

Opinion Statement

by Assoc. Prof. Evgueniy Hadjiev, MD, PhD

*Head of Clinical Hematology Clinic-
UMBAL "ALEKSANDROVSKA"-EAD*

Regarding: *competition for the academic position "PROFESSOR" in the scientific specialty "Hematology and blood transfusion", in the field of higher education 7. "Health and sport", professional direction 7.1. "Medicine", for the needs of the Second Department of Internal Medicine, Department of Hematology at the Faculty of Medicine, MU - Varna, announced in SG no. 102/23.12.2022*

Candidate (only): *Associate Professor Ilina Dimitrova Micheva, MD, PhD.; Head of the Clinical Hematology Clinic at the Hematology Clinic, UMBAL "Sv. Marina" EAD, Varna.*

Reviewer: *Assoc. Prof. Evgueniy Alexandrov Hadjiev, MD, PhD, member of the Scientific Jury under Order No. R-109-144/23.02.2023. of the Rector of MU - Varna*

In the competition for "**PROFESSOR**" for the needs of the *Second Department of Internal Medicine, Department of Hematology at the Faculty of Medicine, MU - Varna*, announced in State Gazette no. 102/23.12.2022, one candidate participated - Associate Professor Ilina Dimitrova Micheva, MD, PhD. The set of materials presented by the candidate is in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" - Varna.

1. Brief biographical and professional data about the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Micheva completed her higher medical education in 1993 at the Varna Higher Medical University with honors (Series A 92000379). In 1994 is a resident doctor, MU-Varna, and 1994-1998 she is a doctor at the company "Alisa 33", Varna and is specializing Internal Diseases at MU-Varna. Since 2000, she has been a full-

time doctoral student at the University of Patras, Greece, Department of Hematology, Department of Internal Medicine, with a scholarship from the Hellenic Foundation for State Scholarships (IKY). In the period 2000-2005, she also worked in the Scientific Laboratory of the Department of Hematology, MU-Patra and operated a system for fluorescence-activated cell separation (FACSvantage, BD). Assoc. Prof. Micheva obtained the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in 2005 with the topic of her dissertation "The role of dendritic cells in the hematopoietic defects in patients with Myelodysplastic Syndrome".

Since 2006, he has been working at the Clinic for Clinical Hematology, Sv. Marina UMBAL, Varna. From 2014 to 2022, she was the Head of the Stem Cell Transplantation Department at the Hematology Clinic, and from 2019, the Head of the Clinical Hematology Clinic. Since 2008, she has been successively an assistant, chief assistant and associate professor at the Department of Internal Medicine, Department of Hematology, and since 2020 she has been the head of the Department of Hematology at the Second Department of Internal Medicine.

1.1. Acquired specialties

➤ Assoc. Prof. Iliana Micheva acquired the specialty of ***Internal Medicine*** at the Medical University of Varna (Series AC #005436) in 1998.

➤ Clinical hematology specialty acquired in 2006 (Series MUB-207 #1457).

1.2. Postgraduate

Assoc. Prof. Micheva conducted a number of trainings on various topics from clinical hematology, immunology, molecular biology.

➤ In 1993-1994 she conducted a course in Clinical Cytology, which ended with a State exam.

➤ In the period 2000-2005, she worked in the Scientific Laboratory of the Department of Hematology, MU-Patra, where she learned a number of methods of cellular and molecular biology and participated in numerous research projects in the field of Hematology, Immunology, Dendritic cells, Cell therapy, Gene therapy.

- Conducted several specializations in hematopoietic stem cell transplantation at the Medical University of Hannover, Germany and the University of Ljubljana, Clinic of Hematology, Transplantation Department, SBALHZ, Sofia.
- In 2016 acquired a professional qualification in the highly specialized activity "Stem Cell Transplantation" at MU-Varna. Participation in training forums in the field of stem cell transplantation, AML, MPN at ESH.
- In 2022, she also defends a master's degree in Health Management.

2. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific and scientific-applied activity.

2.1. Scientific indicators

Assoc. Prof. Ilina Micheva submits a list of 97 scientific works from the period after the habilitation for an associate professor, which includes: 43 full-text publications, 45 scientific announcements and reports with printed summaries at international and national scientific forums, 9 participations with reports at international and national scientific forums, co-authored a manual of clinical hematology. Assoc. Prof. Ilina Micheva is the first author in 19, second-in 32, last-in 22 and consecutive in 24 publications.

