

STATEMENT



by Prof. Dr. Dobrin Nikolov Konstantinov, MD

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External member of the Scientific Jury, appointed by Order of the Rector of MU - Plovdiv with № P-1881 / 22.10.2021

REGARDING: Competition announced in the State Newspaper "Dyrzhaven Vestnik" - issue 63 of 30.07.2021, for acquisition of AP "Professor" for the needs of the First Department of Internal Medicine, in the discipline "Hematology and blood transfusion", field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, according to an approved proposal by the Faculty Council of the Medical Faculty - MU - Plovdiv (protocol № 7 of 13.10.2021)

For participation in the competition, documents have been submitted by a single candidate: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselina Goranova-Marinova, Ph.D.

Professional Development.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselina Goranova-Marinova completed her secondary education at the English Language School. She received higher medical education at the Higher Institute of Medicine "Iv. P. Pavlov", Plovdiv in 1999 with honors. She has been specializing in Internal Medicine at the Medical University of Plovdiv since 2000 and acquired his specialty in 2010. In the period 2003-2006 she was a full-time doctoral student in hematology.

After successfully defending her dissertation on "Studies on the OPG / RANKL system in patients with multiple myeloma and bone lesions" in 2007 she was awarded the scientific and educational degree "Doctor". From 2008 to 2010 she specialized in Clinical Hematology at the Medical University of Plovdiv and acquired the specialty in 2011. Assoc. Prof. Goranova-Marinova holds a Master's degree in Health Management.

The work experience of Assoc. Prof. Dr. V. Goranova-Marinova started with an appointment as a physician at the Clinic of Clinical Hematology, University

Hospital "St. George" in Plovdiv in 2006. Since 2008, she has been an assistant at the Section of Hematology at the 1 - st Department of Internal Medicine, MU-Plovdiv, senior - (since 2009) and chief assistant (since 2011). Since 2016 she has been an associate professor, and since 2020 she has been the Head of the Hematology Section at the First Department of Internal Medicine, MU-Plovdiv. She has over 18 years of experience in clinical hematology.

General description of the materials submitted in the competition.

For the current competition Assoc. Prof. V. Goranova-Marinova presents for review a total of 103 publications, of which 46 are in the years after her habilitation in 2016: one co-authored monograph; participation in author teams of 5 textbooks (1 before habilitation) and one therapeutic guide. In the list of publications the participant is the leading 1st and 2nd author in 65.9%.

Of the articles published in peer-reviewed and indexed in the scientific databases Scopus and / or Web of Science international journals with IF, 18 were submitted for the competition (3 were published before the habilitation for associate professor). Particularly of high value are those published in leading general medical and hematological journals with high IF, such as Lancet (IF 60,392), N Engl J Med (IF 55,873), Lancet Oncol (IF 26,509), Leukemia (IF 12,104), Blood (IF 11,841) , etc.

The publications in journals without IF are 46 (28 before habilitation). In unrefereed journals with scientific review, the publications are 18 (14 before the habilitation for associate professor). Scientific reports and reports at international forums with published abstracts are 36 (14 before the habilitation for associate professor); scientific communications and reports at national forums with printed abstracts are 67 (43 before the first habilitation).

From the official reference provided by MU-Plovdiv, the total number of citations is significant and predominantly in the foreign specialized literature, as after the first habilitation they are 1408, compared to 66 from the previous period.

Evaluation of the scientific works of the participant in the competition for the overall academic development.

The presented scientific publications, communications and a monograph for the period 2015-2021 are a total of 83. In 55% of the studies the main problem is

related to the plasma cell neoplasms. Assoc. Prof. Goranova-Marinova works constantly in this field, during and after her doctoral studies and with her works she confirms a clear desire to upgrade and expand her research and knowledge. A special place in the scientific activity of the participant in the competition is occupied by the participation in international clinical trials of the modern therapeutic strategy in relapsed and refractory cases of multiple myeloma (MM). Assoc. Prof. Goranova-Marinova also participates in the reporting of the results from these highly rated international trials, which, at the moment, determine the therapeutic standards worldwide. Reasonably, this is the theme of most collective publications with the highest IF on the list presented. As it can be seen from other publications, Assoc. Prof. Goranova-Marinova focuses on the specific issues on the topic, such as extramedullary and macrofocal forms of MM, cytogenetic abnormalities and risk stratification in the disease, and publishes materials related to problems of light chain diseases.

Another area of scientific interest for Assoc. Prof. Goranova-Marinova are lymphoproliferative neoplasms. She participated in the development and presentation of national results in one of the first effective "targeted" therapies for Hodgkin's lymphoma. She has also published articles on cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, MALT lymphomas, CLL, hairy cell leukemia and others.

In the field of myeloproliferative neoplasms, Assoc. Prof. Goranova-Marinova is a co-author of studies summarizing at the national level and within the team in which she works, the results of treatment with tyrosine kinase inhibitors and follow-up of patients with CML.

Assoc. Prof. Goranova-Marinova has also scientific and practical interest in the field of benign hematological diseases. In particular, publication with Spanish and Swedish co-authors on specific aspects of haemophilia has to be distinguished. Another report, in an international team, on the high-dose immunoglobulin therapy (IVIG) in Immune Thrombocytopenia is of interest. As part of a research project of MU led by the candidate and as a research supervisor of two doctoral students, Assoc. Prof. Goranova-Marinova published data related to monitoring of the late complications of thalassemia.

Comprehensive, qualitative assessment of teaching and methodological activities.

From the provided academic report on the teaching activity of the participant

in the current competition (for the academic years 2018-2021) it is evident that she has a significant workload, exceeding the minimum criteria, including classroom employment in the Medical Faculty with lectures, clinical practice, seminars, undergraduate internships, exams, as well as scientific and extracurricular activities.

Assoc. Prof. Goranova-Marinova has participated in a total of 5 research projects at MU-Plovdiv, in 3 she is a leader and in 2 - a member of the team.

She was the research supervisor of two 2 successful doctoral students.

Overall assessment of compliance with mandatory conditions and mandatory quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators.

Getting acquainted with the materials submitted for the competition, I find that they meet the requirements of the Law on Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations for the academic position "Professor" at MU-Plovdiv.

The only participant in this competition, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselina Goranova-Marinova, has the necessary qualifications, extensive professional experience and experience in the field of hematology. With her high-quality research contributions and a significant volume of teaching activities, she significantly exceeds the required minimum in scientometric indicators (Table 1).

TABLE 1. MANDATORY MINIMUM SCIENTIFIC INDICATORS OF MU-PLOVDIV FOR DIRECTION 7.1. MEDICINE

Group of indicators	Content	Required for Professor	Presented by Candidate
A	Indicator 1	50	50,00
Б	Indicator 2	-	-
B	Indicator 3 or 4	100	100,00
Г	Sum of indicators 5 to 9	259	402,89
Д	Sum of indicators 10 to12	300	20 510,00
E	Sum of indicators 13 to the end	140	292,19

Ж	Sum of indicators for teaching activities	400	1 350,00
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Based on my personal impressions of Assoc. Prof. Goranova-Marinova, I can confirm that she is an established professional, highly qualified hematologist, experienced teacher and in-depth researcher.

Conclusion

Based on the data above, I confidently give my positive statement of the only participant in the competition and I recommend to the Honored Scientific Jury- Assoc. Prof. Veselina Goranova-Marinova, Ph.D. to be elected for the Academic position of "Professor" for the needs of the First Department of Internal Medicine, MU-Plovdiv in the discipline "Hematology and Blood Transfusion", higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine.

06.12.2021r,

