

TO  
The Scientific jury,  
according to Order No. R-109-100/22.03.2024  
of the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. P.  
Stoyanov"  
Prof. Dr. Dimitar Raykov, MD

To protocol No. 1 of 01.04.2024  
Please find as follows:

## POSITION

Regarding open academic position "associate professor"

in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine  
Medicine, specialty "General and clinical pathology", at the Faculty of Medicine, Department of  
"General and clinical pathology, forensic medicine and deontology", Medical University "Prof. Dr.  
Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna (MU – Varna) and University General Hospital "St. Marina", Varna.

By Prof. Dr. Nikolay Sapundzhiev MD, PhD Head of the Section of ENT Diseases, Department of  
Neurosurgery and ENT Diseases, Medical University - Varna, member of the scientific jury / Order  
No. R-109-100/22.03.2024 of the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. P. Stoyanov", Varna.

Documents for the competition are submitted by one candidate - Dr. Hristo Boychev Popov, MD,  
chief assistant at the Department of General and clinical pathology, forensic medicine and  
deontology, at the Medical University - Varna.

### **I. Brief data on the candidate's career development**

Dr. Hristo Popov MD was born in 1986 in the town of Provadia, Bulgaria. He graduated from the  
high school in his hometown. In 2011 he graduated in medicine from the Medical University -  
Varna. In the same year, he was elected as an assistant at the Department of "General and clinical  
pathology" at the Medical University - Varna after a successful presentation in a competition. Dr.  
Popov conducts practical classes in all taught disciplines with medical and dental students. In 2017,  
he acquired the specialty "General and Clinical Pathology". He is proficient in all fundamental  
methods of biopsy practice and shows interest and expertise in renal puncture biopsies, transplant  
pathology and skin biopsies requiring examination by immunofluorescence microscopy. He has  
extensive knowledge and skills in this area.

In 2020 Dr. Popov MD earned a doctorate in medicine on the topic: "Prognostic and predictive  
morphological factors in urothelial carcinoma of the bladder".

He participated in two research projects as a doctoral student and a postdoctoral fellow, funded by  
the Science Fund.

Dr. Popov MD is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Union, the Bulgarian and European Society of Pathology and the Society of Renal Pathology

## II. Scientific indicators

The candidate Dr. Popov MD submitted for evaluation a total of 28 full-text publications in Bulgarian or English, as follows:

1. Dissertation work / doctorate on the topic: "Prognostic and predictive morphological factors in urothelial carcinoma of the bladder", defended in 2020.
2. Ten full-text scientific publications referenced journals, indexed in renowned databases with scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus), recognized by NACID under the Ministry of Education and Science - substitution for a monography
3. Nine full-text scientific publications (G7) in referenced and indexed journals
4. Eight full-text articles (G8) in non-refereed journals
5. One additional article, exceeding the minimum scientometric requirements
6. Additional abstracts from held oral presentations and posters (total 19) from various scientific forums

The publication activity of Dr. Popov MD covers a wide range of scientific topics in pathology, with an emphasis on the diagnosis of diseases of the excretory system. This direction includes the doctoral thesis and a large part of the full-text publications. The main goal of the dissertation work is the evaluation of microscopic signs of the most essential characteristic of urothelial carcinoma of the urinary bladder as a predictive marker of recurrence after its surgical removal. Dr. Popov MD found that easy-to-apply methods, such as considering tumor-associated tissue eosinophilia and/or mastocytosis, are statistically significant factors in the tumor microenvironment that represent a marker for local recurrence propensity.

In several articles, Dr. Popov MD is a part of a working group looking at the morphological aspects of the current topic during the pandemic - severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 COVID 19.

Most of the scientific projects include researchers from other medical specialties. This testifies Dr. Popov's ability to work in such an interdisciplinary environment. This fact indirectly testifies to the high evaluation of researchers from other specialties towards the expertise, skills and possibility of cooperation of Dr. Hr. Popov MD.

The scientometric indicators in the documentation submitted by the candidate and the Academic reference prepared by the Library of the University of Medicine - Varna correspond to the requirements of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the MU - Varna and are summarised in the following table:

Requirements (by group)	Content	Points required	Points of the candidate, based on his application
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	it is not required	
IN	Indicator 3 or 4	100	102,6
D	Sum of indicators 5-9	200	237,9
D	Sum of indicators 10-12	50	150

**Impact Factor** of Dr. Popov d.m. as of the date of the official reference was 17,691.

The comparison table clearly shows that the evidentiary material for scientific activity presented by the candidate meets the regulatory requirements for the position under the competition.

### **III. Evaluation of the teaching work of the candidate**

Dr. Popov MD is an established professor at MU-Varna with more than 11 years of teaching experience. He is respected by students and fellow professors.

### **IV. Clinical activity**

Dr. Popov MD has 12 years of work experience at UMBAL St. Marina - Varna in his specialty. Dr. Popov MD is proficient in the general methods of diagnostic pathology and makes efforts to follow the innovations in the specialty by participating in various scientific and teaching events in Bulgaria and abroad to maintain and improve his qualifications - diagnostic seminars, pedagogical courses, learning of methods and diagnostic algorithms. Relevant documentation is provided. Dr. Popov MD has particularly valuable knowledge in immunofluorescence microscopy, which is an indispensable method in the morphological diagnosis of renal and dermatological biopsies.

### **V. Conclusion**

The documentation submitted for this competition is in full and meets the procedural requirements for occupying the relevant academic position. The candidate's scientific output corresponds to the required criteria.

The overall assessment of the professional development, scientific performances and contribution, teaching activities, work with students is a solid base to suggest to the members of the Scientific Jury to elect Dr. Hristo Popov MD for the academic position "associate professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, specialty "General and Clinical Pathology" for the needs of the department "General and Clinical Pathology", faculty "Medicine", Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

28/05/2024

Prof. Dr. N. Sapundzhiev MD