

Written observation

by Prof. Dr. Veselin Todorov Belovezhkov, MD, PhD

Head of the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology"

MU – Plovdiv,

in his capacity as a member of a scientific jury based on

order of the Rector of MU Varna, № P-109-100 / 22.03.2024 r.

regarding the procedure for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" in "Pathology and Clinical pathology", for the needs of the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology with MU Varna and for the needs of the General and Clinical Pathology Clinic, UMBAL "St. Marina" - EAD in professional direction 7.1 Medicine, area of higher education, 7. Health care and sports announced in state newspaper no. 7 of 23.01.2024.

For the contest, materials on paper and electronic media were submitted by the only candidate, chief assistant Dr. Hristo Boychev Popov, MD, which include all the necessary documents according to the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Conditions and Procedures for Acquisition of scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at Trakia University - Varna.

I. Career development of Dr. Hristo Boychev Popov, MD

Dr. Popov graduated with a master's degree in medicine in 2011. Since 2012, he has been a specialist in pathology. In 2017 he acquired a specialty; since 2014 he is a doctoral student with a dissertation topic "Prognostic and predictive morphological factors in urothelial carcinoma of the bladder", which he defended successfully in 2020 and since 2021 he is a chief assistant. Dr. Popov has additional qualifications in Nephropathology and Dermatopathology. For a period of 5 years until 2022, he was the head of the "Tissue Bank Osteocenter-Bulgaria" program - EAD at UMBAL "St. Marina" - Varna. Since 2013, he has been the course leader of third year, Bulgarian – Medicine.

II. Description of the scientometric indicators Dr. Hristo Boychev Popov, MD.

Dr. Popov submits 10 full-text scientific publications in scientific journals, all referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of science. Out of the 10 full-text scientific publications, three of them are in journals with IF under TR. Eight of the scientific publications have been cited a total of 64 times according to Google Scholar data. In addition, Dr. Popov presents 9 publications in foreign journals, all refereed and indexed, of which seven are with IF. Dr. Popov has 8 publications in non-refereed publications, the list of citations indicates that

they are cited 10 times, and the participation in scientific forums is a total of 19 – 6 reports and 13 posters.

The data is also confirmed by the reference from the library of MU - Varna.

When comparing with the minimum required indicators, it is established that Dr. Popov fully covers the required number of points in all groups. Their total number is 237.95 with a required minimum of 200.

III. Evaluation of the contributions of the scientific works of Dr. Hristo Popov, MD.

The main areas in which Dr. Popov worked were: 1. Urotelic carcinoma, 2. Infectious diseases, 3. Experimental morphology, 4. Rarely diagnosed diseases.

Based on his research in these areas, the following contributions are being made:

1. With a scientific character - a total of 163 cases of urothelial carcinoma of the bladder were analyzed, evaluating the expression for FGF 2 and the interactions between the tumor and the extracellular matrix, a strong statistical correlation was found between the expression levels for SC 20 and the differentiation of carcinoma; assessed the immunohistochemical expression of GATA3 using the H-score and described the sensitivity of high GATA3 expression levels in recurrent bladder urothelial carcinoma.
2. Contributions of a scientific and applied nature, which include:
 - Rarely diagnosed nosological cases, some of the more interesting of which are: a rare case of perirenal tumor with morphology of non-Hodgkin lymphoma originating from the renal capsule, two cases of renal tumors with spindle cell morphology but with different histogenesis and immunophenotype, a rare case of adenocarcinoma of the bladder developed on the basis of cystitis cystica et glandularis, a rare case of bullous Henoch-Schönlein purpura and IgA nephropathy with a rapid aggressive course leading to chronic renal failure, a rare case with the cutaneous form and liver involvement of sarcoidosis, as well as with IgA deposits in the dermis and a strongly positive reaction of IgA anti-tissue transglutaminase antibodies, a rare case of pleomorphic adenoma originating from the glands of Moll in the eyelid, a rare case of pheochromocytoma of the adrenal gland, and a mixed epithelial and stromal tumor of the renal pelvis;
 - Research related to metastatic colorectal carcinoma, which involved first-line 5-Fu-based chemotherapy with/without bevacizumab, an experiment using four groups of rats, all groups of rats were fed a high-fat and fructose diet and showed liver histological changes corresponding to steatosis, eight cases of ARVD (arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia) proven at autopsy. The results show that intramyocardial adipocytes and cardiomyocytes in ARVD express NGF/TrkA and NT-3/TrkC, suggesting that they may play a significant role in the life-threatening electrical instability of the myocardium. Research on immunohistochemical prognostic and predictive factors in urothelial carcinomas, with attention focused on seeking new markers involved in the processes of angiogenesis, cell proliferation, and differentiation; histological changes in the lungs in COVID-19 viral infection.

Dr. Popov has participated in two scientific projects:

- Doctoral student in the project funded by the "Science" Fund No. 15019, "Prognostic and Predictive Factors in Carcinomas of the Urinary System" under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Petar Genev, MD.
- Postdoctoral fellow in the project funded by the "Science" Fund No. 21002, "Predictive and Prognostic Role of Immunohistochemical Expression of Apoptosis-Inducing Factor and RIPK3, a Marker for Necroptosis in Renal Cell Carcinoma" under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Maria Tsaneva, MD.

IV. Evaluation of the participation in the scientific-teaching activity of Dr. Hristo Popov, MD.

Dr. Popov has been engaged in teaching activities for more than 11 years. He participates in the teaching of pathology for students in the "Medicine" specialty, 3rd and 4th year, in Bulgarian, and in teaching students in "Dental Medicine," "Pharmacy," and "Kinesitherapy," as well as in conducting exams. His annual teaching load has varied between 254 and 312 hours over the past 5 years.

Conclusion:

The career development of Dr. Hristo Popov, his scientometric indicators, the acquired scientific and educational degree "Doctor," and the contributions from his research activities fully meet the mandatory conditions and indicators for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor," according to the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the regulations for its implementation, and the regulations for holding this academic position at the Medical University - Varna.

This gives me the reason to state that I will vote FOR awarding the academic position of "Associate Professor" to Dr. Popov. I also take the liberty to urge the other members of the esteemed scientific jury to support this choice as well.

29.05. 2024

Заличено на основание чл. 5,
§1, б. „В“ от Регламент (ЕС)
2016/679

Prof. Dr. V. Belovezhkov, MD, PhD

Заличено на основание чл. 5,
§1, б. „В“ от Регламент (ЕС)
2016/679