

To the Career Development Center of MU-Varna

Review

From

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Regarding the procedure for holding the academic position of **Professor** in **7. Healthcare and sports** – higher education area, **7.1. Medicine** – professional field; **Obstetrics and Gynecology** speciality. The terms for the competition are published in the **State Gazette, issue 45 of 28.05.2024.**

The research and academic activity of **Assoc. Prof. Stanislav Hristov Slavchev, MD, DSC**, along with his scientific output was evaluated in view of the criteria for holding the position of Professor as stated by the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Regulations for its implementation, as well as according to the Rules and Regulations of for academic staff development of Medical University - Varna.

Biographical data

Assoc. Prof. Stanislav Hristov Slavchev, MD, DSC, completed his higher education at the Medical University – Varna in 1996. From 1999 to 2008, he was a resident physician at the Emergency Medical Care Centre –Varna and the Intensive Care unit at St. Anna Hospital – Varna. From 2006 to 2009 he specialised in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of MU-Varna. Since 2008, Dr. St. Slavchev has been an obstetrician-gynaecologist at the Clinic of Gynaecology at St. Anna Hospital – Varna. In 2009 he acquired his Certificate of Completion of Special Training in Obstetrics and Gynecology. His academic career began in 2011 as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of MU-Varna. In 2017 he defended his doctoral thesis on "The Role of Radical Hysterectomy with Pelvic and/or Aortic Lymph Node Dissection for Optimal Cytoreductive Surgery in Advanced Stage Epithelial Ovarian Cancer" which earned him a doctoral (PhD)

degree. In 2018, he was appointed a Senior Assistant Professor. In 2019, Slavchev became an Associate Professor in the same department. In 2022, he defended his post-doctoral thesis on "Enhanced Recovery after Surgery (Eras – Enhanced Recovery After Surgery Protocol) in Gynecologic Surgery" and obtained a Doctor of Science degree.

He is a member of BMA (Bulgarian Medical Association); BSOG (Bulgarian Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology); The Bulgarian Association of Gynaecologic Oncology (BAOG); The Bulgarian Association of Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery (BAMIRS). He speaks English, French and Russian.

While developing his expertise as an accomplished clinician and in the context of continuous medical training, Assoc. Prof. Slavchev has completed the following practical courses:

2009 – Ultrasound and Doppler Ultrasound Diagnostics;

2010 – Colposcopy and destructive treatment techniques of cervical precancerous lesions;

2010 – Diagnostic laparoscopy in gynaecology – 1st level;

2011 – High-Risk Childbirth;

2011 – Diagnostic laparoscopy in gynaecology – 2nd level;

2016 – Diagnostic Hysteroscopy – 1st level.

I. Analysis and evaluation of the candidate's research activity and scientific output

The materials submitted by the candidate for the present competition for holding the position of Professor reflect his research activity over the past 4 years (after obtaining the position of Associate Professor) and include **42 scientific papers** divided into 3 groups:

1. A post-doctoral thesis for the award of Doctor of Science degree – 1 pc.
2. Research papers in Bulgarian and international scientific journals – **34 pcs.** including **IF journals.**
3. Report briefs in **IF journals** presented at international congresses – 7 pcs.

All of the submitted 34 full-text articles were published in journals refereed in Web of Science and/or Scopus. Seven abstracts were published in high IF journals (Int J Gynecol Cancer). Ten of the full-text articles (B4.1 to B4.10) are presented as equivalent to a habilitation thesis according to indicator B4 of the minimum scientometric requirements (The Rules and Regulations for academic staff development of MU-Varna). These publications carry 131 scientometric points vs. the minimum required 100.

Assoc. Prof. Slavchev is the first author in 40 % (4 pcs.; No. 4, 5, 8, 9) of these publications. In the remaining 60% he is the second author (No. 6, 7, 10), and fourth author (№ 1, 2, 3). Six (60%) of the submitted publications have Impact Factor (IF): № 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, their total IF = 10.877 and were published in the past four years. The candidate Assoc. Prof. Slavchev is the first author in the IF publications (No. 5, from 2021 and No. 8, from 2020), the second author (No. 7, from 2020 and No. 10, from 2020) and the fourth author (No. 1, from 2023 and No. 2, from 2023). These details compellingly illustrate his involvement in the presented publications, as well as his lasting interests in specific areas of publication activity. Forty percent of the submitted publications contain original content created in a team (No. 4, 5, 7, 9), 40% represent a literature review combined with new research (No. 2, 3, 10), and three articles present clinical cases and a series of clinical cases of rarely encountered pathologies and anatomical variations (No. 1, 6, and 8).

The presented publications reflect the scientific interests of Assoc. Prof. Slavchev in the following areas:

- I.** Ovarian carcinoma (No. 4, 5, 9)
- II.** Pelvic anatomy and surgical techniques in gynaecology and obstetrics (No. 2, 3, 6, 10)
- III.** Primary multiplicity (No. 1, 7)
- IV.** Abnormal embryonic development of the female reproductive system (No. 8)

I. Evaluation of contributions in the field of *ovarian carcinoma*

- I.1.** Study of the optimal surgical management of ovarian carcinoma – original, theoretical and practical contribution (B4.4, B4.5, B4.9)

I.2. The significance of extended hysterectomy with a retroperitoneal approach for the better outcome of FIGO stage III-IV disease at a follow-up of at least 5 years is presented – a contribution of original, theoretical and applied nature (B4.9)

I.3. Lymphatic metastasis and the benefit of lymph node dissection in FIGO stage III-IV ovarian carcinoma have been investigated – a contribution of original, theoretical and applied nature (B4.4).

