

To the Scientific Jury

Appointed with order

No R-109-318/07.10.2019

Of the Rector of Medical University - Varna

## **REVIEW**

**by**

**Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov Tomov, Ph.D**

**Rector of Medical University Pleven**

Member of the Scientific Jury for a competition,

designated by Order No R-109-318/07.10.2019

by Prof. Dr. Krasimir Ivanov, MD, Ph.D. - Rector of  
Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

**Subject:** Competition for the occupation of the academic position Associate Professor in the field of higher education Health and Sports, in the professional field Medicine and scientific specialty "Obstetrics and Gynecology" for the needs of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University of Varna and for the Clinic of Gynecology at the MHAT "St. Anna"- Varna.

### **Brief information on the competition**

The competition was announced in the State Gazette No62/06.08.2019. By order No R-109-318/07.10.2019 of the Rector of the Medical University-Varna, I was appointed to prepare a review. The procedure for announcing the competition is in accordance with the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria/05.05.2018 and with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Medical University-Varna/29.10.2018. Documents have been submitted for the competition by one candidate - Dr. Stanislav Hristov Slavchev.

**Brief CV data of the applicant**

Dr . Stanislav Hristov Slavchev graduated higher education in medicine in 1996 at the Medical University - Varna. From 1999 to 2008 worked as a resident physician at the Urgent Medical Care Center - Varna and in the Anti-Shock Room at the MHAT "St. Anna"- Varna. Since 2008 he is working as an obstetrician-gynecologist at the Gynecology Clinic at the MHAT "St. Anna"- Varna. Dr. Slavchev is fluent in French, Russian, and English.

**Specialties acquired and postgraduate qualifications**

Dr. Stanislav Slavchev acquired a specialty in Obstetrics and Gynecology in 2009.

Postgraduate:

2009 - Ultrasound and Doppler Diagnostic technics in Obstetrics and Gynecology 2010

- 'Colposcopy and destructive treatment of cervical precancer lesions"

2010 - "Diagnostic laparoscopy in gynecology" - Level I 2011

- "High-Risk Delivery"

2011 - "Diagnostic laparoscopy in gynecology" - Level II

2016 - "Diagnostic Hysteroscopy"- Level I

**Professional experience**

Dr. Stanislav Slavchev has extensive professional experience and has been active in the last 11 years in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and in particular - in the field of oncogynecology and laparoscopic surgery. He holds qualifications and certificates for highly specialized activities in the fields of ultrasound diagnostics in obstetrics and gynecology, colposcopy, high-risk delivery, diagnostic laparoscopy and hysteroscopy, which make the applicant a highly specialized and trained doctor and teacher. In terms of professional qualification, he fulfills the requirements for habilitation.

**Research activity**

Dr. Stanislav Slavchev received his Ph.D. in 2016 after successfully defending his thesis on the topic "Role of the radical hysterectomy with iliac and para-aortic lymph node dissection for the optimal cytoreduction in advanced epithelial ovarian carcinoma."

For purposes of the competition, the applicant provided the following scientific works (30 in total):

1. A monograph on the topic "Early Detection and Treatment of Carcinomas of the Female Reproductive System. Contemporary Aspects" with a total volume of 268 pages, Editor CityCenter-Varna, 2018, 100 points in total

**2. Publications:**

**A.** To fulfill the minimum state requirements by the Law from 2018 and the Rules of MU-Varna / 2018: 233 points.

- Scientific publications in scientific journals refereed or indexed by the World- of- Science database or Scopus databases: 9 full-texts articles.
- Full-text scientific publications in non-refereed scientific peer-reviewed journals - 12 issues.

**B.** Scientific articles in non-refereed journals with scientific review beyond the minimum state requirements - 3 issues.

3. Participation in international, national, and regional scientific events - 4; participation in student forums as a leader of young researchers - 1.

