

To
The Chairman of the Scientific Jury
Assigned upon Order № P-109-266/25.5.2023
Of the Rector of The Medical University-Varna
9002 Varna, ul. „Marin Drinov” 55

Attached I submit an Opinion

On the contest for awarding academic position “Associate Professor” in speciality "General and Clinical Pathology", field of higher education 7. Health and Sport, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, announced for the needs of the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology, Faculty “Medicine” at MU-Varna and Clinic “General and Clinical Pathology” at MHAT “Sveta Marina” Varna, in accordance to the announcement in State Gazette no. 28 from 28/03/2023, with applicant Chief Assistant Kalin Kalchev, MD, PhD.

Member of the scientific jury: prof. Maria Angelova Tzaneva, MD, PhD
Scientific speciality: General and Clinical Pathology

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Varna 14/08/2023

The materials needed for the competition are deposited in paper and electronic media according to the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at MU-Varna by the only applicant, chief assistant Kalin Petrov Kalchev, MD, PhD from the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology, Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University of Varna and from the Clinic of General and Clinical Pathology at UMHAT Sveta Marina, Varna.

I. Career development of dr. Kalchev, PhD

Chief assistant Dr. Kalin Petrov Kalchev was born in 1974 in the town of Dobrich. In 2001 graduated from the Medical University - Varna - Master of Medicine and works as a resident doctor at MHAT Tervel Ltd., a general practitioner in the village of Telerig, Dobrich region, resident doctor at MHAT Dobrich JSC, in the department of clinical pathology. Since 2006, with a short break, he is an assistant professor at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at MU-Varna. Dr. Kalchev has a specialty in General and Clinical Pathology since 2010. From March 2014 to July 2016, he worked in Sweden, Scotland, England and Wales as a pathologist. He defended his PhD thesis in 2020 on the topic: "RIP3 Marker Expression for Necroptosis in Cases of Prostate Cancer" and in 2021 he was assigned a chief assistant.

Currently, Dr. Kalchev has over 20 years of work experience as a physician and over 15 years as a university professor in the specialty "General and Clinical Pathology". He teaches students from various specialties at the MU-Varna. Dr. Kalchev takes active part in the diagnostic process of the General and Clinical Pathology clinic at Sveta Marina university hospital, where took great part in establishing development of interpretation of the immunohistochemical evaluation of PD-L1 expression in non-small cell lung carcinoma, the immunohistochemical interpretation of HER2 IHC and HER2 Dual ISH in breast and stomach carcinoma, etc., in relation to which went through training seminars home and abroad. In order to improve the quality of the diagnostic process, Dr. Kalchev took part in a number of courses in our country in the field of dermatopathology, diseases of the thyroid gland, the nervous and bone system, etc.

Dr. Kalchev is a trained pathology teacher, gives seminars and selected lectures in Bulgarian and English to 3rd and 4th year medical students. There have been courses related to improving the teaching process: "Working with video learning systems" and "Pedagogical foundations of academic teaching".

The applicant has a very good command of English, Swedish and Russian. He has extremely good computer literacy. He participated in a large number of national conferences.

Dr K. Kalchev is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, the Bulgarian Fellowship in Pathology and the General Medical Council.

II. Description of the scientometric indicators of Dr. Kalchev, PhD

Description of the scientometric indicators of Dr. Kalchev, PhD

In the competition for Associate Professor, Dr. Kalchev participates with 28 publications, of which 11 publications were equivalent to a monographic work and 17 scientific full-text publications that aren't related to his PhD dissertation thesis. According to the Academic reference No. 180 / 15.05.2023, 20 of the publications are referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. Eight publications are in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Kalchev attached a list of seven citations.

There are 15 scientific reports from national and international forums.

The PhD dissertation thesis for ESD "Doctor" on the topic: "RIP3 Marker Expression for Necroptosis in Cases of Prostate Cancer" was assessed by SJ. This meets **Criterion A** of the minimum requirements for occupation of academic position "Associate Professor", LDASRB.

