

## REVIEW

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Subject: Competition for the academic position «Associate Professor» in the field of higher education 7. „Health and sport, ”, professional direction 7.1. „Medicine” and scientific specialty „General and clinical pathology” for the needs of Department “General and clinical pathology, forensic medicine and deontology” in the Faculty of Medicine at Medical University of Varna, announced in the State Newspaper № 53/12.06.2020.

According to the order of the Rector of Medical University of Varna № R-109-305/07.08.2020 and Protocol № 26/13.07.2020 of the Faculty Council in Medicine at Medical University of Varna I have been appointed to participate in the Scientific Jury of the above mentioned competition, and according to the decision of the first meeting of the Scientific Jury (protocol № 1) I was elected for an reviewer of the competition procedure for the academic position «Associate Professor» in the scientific specialty „General and clinical pathology” .

The only one candidate admitted to the participation in the competition is Deyan Ljudmilov Djenkov, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor at the Department “General and clinical pathology, forensic medicine and deontology” in the Faculty of Medicine, Medical University of Varna. The received set of the materials on paper/electronically (USB) of me fully met the requirements of the announced competition for the academic position «Associate Professor» in General and clinical pathology at Medical university of Varna.

### *Career development*

Dr. Deyan Djenkov completed his medical education in the Faculty of Medicine at Trakia University of Stara Zagora in 1999. He is a medical doctor with long years of service, with over 20 years professional experience. His professional experience included two stages –as a hospital doctor in the Department of pathoanatomy at the District Hospital of Silistra for a period of 7 years and since 2006, and until now – as Assistant Professor at the Department “General and clinical pathology, forensic medicine and deontology” in the Faculty of Medicine, Medical University of Varna and

as pathologist in the Clinics of General and clinical pathology at University Hospital "St. Marina" of Varna. He has acquired specialty in general and clinical pathology since 2008. He has defended dissertation for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in 2019 on topic "Expression of the transcription factor ZBTB20 in glial tumors of central nervous system". Dr. Djenkov has been presented certificates, certifying participation in 6 national and international postgraduate courses in the field of clinical pathology, oncology, pedagogical principles of academic education and others.

### *Research activity*

Dr. Djenkov participated in the competition with a total of 37 scientific publications, distributed as follows:

- Dissertation abstract -1 and
- 36 full text publications, not related with the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", which are divided in 4 groups according to the NACID classification in the following way: 11 scientific publications, referenced and indexed in the world-famous scientific information databases Scopus и Web of Science, equivalent to monographic work; 9 scientific publications, referenced and indexed in the same world-famous scientific information databases, not included in the first group of papers; 13 scientific publications, referenced but not indexed in the world-famous scientific information databases and 3 scientific publications, outside the mandatory number in accordance to the minimal national requirements. The total number of publications in Bulgarian scientific journals was 11/36 (30%), significantly lower compared to that in foreign scientific journals - 24/36 (70%). Dr Djenkov is the first or independent author in 3 (8%) of the presented publications, second – in 6 (16%), and third or consecutive author –in 26 (76%).

Dr. Djenkov has 15 participations in national and international scientific forums, not related with the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". He is a project manager of one research project, funded by MU-Varna in 2019 on topic „Predictive and prognostic markers in glioblastoma multiforme ".

The academic reference of citations presented by the library of MU-Varna showed that the publications of Dr. Djenkov are cited a total of 42 times as 34 of the citations are in scientific journals referenced and indexed in the world-famous scientific

information databases, 2 – in monographs and collective tomes with scientific review, and 6 – in scientific journals, referenced but not indexed in the world-famous scientific information databases. In all presented materials of me, I found no information regarding the impact factor of his publications.

The scientific contributions of Dr. Djenkov's publications are in different fields of clinical pathology. A predominant part of his research activity, including PhD thesis, is dedicated on CNS tumors, especially glial tumors. An overall analysis of the prevalence, severity and clinical-morphological characteristics of primary brain tumors, mainly glioblastoma, was done. The expression of transcription factor ZBTB20 and its relationship with survival was studied in patients with gliomas. The proliferation index Ki 67 and its relationship with the grade of tumor differentiation and patients' prognosis was also evaluated. In one study the diagnostic value of cytokeratins (AE1/AE3) and EMA in primary and metastatic brain tumors was explored. From practical point of view the estimated antigenic mimicry of GFAP and the above mentioned epithelial markers may be the reason for some difficulties in the differential diagnosis between metastasis and glial tumors. Other part of the presented publications of Dr. Djenkov is dedicated on morphologic studies of malignant tumors with different location (outside of CNS) as those of head and neck, gastric adenocarcinomas in young patients and their precursor lesions in the neighbourhood of the tumor, esophageal and pancreatic carcinoma and others. As proof of the wide range of scientific interests of Dr. Djenkov are the publications with theoretical-applied contribution, related with detailed clinical-morphological description of cases with rare tumor and non tumor diseases in the fields of gynecology and obstetrics, gastroenterology, respiratory medicine. A particular interest in the field of diagnostic pathology have the scientific studies related with the preparation of cell blocks from body effusions and application of immunocytochemistry in the diagnostics of pleural/peritoneal carcinosis as well as those related with the use of different techniques for video documentation, which can bring benefits in the students or postgraduate students practical education in pathology or as documented evidence in forensic medicine.

#### *Teaching activity*

Dr. Djenkov has over 14 years teaching experience as university lecturer in general and clinical pathology on students in medicine, dental medicine and pharmacy,

Bulgarian and English language. The presented reference for his teaching activity showed that during the last 4 years it is over the accepted hour requirements of 220 h/per academic year for assistants professors in Medical University-Varna. Along the line of postgraduated education, Dr Djenkov is appointed as a head of specialization of one post graduate student in general and clinical pathology, carrying out his practical education at the University Hospital "St. Marina" of Varna.

#### *Diagnostic-therapeutic activity*

Dr. Djenkov is an outstanding medical practitioner in general and clinical pathology, with extensive clinical experience. Every day he performs routine diagnostic work in the Clinics of general and clinic pathology at University Hospital "St. Marina" of Varna, including autopsy and biopsy examinations in different fields of tumor and non tumor pathology with scientific rigor and competence. He takes an active part in the practical training of the post graduate students in general and clinical pathology in Medical University of Varna.

#### *Conclusion*

Based on the above mentioned data I accept that the career development, research, teaching and diagnostic-therapeutic activities of the candidate –Dr. Deyan Djenkov go beyond the minimal national requirements and fully meet the criteria for taking the position "Associate Professor" according to the Law for development of academic staff of Republic Bulgaria, the Rules for its implementation and the Rules for the structure and activity of Medical University-Varna. I recommend to the honoured members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for Dr. Deyan Ljudmilov Djenkov, PhD to take the academic position "Associate Professor in scientific specialty General and clinical pathology for the needs of Department "General and clinical pathology, forensic medicine and deontology" in the Faculty of Medicine at Medical University of Varna.

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