

STATEMENT

By prof. Hristina Nikolova Grupcheva, MD, PhD, FEBO, FICO, FBCLA, FIACLE

Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences

Faculty of Medicine

Vice – Rector "Science and Research"

Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna

Member of the Scientific Jury according to Order No. R-109-365/21.09.2022 of the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna

Regarding open academic position "professor" in the specialty "Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases (ENT)", professional field 7.1. Medicine, in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports at the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Neurosurgery and ENT, according to an announcement in the State Gazette, no. 59/26.07.2022 One candidate participated in the competition, Associate Professor Nikolay Sapundzhiev, MD, PhD, Department "Neurosurgery and ENT Diseases", Faculty of Medicine, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna (MU – Varna).

Brief biographical data and career profile

Associate Professor Nikolay Rumenov Sapundzhiev, MD, PhD was born in Varna in 1972. He graduated from the First Language High School and after military service, the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna (MU-Varna). He has a master's degree in health management and a doctorate from Philipps Universität, Marburg, Germany. He obtained a degree in ENT in 2003. He worked at the University General Hospital "Tsaritsa Yoanna", Sofia and in the University General Hospital "St. Marina", Varna. He successively held the academic positions of assistant, chief assistant and associate professor at the University of Varna. For the period 2002-2004, the candidate was a full-time doctoral student at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery at Philipps Universität, Germany, where he defended a doctoral thesis approved by the VAK in 2006. Since 2014, he has been the head of the Department of ENT Diseases to the Department of Neurosurgery and ENT Diseases of the Medical University of Varna. He has professional memberships in numerous organizations, including European laryngological society, European academy of sleep medicine, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Hals-Nasen-Ohren-Heilkunde, Kopf- und Hals-Chirurgie, European Rhinologic Society, European Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery, Union of the European Phoniaticians, European Airway Management Society, National Association of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, etc. He is married and has three children.

General characteristics of the candidate's research and scientific-applied activity

The scientific papers submitted for participation in a competition for the occupation of the academic position "professor" in the specialty "Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases", professional field 7.1. Medicine, in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports at the Faculty of Medicine, Department of "Neurosurgery and ENT", are 42 in total, reflect the scientific research activity in the period 2013-2020 and include:

Habilitation work (equivalent publications – 10), dissertation work: two sections in one textbook and one reference book, 29 publications outside the equivalent of a habilitation work. Publications as an independent author are two, first author – five and up to fourth author – 32. The largest number of publications is in the field of laryngology. The main directions of the research activity and the resulting publication activity are related to the theoretical, applied and clinical aspects of otorhinolaryngology, its subspecialties, head and neck oncology, pediatric otorhinolaryngology, a number of socially significant and casuistic otorhinolaryngological diseases, some significant historical aspects of the specialty, as well as some current COVID-related issues and news. There is both continuity in terms of the thematic orientation of the studies during this ten-year period after the first habilitation, as well as a significant enrichment and diversification of the studied issues, and the emergence of new, problem-oriented interdisciplinary scientific subfields.

Evaluation of the teaching activity of the candidate

Assoc. prof. Nikolay Sapundzhiev, MD, PhD has nearly 20 years of experience in the specialty and 17 years of teaching experience at the MU – Varna, which fully meets the regulatory requirements for the academic position of "professor". His teaching load is high (over 203 academic hours per year on average for the period 2018-2022) and significantly exceeds the required standard for teaching employment.

The educational and teaching activities of the candidate are in the field of his professional training and scientific interests. He participates in the teaching of Bulgarian and English, as well as in the development and updating of the study documentation of these disciplines (curriculums, etc.) and in the preparation of study materials for them.

The candidate has passed a large number of specialized courses, international and national, for continuing education, increasing his qualification in the specialty.

Compliance with the scientometric requirements of MU – Varna for the academic position "professor"

The presented reference shows that Assoc. prof. Nikolay Sapundzhiev, MD, PhD covers, and in some groups of indicators significantly exceeds the scientometric requirements for occupying the academic position "professor", according to the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the MU - Varna (Table 1).

Table 1. Compliance with the scientometric requirements of MU – Varna for the academic position “professor”

Requirements (by group)	Points required	Points of the candidate based of his application
A	50	50
V	100	141.59
G	200	220.75
D	100	180.00
E	100	166.14

Conclusion

To participate in this competition and to fill the academic position of "professor", the candidate fully meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its Application and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna.

Assoc. prof. Nikolay Sapundzhiev, MD, PhD has built an appropriate career profile with a marked aspiration for development and a high potential for a mature clinical, teaching and scientific career. The applicant provides up-to-date, original, valuable and sufficient scientific output with innovative ideas and potential for practical applicability. He demonstrates teaching, research, organizational and administrative experience.

The overall assessment of the professional development, scientific performances and contribution, teaching activities, work with students and young researchers, and administrative experience is a solid base to suggest to the members of the Scientific Jury to elect Assoc. prof. Nikolay Sapundzhiev, MD, PhD for the academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, specialty "ENT" for the needs of the department "Neurosurgery and ENT", faculty "Medicine", Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

24.10.2022
Varna

Respectfully,
prof. Hristina Nikolova Grupcheva, MD, PhD,
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