

A REVIEW OF AN ACADEMIC POSITION

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Re: The announced competition for academic position “Associate Professor” in scientific specialty “Dermatology and venereology”, higher education category 7.0 “Healthcare and sport”, professional area 7.1 “Medicine” for the purpose of Educational sector of Dermato-venereology, Medical Faculty, Medical University of Varna and the Unit of skin and venereology diseases of University Hospital “St. Marina”-Varna, promulgated in State Gazzete 43/31.05.2019

According to Order P-109-240/26.07.2019 of the Rector of the Medical University of Varna, I was appointed to be a member of scientific jury to conduct a competition for academic position “associate professor” of Dermatology and venereology. I was approved to be a reviewer of the first proceeding of the scientific jury. The only candidate, submitted documents is Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Pavlov, PhD. The documents, provided by the candidate are prepared under the current Development of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRB) and the Rules for Development of Academic Staff of the Medical University of Varna.

I. Short biography data of the candidate

Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Pavlov was born on August 2, 1964 in Sofia. In 1988 he was graduated from Medical University of Varna. He started a specialization in skin and venereology diseases in the University Department of Dermatology and Venereology and achieved diploma in 1995. Under the mentorship of Assoc. Prof. S. Racheva he successfully defended a PhD thesis entitled “Vitamin D status and systemic inflammatory manifestations in patients with psoriasis vulgaris”, in the scientific specialty “Dermatology and venereology” was assigned.

At time of the competition, Dr. S. Pavlov has a 29-year clinical practice in the specialty and works as a Head of the Unit of skin and venereology diseases in the UMHAT “St. Marina”-Varna. During that period of time, he went through the stages of academic carrier “assistant of the professor” and “chief assistant of the professor”.

Parts of the qualification of the candidate were educational and training courses of dermatoscopy, mycological diagnostics, skin surgery, skin histopathology, immune-histopathology of the skin, pedagogical level for educators in the clinical institutions.

He is a member of Bulgarian Clinicians Society and Bulgarian Dermatology Society. He speaks and writes fluently English and Russian languages.

II. Scientific activity of the candidate

The assessment of the scientific activity of Dr. S. Pavlov was performed according to the current requirements for minimal scientific statistic data to certify the academic position “Associate Professor” without iteration of the provided activity required to obtain a PhD-degree. The

estimation is reflecting the criteria and indicators of Supplement 1 of the Regulation for Academic Development in Medical University of Varna.

Scientific and research activity of the candidate extends to 80 scientific productions:

- **32 manuscripts** (including the summary of the PhD thesis)
- **1 personal monography**, reviewed and printed with ISBN 978-619-221-085-4 (MU-Varna)
- 24 participations in the national and international scientific forums (4 of which are international and 20 are national) **with overall 46 reports and posters** (5 of which discoursed abroad)
- **1 participation in scientific project** of the National Ministry of Health, National fund “Scientific investigations”, “Clinical-experimental investigations of two-component polymeric systems” (R.Cherkezova, S.Racheva, S.Pavlov, Z.Zlatev) in 2000 to 2002.

In the applied academic reference of publications of Dr. Pavlov (№337/18.07.2019 of Library, MU-Varna) – „Referent and indexed papers” I don’t agree that the publication № 4 should be included, because it is an abstract of congress (thus correctly is not presented in the author’s list, submitted by the candidate). Also, the publications № 26, 27 and 28 should not be reviewed because they were part of the resume of the PhD thesis.

1. Scientific metric criteria:

- 1 summary of the PhD thesis;
- 3 publications and reports in the scientific editions, referent and indexed in Scopus and Web of science (according to the year of publication);
- 25 publications and reports in the scientific editions, referent and indexed (upon year of publication) in national and world secondary literature databases. Also of importance is that the papers №24 and №25 of the list were published in the referral indexed world secondary literature databases (beyond Scopus/Web of science, WOS) and had an impact rang;
- 1 monography published in Bulgarian.

The presented **scientific activity** provides the opportunity to identify the following strands of scientific and professional interests of Dr. S. Pavlov:

- ✓ **Studies on autoimmune and inflammatory dermatoses** – summary of the PhD thesis, monography, publication №3 in Scopus and №3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 20, 24, 25 of the secondary databases.
- ✓ **Studies on infectious and sexual transmitted diseases** – publications №1, 2, 5, 8, 12, 13, 18, 21, 22, 23 in the secondary editions;
- ✓ **Studies on neoplastic skin diseases** – publication №10, 17 and 18;
- ✓ **Rarely observed clinical cases** – publication №2 in Scopus/WOS and №12, 14, 15 and 19 in the secondary editions;
- ✓ **Other** – publication №1 in Scopus/WOS and №4, representing the results of the scientific project in which Dr. S. Pavlov takes part as a co-researcher.

The PhD thesis of the candidate, developed under the scientific guidance of Assoc. prof. D-r S. Racheva on topic “Vitamin D status and systemic inflammatory manifestations in patients with psoriasis vulgaris” is consistent with the current studies of some of the concepts of epidemiology, pathophysiology, clinical manifestations and comorbidity of the psoriatic disease. The investigations on vitamin D status and the serum levels of the human cathelicidin (LL-37) in psoriasis are pioneering for Bulgaria.

2. References for citations:

The applied academic reference № 297/20.06.2019 (Library of MU-Varna) states for 22 citations/quotations of the 7 of the scientific production of Dr. S. Pavlov:

- 17 citations in the Scopus/WOS databases;
- 1 citation in the most reputable European textbook „Braun-Falco’s Dermatologie, Venerologie und Allergologie“. Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer Berlin Heidelberg; 2018
- 4 quotations in the non-referred journals with scientific reviewing.

