

**To
The Chairman of the Scientific Jury
Assigned upon Order № P-109-266/25.5.2023
Of the Rector of The Medical University-Varna**

In relation to protocol: No. 02 / 4.5.2023 and
Order No. P-109-266/25.5.2023 from a meeting of
the Scientific Jury

Attached I submit: OPINION

On the competition for occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty: "General and Clinical Pathology", professional direction 7.1. Health and Sports - one, 0.5 full-time position for the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology", Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" and 1 full-time position for the "General and Clinical Pathology" clinic at the UMHAT "Sveta Marina" JSC-Varna, with additional conditions for the competition: the candidates must have acquired the ESD "Doctor" in the doctoral program "Pathoanatomy and cytopathology", announced in the "State Gazette", no. 28 / 28.03.2023

Opinion issued by: prof. Dobrinka Demireva Radoynova, MD, PhD
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A single candidate takes part of the competition: Chief Assistant Professor Kalin Petrov Kalchev, MD, PhD, from the Medical University of Varna, Department of "General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology" at the Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" and Clinic of General and Clinical Pathology at the UMHAT "Sveta Marina" JSC-Varna.

The complete set of administrative documents required is presented under to the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and the Regulation for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" from the regulations of MU-Varna. They are described in the Application of the candidate to the Rector of MU-Varna.

I. Career profile analysis of the candidate

1. Education and qualification

In reference to the documentation, it's found out that the candidate, Dr. Kalin Kalchev, meets the conditions for the competition: he has a completed higher education in medicine, a certificate of acquired specialty in General and Clinical Pathology; defended dissertation for ESD "Doctor" in the scientific specialty: "Pathoanatomy and cytopathology" in the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic medicine and Deontology" in the Medical University – Varna.

2. Professional experience

Dr. Kalchev has a total of professional work experience as of 15.5.23. – 20 years, 2 months and teaching experience of the same date: 15 years and 9 months, incl. and as chief assistant.

3. Teaching workload and teaching activity

From the teaching workload report, it can be seen that for the last 5 academic years, his total workload exceeded the normative 220 hours teaching in Bulgarian and English language.

4. Administrative and academic activity

Dr. Kalin Kalchev worked as an assistant professor and a chief assistant professor. He gives seminars and lectures to the students of medicine, dental medicine and in the medical college in General and Clinical Pathology. In the period 2017-2020, he was a PhD student of independent training in the same department on the topic: "RIP3 Marker Expression for Necroptosis in Cases of Prostate Cancer".

II. General description of the materials for the competition submitted

The documents submitted are complete and arranged in a logical sequence according to the requirements of the competition. The materials are numbered separately from the presentations at congresses and conferences.

III. Rating of the candidate's scientific works for his overall academic development

For this competition, Dr. Kalchev submits a total of 29 scientific works, of which one is a dissertation, 11 scientific publications replacing a habilitation thesis in journals that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases; nine publications and reports in scientific journals referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases, and six in peer-reviewed journals, not-referenced in world-renowned scientific information databases.

In addition to those included in the evidentiary material to meet the minimum requirements for holding the academic position "Associated Professor", the candidate submits two full-text publications. Separately, he declares congress and conference participations.

1. General features of the scientific production and the publication activity

Dr Kalchev presents a sufficient scientific production:

- in indicator G7, he is a first author in one publication and a second author in three more out of a total of nine publications;
- in indicator G8, he is an independent author in two publications and a second author in another one out of a total of 6 publications;
- his PhD dissertation work: "RIP3 Marker Expression for Necroptosis in Cases of Prostate Cancer" got a sufficient appraisal by the Scientific Jury.

2. Scientific activity: spread and application of the scientific and practical achievements of the candidate in the scientific community

According to the presented reference, Dr. Kalchev has 7 citations, that give a total of 105 points, with the minimum national requirements for this indicator being 50 points.

3. Participation in execution and management of projects

Dr. Kalchev participated as an expert researcher in the research team of four projects from the "Science" Fund:

No. 19003. "Expression of tetraspanin markers in benign prostate hyperplasia and in prostate cancer"

No. 19004. "Analysis of immunohistochemical expression level of markers for necroptosis in breast cancer"

No. 21002. "Predictive and prognostic role of immunohistochemical expression of apoptosis – inducing factor and RIPK3, marker for necroptosis in renal cell carcinoma"

No. 21013. "Study on the expression levels of immunohistochemical markers for apoptosis and necroptosis in basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma "

4. Scientific and creative achievements (scientific authority) (additional indicators): scientific and research activity - membership in organizations, editorial boards, juries, awards, reviews).

According to the reference provided to us, Dr. Kalchev has scientific theoretical contributions in five scientific directions:

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

5. Therapeutic and diagnostic activity

The candidate, Dr. Kalchev, works as a physician in the Clinic of General and Clinical Pathology at the UMHAT "Sveta Marina" - Varna from 2005 to the present moment. Since 2011 he has a speciality in General and Clinical Pathology. Since 2006 he is an assistant professor, and since 2021 is a chief assistant professor in General and Clinical Pathology at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at the Medical University of Varna.