Dr. Kalchev has attached a list of 11 publications referenced in Scopus and Web of science, which bring the candidate 107.59 points. This meets **criterion B** of the minimum requirements for occupation of academic position "Associate Professor", LDASRB..

The applicant indicates 9 publications, referenced and indexed in the world databases (Scopus and Web of Sciences) and 8 publications in non-refereed journals to meet criterion Г. I do not accept the publication under number Г-7 -7 because it's a printed abstract. These publications bring Dr. Kalchev's 209.5 points, of which 111 are from publications in refereed and indexed journals, which meets **criterion Г** of the minimum requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor" according to the LDASRB (the minimum number of points is 200, from which minimum 80 points for clinical specialties from refereed and indexed journals in SCOPUS and WEB of Sciences).

Dr. Kalchev has 7 articles that are cited. He has attached a list of 7 citations to one article, which earn him 105 points (with a minimum number of 50 points) for holding the AP "Associate Professor". **Criterion Д** of the minimum requirements is met.

III. Assessment of the contributions of the scientific works of dr. Kalchev, PhD

The reference for the contributions of the scientific works and the self-evaluation of Dr. Kalchev in relation with his application in the competition for associate professor show his interests in the field of alternative molecular mechanisms of cell death and cell survival. Emphasis of the studies are necroptosis and autophagy in colorectal and prostate carcinoma. A scientific-applied contribution is elucidating the survival mechanisms of damaged tumor cells and resistance to chemotherapy. Dr. Kalchev's research reveals new targets of the necroptosis, as well as new opportunities for creating more efficient antitumor drugs. In the field of oncopathology, the original and most significant scientific contributions are related to elucidating the role of epigenetic silencing of Maspin in the progression to prostate carcinoma, as well as evaluation of other clinical indicators, such as age and inflammation. The application of computer software to determine the intensity of Maspin expression objectifies the data obtained from the expression of the antibody in benign, dysplastic and tumor cells.

The majority of Dr. Kalchev's articles are devoted to rare and interesting cases in clinical practice.

The contributions' reference of the scientific works and the self-assessment of Dr. Kalchev in relation with his application to the competition for associate professor show broad and deep knowledge in various areas of clinical pathology.

The overall impact factor of Dr. Kalchev is 36.528 (Academic Reference No. 180 of 15.05.2023) and h-index is 3 (Scopus).

IV. Assessment of the scientific teaching and diagnostic activities of Dr. Kalchev, PhD

Over the years, Dr. Kalin Kalchev established himself as a university professor with extensive pedagogical and professional experience. His average annual workload is between 222 and 320 hours, with a normative of 220 hours. Dr. Kalchev gives seminars for students of medicine, dentistry, pharmacists, nurses, midwives and students of various specialties from medical colleges. A larger part of his workload is related to seminars for medical students, English language training. In the last 7-8 years, he gave selected lectures to students from various specialties in Bulgarian and English, and in the academic year 2022/23 he has prepared and gave the entire lecture course to students from the Medical Laboratory Technician specialty. He shares his rich experience in the field of clinical pathology with his interns and colleagues from the General and Clinical Pathology Clinic at UMHAT "Sveta Marina", Varna. Dr. Kalchev supervised

one specialist trainee who successfully passed the exam. He actively participates in the preparation and conduct of courses organized by the Department and the Clinic of General and Clinical Pathology, as well as he assists in the European School of Pathology in Varna taking place. If needed, he does some forensic medical expertise activities.

Conclusion

The materials presented in the competition by Kalin Petrov Kalchev, MD, PhD give me reason to believe that, according to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at MU-Varna, the applicant meets the conditions for occupation the academic position of "Associate Professor" in General and Clinical pathology. I recommend to the respected Scientific Jury to award Kalin Petrov Kalchev, MD, PhD in "Pathology and Cytopathology", the academic position of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in "General and Clinical Pathology", professional direction 7.1. Medicine, for the needs of the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at the Faculty of Medicine at MU-Varna.

Varna
14/08/2023


/Prof. Maria Angelova Tzaneva, MD, PhD/