

*To the Chief of the Scientific Jury
Appointed with order № P- 109- 318/07.10.2019 год.
Of the Rector of Medical University – Varna*

STATEMENT

by

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ES of Urology, Department of Surgical Diseases

Faculty of Medicine, Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov”, Varna

A member of the scientific jury for the competition for the occupation of an academic position "Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette no. 62/06.08.2019 in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports", professional field 7.1 "Medicine" and scientific specialty "Obstetrics and Gynecology", for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine "Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology" at the Medical University - Varna and Gynecology Clinic at MHAT "St. Anna" - Varna.

By order of the Rector of Medical University - Varna No № P- 109- 318/07.10.2019. I have been selected to issue an opinion for the purposes of the above competition. The procedure for announcing the competition is in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria/05.05.2018 and with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Medical University-Varna/29.10.2018. In the competition is participating Dr Stanislav Hristov Slavchev, MD, who presents a complete set of paper and electronic documents in accordance with the Regulation.

Brief CV data for the applicant

Dr. Stanislav Hristov Slavchev graduated with a degree in medicine from the Medical University of Varna in 1996. In 2009 he acquired a specialty in Obstetrics and Gynecology. He has been practicing in the specialty since 2008, when he was admitted to the Gynecology Clinic at the MHAT "St. Anna" - Varna. Dr. Slavchev has additional professional qualifications in highly specialized activities: ultrasound and Doppler diagnostics in Obstetrics and Gynecology, diagnostic laparoscopy in gynecology I and II levels, diagnostic hysteroscopy, colposcopy and destructive treatment of precancerous lesions of the cervix.

In 2016, Dr. Stanislav Slavchev acquired an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" after defending a thesis on "The role of radical hysterectomy with iliac and/or para-aortic lymph dissection for optimal cytoreduction in advanced epithelial ovarian carcinoma."

Applicant's research activities

☐ *Monograph on the topic: "Early Detection and Treatment of Carcinomas of the Female Reproductive System. Contemporary Aspects" - 2018, edition City Center - Varna.*

☐ *Full-text publications in scientific journals referenced or indexed by WOS or Scopus databases - 9 items.*

☐ *Full-text publications in non-refereed journals with a scientific review - 12 issues*

☐ *Articles in non-refereed journals with a scientific review beyond the minimum state requirements - 3 issues.*

☐ *Participation in international, national, and regional scientific events - 4; participation in student forums as a leader of young researchers - 1.*

Dr. Stanislav Slavchev is a sole author in 1 scientific paper, first author in 3 publications and third and subsequent author in 18 scientific papers.

The information from the academic inquiry for citations by foreign and Bulgarian authors shows citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information - 5 and non-refereed journals with scientific review-1.

Main highlights in the research of the applicant

Dr. Slavchev's research activities focus on the following main areas:

The main topic is the area of oncological diseases in gynecological practice. The applicant's monographic work examines the six primary cancers of the female reproductive system - vulvar carcinoma, vaginal carcinoma, cervical carcinoma, endometrial carcinoma, ovarian carcinoma, fallopian tube carcinoma. The monograph presents the achievements of modern science in the pathogenesis, classification, staging, diagnostic, and therapeutic options for each of the cancers. The focus of the scientific work is the novelty of screening and early diagnosis. Knowledge of precancerous lesions in terms of their macroscopic and histological characteristics, classification, ways for diagnosis, and treatment employing modern methods is discussed and summarized in detail.

Another priority of Dr. Slavchev's scientific interest is ovarian cancer in an advanced stage which survival remains low despite advances in systemic and surgical treatment. This topic has been thoroughly explored in the candidate's

thesis, and a part of the results are presented in a single publication. The study aimed to find a link between survival and various factors associated with advanced ovarian cancer. The study focuses on the lymph node metastasis, invasion of the retroperitoneal pelvic structures, the type of hysterectomy, and the extent of lymph node dissection, and the prognostic factors for survival.

Cervical carcinoma of stages IB1, IB2, and II is another the subject of research of the applicant. Lymphatic spread and lymphovascular space invasion have been studied, and their negative relationship with survival has been established. The studies put emphasis on the need for lymph node dissection and adjuvant chemotherapy at these stages of cervical cancer.

The topic of some rare histologic variants of cervical carcinoma - Warty carcinoma and lymphoepithelioma-like carcinoma - is covered in collective work. Their epidemiology, the spread to the lymph nodes, the invasion of the lymphatic vessels, the surgical techniques, and the course of the diseases were studied retrospectively.

The author's interests also focus on pregnancy-related issues. Two of the publications address the problem of preterm birth. Two specific biochemical markers in the cervical fluid have been studied - the phosphorylated form of insulin-like growth factor (pIGFBP-1) and fetal fibronectin (fFN) in terms of their diagnostic value in preterm birth. An excellent negative predictive value of these markers has been identified. An algorithm and a combined indicator are proposed that include both biochemical markers and the length of the cervix to assess the risk of preterm birth.

Other publications address rare clinical cases related to pregnancy problems. A rare uterine anomaly - Uterus didelphys with non-developing pregnancy in each of the uterine cavities has been described. A clinical case presents a pregnancy problem in a patient with systemic lupus erythematosus, a disease that carries a high risk for pregnant women and the fetus and represents a challenge for the obstetrician.

Five joint publications discuss, in detail, the pathological changes of the dentition and oral cavity that accompany pregnancy - caries, stomatitis, gingivitis, changes in the periodontium. The pathophysiological mechanisms that underlie the damage to the dental apparatus and the oral cavity are explained. The relationship between these diseases and the course of pregnancy, their importance for the development of the fetus and children's health are also examined. The research illustrates the importance of early detection of oral diseases and clarifies the methods of prevention and treatment, and the timing for the dental surgical procedures.

Educational activity

Dr. Stanislav Slavchev was working as a full-time assistant at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Medical University of Varna from September 2011 to September 2015. Subsequently, he was practicing as an assistant professor during the academic years 2016/2017 and 2017/2018. From April 2018, he has been selected as a chief assistant in the same department. The records from the last five years show an average teaching workload of 284.6 hours.

In conclusion, Dr. Stanislav Slavchev is a specialist obstetrician-gynecologist with long and extensive clinical experience. He has additional professional qualifications in various fields of obstetrics and gynecology, which enables him to handle various medical problems and to be a competent educator. The candidate's scientific works cover the minimum scientometric requirements and make a significant contribution in scientific-theoretical and scientific-practical terms. The applicant's research and teaching experience meet the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Medical University-Varna. This gives me a reason to propose to the Honorable Scientific Jury to vote positively for the award of Dr. Stanislav Slavchev, Associate Professor, in the specialty of Obstetrics and Gynecology, for the needs of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology to the Medical University of Medicine and Medicine. of the Gynecology Clinic at the Hospital "St. Anna"- Varna.

11.11.2019

Varna

Signature:.....

/Assoc. Prof. Dr Tosho Yordanov Ganey, Ph.D./