IV. Assessment of the publications submitted for participation in the contest

In this competition, Dr. Kalchev presents scientific publications that doesn't repeat those presented for acquisition of ESD "Doctor". They are, in addition to the dissertation work: 11 full-text publications in refereed journals, equivalent to a habilitation work; another eight full-text publications and one report in refereed journals; six full-text publications in non-refereed, peer-reviewed journals; and two full-text publications beyond the minimum scientometric requirements. 15 participations in scientific forums, national and international, are also presented.

1. Assessment of scientific works with contributions in the field of General and Clinical Pathology

In his PhD thesis, Dr. Kalchev assesses the clinical significance of the expression of the necroptosis marker RIP3 in prostate cancer. He makes a complex clinical, morphological and immunohistochemical characteristics of necroptosis in patients with prostate carcinoma. In addition, the expression of RIP3 as a marker of necroptosis is assessed with a view to elucidate its prognostic and predictive role in prostate cancer.

2. Assessment of the scientific studies with contributions in the field of:

- **Alternative molecular mechanisms of cell death and cell survival.** This group of articles addresses aspects of necroptosis as an alternative mechanism of cell death in tumor cells, as well as autophagy as a mechanism for survival of damaged tumor cells and resistance to chemotherapy.
- **Prostate carcinoma.** This group of three full-text articles obtains various aspects of the problems of the prostate carcinoma like some molecular mechanisms of tumorigenesis, an intriguing rare behavior of prostate cancer, and the role of screening programs in the early detection and reduction of mortality rates from this widespread male malignancy.
- **Rarely diagnosed diseases.** This is the largest group of articles, including 14 full-text publications that present interesting and rarely encountered cases in clinical practice.
- **Infectious diseases.** Five full-text publications are included in this direction, that illuminate the morphological manifestations of COVID-19 and its complications, as well as the clinical significance of diagnostics and vaccine prophylaxis in cytomegalovirus infection, incl. immunocompromised patients at risk.

- **Experimental morphology.** Includes a morphological study of the subchronic organ toxicity of various extracts from different parts of the herb sumac (*Cotinus coggygria*).

3. Assessment of scientific works with scientific and practical contributions.

Contributions may be indicated in the fields of:

- **Prostate carcinoma**, which are primarily of a scientific nature regarding the molecular mechanisms that determine the behavior of prostate carcinoma, but also of a practical nature regarding screening programs for the early detection of prostate cancer.

- **Rarely diagnosed diseases**, which are mainly of a scientific and practice-applied nature, as they focus attention and clinical thinking on the morphological and diagnostic aspects of some rare cases in clinical practice.

- **Infectious diseases**, which are mainly of a scientific-applied nature, as they consider the morphological aspects of COVID-19, as well as of perhaps the most widespread opportunistic infection in the human population – CMV, that is of great importance in the treatment and follow-up of immunocompromised and transplanted patients.

- **Experimental morphology**, which are of a scientific-applied nature, which proves lack of subchronic toxicity of aqueous and alcoholic sumac extracts.

V. Citations of the candidate's publications in the national and foreign literature (publication image)

For the competition, Dr. K. Kalchev presents 11 citations in referenced journals. This is still a weaker "publication image", and the logical explanation is that citations require some "technological time" to get familiar with and to evaluate the published materials.

VI. Comprehensive qualitative assessment of teaching and professional activity

During his training, Dr. Kalchev showed good professional and teaching qualities.

VII. Critical notes and recommendations

I personally know the candidate and I can say that he is a responsible person, resp. a teacher and a professional. My recommendation is that he not be so "distracted" in his various interests. I am convinced that he has a great potential and will give much more to the pathology and the medicine, in addition to his family.

VIII. General assessment of the applicant's compliance with the mandatory conditions and mandatory quantitative criteria and scientific indicators acc. Regulation for obtaining an academic degree at the MU-Varna in Section IV "Occupation of the academic degree "Associate Professor" at the MU-Varna and "Appendix No. 1" of the regulations for improvement of the academic staff of the MU-Varna.

Dr. Kalin Kalchev meets the general requirements for a completed higher education, acquired specialty in General and Clinical Pathology, protected by the ESD "Doctor" for the entire specialty, as well as the mandatory quantitative scientometric criteria required for academic position "Associate Professor".

Of the legally required 200 pts, he collected 215.5 pts, that meets the required indicators.

IX. Conclusion

Taking the materials provided to me, I made a comprehensive assessment of the participant in the competition for the academic position of **"Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty of General and Clinical Pathology** and I consider that the candidate **Dr. Kalin Petrov Kalchev, MD, PhD** exceeds the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulation on the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University

- Varna and **meets the criteria** for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" at the Medical University – Varna.

X. Position proposal

In accordance with the mandatory scientometric criteria in qualitative and quantitative terms, and in accordance with the requirements of the LDASRB and the Regulation on the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" from the Regulation of MU-Varna, I give my positive assessment and I propose to the other members of the esteemed Scientific Jury to vote for awarding the academic position "Associate Professor" to **Kalin Petrov Kalchev, MD, PhD**. He can be proposed to the Scientific Board for selection and to the Academic Council of MU-Varna for confirmation of the occupation of the academic position "**Associate Professor**" in the scientific specialty **General and Clinical Pathology**.

6.8.2023 г.

Opinion issued by: 
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