

SHORT REVIEW

from

Prof. Dr. Julian Ananiev, MD, PhD - Dean of the Medical Faculty, Trakia University, Head of 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-109-437/05.12.2024 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. 85 of 8.10.2024.

1. General

One candidate participated in the announced competition for the academic degree "**Associate Professor**" - Senior Assistant Professor Martina Georgieva Stoeva, PhD, member of the academic staff of the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology", Faculty of Medicine, MU Varna, as she submitted her 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. Martina Georgieva Stoeva, PhD was born on February 22, 1988 in Blagoevgrad. In 2006, she started her high school education in Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University - Varna, where she graduated in 2012. In the period 2019 - 2022, she is a PhD student at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology, specialty "Pathoanatomy and Cytopathology", Medical University - Varna with the topic of her thesis: "Immunohistochemical expression of the necroptosis marker RIPK3 in breast carcinoma". In 2018, she acquired a specialty in "General and Clinical Pathology", and in 2022 she she get a PhD degree. She works as a part-time assistant, assistant and chief assistant in the same department. She has conducted a number of courses related to the specialty. She is fluent in English.

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 Stoeva, PhD has PhD-thesis on the topic: "Immunohistochemical expression of the necroptosis marker RIPK3 in breast carcinoma".

The publications submitted for participation in the competition under items Г7 and Г8 are 16 in total, reflecting the scientific and research activities of Dr. Stoeva, PhD in the period between 2017 - 2024. The candidate has prepared a reference and presents the indicated number of scientific publications, distributed as follows:

- **habilitation work** - monograph B3 - "Pathomorphology of prostate carcinoma", Medical University - Varna, 2023, ISBN:978-619-221-469-2 - 100 points;
- **publications in journals referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases Г7** - 10, of which as first author or last author - 4 - 120.02 points;
- **publications in non-refereed journals Г8** - 6 publications, of which as first, last or single author - 4 - 104.29 points;
- **other publications** - 1 beyond the minimum scientometric indicators - 6 points;
- **citations** - a total of 4 - 60 points;

The documents – monograph, publications, list of participations in scientific forums, etc., show the deep and consistent interest of Dr. Stoeva, describing some of the areas of work and, as follows:

1) *Prostate carcinoma* – a detailed differential diagnosis between prostate adenocarcinoma and various benign lesions and normal anatomical structures is presented; novelties in the classification of prostate tumors; updating of modern approaches in diagnostics.

2) *Adipose tissue pathology* – in this group of scientific works of the candidate, the histological changes in white and brown adipose tissue in conditions of chronic cold exposure are described; description of light microscopic changes in internal organs in ARVD;

3) *Rarely diagnosed diseases* – the articles in this group have mainly scientific and practical contributions, presenting interesting and rarely encountered in clinical practice cases, such as: a case of a classic type of congenital mesoblast nephroma; metastasis in a crown of colon carcinoma; median cyst.

4) *Experimental morphology* – an experimental model of the effects of vit. K on and changes in the body of experimental animals is described.

5) *Infectious diseases* – presentation of histological changes in the lungs in COVID-19 viral infection.

6) *Molecular mechanisms of carcinogenesis* – description of the tetraspanin CD151 and its role in carcinogenesis.

7) *Tumor and non-tumor diseases of the head and neck* – a large number of articles in this group are devoted to the analysis and description of various tumor localizations, frequency distribution and their study with some IHC markers.

The presented areas and directions of scientific interest of Dr. Stoeva fully describe the in-depth interests and knowledge in the field of pathology, demonstrate the ability for detailed

research, creating hypotheses, recording and discussing morphological findings in the context of the established ideas or cases.

Dr. Stoeva, MD, indicates her attendances in a total of **5 international and national scientific forums** with oral or poster presentations.

The candidate also indicates attendances in **5 scientific research projects** related to: the effects of biologically active substances; IHC studies of necroptosis in breast cancer, renal cell carcinoma, basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma; studies of plasma levels and expression of leptin and adiponectin in colorectal carcinoma.

Based on the references thus indicated by the candidate, it is evident that Senior Asst. Dr. Martina Georgieva Stoeva, PhD, fully covers the required indicators and the relevant points.

4. Educational and teaching activity

Dr. Stoeva, MD has a sufficiently long teaching experience and is a well-established teacher, having gradually held the positions of part-time assistant, assistant and chief assistant. Based on the specified reference for teaching experience, it is visible that she conducts lectures and exercises in Bulgarian and exercises in English. For the last five academic years, the teaching and workload at the Faculty of Medicine of MU-Varna is as follows: 2019/2020 – 300 academic hours; 2020/2021 – 266 academic hours; 2021/2022 – 182 academic hours; 2022/2023 – 152 academic hours; 2023/2024 – 434 academic hours. The norm by decision of the AC of MU-Varna per year corresponds to 220 hours per year.

Dr. Stoeva, PhD, was awarded the certificate "Favorite Teacher of the Class of 2022".

The academic workload is in accordance with the accepted requirements of the higher education institution, and her commitment to the education of medical students is also demonstrated by their attitude and evaluation of her work.

5. Clinical and diagnostic activity

I have known Dr. Martina Stoeva for several years, and over that period I have formed the opinion that she is a well-developed specialist pathologist with in-depth interests in certain areas of pathology and expertise in them. Her biography shows that she has qualifications and experiences in the specialty of over 7 years and 6 months as a physician, assistant physician and chief assistant physician, which on the one hand is a prerequisite for her good work, and on the other - a future basis for development in new areas of clinical pathology.

6. Conclusion

Based on the above, I can summarize that, based on the submitted documents, the candidate - **Dr. Martina Georgieva Stoeva, PhD**, is a highly accomplished scientist and lecturer, as well as a pathologist, who combines precise diagnostic work, teaching 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 short review and will confidently vote "Positive" 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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