*25 full-text articles published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, 16 Bulgarian and 9 foreign journals, first author in 3 articles, last - in 12.

*A total of 18 articles published in non-refereed journals with scientific review, 13 Bulgarian 5 foreign journals, first or sole author in 3.

*9 abstracts published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases, first author in six abstracts and 6 abstracts published in proceedings of international scientific forums abroad, first author in 1.

*20 abstracts, published in a collection of works from national and international scientific forums in Bulgaria, first author in 2, last in 9.

*8 participations in other international forums.

The candidate in the competition has presented a sufficient number of scientific works, published and other scientific activities after occupying the academic position of "associate professor". Summarized data on the scientific works of Associate Professor Ilina Dimitrova Micheva presented for the competition for the academic position "PROFESSOR" are presented in the table.

Scientific works	For Assoc. Prof. (1998- 2014 г)	For Prof. (2015 -2021г)	Total
Dissertation work / abstract	1	-	1
Publications in international IF journals indexed and referenced in Scopus and/or Web of Science	7	6	13
Publications in non-IF journals indexed and referenced in Scopus and/or Web of Science	17	19	36
Publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals	7	18	25
Total publications	31	43	74
Scientific communications and reports at international forums with printed abstracts	36	25	61
Scientific communications and reports at national forums with printed abstracts	15	21	36
General scientific announcements and reports	51	46	97
Therapeutic manuals	1	1	1

Scientometric indicators presented for taking academic position "Professor" from the presented academic reference:

INDICATORS GROUP A: Dissertation work for the award of an educational and scientific degree "doctor" on the topic "The role of dendritic cells in the hematopoietic defect in patients with myelodysplastic syndrome", Medical University, Patras, Greece, #1809-VAK, Sofia, 07.111 .2007. (50 items)

GROUP OF INDICATORS B: Scientific publications in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (scopus and web of science), equivalent to a habilitation thesis - 10 nos. (156.02t)

GROUP OF INDICATORS G: Publications and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (only Scopus and Web of science)-11 nos. (219.05t).

Publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes: 12 nos. (172.22).

GROUP OF INDICATORS D- Cited in total 188 (2635 items)

GROUP OF INDICATORS E-(361.2t.)

The total impact factor of the publications for participation in the contest is 212, 178.

In the extended habilitation report, Assoc.Prof. Micheva presents a table with 171 scientific papers (74 full-text publications and 97 scientific announcements and reports with printed summaries at international and national scientific forums, cited a total of 275 times with a total impact factor of 302,462 and h-index-7 (google scholar). The citations reflecting the scientific activity of the candidate in the post-habilitation period are a total of 188 - of them 165 are in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes, 7 in monographs and collective volumes peer-reviewed, 16 in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

2.2. Main scientific directions and contributions

Associate Professor Micheva's scientific career began in 1994 with participation in a scientific project of the "Scientific Research" fund at the Ministry of Health on the then extremely relevant topic "Clinical aspects of intercellular adhesions in pleural inflammation and tumor metastasis". From 2000-2005, she was a full-time doctoral student with a scholarship from the Hellenic Foundation for State Scholarships (IKY), at the Medical University, Department of Internal Medicine, Department of Hematology, Patras, Greece. During the mentioned period, she participated in the development of numerous research topics and projects in the field of Hematology, Immunology, Dendritic cells, Cell therapy, Gene therapy, which ended with publications in prestigious international journals. Since 2006, scientific interests have

been focused on biological and clinical aspects of myeloid and lymphoid neoplasms, and since 2015 on hematopoietic stem cell transplantation.

The main contributions of Assoc. Prof. Micheva's scientific works after 2016 can be summarized in the following thematic directions:

2.2.1. Myelodysplastic syndromes (10, 16, 17, 28, 37, 38, 39, 53, 77)

➤ For the first time in our country, an analysis of cases with Chronic myelomonocytic leukemia is presented, evaluating the prognosis, survival, and the risk of transformation into acute leukemia.

➤ The country's first large-scale study of 219 patients with MDS was conducted and overall survival was evaluated according to socio-demographic characteristics, FAB and WHO2016, the risk group defined by IPSS, IPSS-R and WPSS.

