

STATEMENT

by Professor Peter Ivanov Ghenev, MD, PhD

Department of General and Clinical Pathology,

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RE: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in General and Clinical Pathology, in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, and scientific specialty "General and Clinical Pathology", published in the State Gazette (#53/12.06.2020) and on an approved proposal by the Council of the Faculty of Medicine, (Protocol №26/13.07.2020), for the needs of the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at Medical University - Varna.

With order № (P-109-305/07.08.2020) of the Rector of MU-Varna, I was elected a member of the Scientific Jury, and based on Protocol №1/10.06.2020 of the meeting of the Scientific Jury, I was appointed as a Chairman of the Jury and to prepare a statement on the procedure for obtaining the academic position of "Associate Professor" with a candidate assistant Dr. Deyan Lyudmilov Dzhenev, MD, PhD. He is the only candidate for the competition and at present he occupies the position of Administrative Assistant Professor at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology, Medical University - Varna.

Analysis of the applicant's career profile

Dr. Deyan Dzhenkov was born on March 31, 1973 in the town of Dobrich. He graduated from the St. Kliment Ohridski High School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics - Silistra in a profiled biology class (1987-1991). In 1999 he graduated with a master's degree in Medicine at the Thracian University, Faculty of Medicine, Stara Zagora. In the period 10.12.1999-20.03.2006 he worked as an intern in the Department of Pathoanatomy at MHAT "Silistra".

Since 2006, after a competition, he has been elected a full-time assistant at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at the Medical University - Varna. He has a recognized specialty "Pathology and Cytopathology" from February 18, 2008. At the department, Dr. Dzhenkov gradually has found his scientific interests, mainly in the field of pathology of the nervous system and the biological behavior of tumors. Since 2016, he has been enrolled as a doctoral student in independent training and has started his work over a dissertation on the topic: "Expression of transcription factor ZBTB20 in glial tumors of the central nervous system", which he successfully defended in 2019 and obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in scientific specialty: Pathoanatomy and Cytopathology (diploma № 340 from 23.05.2019 MU-Varna)

Dr. Dzhenkov has more than 20 years of experience as a pathologist, 14 of which are related to teaching - only in the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at MU - Varna.

Over the years, Dr. Dzhenkov has made serious efforts to improve his skills in diagnostic pathology - he has regularly attended courses, diagnostic

seminars and other forms of postgraduate training on various topics in the country and abroad.

Currently, Dr. Dzhenkov holds the position of administrative assistant at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at MU-Varna.

Scientometric data

Dr. Deyan Dzhenkov presented for evaluation a total of 37 full-text publications in Bulgarian or English, distributed as follows:

- dissertation on the topic: "Expression of transcription factor ZBTB20 in glial tumors of the central nervous system"
- 11 publications, equivalent to a monograph, referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science
- 9 publications in referenced and indexed in the same database
- 13 publications in unreferenced journals with scientific review
- 3 publications, outside the mandatory ones to meet the minimum requirements

The main scientific achievements in the dissertation are related to the attempt to clarify the biological behavior of *glioblastoma multiforme* and in particular to the role of the transcription factor ZBTB20 in this regard. The localization of the immunohistochemical expression of ZBTB20 on biopsy materials from gliomas with different degrees of differentiation was determined. The obtained results establish new facts and enrich existing knowledge about the pathogenesis of glial tumors. This allows glial tumors to be further stratified to better assess prognostic and therapeutic options.

The successful defense of the dissertation is evidence that Criterion A of the minimum requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor", according to ZRASRB is met.

Dr. Dzhenkov presents 11 publications as an equivalent to a monographic work, some of which are a continuation of the topic of the dissertation. Several studies have examined various aspects in the biopsy diagnosis of glioblastomas: the importance of CK AE1 / AE3, EMA and Ki-67; a diagnostic algorithm is proposed; morphological, genetic and epigenetic data have been traced historically. The other publications in this group are case reports.

Dr. Dzhenkov presented a list of 9 full-text publications, referenced and indexed in world databases (SCOPUS and WEB of Science). According to the Academic Reference from the Library of MU - Varna, 10 publications meet these requirements. Most of them are case descriptions, again mainly in the field of neuropathology. Of particular interest is the article on Hans Joachim Scherer's contribution to the determination of some of the rhythmic structures in the histological picture of *glioblastoma multiforme*. Although the emphasis is on the historical plan, the detailed description of the histological findings is definitely modern.

To Criterion D, Dr. Dzhenkov has included 13 more publications, printed in full text in non-referenced journals. Apart from neuropathology, these publications cover other areas of oncopathology as well as issues related to the teaching of pathology.

It is noteworthy that publications 3c and 11c are printed in Cureus, a journal that is referenced and indexed in world databases. This is irrelevant,

because in Criterion D the two groups are reported together and the sum of points is approximately 210 (Academic reference from the Library) - above the minimum requirements for the academic position of "associate professor" (200 points), which means that Criterion D is fulfilled.

Beyond the minimum requirements, Dr. Dzhenkov presents three other articles in full text, two of which are published in peer-reviewed journals (Cureus, Glioma) and could accordingly be reported to Criterion D.

Dr. Dzhenkov provided documentation confirming a total of 42 citations: 2 - in monographs; 34 in peer-reviewed scientific journals and 6 - in non-peer-reviewed journals. These data are also well above the minimum scientometric requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor" and cover Criterion E.

Personal impressions of the candidate

I have known Dr. Dzhenkov for about 15 years, from the time when he began specialization in pathology at the University Hospital "St. Marina" - Varna. I have witnessed his first steps, both in diagnostic pathology and in scientific activity. As a specialist he presented himself very well and showed personal qualities - curiosity, performance, ability to work in a team, precision and responsibility in daily diagnostics, which he continues to improve, already as an assistant and specialist.

CONCLUSION


The documentation submitted for the Competition corresponds to the procedural requirements in the normative documents. The scientific production of the candidate meets the necessary criteria. I accept the contributions without remarks.

The candidate has the necessary theoretical knowledge, professional skills and conceptual vision to generate a scientific idea, to assemble a team to find the right way to implement it, as well as to draw useful conclusions for diagnostic practice, ie. all the necessary qualities for conducting independent research and guiding doctoral students.

In addition, the candidate has the professional qualities and the pedagogic experience to meet the new challenges of habilitation.

For these reasons, I am voting positively in favor of Dr. Deyan Dzhenkov to receive the academic position of "Associate Professor" for the needs of the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at the Medical University - Varna.

07.10.2020
Varna

Signature: 
Prof. Dr. Peter Ghenev PhD