4. Number of citations - 5 in scientific journals, abstracted and indexed in world-famous scientific information databases and one citation in a non-refereed scientific peer-reviewed journal

5. Dr. Stanislav Slavchev is an individual author in 1 scientific work - the monograph, first author in 3 publications, and third and subsequent author in 18 scientific papers.

Thus, considering the publication activity of Dr. Stanislav Slavchev, it meets the minimum requirements of the State Law and the Regulations of the Medical University of Varna for acquiring the academic position of Associate Professor.

**Scientific achievements and contributions**

The scientific achievements and contributions are divided into 4 areas, which are related to gynecological tumors and problems in obstetrics.

**I. Oncogynecology**

**Scientific Contributions, related to Research on Advanced Ovarian Carcinoma**

Scientific contributions are based on the doctoral thesis of the applicant and one publication. An in-depth study of advanced epithelial ovarian cancer has been performed. The focus of the research is the surgical treatment - the type of hysterectomy and the extent of lymph node dissection. The factors responsible for the survival of the disease were evaluated. Of

particular interest is the analysis of retroperitoneal pelvic invasion and its impact on survival, which is essential for the selection of the type of hysterectomy. The research emphasizes the need for histological examination of parametrial ligaments and vagina, which is only possible after performing a radical hysterectomy. The procedure allows more radical excision of the tumor localized in the pelvis, eliminating macroscopically invisible tumor lesions. Eradication of the pelvic tumor is of importance for achieving optimum and ideally complete cytoreduction. Given the comprehensive research on the disease, the study has scientific and theoretical contributions. At the same time, there is also a practical contribution as it provides evidence for the preferential usage of the radical hysterectomy in the surgical treatment of advanced-stage ovarian cancer.

### **Scientific Contributions related to the Contemporary Aspects of Early Diagnosis and Treatment of Cancers of the Female Reproductive System**

This research area is developed in the applicant's monographic work, which is a comprehensive material covering the six primary carcinomas of the female reproductive system. The book summarizes recent scientific data on the epidemiology, pathogenesis, and risk factors of different carcinomas, histopathological classifications, screening, diagnostic and staging methods, and therapeutic strategies. Early diagnosis and treatment of precancerous lesions are the priority of the monograph. Contemporary knowledge about the pathogenesis of the disease has also been studied, reflecting advances in the knowledge of immunohistochemical characteristics and genotyping of tumors. The latter represents the basis for changing the understanding of tumor precursor lesions and the classification of carcinomas of the female reproductive system. The monograph offers, in a synthesized version, the current methods for screening, early diagnosis of invasive and pre-invasive lesions, as well as a therapeutic strategy, and in such a way could serve as a gynecologist's guide.

Two publications present a joint study on early-stage T1A1 cervical adenocarcinoma treated with conservative surgery and on the subsequent reproductive capabilities of patients. A review of the literature on the prognostic significance of adenocarcinoma as a histologic type and lymphovascular space invasion in the early stages of treatment regimen selection and survival is performed.

### **Scientific Contributions to Cervical Carcinoma IB1, IB2, II stages**

On the topic mentioned above, the applicant presents six publications. They are based on nine years of collective experience in the treatment of cervical cancer in IB1, IB2, II stages. An analysis is performed regarding lymph node metastasis, therapeutic modalities, survival, and prognostic factors. Attempts have been made to distinguish prognostic groups. The research emphasizes the significance of lymph node micrometastases, which are associated with three times greater the incidence of distant metastasis. The authors highlight the importance of the lymph node dissection and adjuvant chemotherapy in the treatment of cervical carcinoma of stages I1, IB2, II. The benefits of lymph node dissection for overall and relapse-free survival have

been demonstrated.

