

To

The Chairman of the Scientific Jury,

Appointed by the order No. P-109-437/05.12.2024

of the Rector of the Medical University of Varna

STATEMENT

By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kalin Petrov Kalchev, PhD

Clinic of General and Clinical Pathology, University Hospital "Sveta Marina", Varna
Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine, and Deontology, Medical
University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna

This statement concerns the candidacy of

Dr. Martina Georgieva Stoeva, PhD

for the competition for the academic position of **"Associate Professor" in the specialty "General and Clinical Pathology"** in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports," professional field 7.1. "Medicine," announced in the State Gazette, issue 85/08.10.2024, with additional competition requirements:

- Candidates must hold a specialty in the healthcare system "General and Clinical Pathology" and
- A PhD degree in the doctoral program "Pathology and Cytopathology."

The competition is for two half-time positions at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine, and Deontology at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna, as well as one full-time position at the Clinic of General and Clinical Pathology, University Hospital "Sveta Marina", Varna..

I have been provided with the complete set of administrative documents required by the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Occupation of the Academic Position "Associate Professor" from the rules of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna, as described in the candidate's application to the Rector of the Medical University.

I. Career Development of the Candidate

Dr. Martina Stoeva was born on February 22, 1988, in Blagoevgrad.

In 2012, she obtained a Master's degree in Medicine from the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna. The following year, she began her specialization at the Clinic of General and Clinical Pathology, University Hospital "Sveta Marina", Varna.

In 2015, she was appointed as an adjunct assistant professor at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine, and Deontology of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna.

In 2017, she acquired the specialty "General and Clinical Pathology," was appointed as a regular assistant professor at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine, and Deontology of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna, and as a medical assistant at the Clinic of General and Clinical Pathology, University Hospital "Sveta Marina", Varna.

In 2022, she defended her dissertation on "Immunohistochemical Expression of the Necroptosis Marker RIPK3 in Breast Carcinoma," obtaining a PhD degree in the doctoral program "Pathoanatomy and Cytopathology." That same year, she was appointed as a senior assistant professor at the Department and a senior medical assistant at the Clinic of Pathology of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna.

The candidate's career development overview confirms that she meets the additional competition requirements: holding a specialty in "General and Clinical Pathology" and a PhD in the doctoral program "Pathoanatomy and Cytopathology."

II. Scientometric Indicators of Dr. Martina Stoeva

Over the years, Dr. Stoeva has published one monograph of 189 pages and over 22 scientific articles.

The minimum scientometric requirements are met by:

- A dissertation for obtaining a PhD, contributing 50 points in Indicator A1.
- A habilitation monograph, contributing 100 points in Indicator B3.
- 16 scientific publications in indexed databases (Web of Science and Scopus) reflecting research activity from 2016-2024, contributing 224.31 points in Indicators Γ7 and Γ8,

exceeding the minimum required 200 points. These include 10 full-text articles in indexed journals (Г7) and six articles in non-indexed journals (Г8). An additional article in an indexed international journal is presented beyond the mandatory ones.

- A total of 133 citations and self-citations in Bulgarian and foreign indexed and non-indexed journals, according to Google Scholar. Four citations in indexed journals contribute 60 points to Indicator Д10, exceeding the required 50 points.
- Five of the articles presented for the competition have an impact factor, with a cumulative impact factor of 5.5.

Dr. Stoeva has participated in five international and national scientific forums with five presentations.

She has been a team member of five postdoctoral research projects under the "Science Fund," including:

1. Project No. 16011 – "Experimental Study of the Effects of Biologically Active Substances from Plant Origin in a Metabolic Syndrome Model in Rats for Future Development of Pharmaceutical Products or Dietary Supplements."
2. Project No. 19004 - "Investigation of Immunohistochemical Marker Expression for Necroptosis in Breast Carcinoma."
3. Project No. 19034 - "Study of Plasma Levels and Expression of Leptin and Adiponectin for Their Applicability as Molecular Biomarkers in Colorectal Carcinoma."
4. Project No. 21002 - "Predictive and Prognostic Role of Immunohistochemical Expression of Apoptosis-Inducing Factor and RIPK3, a Necroptosis Marker in Renal Cell Carcinoma."
5. Project No. 21013 - "Investigation of Immunohistochemical Marker Expression for Apoptosis and Necroptosis in Basal Cell and Squamous Cell Carcinoma."

