

# REVIEW

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**RE:** Competition for "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, professional direction, 7.1. Medicine, specialty "General and Clinical Pathology", at the Faculty of Medicine, Department "General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology", MU-Varna and Clinic "Pathology" at "Saint Marina" University Hospital - Varna, according to an announcement in State Gazette, No 28/28.03.2023.

By order of the Rector of the MU - Varna No. P-109-266/25.05.2023, I was elected as an internal member of the Scientific Jury, and according to Protocol No. 1/07.06.2023 from the Scientific Jury, I am determined to prepare a review.

Documents for the competition were submitted by one candidate - Dr. Kalin Petrov Kalchev, Assistant Professor in chief at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology, at the Medical University - Varna

## **I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile**

Dr. Kalin Kalchev was born on 19.07.1974 in the city of Dobrich. In 2001, he graduated in "Medicine" (diploma with Reg. No 020638) from the Medical University - Varna. After completing his higher education, for two years he worked consecutively as a surgeon at the MBAL - Tervel, a general practitioner in Dobrich. From 01.01. In 2004, he was appointed as a resident pathologist at MBAL - Dobrich and later started specialization in pathology at the Department of "General

and Clinical Pathology" at the Medical University - Varna. In July 2006, he was elected as an assistant in the same Department after a successful presentation at a competition. As an assistant, Dr. Kalchev participates in the academic work of the Department - he conducts practical classes in all pathology disciplines with medical and dental students, including in the English language training program; he was also assigned some lectures from the course on medicine and dentistry. Since August 2005, Dr. Kalchev has been an Assistant physician at the Clinic of Pathology at "Saint Marina" University Hospital. He was fully involved in all diagnostic processes, gradually mastering all the basic methods of autopsy and biopsy practice. He acquired the specialty "Pathology and cytopathology" (diploma with Reg.No 015143/20.01.2010). For a period of about two years (2013-2014), Dr. Kalchev held short-term positions as a locum pathologist in several European hospitals (Sweden, Scotland, England, Wales).

Over the years, Dr. Kalchev has shown various scientific interests, mainly on the pathology of the male reproductive system. Most of his publications are in this field, and naturally this is also the subject of the PhD thesis. In 2020, he acquired the Educational and Scientific Degree "Doctor" in the specialty "General and Clinical Pathology" on the topic: "Expression of necroptosis marker RIP3 in cases of prostate carcinoma".

Dr. Kalchev makes efforts to follow the innovations in the specialty and to participate in various events to maintain the qualification - diagnostic seminars, pedagogical courses, learning of methods and diagnostic algorithms. He is a member of the Bulgarian Society of Pathology and the Bulgarian Medical Union. The management of the UMBAL "Sveta Marina - Varna" has issued Dr. Kalchev a certificate for more than 20 years of work experience in the specialty.

## **II. Scientific indicators**

The candidate submitted for evaluation a total of 28 full-text publications in Bulgarian or English, distributed as follows:

- A PhD Thesis (no abstract presented), entitled: "Expression of necroptosis marker RIP3 in cases of prostate carcinoma", in 2020.
- 11 full-text scientific publications in journals that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus), recognized by NACID at the Ministry of Education and Science – instead of a habilitation monographic work
- 9 full-text scientific publications in refereed and indexed world-renowned databases of scientific information
- 6 full-text articles in non-refereed publications
- two more articles beyond the minimum scientometric requirements
- Additional materials from presented reports and posters (15 in total) from held scientific forums

The publication activity of Dr. Kalchev thematically covers a wide range of the scientific fields of pathology, with an emphasis on the diagnosis of carcinoma of the prostate gland. A large part of the full-text publications fall into this direction, the doctoral thesis. An essential part of these studies is the analysis of alternative molecular mechanisms of cell death and cell survival, mainly necroptosis and its associated RIPK3. In this way, malignant tumors of the colon and prostate gland were thoroughly investigated. Also, case descriptions represent a significant part of Dr. Kalchev's scientific activity.

The scientometric indicators in the documentation submitted by the candidate and the Academic reference prepared by the Library of the Medical

University - Varna are compared with the Requirements of the Regulation for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" in the following Comparison Table:

GROUP OF INDICATORS	Content	Assoc. Professor (number of points)	Dr. Kalchev (number of points)
A	Indicator 1	50	50
Б	Indicator 2	<b>Not required</b>	
B	Indicator 3 or 4	100	<b>100.87</b>
Г	Sum of indicators 5÷9	200	<b>215.5</b>
Д	Sum of indicators 10÷12	50	<b>105</b>
<b>Impact Factor - 36.528</b>			

From the Comparison Table It can be seen that the evidence for scientific activity provided by the candidate meets the regulatory requirements for the position under the competition. Most of the scientific developments were carried out by several authors from different medical specialties, which testifies to an interdisciplinary approach and Dr. Kalchev's ability to work in a team. In most cases, Dr. Kalchev is the only pathologist among the authors. Last but not least, the candidate's scientific output demonstrates a thorough knowledge, accurate selection and skillful application of both classical pathology methods and the latest diagnostic procedures. Dr. Kalchev is involved as a postdoctoral fellow in four research projects under the "Science" Fund, all in the field of oncopathology.

### **III. Teaching and learning activities**

Medical University - Varna has issued Certificate No. 099-924/ 31.03.2023 confirming that Dr. Kalin Kalchev has more than 15 years of teaching experience

with a short break. Dr. Kalchev is included in the pathology training of students in the master's programs in medicine and dentistry (in Bulgarian and English) and of bachelors – nurses and laboratory assistants. Over the years, he established himself as a university teacher with extensive experience.

#### **IV. Therapeutic and diagnostic activities**

Dr. Kalchev is fluent in all methods of diagnostic pathology and has some experience abroad. He is known with his an extraordinary efforts to update constantly his qualifications and increase his skills. He has participated in many educational courses in the country and abroad; he is also personally involved in the training of specialists in Pathology at Saint Marina University Hospital.

#### **V. CONCLUSION**

The documentation submitted for the Competition is complete and meets the procedural requirements in the regulatory documents. The candidate's scientific output corresponds to the required criteria. I accept contributions without objection. I am impressed by the candidate's personal and professional qualities, and I believe that he will fully cope with the challenges of the position for which he is applying. For these reasons, I fulfill my obligations and vote positively for Dr. Kalin Kalchev to receive the academic position of "associate professor" for the needs of the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology" of MU – Varna.

August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Varna



Signature: .....  
(Prof. Dr. Peter Ghenev, PhD)