

SHORT REVIEW

from

Prof. Dr. Julian Ananiev, MD, PhD - Dean of the Medical Faculty, Trakia University, Chief Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology, and Dermatovenerology, Medical Faculty, Trakia University, Stara Zagora; Member of a scientific jury, appointed by order No. R-109-100/22.03.2024 of the Rector of the MU Varna

Procedure for the academic position "**Associate Professor**", in the scientific specialty "**General and Clinical Pathology**", professional direction 7.1 Medicine, field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, at the Department "**General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology**", Faculty Medicine, MU Varna and Clinic of General and Clinical Pathology at the "**St. Marina**" - Varna with decision of FC No. 18 of 11.03.2024.

1. General

One candidate participated in the announced competition for the academic degree "**Associate Professor**" - Dr. Hristo Boychev Popov, MD, PhD, member of the academic staff of the Department of "**General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology**", Faculty of Medicine, MU Varna, as he submitted his documents within the specified period, passed the relevant stages of document verification and is directed to a subsequent stage of the procedure. The candidate provides a complete set of documents for the academic position procedure.

2. Biographical data

Dr. Hristo Boychev Popov, MD, PhD was born on 19.09.1986 in Provadia. He graduated in medicine in 2011 at MU Varna, and since 2012 he has been a resident and assistant in "**General and Clinical Pathology**" at UMHAT "**St. Marina**" - Varna. In the period between 2014 and 2020, he was an PhD student at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology. He get his PhD digree in 2020, and in 2017 he acquired a specialty. In 2021, he was elected for chief assistant to the same department, as he was also appointed as a specialist doctor. Dr. Popov has additional qualifications in nephropathology and dermatopathology, over 40 online and real courses in pedagogy, IHC, renal pathology, etc. In the period 2017 - 2022, he is the head of the "**Tissue Bank Osteocenter**

- Bulgaria" program at the UMHAT "St. Marina" - Varna. He is a member of BMS, Bulgaria Society of Pathology, as well as Renal pathology society. He has English language level - B2.

3. Scientific research activity

From the documents submitted for participation in the competition for "**Associate Professor**" in the professional field "Medicine" in the scientific specialty "General and Clinical Pathology", it is visible that Dr. Popov, PhD, has PhD-thesis on the topic: "Prognostic and predictive morphological factors in urothelial carcinoma of the bladder".

The publications submitted for participation in the procedure are a total of 28 in number, and they are related the scientific research activity of Dr. Popov in the period between 2016 - 2023. The candidate has prepared a report and presents the specified number of **scientific publications**, distributed as follows:

- ✓ **publications in international journals - a list of publications equivalent to monograph B4 - 10 in number, of which as first or last author - 3 in number;**
- ✓ **publications in journals referenced and indexed in world-famous databases Г7 - 9 in number, of which as first author or last author - 8 in number;**
- ✓ **publications in non-refereed journals Г8 – 8 publications, of which as first and independent author – 1 per issue;**
- ✓ **other publications - 1 issue beyond the minimum scientometric indicators;**
- ✓ **citations - 10 in total.**

In the research activity of Dr. Popov, MD, PhD a high, consistent and deep interest in defining the field in clinical pathology is evident, namely:

- 1) alternative molecular mechanisms of overall death and overall survival;*
- 2) urothelial pathology;*
- 3) infectious diseases;*
- 4) rarely diagnosed diseases;*

Based on the aforementioned areas of interest, as well as well-structured and presented publications, the work of Dr. Popov, PhD has contributions of a scientific and original nature

- discovery of the relationship between the examined patients with urothelial carcinoma, tumor-associated mast cells and local recurrences. In the scientific-applied contributions, various rare cases from clinical-morphological practice, related to renal, infectious, pediatric, etc., are presented case studies; studies on some molecular characteristics in groups of patients with colorectal carcinoma, etc.

Dr. Popov declared his participation in 14 international and national scientific forums with oral and poster presentations.

The candidate also indicates participation in 2 research scientific projects.

Based on the mentioned references from the applicant, it is evident that Ch. assistant professor Dr. Hristo Boychev Popov, PhD, covers the required indicators and the corresponding points, and even exceeds them, presenting the following distribution: in **group 1** - 102.57 points, with the required 100 points; in **group 2** - a total of 237.95 points, with the required 200 points; in **group 3** - 5 points.

4. Educational and teaching activity

Dr. Popov, PhD, has a well-established teaching profile and a sufficiently long teaching experience, as an assistant and chief assistant. On the basis of the indicated reference for teaching experience, it is visible that he conducts lectures and exercises in Bulgarian and in English students course in the specialties "medicine", "dental medicine", "pharmacy". For the last five academic years, the academic workload of Dr. Popov, PhD, at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University of Varna is as follows: 2018/2019 – 254 academic hours; 2019/2020 – 236 academic hours; 2020/2021 – 232 academic hours; 2021/2022 - 302 academic hours; 2022/2023 - 312 academic hours The norm according to the rules of the AC of MU-Varna corresponds to 220 academic hours per year.

Dr. Popov, PhD, is also the course leader of the third course "Medicine" - Bulgarian-language training.

The academic workload of the candidate is high and narrowly focused in the relevant specialty. Dr. Popov's additional commitments to interns and his participation in conducting HSA courses characterize him as a reliable teacher dedicated to the development of medical personnel and specialists.

5. Clinical and diagnostic activity

I have known Dr. Popov for more than 10 years, during which time I have formed a high opinion related to his in-depth knowledge in the field of general and clinical pathology and his work as a specialist pathologist. Dr. Popov, MD has wide competence in the fields of uropathology, nephropathology and transplant pathology, dermatopathology, since 2017 he has a specialty, and during the entire period until today he has been working actively. The many additional qualifications and courses, as well as his participation in a number of forums, the development of scientific production precisely on the basis of his diverse clinical-diagnostic activity are proof of the candidate's profiling and competence.

6. Conclusion

Based on the above, I can summarize that, based on the submitted documents, the candidate - **Ch.assistant Dr. Hristo Boychev Popov, MD, PhD**, is a well-built scientist, teacher and diagnostician, who skilfully manages to combine precise diagnostic, educational and scientific work. It can be seen that the scientific, publication and teaching activities of the candidate fully cover the requirements for the loan of AP "Assoc.Professor" in the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the MU - Varna.

That is why I give my positive review and will confidently vote "Yes" the awarding of the academic position "**Associate Professor**" in "General and Clinical Pathology", and kindly invite the other members of the respected Scientific Jury to vote positively.

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Stara Zagora

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