

To
The Chairman of the Scientific Jury
Determined by Order No. R-109-
144/23.02.2023 of the Rector of the MU - Varna

Attached I present an opinion

By competition for the occupation of the academic position "professor" in the specialty "Clinical Hematology", field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, announced for the needs of the Second Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University-Varna and Clinic of Clinical Hematology at the "Sveta Marina" UMBAL - Varna, according to an announcement in the State Gazette, no. 102 of 23/12/2022 with a candidate Assoc. Prof. Iliana Dimitrova Micheva, MD, PhD

Member of the scientific jury - Prof. Maria Angelova Tzaneva, MD, PhD
Scientific specialty: General and clinical pathology

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Varna 25.04.2023

The necessary materials for the competition have been deposited in paper and electronic format according to the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the University of Varna by the only candidate, Assoc. Prof. Iliana Dimitrova Micheva, MD, PhD, Head of the Clinical Hematology Clinic at the UMBAL "Sveta Marina" - Varna.

I. Career development of Assoc. Prof. Iliana Dimitrova Micheva, MD, PhD

Assoc. Prof. Iliana Dimitrova Micheva was born on 25.07.1968 in Isperih. In 1993, she graduated as a doctor at the Medical University of Varna. From 2000 to 2005, Assoc. Prof. Micheva was a full-time doctoral student at the University of Patras, Department of Internal Medicine, Department of Hematology, Greece with a scholarship from the Hellenic Foundation for State Scholarships (IKY). She successfully defends the Educational and Scientific Degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Hematology and blood transfusion". In 1999, she acquired a specialty in internal medicine, and in 2007, a specialty in hematology.

In 2015, she was selected as an associate professor at the University of Varna, Department of Internal Medicine. From 2014 to 2019, she was the head of the Stem Cell Transplantation Department at the Hematology Clinic, and from 2019 she was the head of the Clinical Hematology Clinic at the UMBAL "Sv. Marina" EAD, Varna. Assoc. Prof. Micheva has a

total work experience of more than 20 years (Certificate dated 06.01.2023, № JTC and 0-3 at UMBAL "Sveta Marina" - Varna) and teaching experience (Certificate dated 05.01.2023, № 099-49 of MU - Varna) 14 years 10 months. and 16 days, of which more than 7 years as an associate professor.

From the reference for teaching activities, it can be seen that Assoc. Prof. Micheva's total annual workload is between 220 and 284 hours with a norm of 99 hours. The exception is the academic year 2018/19, when the academic workload is 78 hours. Assoc. Prof. Micheva gives lectures and conducts practical exercises for medical students mainly in English. She leads a course on freely chosen discipline for students from the fifth year of AEO and BEO at the Faculty of Medicine of MU-Varna. She is the chairman and member of examination committees for semester and state examinations in Internal Medicine AEO and BEO.

Assoc. Prof. Micheva is a member of the commission for the state exam for the specialty "Clinical Hematology" and a member of the "Expert Council on Clinical Hematology" at the Ministry of Health. She has been a reviewer of articles for various journals: British Journal of Haematology, Scripta Medica, Journal of IMAB, Folia medica, Asian Hematology Research Journal and Turkish Journal of Hematology. She reviewed scientific projects at the "Scientific Research Activity" of MU-Plovdiv and at the "Scientific Research" fund. She has been a monograph reviewer and assistant editor of medical student textbooks.

After her election as an associate professor, Associate Professor Micheva is the head of two scientific projects and a member of the research team of four projects at the "Science" fund of the University of Varna (Certificate No. 110-216 of 25.01.2023). She is a researcher in the project team of the Scientific Research Fund "Serum histones as new "liquid biopsies" in human malignant diseases" and "TRANSTEM-ERA Chair - Chair of the European Scientific Area in the field of translational biology of stem cells - funded under the Horizon program 2020 to the EC (Certificate No. 110-229 of 27.01.2023). Prof. Micheva has also participated in other scientific projects: at the Bulgarian Medical Union, at the Ministry of Health, in prospective, multicenter European studies of some hematological diseases.

