

To Prof. Dr. Zhanet Grudeva-Popova, MD,PhD
Chair of the Scientific Jury,
determined by Order R-1881 / 22.10.2021
of the Rector of MU - Plovdiv

STATEMENT

in a competition for the academic position of Professor of Hematology and Blood Transfusion for the needs of the First Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University - Plovdiv

Candidate (only one): Assoc. Prof. Veselina Goranova-Marinova, Ph.D.

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Valeria Ignatova Kaleva, MD, PhD

Head of the Clinic of Pediatric Clinical Hematology and Oncology

University Hospital St. Marina - Varna, MU - Varna

1. Analysis of the candidate's career profile. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselina Goranova-Marinova was born on April 30, 1974 in Plovdiv. In 1999 she graduated from the Higher Medical Institute - Plovdiv with honors. In 2006 she obtained a degree in Internal medicine, and in 2007 - the educational and scientific degree of Doctor with a dissertation on "Studies on the OPG / RANKL system in patients with multiple myeloma and bone lesions". In 2010 she obtained a master's degree in health management, and since 2011 she has been recognized as a specialist in clinical hematology.

From 2006 to the present she works as a specialist at the Clinic of Clinical Hematology, University Hospital St. Georgi - Plovdiv. In 2008 she was elected an assistant at the First Department of Internal Medicine, Medical University - Plovdiv. She successively passed through senior and chief assistant and in 2016 she was habilitated as an associate professor. Since 2020 she has been the head of the Department of Hematology at the First Department of Internal Medicine, MU - Plovdiv.

In the course of her work, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Goranova-Marinova has several additional certified specializations and educational courses, including various areas in the field of clinical hematology:

- Hematological malignancies: workshops focusing on myeloid and lymphoid neoplasms in 2004, 2005 and 2006 at the Catholic Medical University A. Gemelli, Rome, Italy; educational course in 2018 at MDACC, Houston, Texas, USA;

- Hemophilia: educational courses in 2008, 2013 and 2014 at Lund University, Malmö, Sweden;

- hematopoietic stem cell transplantation: training courses in Sofia (2009), London (2009), Ulm (2009) and Tübingen (2012) and two specializations in Jerusalem (2016 and 2017).

2. General description of the submitted materials in the competition

2.1. Scientometric indicators. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Goranova-Marinova participates in the announced competition with a total of 185 publications and scientific communications and reports with published abstracts of national and international forums. Of these, 37 publications and 46 communications and reports are after her habilitation as an associate professor, including:

- one monograph (100 points);
- publications in international journals with IF, indexed and referenced in world-famous databases with scientific information - 15 publications (79.66 points);
- publications in journals without IF, indexed and referenced in world-famous databases with scientific information - 18 publications (269.73 points);
- publications in non-refereed journals with scientific review - 4 publications (53.5 points);
- four textbooks and one therapeutic guide (7.19 points);
- a total of 22 scientific communications and reports at international forums with published abstracts;
- a total of 24 scientific communications and reports at national forums with published abstracts.

The average annual publication activity is 5.2, and the scientific activity related to announcements and reports is 6.6. The candidate is leading first and second author is in 40.5%. The list of citations and reviews for the same period includes 1379 titles with 20505 points. The total impact factor is 201.27

2.2. Participation in research projects

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselina Goranova-Marinova has participated in a total of 5 university and national projects, two of which she is a leader and one - a leading researcher.

3. Evaluation of scientific papers for the overall academic development. The scientific presence of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselina Goranova-Marinova in Bulgarian hematology has accents of contemporary topics, methodological competence, analytical interpretability and

clinical applicability. The main part of her publications and reports are in the various aspects of plasma cell diseases, 60% of which cover more than 600 patients with multiple myeloma (MM), which is among the largest European single-center series in number of patients and duration of follow-up. In the period until 2015, the scientific developments of Assoc. Prof. Goranova-Marinova in this field have led to the formulation of 3 original theoretical, one theoretically applied and 5 confirmatory-applied scientific contributions.

