D_7-7)

The role of 18F-FDG PET/CT as an imaging modality in searching for primary tumor focus and determining the biopsy site was evaluated. (D_7-13)

Contributions in other areas of nuclear medicine are:

Functional abnormalities in patients with essential tremor using 18F-FDG PET/CT were studied and evaluated, and new data on possible changes in Broca's area, visual areas, and anterior cingulate cortex were provided. (B_ 4-1)
The role and place of MRI in the diagnosis of pyogenic liver abscesses has been studied and confirmed. The lack of ionizing radiation, multiplanar imaging, high tissue contrast difference give MRI an advantage over other imaging methods for diagnosing the root cause of PCA and the accompanying pathology, which determine the therapeutic behavior in these patients. (B_4-6)
Free thyroxine levels in lavage after fine-needle aspiration biopsy of toxic thyroid nodules have been studied and found to be significantly higher than the surrounding parenchyma and to correlate with hormonal changes. (B_4-4)
The role of dynamic renal scintigraphy with 99mTc-DTPA in the diagnosis of congenital hydronephrosis was evaluated.
Dynamic renal scintigraphy allows to determine the degree of urodynamic dysfunction. It can be used not only to diagnose hydronephrosis, but can be one of the leading methods for subsequent functional assessment after corrective surgery. (B_4-10)
The key role of 18F-FDG PET/CT as an imaging method in the diagnosis of complications of infective endocarditis is evaluated. (D_7-11)
Analysis of the candidate's compliance with the minimum national scientometric indicators for occupying the academic position "professor" in direction 7. health care
The scientific production covering the minimum scientometric requirements of the candidate is evaluated with 212 points and exceeds the required minimum of 200t.

There are 11 citations reflecting the candidate's scientific activity.

Therefore, Assoc. Prof. Chaushev's scientific achievements fully harmonize with his qualities as a competent doctor, an excellent teacher, a scientist with indisputable contributions to nuclear medicine, with a high academic erudition in accordance with the academic position of "professor".

Conclusion

I strongly recommend to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to choose Assoc.Prof. BORISLAV CHAUSHEV, DM, to take the academic position of "PROFESSOR" IN SCIENTIFIC SPECIALTY "NUCLEAR MEDICINE" for the needs of the Department of Periodontology and Dental Implantology, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Varna University of Medical Sciences.

30.09.2022 . Sofia

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(Prof. Dr. A. Tsonevska, MD)