

STATEMENT

By Prof. Dr. Yavor Petkov Enchev, DSC

Head of department „Neurosurgery and ENT diseases“, MU-Varna,

Head of Clinic of Neurosurgery, UMHAT “St. Marina” – Varna

Member of the Scientific Jury determined by order P-109-375/22. 08. 2023r. by the Rector of Medical University - Varna

Subject: A competition in MU-Varna, SG, vol. 54/23.06.2023 for election to the academic degree of Associate Professor in the specialty "Nervous Diseases", in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sport, professional field 7.1. Medicine and scientific specialty "Nervous Diseases" - one 0,5 position for the Department of Nervous Diseases and Neurosciences, Faculty of Medicine and 1 position for the Second Clinic of Nervous Diseases at the University Hospital "St. Marina" - Varna

One set of documents were submitted for participation in the competition by Dr. Mihael Emilov Tsalta-Mladenov, PhD - neurologist at the Second Clinic of Nervous Diseases of the University Hospital "St. Marina" - Varna and assistant professor at the Department of Nervous Diseases and Neurosciences at MU-Varna.

The candidate has submitted all the necessary documents for participation in the competition, in compliance with the requirements of the Law on The Development of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its application and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Medical University - Varna.

According to Protocol No.1 of the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, I have been appointed to prepare an academic opinion on the procedure for filling the academic position of Associate Professor.

I. Biographical data of the candidate:

Dr. Michael Tsalta-Mladenov obtained a Master's degree in Medicine at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna in 2016. From the same year he was appointed

as a doctor at the Second Clinic of Nervous Diseases of the University Hospital "St. Marina." In 2023, the candidate has acquired a specialty in "Nervous diseases".

Dr. Michael Tsalta-Mladenov started his academic career in 2018 as a part-time assistant professor at the Department of Nervous Diseases and Neurosciences at the Medical University - Varna, then full-time assistant professor, and from 2021 till now is a senior assistant professor at the Department of Nervous Diseases and Neurosciences, Medical University - Varna. In 2021 has defended a PhD thesis on "Quality of life in ischemic stroke patients - clinical-social and neuroimaging studies".

Courses and specializations in the country and abroad, further contribute to his professional development and his formation as a well-prepared clinician, researcher and teacher.

He is a member of professional and scientific Bulgarian and international organizations including: the Bulgarian Medical Association, the Bulgarian Society of Neurology, the European and World Stroke Organization, the International Society of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders, the European Academy of Neurology and the International Headache Society.

II. General characteristics of the candidate's research and applied scientific activities:

The publications submitted for the competition prove the high quality and recognition of the candidate's scientific production at national and international level. Dr. Mihael Tsalta-Mladenov applied for the competition with a scientific production meeting and exceeding the minimum scientific-metric requirements of MU-Varna.

For participation in the competition were submitted 31 scientific works, participating as evidence in the reference for the fulfillment of the minimum requirements for holding the position of AD "Associate Professor" , according to the Law on The Development of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria. One full-text publication outside the minimal required evidence is also submitted for the position of Associate Professor. In addition, the candidate has additional scientific works - full-text publications and participation in a monograph on "Deep brain stimulation - when and how?", which are not subject to evaluation for this competition.

The scientific papers submitted for the competition were published in the period 2018-2022 and have the following distribution by type:

- 1 piece of Dissertation and abstract for the degree of PhD;
- 10 pieces of articles equivalent to a dissertation/habilitation thesis;
- 13 pieces of publications and reports published in scientific journals, referred and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information;
- 6 pieces of publications and papers published in non-referred peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes;
- 1 piece of a full-text publication in a scientific journal, beyond the minimum scientific metric requirements for the position of Associate Professor;
- List of 13 citations in national and international journals;

The good visibility of the scientific work of Dr. Mihael Tsalta-Mladenov is supported by his active participation in national and international forums - more than 70 participations.

Undoubted confirmation of the international recognition and quality of the scientific works of Dr. Mihael Tsalta-Mladenov, is that they have 44 citations, h-index 3 according to the presented profile in GoogleScholar. A reference to scientific profiles in ResearchGate, ORCID, Web of Science and Scopus is also provided.

Information about Dr. Mihael Tsalta-Mladenov's participation in scientific projects is provided:

- Science Fund Project №19020 – “Electronic registry of stroke, diabetes and diabetic retinopathy for research on the epidemiology of the diseases and the effectiveness of their management”.
- Science Fund Project № 19013 - "Continuous glucose monitoring in type 2 diabetes mellitus - relation to diabetic retinopathy and diabetic nephropathy".
- Science Fund Project № 21015 - "Molecular mechanisms of action of cytochrome c: new evidence in support of neuroprotective and antioxidant effects"

III. Teaching activity:

Dr. Mihael Tsalta-Mladenov has more than 5 years of teaching activity in the Department of Nervous Diseases and Neurosciences at the MU-Varna, which meets the regulatory requirements for acquiring the position of Associate Professor. His teaching hours have met and exceeded the minimum requirement of 100 academic hours per semester for the past 5 years. The candidate's teaching activity is in the field of his professional training and scientific interests. Participates in teaching the discipline "Nervous Diseases" to students of the specialty "Medicine", Bulgarian and English language training, the specialty "Dental Medicine", Bulgarian and English language training, as well as the specialties "Nurse" and "Midwife".

The candidate has undergone a large number of specialized courses and trainings, and actively participates in numerous national and international scientific forums and training courses, thus continuing to improve his qualifications.

IV. Diagnostic and therapeutic activities:

Dr. Mihael Tsalta is a neurologist with leading interests in cerebrovascular diseases and movement disorders. He has attended numerous courses abroad to improve his qualifications. The candidate has an interest in advanced and highly specialized techniques and treatment modalities such as neuromodulation and functional neurosurgery, and is actively involved in the application of deep brain stimulation for movement disorders and spinal stimulation for pain management.

V. Conclusion:

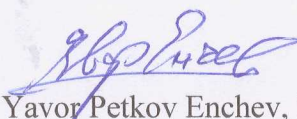
In conclusion, the presented scientific works and evidence of Dr. Mihael Tsalta-Mladenov for his participation in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor are fully sufficient in volume and exceed the regulatory requirements of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Medical University – Varna.

Analyzing the overall information presented by Dr. Mihael Tsalta-Mladenov, I am convinced that he is a neurologist, scientist and lecturer with various interests in the field of neurology. I have known and worked with Dr. Mihael Tsalta-Mladenov for about 5 years and have excellent impressions of his work as a neurologist and the results he has achieved.

All of the above gives me the conviction to give my positive opinion, to vote positively and to invite the members of the Honorable Scientific Jury to vote positively for the acquisition of the academic position "Associate Professor" by Dr. Mihael Emilov Tsalta-Mladenov in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sport, professional field 7.1. Medicine and scientific specialty "Nervous Diseases" - one 0,5 position for the Department of Nervous Diseases and Neurosciences, Faculty of Medicine and 1 position for the Second Clinic of Nervous Diseases at the University Hospital "St. Marina" – Varna.

Date:

08.10.2023



Prof. Dr. Yavor Petkov Enchev, DSC