### **Scientific Contributions related to Rare Gynecological Tumors**

The applicant presents two publications concerning two rare histologic variants of cervical carcinoma - Warty carcinoma and lymphoepithelioma-like carcinoma. The studies analyzed the frequency of the tumors among the population of patients with cervical carcinoma within a gynecological clinic for ten years. These rare carcinomas have been examined in relation to patient age, surgical approach, pathohistological findings, viral status, disease stage, local and lymphatic tumor spread, lymphovascular space invasion, and survival. Given the extreme rarity of these histologic species, the information provided can serve to enrich existing data in the literature. For Warty carcinoma, a more favorable outcome of the disease calls into question the aggressive surgical approach. The involvement of lymph nodes and lymphovascular space invasion in lymphoepithelioma-like carcinoma are essential factors in determining patients' prognosis.

### **II. Pathology of pregnancy - diagnosis of preterm birth**

The applicant submits two publications that address the issue of preterm birth and the need for safe and timely diagnosis. Collective studies on the diagnostic value of biochemical markers - the phosphorylated form of insulin-like growth factor (pIGFBP-1) and the fetal fibronectin (fFN), examined in the cervical fluid at 24-34 weeks of gestational age are presented as specific indicators of preterm birth. A diagnostic algorithm was developed, including the two biochemical markers and one biophysical indicator - cervical length. The method has a good negative predictive value. The application of the method could be useful in reducing unnecessary hospitalization.

### **III. Rare cases in obstetrics and gynecology**

Two publications have addressed rare cases in the field of Obstetrics. One is devoted to the congenital anomaly of the Mullerian duct - Uterus didelphys. The publication represents a clinical case of this uterine anomaly with a diagnosed undeveloped pregnancy in each of the uterine cavities corresponding to 7-8 gestational weeks. A literature review of the data on the embryological origin of the anomaly, its frequency, the clinical picture, and the complications associated with it has been made. Another clinical case presents the preterm birth of a live fetus from a mother with Systemic lupus erythematosus. The disease is a challenge for the obstetrician who manage the pregnancy and the delivery, as it carries a high risk of miscarriage and is associated with a low rate of live births.

Another publication describes a clinical case of advanced ovarian cancer, reaching a large dimension weighing 18 kg, due to rapid growth and lack of marked symptoms.

### **IV. Diseases of the chewing apparatus and oral cavity associated with pregnancy**

The applicant presents co-authored publications covering the diseases of the chewing gum

and oral cavity during pregnancy. The publications address the physiological changes of the pregnant woman, which favor the onset of disease processes in the oral cavity. The authors highlight the importance of dental and oral health for the normal course of pregnancy, as well as for the normal development of the fetus. Recommendations for diagnostic and therapeutic strategies at different stages of pregnancy are also discussed.

#### **Educational and teaching activities**

Dr. Stanislav Slavchev was working as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, from September 2011 to September 2015. For the academic years 2016 /2017 and 2017/2018, Dr. Slavchev was working as part-time Assistant Professor. Since April 2018, he has been selected as Senior Assistant in the same department.

The applicant's workload during the last five years is as follows:

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2014/2015 - 304 hours | 2016/2017 - 330 hours |
| 2017/2018 -366 hours  | 2018/2019 -423 hours  |

According to this indicator, Dr. Stanislav Slavchev fulfills the required minimum according to the Law and the Regulations for Academic Development of the Medical University of Varna.

**In conclusion:** According to the Regulations of Medical University - Varna and NACID, Dr. Stanislav Slavchev meets the minimum requirements for the occupation of the academic position of Associate Professor. Dr. Stanislav Slavchev is an obstetrician- gynecologist with extensive knowledge and skills, especially in the field of oncogynecology and pregnancy-related problems. He has excellent professional training and teaching experience. It complies with the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Medical University-Varna This gives me reason to suggest to the honorable members of the scientific jury to vote positively on the choice of Dr. Stanislav Hristov Slavchev for the position of "Associate Professor" on "Obstetrics and Gynecology" for the needs of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University of Varna and for the Clinic of Gynecology at the MHAT "St. Anna"- Varna.

Date: 11.11.2019

Signature:



(Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov Tomov, Ph.D)