I.4. The predictive value of cardiovascular comorbidities and diabetes mellitus for poorer survival in ovarian carcinoma has been shown, thus providing a rationale for focusing on the most effective treatment of these comorbidities – a contribution of original, theoretical and applied nature (B4.5)

II. Evaluation of contributions in the field of *Pelvic anatomy and surgical techniques in gynaecology and obstetrics*

II.1. Detailed study and description of the radical hysterectomy with retroperitoneal approach by Hudson's method with the development of own illustrative material of all anatomical landmarks and structures and the steps of its performance (B4.2) – theoretical and practical-applied contribution.

II.2. Detailed study, systematization and presentation of the avascular areas, the steps of their development and the key anatomical structures in order to minimize complications in pelvic radical surgery (B4.10) – original, theoretical and applied contribution.

II.3. A minimally invasive ovarian transposition technique used for locally advanced cervical cancer was studied and demonstrated to be feasible (B4.3) – a theoretical and applied contribution.

II.4. A rare anatomical variation of the median sacral arteries that has significance in gynaecological pelvic surgery is presented (B4.6) – a theoretical and practical-applied contribution.

III. Evaluation of the contributions in the field of *Primary multiplicity*

III.1. The incidence of simultaneous diagnosis of cervical and endometrial cancer, the characteristics of the patients and the tumours in one centre over an 8-year period were analysed (Q4.7) – theoretical and applied contribution.

III.2. Literature data regarding primary female reproductive tract cancer multiplicity is reviewed and one case report is presented (Q4.1) – theoretical contribution.

IV. Evaluation of contributions in the field of *Abnormalities in the embryonic development of the female reproductive system*

IV.1. A series of 3 pregnancy cases with Uterus didelphys anomaly is presented to the scientific community, discussing the peculiarities during childbirth and the reasons for the increased frequency of Caesarean section deliveries (C4.8) – theoretical and applied contribution.

In summary, the research papers and publications make a theoretical contribution (B4.1, B4.2, B4.3, B4.4, B4.5, B4.6, B4.7, B4.8, B4.9, B4.10) and a practical-applied contribution (B4.2, B4.3, B4.4, B4.5, B4.6, B4.7, B4.8, B4.9, B4.10). Some research papers are original for Bulgaria (B4.4, B4.5, B4.9 and B4.10).

The remaining (beyond the 10 publications equivalent to a habilitation thesis) 31 scientific papers, of which 24 full-text articles and 7 published abstracts, focus on the following scientific topics:

I. Gynecologic oncology:

I.1. Ovarian carcinoma

I.2. Cervical carcinoma

I.3. Rare malignant tumours of the female reproductive system.

II. Minimally invasive surgery

III. Anatomical and technical aspects of gynaecological surgery

IV. Problems in pregnancy and childbirth

V. Rare conditions

From the presented scientific output, 16 of the full-text articles and 7 abstracts have been published in prestigious IF journals. The total impact factor of the full-text publications and reports published after Slavchev's election as Associate Professor is 63.477. (The impact factor

is calculated only for the scientific sources recognized by the Rules and Regulations of MU-Varna).

Assoc. Prof. Slavchev's scientific works have been cited in 32 literature sources (data accumulated after his election to Associate Professor) – scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world well-known databases of scientific information or monographs and collective volumes.

All these indicators are evidence of important research output that has enriched the international scientific community.

Assoc. Prof. Stanislav Slavchev has been a research supervisor of two doctoral students who successfully defended their PhD theses in the Obstetrics and Gynecology doctoral program and obtained a Philosophy Doctor degree.

The analysis of the Academic Reference shows that Assoc. Prof. Slavchev's scientometric indicators significantly exceed the minimum national requirements set out in the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Regulations for its implementation, as well as according to the Rules and Regulations of the Medical University – Varna for holding the academic position of Professor.

II. Evaluation of academic performance

The presented Academic Reference shows that Assoc. Prof. Slavchev has more than 10 years of teaching experience, having advanced through all academic levels. His teaching workload for the last 4 academic years is more than twice the norm. The candidate's teaching activity includes lectures and practical classes for medical, dental and midwifery students, and training sessions with internship physicians. He was the academic supervisor of 8 postgraduate students, three of whom had already successfully obtained the Obstetrics and Gynecology speciality.

III. Evaluation of diagnostic and therapeutic activities

Assoc. Prof. Slavchev, MD, DSC, is an obstetrician-gynaecologist with extensive practical experience and established authority among the scientific community and patients with various diseases in obstetrics and gynaecology. His practical experience and expertise extend to various significant areas in obstetrics and gynaecology such as: surgical treatment of benign and malignant gynaecological diseases; minimally invasive surgery; ERAS programme for

accelerated recovery after surgical treatment; complicated childbirth and pathology of pregnancy. He is one of the few modern obstetrician-gynaecologists who practice both obstetrics and gynaecology and is proficient in all highly specialized and high-surgical complexity techniques.

IV. Conclusion

The scientific production and scientometric indicators of Assoc. Prof. Stanislav Hristov Slavchev, MD, DSC, goes above and beyond the minimum requirements of the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Regulations for its implementation, and the Rules and Regulations of the Medical University – Varna for holding the academic position of Professor.

I confidently advocate for the approval of the Honourable Scientific Jury regarding the application of Assoc. Prof. Slavchev, MD, DSC, for the academic position of Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Medical University – Varna.

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