She is fluent in English, Greek and Russian, written and spoken.

II Description of the scientometric indicators of Associate Professor Iilina Dimitrova Micheva, MD, PhD.

Assoc. Prof. Micheva participated in the competition for professorship with a total of 43 scientific full-text publications that are not related to her competition for associate professor, of which 25 publications are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases (Scopus and Web of Science). Eighteen publications are in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals. Two of the publications have been accepted for publication with attached evidentiary material.

Scientific communications and reports are 46 in number, of which 25 are in international forums and 21 are in national forums, all with printed abstracts.

The dissertation work for the Educational and Scientific Degree "doctor" on the topic: "The role of dendritic cells in the hematopoietic defect in patients with myelodysplastic syndrome", defended in Medical University, Patras, Greece" was evaluated by the National Academy of Sciences. Criterion A of the minimum requirements for occupying the academic position "professor", is fulfilled.

Of the specified 43 publications, 10 publications are equivalent to a monographic work. The total number of points is 156.02 of the required 100 points. With this criterion B of the minimum requirements for occupying the academic position "professor" is fulfilled.

Assoc. Prof. Micheva has indicated 11 publications, refereed and indexed in a world database (SCOPUS and WEB of Science) and 12 publications in non-refereed journals to cover criterion G. From the specified 11 publications to cover criterion G, I do not accept

publications with #4, #9 and #11 because they are summaries (Academic reference Library MU-Varna 27/30.01.2023).

I accept all 12 articles in the non-refereed journals. All 20 publications bring 337.7 points to the candidate, of which 165.45 are from publications in refereed and indexed journals, with which criterion G of the minimum requirements for occupying the academic position "professor", is fulfilled (the minimum number of points is 200, of which a minimum 80 items for clinical specialties from refereed and indexed journals in SCOPUS and WEB of Science). According to the Academic Reference Library MU-Varna 27/30.01.2023 Assoc. Prof. Micheva has attached a list of 17 full-text publications in scientific journals and collections, beyond the minimum scientometric requirements, of which 11 articles are in refereed and indexed journals in SCOPUS and WEB of Sciences. I accept 11 of the articles from the supplementary list, of which 6 articles are refereed. The articles from the additional list bring Prof. Micheva 105.75 points.

The candidate has attached a list of 20 articles, of which one article is cited 77 times and 3 articles more than 10 times, with which criterion D is fulfilled (with a minimum number of 100 points, the points from the citations are 2635 points). For the appointment of academic position "Professor" Assoc. Prof. Micheva has three successfully defended doctoral students. She has two specialties. According to Certificate No. 110-229 dated 27.01.2023 of MU-Varna, she participated in two national projects and co-authored a textbook. Assoc. Prof. Micheva teaches specialists and doctoral students. The total number of points is 241.2, of which 100 points are from successfully defended doctoral students, with which criterion E is fulfilled (minimum 80 points from successfully defended doctoral students).

III. Evaluation of the contributions of the scientific works of Associate Professor Micheva, MD.

The topics of the publications are in several areas:

- Diseases of clinical hematology with an emphasis on malignant blood diseases.
- Studies related to hematopoietic stem cell transplantation.
- Experimental studies
- Review articles.

One part of the publications is devoted to rare clinical cases with a review of the literature.

A large part of her developments are interdisciplinary, involving specialists in the field of microbiology, immunology, genetics, imaging, etc., which shows Assoc. Prof. Micheva's ability to work in a team.

Scientific contributions in the field of multiple myeloma are original and most significant. Some cytogenetic aberrations and chromosomal abnormalities were analyzed and their predictive significance in patients with multiple myeloma was assessed. Autologous stem cell transplantation applied to patients with this disease confirms its efficacy and safety and proves beyond doubt that it is a factor in prolonging overall survival and progression-free survival.

A significant part of Assoc. Prof. Micheva's research is of a scientific-applied nature and is dedicated to evaluating the effect of treatment on patients with different hematological diseases: non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, Hodgkin's disease, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, acute myeloid leukemia etc.