➤ For the first time in our country, the role of comorbid indices and the degree of "vulnerability" for the outcome of MDS is considered. Their use allows refinement of prognostic assessment and survival in patients with MDS.

➤ The role of epigenetic mechanisms, the role of micro RNAs and molecular genetic disorders in the pathogenesis of MDS is presented. Modern concepts of therapeutic influence through the search and development of new targeted therapies are presented.

2.2.2. Myelofibrosis (5, 8, 21, 25, 40, 41, 51, 68, 74, 83, 84)

➤ For the first time in Bulgaria, the role of regulators of iron metabolism - hepcidin and inflammatory cytokines (IL-6 and IL-8) in the pathogenesis of the anemic syndrome in patients with MF was studied. For the first time, a risk model in MF including hepcidin, IL-6 and IL-8 is developed and its relevance in the context of clinical and laboratory characteristics of patients is analyzed.

➤ For the first time, a three-year multicenter experience in the treatment of patients with primary myelofibrosis with ruxolitinib is presented.

2.2.3. Acute leukemia (6, 13, 18, 30, 33, 43, 47, 66, 73, 90)

- An original approach was published for the first time in the treatment of a patient with Ph + ALL with T315I mutation with inotuzumab plus ponatinib followed by allogeneic HSCT and maintenance therapy with ponatinib.
- A retrospective study was conducted on newly diagnosed adult patients with AML who underwent conventional cytogenetic analysis and 46% had an abnormal karyotype.
- Primarily, it is the first retrospective study for Bulgaria, aiming to evaluate the efficacy of azacitidine treatment in patients with MDS and AML.
- The possibilities of methods such as SNP-microarray, NGS, Sanger sequencing, multiplex ligation-dependent probe (MLPA), PCR for genetic-molecular research in AML were considered.

2.2.4. Multiple myeloma (3, 14, 15, 19, 27, 49, 50, 52, 60, 61, 62, 64, 65)

- A retrospective analysis of the cytogenetic profile of patients with newly diagnosed MM assessed by conventional cytogenetics and fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) was performed. The study confirms the informative value of these methods.
- The pathogenetic mechanisms for the development of myeloma-induced bone disease (MBD) have been investigated. Multiple intra- and intercellular signaling pathways such as RANKL/RANK/OPG, Notch and Wnt/ β -Catenin signaling have been examined, as well as a variety of chemokines, signaling and effector molecules such as DKK-1, sclerostin, periostin, activin A and transcription factors. Serum levels of periostin, sRANKL, osteopontin, sclerostin and DKK-1 in newly diagnosed MM patients were evaluated.
- Results from the PORT study (NCT04412707) are presented, which aimed to compare the PK of melphalan after central and peripheral administration of melflufen and to assess the local tolerability of peripheral administration of melflufen. Systemic exposure to melphalan was found to be similar after melflufen PVC and CVC administration.

➤ The role of 18F-FDG PET/CT in the diagnosis and staging of newly diagnosed MM patients was evaluated.

➤ The experience with Bortezomib maintenance therapy in patients with MM after achieving complete response (CR) or very good partial response (VGPR) is presented.

2.2.5. Infectious complications in patients with oncohematological diseases and after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (2, 4, 7, 22, 26, 46, 63, 71, 83)

➤ For the first time, the etiological spectrum and antibiotic resistance of the bacterial pathogens that cause blood infections in patients with oncohematological diseases (OCH) from the Hematology Clinic of UMBAL "Sveta Marina", Varna for a six-year period (2015 - 2020) are being studied. .

➤ For the first time in our country, a study of slime production in Staphylococcus spp. isolates associated with bacteremia in patients after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) is being conducted.

➤ For the first time in Bulgaria, the clinical significance of the test for Aspergillus Galactomannan antigen (GM) in the diagnosis of invasive pulmonary aspergillosis (IPA) in patients with hematological malignancies, including patients undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT), was evaluated.

➤ For the first time in our country, the species diversity of clinically significant Staphylococcus spp. isolates obtained from blood cultures of central venous catheter (CVC) patients after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) were tested for susceptibility to a range of antimicrobial agents. The spectrum of multidrug-resistant (MDR) intestinal colonizers was investigated.

➤ The in vitro activity of ceftazidime-avibactam (CZA) against extended-spectrum beta-lactamase-producing (ESBL) and carbapenem-resistant (CR) Gram-negative bacteria recovered from blood and fecal samples of patients after HSCT was analyzed.