The most cited publication is: Clayton T, Clark S, Britton J, **Pavlov S**, Radev S. A comparative study of the Children’s Dermatology Life Quality Index (CDLQI) in paediatric dermatology clinics in the UK and Bulgaria. Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology, 2007; 21(10):1436-1437. – 10 times (7 in Scopus/WOS).

3. Scientific activity:

A list of 46 participations in National and international congresses and conferences has been applied and one of the resumes is published in journal with impact factor.

Dr. S. Pavlov has a participation in 1 scientific research project as a co-author: “Clinical and experimental investigations in the two-component polymeric systems” (Project of Ministry of Health, National fund “Scientific investigations”, MU-Varna).

The candidate is a member of the Bulgarian Physicians Society and the Bulgarian Dermatologic Society.

Dr. S. Pavlov is a reviewer of the journal Scripta scientifica medica. Also, he was invited as a lecturer in the forum of Bulgarian Pharmaceutic Society in 2016.

4. Reference of contributions:

I agree with the applied inquiry of contributions of Dr. S. Pavlov and state most important of the following:

4.1. Original and scientific-theoretical contributions:

- For the first time in Bulgaria the level of human cationic antimicrobial peptide hCAP18/LL-37 is studied and analyzed in the serum of patients with psoriasis.
- For the first time in Bulgaria the association between vitamin D status and cathelicidin LL-37 is assessed in patients with psoriasis.
- The contemporary clinical and epidemiologic aspects of psoriatic disease is analyzed.
- A picture variant of CDLQI is validated in Bulgarian and is used to assess the quality of life in children with pruritic dermatoses.
- New-synthesized polymeric systems of thermos-active plastics are investigated in the allergy testing.

4.2. Contributions with scientific-applied and confirmatory role:

- A regimen for vitamin D supplementation in hypovitaminosis D is proposed, which considers the regional clinical and anthropometry features of the patients with psoriasis.
- An algorithm for prevention and control of arterial hypertension, hyperglycemia, osteoporosis, trophic disturbances of the gastrointestinal mucosa, as a result of continuous corticosteroid and immune suppression therapy in the patients with pemphigus is performed.
- The fact, that ACE-inhibitors worsen the clinical manifestation of psoriasis is confirmed.
- The paraneoplastic characteristic of erosive lichen planus is confirmed.
- The risk of appearance of iatrogenic Sarcoma Kaposi in patients on immune suppression therapy is confirmed.

III. Study and teaching activity of Dr. Stoyan Pavlov

According to the provided reference № 099-1666/17.06.2019 of MU-Varna, from 26.10.1995 to 14.06.2019 Dr. Stoyan Pavlov have more than 23 teaching experience. In the past 5 years his total workload is 1140 hours (reference of Training office № 112-137/20.06.2019). He teaches subjects as “Dermatology and venereology” (for students of Medicine and students of Dental Medicine, general practitioners and residents) and “Tropical medicine” (for medical students). He conducts semester exams of students in mentioned specialties. He participates in the practical education on “Dermatology and venereology” for Master Program on Medicine. He has acquired pedagogic qualification (Certificate № 99-580/28.12.2012). He is a member of working groups for the completion of training programs for student of Medicine and Dental Medicine, students of Medical College and graduates of dermatology and venereology diseases and family medicine.

IV. Diagnostic and therapeutic activity

Dr. S. Pavlov is an active dermatologist with 29-year practice in the specialty, who acquired a specialty of Dermatology and venereology in 1995. He is currently a Head of Unit of Dermatology and venereology diseases in UMHAT “St. Marina”-Varna. He has certificates for acquired qualification on:

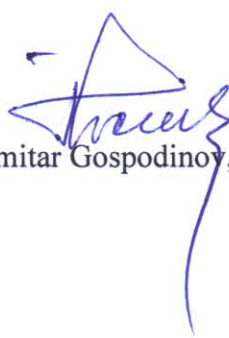
- Dermatoscopy in dermatologic practice – a modern method to improve the diagnostics of pigment skin lesions and early detection of malignant melanoma (Certificate № 129/19.11.2004, Medical University-Varna);
- Mycological Diagnostics in dermatology (Certificate № 47/25.03.2005, Medical University-Varna);
- Certificate for routine practice in the field of dermatologic surgery (№ СДО-99-214/12.07.2005, Medical University-Varna);
- Cryotherapy in dermatology (Certificate № 161/21.10.2005, Medical University-Varna)
- Certificate for clinical practice in methods of “Skin histopathology and immune histopathology”, Medical University-Varna, UMHAT “St. Marina”-Varna;

All these facts confirm the opinion of excellent theoretical knowledge, innovation and broad practical expertise of the candidate

Conclusion:

Dr. Stoyan Pavlov, PhD is an approved scientific worker, teacher and physician. He covers all requirements of Medical University of Varna as criteria and parameters for habilitation. It should also be taken into account the fact that he is a product of University – from student of Medicine to the moment his professional development is related to the Varna “Alma mater”. That feature I accept as a promotion of both traditions and career and scientific development of Dermatology Academy in Varna. I am convinced that I am positively voting for awarding the academic position “Associate Professor” to Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Pavlov.

11 Sep 2019


Prof. Dr. Dimitar Gospodinov, MD, PhD, DSc.