

**To the  
Chairman of the Scientific Jury  
Order № P-109-179/03.06.2020 y.  
By Rector of Medical University-Varna**

In reference to Protocol: № 20/16.3.2020 y and  
Order № P-109-179/03.06.2020 y. from the meeting of Scientific Jury

***Attached I present: Statement***

In the contest for the academic position “**Associate Professor**” in the scientific specialty “General and Clinical Pathology”, the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, in the professional direction 7.1. Medicine, announced for the Department of the General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology of Medical University-Varna, in the Government Newspaper (issue 8/28.01.2020 y) and according to an approved proposal of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine (protocol №20 or 16.03.2020 y).

The member of Scientific Jury – Prof. Maria Angelova Tzaneva, MD, PhD from the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology, Medical Faculty, Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna,  
Scientific specialty: General and Clinical Pathology.

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Varna

13.08.2020 y.

The paper and electronic administrative documents have been submitted for the purpose of the contest by a single candidate, Dr. Svitlana Yurievna Bachurska, MD. - Head of the Clinic "Clinical Pathology" at USBALO-Sofia, which include all necessary documents according to p. 126 of the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at MU-Varna.

#### **I. Career development of Dr. Svitlana Bachurska, MD, PhD.**

Dr. Svitlana Bachurska was born on March 6, 1982 in Odessa, Ukraine. In 2005 she graduated as a doctor in the Medical University in Plovdiv (Diploma № 005303 from MU Plovdiv, 1999-2005). The professional pathway of Dr. Svitlana Bachurska began as a medical representative of Pfizer Luxembourg SARL branch Bulgaria (May 2007 - April 2011). From April 2011 to January 2020 she worked as an assistant and a senior assistant in the Department of General and Clinical Pathology at MU-Plovdiv. In 2016 she acquired a specialty in General and Clinical Pathology (№ 002419/28.06.2016). In 2017 she received PhD degree in the scientific specialty: Pathoanatomy and Cytopathology (diploma № 195 from 1.6.2017 MU-Plovdiv) in the Department of General and Clinical Pathology at MU - Plovdiv on the topic: "Diagnostic value of EGR in the immunohistochemical panel for the detection of prostate cancer in the needle biopsies". The candidate has completed courses: dermatopathology of Bulgarian Medical Union - 2018, statistical software package SPSS - MU-Plovdiv, 2014 and several courses at the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Education.

From January 2020 to the present time she works as a Head of Clinic "Clinical Pathology" in USBALO-Sofia.

Dr. Bachurska has a overall **professional work experience** /as of 30.3.2020. № 109 / 31.03.2020 Transcript extract from employment record book / - 9 years 5 months and teaching experience as of the same date - 5 years and 6 months.

From the **Academic teaching reference** it can be seen that for the presented 5 academic years / 2013-2019 /, the workload according to the norm for non-habilitated assistants is 270 hours, Dr. Bachurska has over 450-560 hours for each of the indicated academic years, i.e. exceeds twice the norm. The workload is filled with practical exercises in medicine, dentistry and pharmacy - Bulgarian and English language training.

Dr. Bachurska was the Leading investigator of the University project NO-12/2018 in MU-Plovdiv on the topic: "Immunohistochemical subtyping of patients with colorectal cancer in correlation with KRAS mutation status and microsatellite instability."

## **II Description of scientific metric index of Dr. Bachurska, MD, PhD.**

Dr. Svitlana Bachurska participated in the contest for Associate professor with a total of 40 scientific full-text publications that are not related to the dissertation. The scientific production includes: 1 monograph, 21 publications in referenced and indexed in worldwide databases (Scopus and Web of Science) and 18 publications in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

Her PhD thesis (ONS "Doctor"): "Diagnostic value of ERG in the immunohistochemical panel for the detection of prostate cancer in the needle biopsies" was evaluated by Scientific Jury. **Criteria A of the minimum requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor", according to the Law of the development of academic staff is fulfilled.**

Dr. Bachurska further developed her experience in the field of prostate cancer diagnosis in the individually published monography: "Morphological dilemmas of prostate oncopathology", Sofia, 2020, ISBN 978-619-90826-1-4 in a volume of 124 non-standard pages. The focus of the scientific work is the morphological characteristics of prostate cancer, which mimic benign lesions. The monograph is illustrated with 23 figures and histological photographs. There are two reviews of the monography: Prof. Dr. Iv. Dechev and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yu. Ananiev. Dr. Bachurska has not included in the materials for the contest for Associate professor an abstract of her dissertation, therefore it is not possible to evaluate how much the monograph is related to the dissertation. **Criteria B of the minimum requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor", according to the Law of the development of academic staff is fulfilled.**

From the 21 publications mentioned by Dr. Bachurska, referenced and indexed in a world database (SCOPUS and WEB of Sciences), I accept 9 full-text publications (these are the articles from the list with numbers: 1, 3, 6, 8, 12, 16, 19, 20 and 21). The other publications included in the list of referenced and indexed in a world database of scientific information are abstracts of congresses published in Virchow Arch, Health Technol, AM J Repr Med and Pathology (№2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10,

11, 13, 15, 17, 18). The article under №14 by Novakov et al. published in J Biomed Clin Res 2014; 7 (1) 15-19 is in full text, but is not referenced in SCOPUS or WEB of Sciences. The total score from the publications in the referenced in the worldwide database journals is 115.6, which along with the score from the publication in the unrefereed in the worldwide database journals - 129.5 form in total 245.1, thus **Criteria G of the minimum requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor", according to the Law of the development of academic staff is fulfilled (minimum score is 200).**

Dr. Bachurska has totally 28 citations: 10 citations in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in worldwide databases, 13 citations in monographs and collective volumes with review and 5 citations in non-refereed journals (Academic reference for citations from USBALO-Sofia from foreign and Bulgarian authors) with which **Criteria D is fulfilled.** In the attached list of citations, Dr. Bachurska did not divide them into the indicated categories.