➤ The species diversity and profile of resistance to antimycotic drugs of Candida spp. isolates obtained from clinical materials of patients after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation were analyzed.

2.2.6. Transplantation of hematopoietic stem cells (1, 45, 54, 57, 72, 75, 76)

➤ For the first time, the results of the application of autologous SCT in patients with MM, treated in the transplant department at "Sveta Marina" UMBAL Varna for a period of 6 years, are presented. The efficacy and safety of ASCT in patients with MM has been confirmed by demonstrating that achieving CR+VGPR before ASCT is a factor in prolonged OS and PFS.

➤ Outcome after application of haploidentical stem cell transplantation in a series of 11 patients was evaluated.

➤ An original study evaluated the outcome of patients with refractory non-Hodgkin's lymphomas (NHL) and Hodgkin's disease (HD) after salvage ASCT. High-dose chemotherapy and ASCT are still the treatment of choice in patients with refractory lymphoma. Consolidation strategies after ASCT can significantly improve outcome in salvage settings.

➤ Retrospectively, the results of the application of chemo-G-CSF protocols for the mobilization of peripheral stem cells in 40 patients with lymphomas who received autologous SCT in the transplant department of the hematology clinic, "Sveta Marina" UMBAL, Varna, were analyzed. The results show that chemo-G-CSF protocols have comparable efficacy with acceptable toxicity and are superior to CY-G-CSF for stem cell mobilization in patients with lymphomas.

➤ A complex case of successful desensitization in a patient with AML and donor-specific antibodies before haploidentical allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation is presented.

2.2.7. Lymphoproliferative neoplasms (9, 12, 23, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 55, 56, 58, 59, 81)

➤ The advantage of 18F-FDG PET/CT in the diagnosis and follow-up of a patient with generalized diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) with multiple extranodal lesions has been demonstrated.

➤ A case is presented of a 63-year-old female patient with a severe form of myasthenia gravis (MG), probably related to CLL relapse, treated with combined targeted and immunotherapy.

➤ In the first multicenter study in the country, the "Bulgarian experience" in the treatment with Brentuximab Vedotin of patients with refractoriness or relapses after ASCT with Hodgkin's lymphoma was analyzed. The results obtained show an improvement in the therapeutic response, a prolongation of the time to progression and an increased overall survival with treatment with Brentuximab Vedotin.

➤ The level of VEGF expression in 60 newly diagnosed patients with aggressive and indolent NHL was investigated, and significantly higher levels of VEGF were found in patients compared to healthy controls, in indolent compared to aggressive lymphomas, in high compared to normal LDH values.

➤ For the first time in Bulgaria, the level of platelet-neutrophil complexes (PNC) was investigated in 88 patients with indolent and aggressive non-Hodgkin lymphomas (NHL) and their relationship with clinical and laboratory parameters. Significantly higher levels of PNC were found in NHL patients compared to healthy controls as well as in aggressive versus indolent NHL.

➤ A rare case of a young woman with LCH with multisystem involvement including bone, orbit, pulmonary system, and central nervous system is reported.

➤ For the first time in Bulgaria, the efficacy and safety of Truxima™ treatment in combination with chemotherapy was evaluated in 51 patients with NHL and CLL. In two reviews, the therapeutic possibilities with the inclusion of monoclonal antibodies - Polatuzumab vedotin and Obinutuzumab in the treatment of diffuse B large cell and follicular NHL are presented.

2.2.8. Others (11, 20, 24, 29, 44, 48, 86, 87, 91, 92, 93, 94)

➤ A retrospective analysis of all bone marrow samples was performed in the Laboratory of Medical Genetics "Sveta Marina" UMBAL Varna for a period of ten

years. A total of 2653 outcomes from patients aged 0-93 years were evaluated. The most common indication is hematological diseases - 90.9% of all samples.

➤ As a member of an international research team that participated in a randomized, double-blind, phase 3 trial comparing best supportive care plus luspatercept versus placebo in adult patients with transfusion-dependent β -thalassemia.

➤ The possibility that bispecific antibodies (BsAbs) induce reactivation of existing tumor-specific T lymphocytes has been investigated. In an experimental model, a TCR-dependent blast-T cell interaction was studied after in vitro incubation with CD3xCD123 BsAb on bone marrow from AML patients.

