

To the Scientific Jury at the Medical University - Varna

Subject:

Competition for awarding the academic title "Professor"

Professional area "7.1. Medicine",

Specialty 03.01.35 „Ear-nose-throat diseases",

Announced in State Gazette no. 59/26.07.2022.

Following order of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna № R-109-365/21.09.2022

OPINION

Assoc. prof. Dr. Alexander Valkov Valkov, MD, PhD

Head of Division of Otorhinolaryngology

Department "Ophthalmology, ENT Diseases and MFS",

Member of the Scientific Jury, following order №P-109-365/21.09.2022 of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna

In the competition for the Professorship for Scientific specialty Oto-rhino-laryngology at the Faculty Medicine of the Medical university "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna as of State Gazette 59/26.07.2022, there is only one participant - Assoc. prof. Dr. Nikolay Roumenov Sapundzhiev, MD. The current opinion is prepared in accordance with the Article 139(5) of the Rules for its implementation and the Regulations on the Development of the Academic staff at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

1. Brief biodata for the candidate:

Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Roumenov Sapundzhiev is 50 years old (born in 1972 in the city of Varna), married with 3 children. He is a lecturer at the Department of Neurosurgery and ENT-Diseases, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"-Varna.

1991 Graduated the 1st English language school in Varna

1996 He completed qualification course in the specialty "Translation and processing of scientific information"– the Faculty of Law of the Technical University - Varna

1997 He graduated from Medical University– Varna.

2002-2004 Doctoral student at the Philipps Universität, Marburg, Germany with a scholarship from DAAD and the university

2003 He obtained his specialty in Ear, Nose and Throat diseases

2005 He obtained an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" at Philipps Universität, Marburg, with a thesis on: Incidence of lymph node metastases after piecemeal laser-surgical and en bloc cold steel resection of auricular VX2 carcinoma. A comparative study." The educational and scientific degree in the scientific specialty "Otorhinolaryngology", code 03.01.35, was confirmed by VAK in 2006.

2013 He was elected as Associate professor at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Varna

2011 Completed educational and qualification degree "Master" in "Health Management" - MU-Varna

He has carried out numerous short- and long-term specializations in Germany, France and Austria on the problems of otorhinolaryngology and head and neck surgery.

1.1. Professional career:

- 1997-1998 - resident physician, MU-Varna
- 2004-2005 - resident physician at UMBAL Tsaritsa Ioanna, Sofia
- 2006-2007 - assistant physician at ENT Department, MBAL Sv. Marina, Varna
- 2008-2013 - assistant physician at ENT Department, MBAL Sv. Marina, Varna
- 2013 - Associate Prof. at ENT Department, MBAL Sv. Marina, Varna

1.2. Academic career:

- 2001-2002 DAAD scholarship holder, Philipps Universität, Germany
- 2002-2004 Full-time PhD student at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery, Philipps Universität, Germany
- 2006-2007 - assistant at the Division of ENT in the Department of Neurosurgery, ENT and Ophthalmology, MU-Varna
- 2008-2013 - Chief assistant at the Division of ENT, Department of Neurosurgery, ENT (and Ophthalmology), MU-Varna
- 2013 - Associate Professor at the Division of ENT, Department of Neurosurgery, ENT and (OB), MU-Varna
- 2014 – head of the Division of ENT Diseases, Department of Neurosurgery and ENT Diseases, Medical University of Varna.

1.3. Teaching activity:

- From the provided certificate of teaching experience, it can be seen that the candidate for the competition has worked at the Medical University - Varna since 2006. He has consistently held academic positions over the years of an assistant professor (2006-2007), senior assistant professor (2007-2013), associate professor (since 2013). The total teaching experience at the time of the competition is 16 years.

Assoc Prof. Nikolay Roumenov Sapundzhiev teaches otorhinolaryngology to students of medicine and dentistry Bulgarian and English language training at the Faculty of Medicine, nurses, midwives and speech therapists at the Faculty of public health, as well as phoniatics to speech therapists at the Faculty of public health. Assoc. Prof. N. Sapundzhiev is the first professor in

otorhinolaryngology in the English language training program (AEO) for medical students at MU-Varna.

2. General description of the presented materials:

The submitted documents (digital version) meet the requirements of the Law for the development of the academic staff and the Regulations for the terms and conditions of acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at Varna Medical University.

3. Evaluation of the scientific production of the candidate:

Assoc. Dr. Nikolay Roumenov Sapundzhiv presented a total of 39 scientific works for the competition. There are 16 publications in Bulgarian, and 23 in a foreign (English) language. According to the candidate's position in the authoring team of these publications (both in Bulgarian and in a foreign language), all from the period after the defense of the dissertation, the distribution is as follows: the candidate is sole author in 2 and a co-author in 37 publications, of which he is the first author in 5, second author – in 11 publications, third author - in 8, fourth author - in 8 publications, fifth and consecutive author - in 7 publications. All the presented scientific works are after acquiring the academic position of "associate professor" in 2013. According to the data from GoogleScholar Assoc. Prof. N. Sapundzhiev has been cited more than 400 times and 12 of these citations are presented for this competition.

The scientific topics in these publications cover laryngology (15), rhinology (8), pharyngology (5), otology (3) and bronchoesophagology (3). The main directions of scientific works include 1) Oncology of the head and neck; 2) Children's otorhinolaryngology; 3) Epidemiology of specific otorhinolaryngological conditions and diseases; 4) Innovative surgical techniques and technologies in otorhinolaryngology; 5) Case studies in otorhinolaryngology; 6) Historical aspects of the specialty; 7) Current COVID-related issues and news.

Assoc Prof. N. Sapundzhiev co-authors one textbook for university students and one teaching aid.

Assoc. Prof. Sapundzhiev has developed a modified laryngological instrument, which is covered by an registered utility model.

After 2013 Assoc. Prof. Sapundzhiev conducted and completed a project under the Science fund.

4. Teaching activity

Assoc. Prof. N. Sapundzhiev leads the courses in otorhinolaryngology and phoniatics for students of medicine and dentistry Bulgarian and English language training, nurses, midwives and speech therapists. He is an examiner in the listed disciplines. He conducts training of specialists in otorhinolaryngology at the MU-Varna, annual basic lecture and thematic courses/seminars for otorhinolaryngologists in training from other clinical centers and training of general practitioners. Assoc. prof. Sapundzhiev is the chairman of one of the State examination commissions for ENT diseases.

His students have participated in many scientific forums under his guidance, as well as have published their articles in various scientific journals. Assoc. Prof. N. Sapundzhiev supervises 6

doctoral students in Otorhinolaryngology and is co-supervisor of one doctoral student in Therapeutic dentistry. Four of them have successfully defended their doctorates.

Assoc. prof. N. Sapundzhiev has authored many scientific publications, participated in international symposia as invited-speaker. He is member of the editorial board /reviewer for Sanamed, Scripta Scientifica Medica, Frontiers in Surgery, Frontiers in Allergy, European Journal of Inflammation, Biomedical Reviews, Research Square, Cureus Journal of Medical Science, International Bulletin of Otorhinolaryngology, Oxford Medical Case Reports, Clinical, Cosmetic and Investigational Dermatology.

Conclusion:

The submitted documentation is complete and meets all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation in the Medical University - Varna for occupying the academic position of Professor at the Faculty of Dental Medicine. I give my POSITIVE evaluation to the Scientific Jury for awarding the academic position "Professor" to Assoc. prof. Dr. Nikolay Roumenov Sapundzhiev, MD, PhD.

Pleven, 31.10.2022

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