The scientific reports from the national and international forums are 50, of which 15 are from the foreign and 35 are from the national forums.

The topics of the publications are in the several areas:

- diseases of the genitourinary system, mainly in the field of prostate diseases with an emphasis on the prostate cancer;
- research related to the diseases of the oral cavity: diagnosis and treatment;
- experimental studies related to the blunt chest trauma.

Some of the candidate's publications are devoted to the rare clinical cases with different localization with a review of the literature and with a proposed diagnostic and immunohistochemical algorithm in different cases.

In the list of actually printed full-text publications in addition to those specified to cover the minimum requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor" there are 4 more publications, which I do not accept because no evidence is presented and they could not be found in the profile of Dr. Bachurska in google scholar.

In all 27 publications, Dr. Bachurska is the first author in 8 (29.6%) of them.

### **III. Assessment of the contributions of the scientific works of Dr. Bachurska MD, PhD.**

The reference of the contributions of the scientific works and the self-assessment of Dr. Bachurska related to her participation in the contest for Associate professor testify to the wide range of her scientific and diagnostic interests and her ability to work in a team. Original and most significant are the scientific contributions in the field of prostate pathology. The morphological and immunohistochemical methods applied by Dr. Svitlana Bachurska reveal a methodologically prepared scientist capable to obtain original results in the complex issues of prostate carcinogenesis. She has applied modern classification schemes and algorithms for diagnostic categorization of benign and malignant processes in the prostate gland.

She studied the trends in the development of oncological diseases of the urogenital system on biopsy material for the period 2001-2016 at the University Hospital "St. Georgi", Plovdiv. Dr. Bachurska has identified, examined and described a number of rare tumors of the urogenital system.

The studies of Dr. Bachurska on the digestive system are related to the analysis of the morphometric diagnostic possibilities for distinguishing the neoplastic from the inflammatory diseases of the stomach in gastric biopsies. Her research on colorectal cancer with an emphasis on pathomorphological and immunohistochemical features in correlation with the microsatellite and KRAS status is of a scientifically applied nature.

The most significant are the contributions of Dr. Bachurska in the field of oral pathology. In collaboration with the section of Oral Pathology in the Department of Periodontology, Dental Faculty, MU-Plovdiv, the histological and molecular changes in oral lichen planus, as well as the therapeutic pathomorphosis of the disease were studied. The same team studied the frequency and morphological characteristics of premalignant lesions of the oral mucosa with evaluation of the efficacy of non-invasive diagnostic methods. Histological assessment of gingival changes in conventional and laser gingivectomy was performed.

The candidate in collaboration with the Clinic of Thoracic Surgery in MU-Plovdiv established an experimental mouse model of blunt chest trauma. This research has analyzed and described the histological changes of cardiopulmonary contusion in closed chest trauma.

#### **IV. Assessment of the scientific and teaching activities of Dr. Bachurska, MD, PhD.**

For her relatively short teaching and professional experience in the field of general and clinical pathology, the candidate participates in the preparation of the sample tests and protocols in Clinical and general pathology for medical students in Bulgarian and English, issued by the Department of General and Clinical Pathology at MU-Plovdiv. She is a co-author of the illustrations, exams and terminological dictionary in a textbook for students in health specialties, 2018. TAFPRINT Ltd. ISBN 978-619-7091-16-8. Dr. Bachurska participates in the publication of a lecture course on General and Clinical Pathology for dental students in English, LAX BOOK-Plovdiv ISBN 978-619-189-066-8, a lecture course on General Pathology for medical students LAX BOOK -Plovdiv ISBN 978-619-189-058-3 and a lecture course in Clinical Pathology for medical students LAX BOOK-Plovdiv ISBN 978-619-189-071-2.

The average annual workload of Dr. Bachurska is over 300 hours in the last 5 years. She has trained medical and dental students in Bulgarian and English

#### **VI. Complex assessment of teaching and scientific activity of the candidate.**

Despite her short professional and teaching experience (a little over 5 years), Dr. Svitlana Bachurska successfully acquired a specialty in "General and Clinical Pathology", defended a PhD thesis and acquired ONS "Doctor" in the field of "Pathoanatomy and Cytopathology", published a monography and co-authored in a textbook and several handbooks. The workload of Dr. Bachurska, according to the official reference from MU-Plovdiv, significantly exceeds the standards for non-habilitated and habilitated academic staff. I do not know the candidate personally and I cannot share the specific impressions, but her academic development and publishing activity reveal a young, consistent and extremely ambitious person.

#### **VI. Critical remarks**

Dr. Bachurska has not submitted all the necessary documents for the participation in the contest for position of Associate professor, according to the rules of MU-Varna. There is no evidence (full copies of the articles). The acquaintance with the full-text publications was done mainly through the profile of Dr. Bachurska in Scholar Google. There are many discrepancies in the submitted

documentation regarding the number of full-text publications (referenced and non-referenced articles).

### **Conclusion**

The materials presented to the contest and the data from the profile of Dr. Svitlana Yurievna Bachurska in Google Scholar give me a reason to accept, that according to the requirements of Law of the development of academic staff and the Regulation for holding the academic positions of MU-Varna the candidate fulfill the criteria for the academic position "Associate professor". I propose the Scientific Jury to award to Dr. Svitlana Yurievna Bachurska with PhD in "Pathoanatomy and Cytopathology" an academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty: General and Clinical Pathology for the instance of Department of the General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology, Medical University-Varna.

Varna

13.08.2020 y.

Statement is done by:



/Prof. Maria Tzaneva, MD. PhD/