

STATEMENT

by

Assoc. prof. Dr. Mario Petrov Milkov, MD, PhD

Head of the Department "Dental Materials Science and Propaedeutics of Prosthetic Dentistry", Faculty of Dental Medicine, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"- Varna, habilitated in the professional domain 7.1 Medicine, Medical University - Varna, member of the Scientific Jury, according to an order of the Rector of Medical University – Varna, №P-109-166/14.04.2022.

Subject:

Competition for the academic position “Associate professor” in the Higher education area 7. Health care and sports, Professional domain 7.1. Medicine, Specialty „Eye diseases“ for the needs of Training sector "Medical Optician", Medical college – Varna, Medical University – Varna, by competition, announced in State Gazette, issue 14/18.02.2022.

Candidate: Chief assistant prof. Dr. Dimitar Ivanov Grupchev, MD, PhD, FEBO

Biography of the candidate

Chief assistant prof. Dr. Dimitar Ivanov Grupchev, MD, PhD, FEBO was born on May 6, 1991 in the town of Varna. In September 2014 he graduated from Medical University – Varna and obtained a Master's degree in Medicine. In 2018 Dr. Grupchev acquired the qualification Health Management at Medical University – Varna. In the period 09.2016 - 12.2020 Dr. Grupchev worked as a resident and acquired the specialty “Eye diseases” at the Specialized Eye Hospital for active treatment - Varna, Bulgaria. From January 2021 and for the time being he has been working as a specialist in Eye diseases at the Specialized Eye Hospital for active treatment - Varna, Bulgaria. In March 2021 Dr. Grupchev acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the “Ophthalmology” PhD-programme, defending a dissertation at Medical University - Varna on the topic of "Cell and Tissue Therapy of the Anterior Ocular Surface". As can be seen from the presented reports for visits of practical courses and symposiums, Dr. Grupchev continuously improves his knowledge and skills in the field of eye diseases.

Dr. Grupchev he is fluent at English, French and Russian.

Teaching and scientific activities

From the presented certificate for work it can be seen that Dr. Grupchev has been working as an Assistant professor at the Training sector "Medical optician", Medical college – Varna, Medical University – Varna from February 2017 till November 2018. Since November 2018 Dr. Grupchev has been appointed the Head of the Training sector "Medical optician". In June 2021 Dr. Grupchev obtained the academic position "Chief assistant professor". He teaches students in the specialties "Medicine" and "Nursing care". From the presented reports for academic and extra academic activities it is evident that the norm of 198 academic hours for a school year is fully covered for the entire period by Dr. Grupchev.

Research activity

The materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of "Associate professor" are in full accordance with the requirements of the law for obtaining academic titles in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as with the Regulations for the development of academic staff and holding academic positions at Medical University – Varna. For participation in the competition the following have been presented:

- Monographic work: Dr. Grupchev is the author of a monographic work on the topic: "Evolution of visualization in ophthalmology".
- Scientific publications: There are 5 publications published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world databases of scientific information and 13 publications, published in non-referenced journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes of articles. There are also 3 publications in scientific journals and collections, outside the minimum scientometric requirements for granting the academic position of "Associate Professor". It is evident that the candidate possesses and maintains up-to-date scientific profiles of himself in: ORCID, Google Scholar, SCOPIS, ResearchGate. The total impact factor (IF) of the scientific production of Dr. Grupchev is 23.489. In accordance with the rules of the competition, the candidate has submitted abstracts in Bulgarian and English of his research papers.
- Citations: Dr. Grupchev's publications have: 1 citation in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes; 1 citation in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review; 6 citations in unreferenced journals with scientific review.

- More than 15 diplomas and certificates for participation in symposia and forums in the country and abroad for the period are presented. A detailed list of all the candidate's participations in scientific conferences has been presented – 7 national and 11 international symposia.

General characteristics of the publishing activity and the scientific production

Dr. Grupchev's scientific contributions are diverse. The candidate in the competition described them in a separate file, dividing them into 3 groups: with a scientometric focus; related to research interests and clinical work; related to teaching.

To the first group, Dr. Grupchev described in detail the number of scientific papers in referenced journals (over 28), full-text publications in Bulgarian scientific journals (16), full-text publications in international scientific journals (12), publications in non-referenced journals (4), monographic works, textbooks and teaching aids (2), abstract of his dissertation work (1), abstracts in Bulgarian journals (3), abstracts in international journals (5). The candidate has indicated that in 9 of the described publications he is the first author, in 2 he is the sole author. He is the lead author of the chapters in the textbooks / monograph.

To the second group of contributions, Dr. Grupchev pointed out his interest in the work in the field of vitreoretinal surgery, improving the vision and quality of the life of patients, modification techniques of corneal healing and corneal regeneration, amniotic membrane, "Corneal Transplantation Project and stem cells" Project, Eye banking. Dr. Grupchev has regularly participated in national and international scientific forums. He is a member of 3 national and 3 international professional organizations.

To the third group of contributions, the candidate indicated: the creation and implementation of a training program in the specialty "Medical optician"; the publication of the first monograph on "Visualization in Ophthalmic Surgery" with applications of practical use; work with medical opticians in various scientific and practical areas; work with students with interest in various fields of Ophthalmology and residents in Eye diseases specialty.

Medical – diagnostic activity

Dr. Grupchev has been working in the Specialized Eye Hospital for active treatment - Varna, Bulgaria since 2016, and as a specialist in Eye-diseases – since January 2021. He possesses a wide clinical experience in the field of ophthalmosurgery, diagnostics, treatment and prevention of the diseases of the ophthalmic system.

CONCLUSION

From the abovementioned, I fully believe that the candidate **Chief assistant prof. Dr. Dimitar Ivanov Grupchev, MD, PhD, FEBO**, has the teaching, research and medical-diagnostic potential and qualities to be awarded the academic title “Associate professor”. I will vote convincingly with a “Yes” and will recommend to the respected scientific Jury to award the academic title of “Associate professor” to **Chief assistant prof. Dr. Dimitar Ivanov Grupchev, MD, PhD, FEBO**.

18.05.2022

Varna

Signature:

/Assoc. prof. Dr. Mario Petrov Milkov, MD, PhD/

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several vertical strokes followed by a horizontal line and a large loop at the end.