

Opinion

Prepared by:

Prof. Lazar Jelev Slavov, MD, PhD, Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, Medical University - Sofia.

Subject:

Competition for two vacancies for the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sport", professional field 7.1. "Medicine" and scientific specialty "Anatomy, Histology and Cytology" for the needs of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, according to the order of the Rector of MU - Varna № R-109-224 / 26.07.2024.

Participants who submitted documents for participation in the competition: Chief Assist. Prof. Desislava Marinova Marinova, MD, PhD and Chief Assist. Prof. Meglena Valdemarova Angelova, MD, PhD.

The opinion was prepared in accordance with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LADAB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LADAB and the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

1. Biographical data and career development

1.1. Dr. Desislava Marinova received her Master's degree in Medicine from the Medical University - Varna in 2006. After a competitive examination in 2007 she took the position of Assistant Professor at the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology of the Medical University - Varna. In June 2012 Dr. Desislava Marinova was enrolled for a PhD - free form at the Department. In December 2012 she obtained a speciality in Anatomy, Histology and Cytology. In 2014, Dr. Marinova successfully defended her dissertation entitled "Proliferation and differentiation of progenitor cells in adult primate spinal cord". After a competition in 2015, the candidate took the Academic position of Chief Assist. Professor. For the period 2011-2014, Dr. Marinova was the responsible person for the Cadaver dissection sector of the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology of MU - Varna. For the period 2012 - 2014 she was the course coordinator of the second-year English-speaking students of Medicine. In 2022, the candidate obtained an additional qualification in Digital Skills. Dr. Marinova is fluent in English.

1.2. Dr. Meglena Angelova graduated from the Master's Program in Medicine at Medical University - Varna in 2003. From 2003 to 2006 she worked as a physician at the Emergency Care Center of Shumen, branch of Novi Pazar Public Hospital. After a competitive examination in 2006,

Dr. Angelova took the position of Assistant Professor at the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, Medical University - Varna. She obtained her specialty in Anatomy, Histology and Cytology in 2009. Consecutively the candidate held the positions of Senior Assist. Professor (2010) and Chief Assist. Professor (2011). Enrolled in 2014 as an PhD student, free form, Dr. Angelova successfully defended in 2015 her dissertation entitled "Analysis of progenitor cells during pallium development in human ". Since 2021, Dr. Angelova is the Administrative Coordinator of the department. In 2022, the candidate obtained an additional qualification in Digital Skills. Dr. Angelova is fluent in English.

2. Research achievements evaluation

2.1. Dr. Desislava Marinova submitted for participation in the competition - 1 dissertation, 14 full-text articles, 1 monograph, 1 book for students and 17 participations in national and international scientific forums.

Of the 14 full-text articles submitted - 9 have been published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information; 5 articles have been published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals. In 4 of the publications Dr. Marinova is the first author. The publications have been cited 4 times. The presented scientific works are thematically divided into the following scientific areas - Neuroanatomy and neurogenesis, Anatomical variations, Anatomical features of the human foot.

A monograph entitled "Analysis of Proliferative Processes in Mammalian Intact Spinal Cord", 2024, authored by Dr. Desislava Marinova, total volume of 147 pages and reviewers Prof. Dr. Anton Bozhidarov Tonchev and Prof. Dr. Vanya Goranova Stefovskva was submitted for the competition. The monograph briefly summarizes the scientific information of the last 60 years regarding the quantitative analysis, phenotyping and tracking of the long-term fate of stem/progenitor cells in intact mammalian spinal cord under normal, injury-free conditions, which analysis can be the basis for future cell replacement therapy in congenital and acquired spinal cord diseases.

Dr. Marinova is co-author of a book entitled Human Anatomy Tests for Nursing Students, Medical University - Varna, 2023, ISBN 978-619-221-457-9.

2.2. Dr. Meglena Angelova submitted for the competition - 1 dissertation, 19 full-text articles, 1 monograph, 1 book for students, 2 research projects and 18 participations in national and international scientific forums.

