

To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury
Appointed by Order of the Rector of MU-Varna R-109-166 / 14.04.2022.
for the Competition for acquiring of Academic Position "Associate Professor"
(State Gazzete No. 14 / 18.02.2022)

SCIENTIFIC OPINION

of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Desislava Nikolaeva Koleva-Georgieva, MD, Ph.D, FEBO
Department of Ophthalmology, Faculty of Medicine,
Medical University-Plovdiv, 66 Peshtersko Shosse Blvd., 6th floor.
Member of the Scientific Jury for the Competition (SJ No. 14/18.02.2022) for
holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Ophthalmology,
professional field 7.1. Medicine, field of higher education 7. Healthcare and
sports and scientific specialty "Ophthalmology" for the needs of the
Educational Sector "Medical Optician" at the Medical College-Varna and
"SOBAL - Varna" Ltd.

By decision of the Academic Council (Protocol № 44 / 30.03.2022) and Order
of the Rector of the Medical University of Varna with № 109-166/14.04.2022 I
was appointed an external member of the Scientific Jury, and by Protocol №
1 /29.04.2022 from the meeting of the Scientific Jury, I was appointed to
prepare a scientific opinion on the Competition for the academic position of
"Associate Professor", field of higher education 7. Health and Sports,
professional field 7.1. Medicine and scientific specialty "Ophthalmology" - one,
0.5 full-time position for the needs of Educational Sector "Medical Optician" at
the Medical College-Varna and 0.5 full-time position for" SOBAL - Varna "EOOD,
announced in the State Gazette no. 14/18.02.2022.

The procedure for announcing the Competition complies with the legal
requirements.

For the announced competition, documents have been submitted by one
candidate: Dr. Dimitar Ivanov Grupchev, Ph.D.

The set of documents on electronic media, which I received on time, meets
the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the
Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations of this Law and the Regulations for the
Development of the Academic Staff in Medical University-Varna for acquiring
the Academic degree "Associate Professor".

**General presentation of the autobiographic professional development of the
candidate:**

Dr. Dimitar Ivanov Grupchev, MD graduated from the Medical University-Varna in 2016. He started residency in ophthalmology at SOBAL-Varna and successfully acquired a degree in ophthalmology in February 2021. Dr. Grupchev's affinity for scientific activity begins with his residency years, as evidenced by numerous published articles and scientific reports. From 2016 to 2020 Dr. Grupchev was resident, and from 2021 and present he is still working as an eye specialist at SOBAL-Varna EOOD. For a short period of time, Dr. Grupchev has an enviable academic development with extensive experience: Since 2017 he has been an assistant at the Educational Sector "Medical Optician" at the Medical College-Varna, and since 2018 he has been the Head of the Educational Sector "Medical Optician" at the Medical College-Varna. He is conducting his doctoral program as a full-time doctoral student at the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences from 2017 to 2020. In May 2021 he received the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" for successfully defended doctoral dissertation on "Cellular and tissue therapy of anterior eye surface". Since June 2021, Dr. Grupchev has been the Chief Assistant at the Educational Sector "Medical Optician" at the Medical College-Varna. In 2018, Dr. Grupchev acquired an additional qualification in the field of "Health Management". He also has many additional professional qualifications for which he has the necessary certificates.

The candidate meets the requirements for habilitation on this indicator.

Research activity:

Dr. Dimitar Grupchev participates in the competition with an Academic Reference, which summarizes a total of 24 scientific publications, 21 of which are beyond those presented in the dissertation. Of these 21 publications, there are 5 publications in peer-reviewed and indexed scientific journals, and 13 are in non-peer-reviewed or peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes. Also presented are 3 publications that are outside the minimum scientometric criteria for the candidate position.

Dr. Grupchev participates in the competition by presenting 6 citations in articles of international scientific journals, citing his works (out of a total of 30 overall observed citations).

His individual h-index is 3, and the impact factor of the presented publications is 23.489.

The habilitation work of Dr. Dimitar Grupchev is an independent monography: "Evolution of visualization in ophthalmic surgery", 2022, ed. of the Medical University - Varna, ISBN 978-619-221-375-6.

Dr. Grupchev regularly participates in national and international scientific meetings and conferences, presenting 8 presentations at national congresses, 5 presentations at international congresses, 4 posters at national and 6 posters at international congresses and 2 online presentations.

He has participated in the writing of textbooks, and is leading author in the chapters of a textbook.

The main directions of the research work of Dr. Grupchev are related to the scientific-applied and clinical aspects of ophthalmology - diagnosis, treatment and prevention of a number of eye diseases. His research interests can be summarized in the following several areas:

1. Vitreoretinal surgery – clinical and social aspects.
2. Vision and quality of life.
3. Modification of corneal wound healing and corneal regeneration.
4. Amniotic membrane.
5. Project "Corneal transplantation and stem cells".
6. Eye banking.

The issues in the presented research papers - publications, scientific events, monographs and dissertations, correspond to his research interests and his research activities and correspond to the scientific field in which the competition was announced.

The specified activity on this indicator covers the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in Medical University-Varna for acquiring the Academic degree "Associate Professor".

Teaching activity:

Dr. Dimitar Grupchev is a teacher with diverse experience in different levels of teaching with over 5 years of teaching experience. Since 2017 he has been teaching students as an assistant at the Medical Optics Department at the Medical University of Varna, and since 2018 he has been the Head of the Medical Optics Training Sector. In 2021 he held the position of chief assistant. It has an extremely busy teaching activity and a significant annual workload. Conducts practical classes in Bulgarian and English for students of the respective specialties. His annual work schedule is many times higher than the norm of the Medical University of Varna.

The specified activity on this indicator covers the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in Medical University-Varna for acquiring the Academic degree "Associate Professor".

Conclusion:

Dr. Dimitar Ivanov Grupchev, MD, according to the documents submitted for the competition and my evaluation of his scientometric criteria for his research and teaching activities, many times exceeds the minimum national requirements according to the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and requirements of Medical University_Varna according to the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in Medical University-Varna for acquiring the Academic degree "Associate Professor". He is an established specialist with extensive clinical and research experience. He has the necessary theoretical and practical skills for the development of research and teaching work in the field of ophthalmology.

I am convinced with a positive vote FOR the award of the academic position of "Associate Professor" to Dr. Dimitar Ivanov Grupchev, MD.

13.06.2022.

Plovdiv



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/Assoc. Prof. Desislava Koleva-Georgieva, MD, PhD, FEBO/