# OPINION

from assoc. prof. Eleonora Georgiewa Dimitrova-Gospodinova, MD, PhD

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regarding a competition for the occupation of academic position "Associate Professor" in the specialty "General and Clinical Pathology", professional direction 7.1. Medicine, field of higher education, 7. Healthcare and sports.

**Brief information on the competition**

After order No. P-109-266/25.05.2023 of the Rector of the Medical University, Varna, I have been elected as a member of the Scientific Jury in relation to announcement in the State Gazette, No. 28/28.03.2023, regarding competition for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor", and decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty Medicine, according to protocol No. 02/04.05.2023, as well as on the basis of Art. 4, para. 1 and para. 2 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), Article 57, para. 1 and para. 2 of the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB, Art. 6, paragraph 1, art. 127, para. 1 and para. 2 of the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the Medical University - Varna.

The competition is for the occupation of academic position "Associate Professor" in the specialty of "General and Clinical Pathology", professional direction 7.1 Medicine, field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports: 0.5 full-time position for the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and deontology", Faculty of "Medicine" and 1 full-time position for the "General and Clinical Pathology" Clinic at UMHAT "Sveta Marina" JSC, Varna.

According to protocol No. 1 / 07.06.2023 from a meeting of the Scientific Jury, I am appointed to prepare an opinion.

The only applicant for the competition is Kalin Petrov Kalchev, MD, PhD.

**Brief information on the aplicant**

- Dr. Kalin Kalchev was born on 19.07.1974 in the town of Dobrich. He completed his secondary education at the "Geo Milev" Language High School in Dobrich. In 2001, he graduated from the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna. In 2010, he acquired a specialty in General and Clinical Pathology. In 2001, he started working in the Municipal Hospital - Tervel, in the period 2002-2003 worked as GP in Telerig. In 2004-2005, he worked in the Department of Clinical Pathology in Dobrich General Hospital. Since 2005, he works at the UMHAT "Sveta Marina", Varna as a physician in the General and Clinical Pathology Clinic..

From August, 2008 till December, 2012 is a donor coordinator in the Varna branch of Tissue Bank „Osteocentre Bulgaria". In 2017 and 2018 worked as head of the Clinical Pathology department at MHAT "Sveti Ivan Rilski", Razgrad and MHAT Dobrich; worked some time in various hospitals in England, Scotland, Wales, Sweden etc.

- Member of the Bulgarian Medical Association and the Bulgarian Fellowship in Pathology.
- Speaks English, Russian and Swedish.

**Scientific production and contributions**

- In 2020 2020 d-r Kalchev defended his PhD thesis on "RIP3 Marker Expression for Necroptosis in Cases of Prostate Cancer".
- He presents 11 publications, replacing a habilitation monographic study, in scientific magazines, referenced and indexed in world-acknowledged databases for scientific information, indicator B4.
- Fifteen more scientific publications and reports are presented in indicators D7 and D8, as well as 2 articles beyond the minimum scientometric requirements, with abstracts in Bulgarian and English.

**The topics of the scientific works submitted for application in the competition are in five research directions:**

- Alternative molecular mechanisms of cell death and cell survival
- Prostate cancer
- Rarely diagnosed diseases
- Infectious diseases
- Experimental morphology

To date, Dr. Kalin Kalchev published a total of 30 scientific works in co-authorship and two as a sole author, with 85 citations according to the Google Scholar platform.

Ten of the articles had a total IF of 36.528.

**Original scientific contributions of the dissertation work:**

1. A complex clinical, morphological and immunohistochemical characteristic of necroptosis in patients with prostate carcinoma was performed.

2. The expression of the necroptosis marker RIP3 is assessed semiquantitatively, in relation to clarifying the prognostic and predictive role in carcinoma of the prostate gland.

**Scientific and practical contributions:**

In the Alternative molecular mechanisms of cell death and cell survival direction, a corelation between RIP-3 expression and the survival of colorectal cancer patients was found. Its expression can be used as an independent predictive marker for the response то treatment and the risk of disease progression.

In the Rarely diagnosed diseases direction, a case of adrenal oncocytoma in pediatric practice is reported, an exemplary clinical-diagnostic algorithm for children with congenital malformations is developed, rare cases of secondary arterial hypertension in a child with a solitary fibrous tumor of the kidney, as well

as hemangiopericytoma in childhood, accompanied by treatment-refractory secondary hypertension are reported.

In the Infectious diseases direction, the dynamics of early and late changes in the lungs during coronavirus damage were determined, the probability of long-term and severe complications in patients with post-covid syndrome is set, the first case of a histologically and microbiologically proven case of rhino-orbital cerebral mucormycosis in Bulgaria is reported in a patient after infection with COVID-19.

In the Experimental morphology direction, the properties of alcoholic and aqueous extracts of C. coggygria are reported in in vivo studies with experimental animals.

**Research projects:**

1. "Expression of tetraspanin markers in benign prostate hyperplasia and in prostate cancer"

2. "Analysis of immunohistochemical expression level of markers for necroptosis in breast cancer"

3. "Predictive and prognostic role of immunohistochemical expression of apoptosis – inducing factor and RIPK3, marker for necroptosis in renal cell carcinoma"

4. "Study on the expression levels of immunohistochemical markers for apoptosis and necroptosis in basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma "

Dr. Kalchev took part in 14 international and national forums with 15 reports and posters presented.

**Teaching**

Dr. Kalchev teaches the disciplines "General Pathology", "Clinical Pathology" and "Pathoanatomy" to students of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy at MU"Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, as well as to students from the Medical College - Varna, majoring in "Medical Laboratory Assistant", by conducting practical seminars and lectures.

**Diagnostic and therapeutic activities**

As a physician and chief assistant profesor in the General and Clinical Pathology Clinic of UMBAL "St. Marina" - Varna, Dr. Kalchev actively participates in the diagnostic and treatment activities by performing pathomorphological studies of cytological and histological biopsy materials, as well as surgical materials and resectates. He also performs highly specialized studies such as HER-2 DISH, PD-L1, necessary and mandatory in modern oncological practice.

He is a member of the hospital's General Oncology Committee, the Children's Oncology Committee, the Subcommittee on Breast Cancer at the GOC, as well as the Multidisciplinary Team for complex medical care of child patients with gender differentiation disorders.

He acquired and maintains his professional skills and competence through participation in numerous educational courses such as: "Pathology of the placenta"-2006, "Neural ganglia tumors"-2006, "Bone system tumors"-2006, "Melanocytic nevi and malignant melanomas"-2006, "Morphological characteristics of organ changes in AIDS"-2006, "Causes of death in the newborn"-2006, "Morphological features of sepsis"-2006, "Advancing the Journey in Precision Medicine"-2019, "Virtual PD-L1 Testing (22C3)- Head and Neck Cancer"- 2020, Brest Cancer Preceptorship-2021, Pulmonary Pathology Workshop- 2023.

**Conclusion**

Dr. Kalin Petrov Kalchev, PhD is an established specialist in the field of General and Clinical Pathology, with in-depth knowledge and professional experience. He is an experienced teacher, respected by his students and his colleagues. His scientific output is sufficient in volume, meets the minimum state requirements, shows diverse interests. Dr. Kalchev meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for its Implementation at the MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna. This gives me the reason to propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" by Dr. Kalin Kalchev, PhD.

Opinion made by: Assoc, prof. Eleonora Dimitrova, MD, PhD

14.08.2023