Research on iron metabolism and inflammation in patients in different stages of myelofibrosis has a scientific and applied nature.

Assoc. Prof. Micheva has published a number of review articles devoted to the main bone biomarkers and pathogenetic mechanisms of bone remodeling in patients with multiple

myeloma; on epigenetic mechanisms in myelodysplastic syndrome; on the regulation of iron metabolism and inflammatory cytokines in the pathogenesis of the anemic syndrome; examines in detail the main risk factors for the development of infectious complications in patients who have undergone autologous and allogeneic transplantation, etc.

The methods, cytological, molecular genetic, imaging, experimental, etc., i.e. the complex approach that Assoc. Prof. Micheva applies reveals an exceptionally methodically prepared scientist.

Assoc. Prof. Micheva has an h-index of 7 (Google Scholar), which is the most objective and accurate criterion of her research and publication activity. There are 188 citations, of which 165 are in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases or in monographs and collective volumes, 7 in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes, 16 in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals (Academic reference #27 /30.01.2023 MU-Varna Library). The total impact factor of Assoc. Prof. Micheva from the publications for participation in the competition for professor is 212.178 (after acquiring the academic position of associate professor).

The reference to the contributions of the scientific works and the self-assessment of Assoc. Prof. Micheva in connection with her participation in the competition for professor testify to broad and deep knowledge in the field of hematopathology and transplantation of hematopoietic stem cells.

IV. Evaluation of the participation in the scientific teaching and diagnostic activity of Assoc. Prof. Iliana Micheva, MD, PhD

Over the years, Associate Professor Micheva has established herself as a teacher with extensive pedagogical and professional experience. She gives lectures and conducts exercises to medical students in Bulgarian and English. According to the report issued by MU-Varna, her academic load exceeds the standard for habilitation persons.

Assoc. Prof. Micheva shares her rich experience in the field of diagnostics of hematological diseases with the interns and doctors from the Hematology Clinic. She has been the supervisor of 5 interns and leads a basic course in Clinical Hematology. Recognition of the high level of her teaching and diagnostic activity is her participation as an author in the "Guide to the Diagnosis and Treatment of Hematological Diseases" published in 2018. She is the assistant editor of a textbook for medical students: "Schwartz's Principles of Surgery".

According to the certificate issued to Assoc. Prof. Micheva by the scientific department of the University of Varna (Exh. No. 109-14/09.01.2023), there are three PhD students who have successfully defended their degrees and she is the scientific supervisor of seven more.

Assoc. Prof. Micheva maintains a high level of qualification and continuously improves her knowledge and skills, recognition for which is an award of the Bulgarian Medical Union - Varna in 2018 in the "Innovations" section for the creation of the transplant department at the UMBAL "Sv. Marina" - Varna.

Assoc. Prof. Micheva is a member of the Expert Council on Clinical Hematology at the Ministry of Health, participates in the Clinical Commission "Transplantation of hematopoietic stem cells", in the Commission for control over the quality, safety and rational use of blood and blood components, etc. Assoc. Prof. Micheva's consultancy and expert work are highly appreciated and demonstrate competence and professionalism.

Critical remarks

There are some discrepancies between the list of publications presented by Associate Professor Micheva and the Academic Reference No. 27/30.01.2023 issued by the Library of the MU - Varna.

Conclusion

The materials presented in the competition by Assoc. Prof. Ilina Dimitrova Micheva, 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 law and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the University of Varna, the candidate fully meets the conditions for occupying the academic position "professor" in the specialty " Clinical Hematology". I will vote YES and recommend to the respected Scientific Jury to award Assoc. Prof. Ilina Dimitrova Micheva, MD, PhD the academic position "PROFESSOR" by professional direction 7.1. Medicine for the needs of the Second Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine of MU-Varna.

Varna
25.04.2023

Prepared an opinion:
/Prof. Maria Angelova Tzaneva, MD, PhD/