

REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Veselin Todorov Belovezhdov, MD, PhD,
Head of the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology"
Medical University - Plovdiv,
as a member of a scientific jury
based on order No. P-109-266 / 25.05.2023
of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna,

regarding the procedure for holding the academic position "**Associate Professor**", announced in the State Gazette No. 28 / 28.03. 2023, in the field of Higher education 7. Medicine, 7.1. Healthcare and sports, in the specialty "General and clinical pathology", at Medical Faculty at Medical University - Varna, Department of "General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology".

Paper and electronic materials have been submitted for the competition by Kalin Petrov Kalchev, MD, PhD, which include all the necessary documents according to the LDASRB and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at MU - Varna.

1. Career development of Dr. Kalin Petrov Kalchev.

Dr. Kalchev was born on July 19, 1974 in Dobrich. In 2001, he completed a master's degree in medicine at the Medical University – Varna (Diploma No. 020638, Reg. No. 7265 / 2001) and started working for a short time in the hospital in Tervel, then as a family doctor, and from the beginning of 2004 he worked successively as a pathologist in the pathology departments of the hospital in Dobrich and since 2005 in UMHAT "Sv. Marina", Varna. From the next year on, he became an assistant in the Department of General and Clinical Pathology at the MU-Varna. In 2009, he acquired a specialty in pathology (qualification certificate No. 2939 / 01.01.2010). After that Dr. Kalchev practiced as a pathologist abroad and then he returned to Varna, enrolled as a PhD student at the MU, in the "Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology". In 2020, he successfully defended a thesis for PhD (Diploma No. 398 / 29.12.2020) and became chief assistant professor in 2021 as well as working in the pathology clinic at „Sv. Marina“ hospital.

2. Description of Dr. Kalin Kalchev's scientometric indicators.

Over the years, Dr. Kalchev has published more than 30 scientific works, and he submitted 28 of them for the competition - 26 as a co-author and two as a sole author. The minimum scientometric requirements are met by 26 publications, which collect 215.5 points with a required minimum of 200 points. Of these, 11 are full-text scientific publications in journals, referenced and indexed in the world-renown scientific information databases Web of Science and Scopus, reflecting scientific research activity in the period 2013-2022, included in the academic reference in indicator B4. (B4.1 - B4.11), equivalent to a monographic paper; eight full-text publications and one report abstract have been published in scientific journals referenced and indexed in the world-renowned databases presented in indicator Г7. (Г7.1 – Г7.9) and in indicator Г8. (Г8.1 - Г7.6) he also has six studies in non-refereed journals. Apart from the mandatory ones, two more publications in home journals are presented.

The Google Scholar platform mentions 85 citations and self-citations of Dr. Kalin Kalchev in international and home refereed and non-refereed journals.

For the purposes of the competition, seven citations of one referenced and indexed in the world-renown databases publication are presented in the scientometric academic reference, which gives 105 pts in indicator Д10 out of the minimum required 100 pts.

Ten of the publications submitted for the competition have an impact factor of 36,528 in total.

He's been participating in 14 international and national scientific forums with 7 reports and 8 posters.

Dr. Kalchev has been part of the teams of 4 postdoctoral research projects under the "Science" Fund with following topics: "Expression of tetraspanin markers in benign prostate hyperplasia and in prostate cancer"; "Analysis of immunohistochemical expression level of markers for necroptosis in breast cancer"; "Predictive and prognostic role of immunohistochemical expression of apoptosis – inducing factor and RIPK3 marker for necroptosis in renal cell carcinoma"; "Study on the expression levels of immunohistochemical markers for apoptosis and necroptosis in BCC and SCC".

3. Contributions of Dr. Kalin Kalchev's scientific works.

The main topics of Dr. Kalchev's scientific publications are in the areas of: 1. Alternative molecular mechanisms of cell death and cell survival. 2. Rarely diagnosed diseases. 3. Infectious diseases. 4. Experimental morphology.

At the first topic a study is submitted, upon 74 cases of unresectable metastatic colorectal carcinoma treated with first-line 5-fluorouracil (5-FU)-based chemotherapy, as the tumor biopsy material has been assessed with the necroptosis marker RIP-3, which expression can be used as an independent predictive marker for good response to treatment and a low risk of disease progression, which is a scientific-practical contribution.

The second topic, is based on 6 publications, presenting the diagnostic problems in interesting and rare cases from the practice, and the contributions are mainly of a scientific and practical nature.

At the third topic two publications related to changes in result of COVID-19 infection are submitted, and here the contributions are scientific and practical.

The fourth is related to two publications that study the toxicity of sumac extract (*Cotinus coggygria*) in experimental animals, and the observations are directed to the clinical and laboratory markers and to the histological changes of the internal organs, in search of signs of organ damage. The contributions here are of an original scientific and practical nature.

In his medical work, Dr. Kalchev is also actively involved in some more specialized research such as: HER-2 DISH in breast cancer and gastric carcinoma, PD-L1 in non-small cell lung carcinoma, head and neck tumors, breast and urothelial carcinoma.

4. Scientific and teaching activities of Dr. Kalin Kalchev.

As an assistant professor and ch. assistant professor Dr. Kalchev has a total of 15 yrs and 9 m. For the last 5 years, the teaching workload reference indicates that he has a workload ranging from 222 till 320 hours per year from lectures and seminars which exceeds the university's workload requirements. Apart from this, Dr. Kalchev also takes part in semester exams in general and clinical pathology for students in the specialties "Medicine", "Dental Medicine", "Medical Laboratory Assistant", in Bulgarian and English.

His commitment is related to the training in general pathology and in clinical pathology at the specialties of "Medicine" and "Medical Laboratory Assistant", as well as in pathoanatomy of the "Dental Medicine" specialty, all of them (lectures and seminars) include teaching in Bulgarian and English.

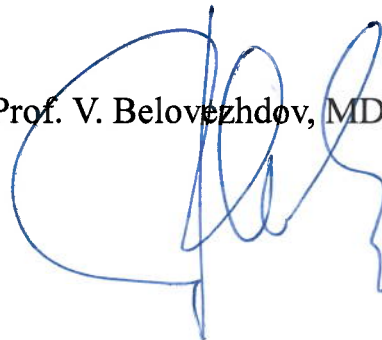
Dr. Kalchev is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association and the Bulgarian Pathology Fellowship

Conclusion: Dr. Kalchev's career development, his scientometric indicators, the acquired scientific and educational degree "Doctor" based on the successfully defended dissertation, his research activity, his teaching work fully meet the requirements that lay down in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the MU-Varna for occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor".

This gives me a reason to state that I will vote positively for acquisition the academic position of "Associate Professor" by Dr. Kalin Kalchev, and I allow myself to recommend the members of the esteemed scientific jury to also support his election.

14.08.2023

Prof. V. Belovezhkov, MD, PhD

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned to the right of the printed name.