➤ The putative protective role of HLA-II alleles for the development of MPNs driven by JAK2V617F and CALRmut was investigated by NGS typing in 139 JAK2V617F positive, 46 CALR exon 9 positive MPN patients and 1083 healthy controls.

➤ Experience was shared with rare clinical cases of CLL, POEMS syndrome, Hodgkin's disease, gelatinous transformation with AML in a patient with post-thrombocytopenic MF, ALL, mantle cell lymphoma, MDS.

2.3. Participation in research projects and clinical trials

Assoc. Prof. Iliana Micheva participated in 17 scientific projects - eight completed and nine current. Of these, 12 are national, with three of them being the head and 5 international, in one of which is the main coordinator.

2.3.1. Participation in national scientific or educational projects:

- Scientific approaches to complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) - concept, context, quality of life. Sponsor: Science Fund MU-Varna (Session 2020). 2022-2022.
- NNP "Creating a database of blood donors in the Republic of Bulgaria for markers of transmissible infections", 2020 (MoH). 2020-2022.
- Invasive bacterial infections in patients after autologous and allogeneic bone marrow transplantation: etiological spectrum and resistance to strategic beta-lactam and glycopeptide antibiotics (No. 19019). Sponsor: Science Fund MU-Varna (Session 2019) 2019-2022.
- One Health - integrative research and scientometric approaches for a better quality of life. Sponsor: Science Fund MU-Varna No. 22007 (Session 2022-Scientific project with the status of a national project)

- Serum histones as novel "liquid biopsies" in human malignancies. Scientific Research Fund at the Ministry of Health (Session 2021).
- Molecular genetic analysis of newly diagnosed patients with acute myeloid leukemia. Science Fund MU-Varna (Session 2021).
- New molecular biomarkers to assess bone disease in multiple myeloma. Sponsor: Science Fund MU-Varna (Session 2019)
- Human medical scientific study "Evaluation of safety and efficacy of immunoablative non-myeloablative autologous bone marrow transplantation (BMT) in patients with multiple sclerosis". Scientific project at the University of Varna - researcher.
- Clinical aspects of intercellular adhesions in pleural inflammation and tumor Metastasis, of scientific project NNPC1547 developed under the contract for Financing LC442/94 with National Research Fund Ministry of Education, Science and Technology - 1994-1996.

2.3.2. Head of national scientific or educational projects:

- Primary, post-erythremic, post-thrombocytopenic myelofibrosis - involvement of inflammatory cytokines (interleukin - 6, interleukin - 8) and the regulators of iron metabolism (hepcidin) in the pathogenesis of the anemic syndrome. Dr. Stella Dimitrova, full-time graduate student at the hematology clinic, supervised by Associate Professor Iliana Micheva, MD. Research Project of young doctors up to 35 years old, specialists and doctoral students at the Bulgarian medical society. (Contract No. 5/29.08.2019). 2019-2021
- Role of plasma microRNAs as epigenetic markers in newly diagnosed patients with multiple myeloma, No. 22004 (Session 2022) Project leader
- Role of selected plasma micro RNAs as diagnostic and prognostic markers in myelodysplastic syndrome. No. 22001 (Session 2022) Project leader

2.3.3. Participation in international scientific or educational projects:

- Academic project of AGMT, jointly with Bulgaria: "MAINTENANCE: International, multicenter, randomized phase III trial with Rituximab as maintenance therapy versus observation in patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia". The study was conducted in the Clinic of Clinical Hematology, Medical Center "Sv. Marina" EAD Varna, together with the Austrian group AGMT. 2009-2019
<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/Pro>
- A study of reactive oxygen species biological effects in the pathogenesis of myelodysplastic syndrome. Project of hematology Division (Research laboratory IV-V), Department of internal medicine, Patras University Medical School, Patras, Greece and Hematology division. Department of Internal Medicine, Medical University, Varna, Bulgaria. Laboratory coordinator - 2007-2009.