The scientific publications, communications and monographs from the period 2015 - 2021 are 83 in total, and 55% continue to develop the field of the plasma cell neoplasms with different focus, purpose and tasks, including the following main areas: (1) new therapeutic options in patients with MM; (2) studies on extramedullary and macrofocal forms of MM; (3) cytogenetic abnormalities in MM; (4) light chain diseases.

Her monograph is entitled "Diseases of the light chains and monoclonal immunoglobulins." Its content includes all the fundamental features of the biology of monoclonal immunoglobulins and light chains, discusses their pathogenetic significance and phenomena associated with genetic alterations, analyzes diseases of monoclonal light / heavy chains together with its own research contribution to the OPG / RANKL system. Monoclonal gammopathy of renal significance (MGRS) is discussed in theoretical and clinical aspects along with the most advanced treatment strategies.

The original results of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Goranova-Marinova in the first direction lead to the formation of scientific and applied contributions, including the new formulation of criteria for therapeutic response in MM, as well as recommendations for approval of new drugs in various combinations. In the second direction, her scientific contributions demonstrate mainly theoretical and applied nature with an emphasis on defining independent prognostic factors related to survival of the patients

In addition to the plasma cell neoplasms, 5 publications and 17 reports present the results of single-center and multicenter national studies related to the use of innovative drug therapies in lympho- and myeloproliferative neoplasms. Their therapeutic efficacy is comparable to the literature data and demonstrates not only the level of applied informative diagnostics of hematological malignancies in Bulgaria, but also the respected experience of the authors in the application of modern antineoplastic therapy.

The field of benign hematology is presented by publications and reports related to bone health and the effect of chelation therapy in patients with transfusion-dependent beta-thalassemia. The reported results demonstrate original scientific input through the discovery of

an independent laboratory predictor (sclerostin) for the severity of bone deficiency and confirm data from other studies to reduce cardiac siderosis during treatment with oral iron chelators.

4. Evaluation of the teaching activity, incl. scientific guidance of students, doctoral students and postgraduates. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Goranova-Marinova teaches the specialty "Hematology" as part of the training in internal medicine in Bulgarian and English to students in "Medicine" at the Faculty of Medicine. The annual workload during the last 3 academic years is between 700 and 900 hours, and these include hours for teaching lecture material and clinical practice.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselina Goranova also conducts training for medical students within the undergraduate internship, as well as individual courses for postgraduate qualification in hematology and participates in commissions for semester and state exams in internal medicine. Participates in the development of tests, practical guides and textbooks in Internal Medicine and Hematology. For the 2018/2019 academic year, her total employment, including classroom, scientific and extracurricular activities, amounts to 803.8 hours.

She is the scientific mentor of 1 physician- in training in clinical hematology. She is a member of the examination commission for the state exam in the specialty Clinical hematology.

Under her guidance, two doctoral students defended their dissertations for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor": Dr. Katya Georgieva Sapunarova and Dr. Pencho Georgiev Georgiev.


5. Public and expert activity

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselina Goranova is a member of the extended editorial board of the journal Folia medica and secretary of the editorial board of the journal Hematology. For the period 2014 - 2018 he is the coordinator of BMSH for the European Association of Hematology (EHA) and a member of the Advisory Board of the Ministry of Health on congenital coagulopathies. She is a member of the Board of the BMSH and head of the working group "Plasma Cell Diseases". She is a longtime member of the EHA and the American Society of Hematology (ASH). She is a voluntary consultant to the Bulgarian Association of Rare Diseases and an expert to a number of commissions at the Ministry of Health, NAAA and Commission for Pricing and Reimbursement of drugs. She currently holds the position of Deputy Chairman of the Commission on Scientific Ethics and Deputy Chairman of the Control Board at MU - Plovdiv.

6. Conclusion

The summarized analysis of the above aspects shows that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselina Goranova-Marinova meets the requirements of ZRASRB and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff to hold the academic position Professor of MU - Plovdiv. Based on the significant scientific contribution in the field of Bulgarian hematology, academic erudition and social authority of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselina Goranova-Marinova, I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to vote for the academic position of Professor of Hematology and Blood Transfusion for the needs of the First Department of Internal Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine of MU - Plovdiv

Varna, 05 December 2021


Reviewer:
/Professor Dr Valeria Ignatova Kaleva, MD, PhD/