Of the 19 full-text articles submitted - 8 have been published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information; 11 articles have been published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals. In 3 of the publications Dr. Angelova is the first author. The publications have been cited 4 times. Thematically, the presented scientific papers and the results of the candidate's research work are divided into the following scientific areas - Neuroanatomy and

neurogenesis, Anatomical variations, Cytology and reproductive health, Anatomical features of the human foot.

A monograph entitled "Anatomical features of the human foot", 2024, with author Dr. Meglena Angelova, total volume of 139 pages and reviewers Prof. Dr. Vanya Goranova Stefovskia and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Pavlov Pavlov, was submitted for the competition. The anatomical features and variations of the human foot with its functions and biomechanics are analyzed in this work. The most common methods of foot typing and examination are described, and proprietary data on foot types in the Bulgarian population according to various anthropometric indices and measurements are included.

Dr. Angelova is co-author of a book entitled Human Anatomy Tests for Nursing Students, Medical University - Varna, 2023, ISBN 978-619-221-457-9.

Dr. Meglena Angelova participated in a research project entitled "Expression of some transcription factors in progenitor cells during human pallium development" and was the leading researcher of a research project entitled "Foot types in Bulgaria: frequency and clinical correlations in people in the age group 18-64 years".

3. Evaluation of teaching activities

3.1. Dr. Desislava Marinova has more than 16 years of experience in the Department of Anatomy, including more than 8 years as a Chief Assistant Professor. The average hourly workload of lectures and seminars of Dr. Marinova is over 550 hours per year. She has conducted practical exercises in the discipline "Cytology, General Histology and General Embryology" in Bulgarian and English for first-year students, specialty "Medicine", practical exercises in the discipline "Human Anatomy and Histology" in Bulgarian and English for first- and second-year students, specialty "Medicine" and "Dentistry", practical exercises in the discipline "Human Anatomy" for first-year students, specialty "Pharmacy", lecture course and practical classes in the discipline "Human Anatomy" for first-year Nursing students, MU-Varna, branches Sliven, V. Tarnovo and Shumen, lecture course and practical classes in the discipline "Human Anatomy" for first-year students of the specialty "Dental Technician", preparatory course in Human Anatomy for students of the specialty "Medicine".

3.2. Dr. Meglena Angelova has more than 17 years of experience in the Department of Anatomy, of which 13 years as Chief Assistant Professor. The average hourly workload of lectures and exercises of Dr. Angelova is over 550 hours per year. She has conducted practical exercises in the discipline "Human Anatomy and Histology" in Bulgarian and English for first- and second-year students of "Medicine" and "Dentistry", practical exercises in the discipline "Human Anatomy" for first-year students majoring in "Pharmacy", classes in the discipline "Human Anatomy" for first-year

students Nursing students, classes in the discipline "Human Anatomy" for first-year students majoring in "Dental Technician".

CONCLUSION

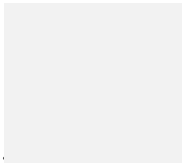
From the analysis of the submitted documents it is clear that Chief Assistant Professor Desislava Marinova Marinova, MD, PhD, and Chief Assistant Professor Meglena Valdemarova Angelova, MD, PhD, meet the mandatory conditions for holding the academic position of Associate Professor under the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna. Candidates show consistency in their career progression, meet the required science metrics and possess the required level of expertise in the areas of assessment.

Group of indicators	Content	Assoc. Prof. MU-Varna	Chief Assist. Prof. Desislava Marinova Marinova, MD, PhD	Chief Assist. Prof. Meglena Valdemarova Angelova, MD, PhD
A	Indicator 1	50	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-	-
C	Indicators 3 or 4	100	100	100
D	Sum of Indicators 5-9	200 (for NCS ≥ 80)	201.29	209.74
E	Sum of Indicators 10-12	50	60	60
F	Sum of Indicators 13-22	-		
Min. total required sum		400	411.29	419.74

On the basis of the above, I confidently give my **positive assessment** of the two candidates and propose the members of the scientific jury **to vote positively** for the election of Chief Assistant Professor Desislava Marinova Marinova, MD, PhD, and Chief Assistant Professor Meglena Valdemarova Angelova, MD, PhD, for the Academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific specialty "Anatomy, Histology and Cytology" for the needs of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

10.09.2024

Sofia

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Prof. Lazar Jelev Slavov, MD, PhD