III. Scientific Work Contributions of Dr. Martina Stoeva

Her research primarily focuses on:

1. Prostate carcinoma
2. Rarely diagnosed diseases
3. Experimental morphology

4. Pathology of adipose tissue
5. Tumor and non-tumor diseases of the head and neck
6. Molecular mechanisms of carcinogenesis
7. Infectious diseases (one full-text publication beyond the minimum scientometric requirements)

The most significant contributions come from the first area of scientific production, represented by the monographic work and publications under Indicator $\Gamma 8$ of the academic report, Nos. 1 and 2. These works examine the morphological aspects of prostate carcinoma diagnostics.

The monograph "*Pathomorphology of Prostate Carcinoma*" is an extensive study on the normal development and anatomical characteristics of the prostate gland, as well as the etiology, pathogenesis, histological features, and classification of various prostate tumors, particularly prostate carcinoma. A comparative and correlational analysis is conducted between clinical, laboratory, imaging, and histological diagnostic and staging methods for prostate carcinoma, as well as the significance of certain histological differentiation types in relation to the progression and spread of prostate cancer.

This comprehensive approach to the diagnostic challenges of this malignant tumor makes this book a valuable resource in the diagnostic process and in the training of residents specializing in General and Clinical Pathology.

The other two scientific studies in this area largely overlap with the monographic work but also supplement it with updated information on recent advancements in the field of diagnostics and the selection of appropriate treatments for patients with prostate cancer.

The candidate's works in this scientific domain provide significant contributions, primarily of a scientific-practical nature, but also of scientific-theoretical importance.

The second area of contributions is based on three publications under Indicator $\Gamma 7$, Nos. 2, 4, and 5, which address diagnostic challenges in interesting and rare clinical cases. The contributions in this area are primarily of a scientific-practical nature.

The third area includes two articles under Indicator $\Gamma 7$, Nos. 1 and 3, related to experimental models studying morphological changes resulting from the effects of vitamin K on laboratory

animals. These contributions are of original scientific-practical significance.

The fourth research area is represented by two articles under Indicator $\Gamma 8$, Nos. 3 and 6, which present autopsy cases. The contributions in this field are of a scientific-practical nature.

In the fifth area, there are five publications under Indicator $\Gamma 7$, Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, as well as one under Indicator $\Gamma 8$, No. 4, some of which have international co-authors. These works focus on the diagnostics of head and neck tumors, including brain tumors.

In article $\Gamma 7$, No. 6, an automated method was used to assess the expression of the proliferation marker Ki-67 in the context of a global study on the role of Ki-67 in diagnosing malignant diseases. This study has a significant scientific-applied contribution due to the use of modern technologies. The remaining articles have scientific-practical, scientific-applied, and scientific-theoretical contributions.

The sixth area includes one publication— $\Gamma 8$, No. 5—which provides a review of the role of tetraspanin 151 in carcinogenesis. Its contribution is of original scientific-theoretical significance.

The seventh area is represented by a single article, published in 2021, which falls outside the minimum scientometric requirements for this competition. It was a timely study on morphological changes in the lungs due to COVID-19, with a significant scientific-practical contribution.

IV. Teaching and Academic Contributions

Dr. Stoeva has 9+ years of teaching experience as an assistant and senior assistant professor. She has consistently maintained a workload exceeding the university's required minimum.

She participates in teaching general and clinical pathology in Bulgarian and English for students in Medicine, Dental Medicine, and Medical Laboratory. She also participates in academic administrative activities as a Faculty Council member.

She is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association and the Bulgarian Society of Pathology.

Conclusion

Based on her career development, scientometric indicators, doctoral degree, research activity, and teaching experience, Dr. Martina Stoeva fully meets the requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna.

I declare my positive vote for awarding the academic position of **Associate Professor** to **Dr. Martina Stoeva** and recommend that the esteemed Scientific Jury also support this decision.

February 24, 2024

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kalin Kalchev, PhD

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