- In vitro dendritic cell generation and peripheral dendritic cell subsets in patients treated with purine nucleoside analogs, Implementation Report of the NATO EAP.RIG project 982938. Return fellow – 2007-2010.
- TRANSTEM project. EU funded. Postdoctoral researcher.
<http://transtem.org/en/research-team/>

2.3.4. Head of international scientific or educational projects:

- A prospective, multicenter European registry for newly diagnosed patients with myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), including acute myeloid leukemia with 20-<30 percent bone marrow blasts (formerly RAEB-t) and chronic myelomonocytic leukemia (CMML). European LeukemiaNet. The study was sponsored by the Radboud University Medical Center, Nijmegen. Chief Coordinator for Bulgaria: Assoc. Prof. Iliana Micheva, MD, PhD.

3. Educational and teaching activity.

Assoc. Prof. Iliana Dimitrova Micheva is an established authoritative teacher in the field of hematology. According to the submitted documents for the competition, Assoc. Prof. Micheva teaches the specialty "clinical hematology" in Bulgarian and English to students majoring in "medicine" at the Faculty of Medicine. The annual and study load during the last four academic years averaged 236 hours, and the horary includes hours for teaching lecture material and practical exercises.

- She participated in committees for semester and state exams, as well as in a committee for the acquisition of the "clinical hematology" specialty.
- She is the head of the specialization of 5 interns and conducts a basic course in Clinical Hematology.
- Under her guidance, three PhD students defended their dissertations for the educational and scientific degree "doctor": Dr. Stella Dimitrova, Dr. Merlin Ephraim and Dr. Denis Niazi.
- Currently she is the supervisor of seven other PhD students: Dr. Vladimir Gerov, Dr. Nikol Daskalova, Dr. Radi Lukanov, Dr. Svilena Atanasova, Dr. Dinar Yaha, Dr. Yavor Petrov and Dr. Valentina Miteva.

Assoc. Prof. Iliana Micheva is a scientist with outstanding international activity, which is evident not only from the numerous participations in international congresses and symposia, but also from the desire for partnership and participation in international clinical trials.

4. Public and expert activity

➤ Assoc. Prof. Iliana Micheva is actively involved in the activities of the Bulgarian Medical Association of Hematology:

- Deputy chairman of the management board;
- Chairman of a scientific group for "Myeloproliferative neoplasms and Myelodysplastic syndromes";
- member of the working group on "Transplantation of hematopoietic stem cells".

➤ Since 2019, she is a member of the "Expert Council on Clinical Hematology" at the Ministry of Health.

➤ Assoc. Prof. Iliana Micheva is a reviewer in a number of journals such as British Journal of Haematology, Scripta Medica, Journal of IMAB, Folia medica, Asian Hematology Research Journal, Turkish Journal of Hematology. "Scientific Research" Fund of the Ministry of Health.

➤ She is a reviewer of a monograph: Vankova, D. Integrative medicine: History, conceptual development, informed choice and intelligent investment in the future. Varna, MU-Varna, 2021.

➤ She is a part of the editorial team of a textbook-"Principles of Schwartz's Surgery". Ninth edition.

➤ She is a member of the editorial board of the journal "Hematology" and "Pro medica"

➤ She is the chairman of working committees for the assessment of health technologies at the NSCR.

➤ "Programme Committee" expert at the European Commission.

➤ She is an expert in the "AML Community of excellence".

- She is the chairman of the committee "Blood and blood products" at UMBAL "Sveta Marina" EAD, Varna.
- For achievements in her research activities, Assoc. Prof. Micheva received a number of awards - "Akagatos Gutas" of the Hellenic Society of Hematology for 2005, award of the Hellenic Society of Hematology for the best presentation for 2002, 2003, and 2005.
- She was awarded the title "Doctor of the Year" in the field of "Innovations" for 2018 and 2019 by the Medical Association, Varna.

Conclusion

Based on the facts presented above, I am quite convinced that the scientometric indicators and the professional qualification of Assoc. Prof. Iлина Dimitrova Micheva, MD, PhD fully meet the requirements of the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding an academic position " Professor" at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" Varna.

Assoc. Prof. Iлина Dimitrova Micheva, MD, PhD is a specialist with international authority in the field of Clinical Hematology. Therefore, I would like to recommend to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the appointment of the candidate to the academic position of "Professor" at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna for the needs of the Second Department of Internal Medicine of the Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna and at the Clinical Hematology Clinic of UMBAL "Sv. Marina" EAD - Varna.

Sofia.

20.04.2023

Reviewer:

Assoc. Prof. Evgeniy Aleksandrov Hadjiev, MD, *PhD*

