

## **OPINION**

By Prof. Zhelyazko Iliev Arabadzhiev, MD, PhD, Head of the Clinic of Medical Oncology, Acibadem City Clinic, Tokuda University Hospital

Regarding: Competition for the academic position of “Professor” in the field of higher education 7. “Healthcare and Sports,” professional field 7.1. “Medicine,” scientific specialty “Oncology,” for the needs of the Department of Oncology, Faculty of Medicine at Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna, and the Clinic of Medical Oncology at University Hospital “St. Marina”

### **Brief information about the competition**

By Order No. R-109-71/28.01.2026 of the Rector of the Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna, by decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine (Protocol No. 52/12.01.2026), on the basis of Art. 4, para. 1 and para. 2, Art. 29a, para. 1 of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, Art. 6, para. 1 and Art. 139, para. 1 and para. 3 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at Medical University – Varna, I was elected as a member of the Scientific Jury in connection with the competition announced in State Gazette No. 102/28.11.2025 for the academic position of “Professor.”

According to Protocol No. 1/10.02.2026, I was assigned to prepare an opinion.

The only candidate participating in the competition is Assoc. Prof. Eleonora Georgieva Dimitrova-Gospodinova, MD, PhD.

### **Brief information about the candidate**

Assoc. Prof. Eleonora Georgieva Dimitrova-Gospodinova, MD, PhD was born in 1972 in Varna. In 1996 she graduated from Medical University – Varna with full honors. She began work in 1997 as a resident physician at the Clinic of Pulmonology and Phthysiatry at MHAT “St. Marina” – Varna. In 2002 she acquired a specialty in Internal Medicine. In 2004 she acquired a specialty in Pulmonology and Phthysiatry. In 2008, after acquiring a specialty in Oncology, she joined the Clinic of Medical Oncology at University Hospital “St. Marina” – Varna, where she continues to work to this day. Since 2015 she has been a lecturer at MU-Varna, successively as Assistant, Chief Assistant, and Associate Professor at the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine, serving as Head of Department from 2018 to 2020. In 2020 she headed the newly established Department of Oncology and continues to serve as its Head.

From 2014 to 2017 she was a full-time doctoral student at the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine, and in 2017 she successfully defended a dissertation titled “Expression of Beclin 1 as a Marker of Autophagy and Its Prognostic and Predictive Value in Patients with Metastatic Colorectal Carcinoma,” obtaining the educational and scientific degree “Doctor (PhD).”

Assoc. Prof. Eleonora Dimitrova-Gospodinova, MD, PhD is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, Bulgarian Oncology Scientific Society, and ESMO.

### **Research activity**

For participation in the competition for the academic position of “Professor,” the candidate presents the following scientific output:

Dissertation titled “Expression of Beclin 1 as a Marker of Autophagy and Its Prognostic and Predictive Value in Patients with Metastatic Colorectal Carcinoma” (Indicator A1)

Monograph “Personalized Approach in Patients with Colorectal Carcinoma” (Indicator B3)

11 publications and reports published in scientific journals indexed and abstracted in internationally recognized scientific databases, with abstracts in Bulgarian and English (Indicator G7)

10 publications and reports published in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals (Indicator G8), with abstracts in Bulgarian and English

Citations reflecting the candidate's scientific activity — 113 (Indicator D10)

The main areas covered by the presented scientific works are:

Colorectal carcinoma — pathways of genomic instability, tumor microenvironment, RAS mutation status among the Bulgarian patient population, immunotherapy of CRC

Breast carcinoma — frequency of PIK3CA mutations, prognostic role

Lung carcinoma — impact of patients' distance from the oncology center on clinical outcomes

Genetics and oncology

Contemporary therapeutic options for the treatment of certain solid tumors

### **Clinical experience**

To date, Assoc. Prof. Eleonora Dimitrova, MD, PhD has published two monographs with a total volume of 284 pages and more than 60 articles and reports as author and co-author with a total volume exceeding 500 pages. She is the sole author of four publications, first author of one, second author of one, third author of four publications, etc.

The reported total Impact Factor of the journals in which the candidate has publications submitted for the competition is 153.00.

### **Teaching activity**

Assoc. Prof. Eleonora Dimitrova-Gospodinova, MD, PhD teaches the disciplines Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine and Oncology, conducting practical exercises and lectures for medical students, organizing and participating in the semester examination in Oncology, and serving as chair of a state examination commission in Internal Medicine. Over the past five years she has delivered 1,521 teaching hours, far exceeding the required standard. She is a member of state examination committees for obtaining a specialty in Oncology. She participates in the training of interns during their pre-graduation clinical practice. She trains young physicians and supervises the specialization of four physicians who have already obtained a specialty and two current residents. She has supervised five successfully defended PhD students and currently supervises six active doctoral candidates. Since 2020 she has taught the core course "Selected Chapters in Internal Medicine, Parts I and II" for residents in medical oncology.

### **Diagnostic and therapeutic activity**

As a specialist in Internal Medicine and Oncology, Assoc. Prof. Eleonora Dimitrova-Gospodinova, MD, PhD actively participates in the diagnostic and therapeutic activities of the Clinic of Medical Oncology, related to comprehensive care for oncology patients. She is a member and long-standing secretary of the Hospital Oncology Committee, a member of the Chemotherapy Oncology Committee, the committees for endocrine therapy assignment, and subcommittees for CNS tumors, urogenital tumors, and head and neck tumors. She is also a member of the Committee for Control of Quality, Safety, and Rational Use of Blood and Blood Components, as well as of the Medical Control Committee at University Hospital "St. Marina" EAD.

### **Conclusion**

Assoc. Prof. Eleonora Dimitrova-Gospodinova, MD, PhD is an established specialist in the field of medical oncology. She is respected by her colleagues and by the students she teaches. The presented scientific output is sufficient in volume, meets the minimum national requirements, demonstrates diverse scientific and professional interests, and complies with the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria, its implementing regulations, and the Regulations for Academic Staff Development of Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna. This gives me grounds to provide my positive assessment and to propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote in favor of awarding the academic position of "Professor" to Assoc. Prof. Eleonora Dimitrova-Gospodinova, MD, PhD.

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