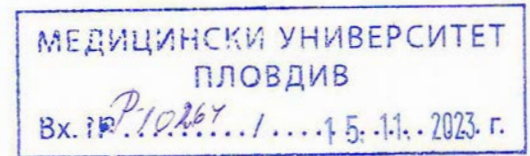


To
The chairman of the scientific jury,
appointed by Order No. R-2919/11.10.2023
of the Rector of the Medical University - Plovdiv
15A V. Aprilov Blvd
4002 Plovdiv



On your Protocol No. 1/12.10.2023

Attached I present: Opinion

by competition for the academic position “Associate Professor”
in scientific specialty “Human Physiology”
announced for the needs of MU-Plovdiv, Department of Physiology
in SG, no. 65/28.07.2023

The opinion was prepared by: Prof. Dr. Zlatislav Stoyanov Dimitrov, PhD, DSc

Scientific specialty/s: “Animal and human physiology” (according to the Classification of the specialties of scientists in the Republic of Bulgaria, effective until February 28, 2011) and “Physiology” (according to Ordinance No. 1 of 2015 on the acquisition of a specialty in the healthcare system).

Institution: Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” - Varna, Department of Physiology and Pathophysiology, Sector of Physiology

Address and contacts:

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**Заличено на основание
Чл.5 §1, б. “В” Регламент (ЕС)2016/679**

OPINION

In my capacity as a member of the Scientific Jury (appointed by Order No. R-2919/11.10.2023 of the Rector of the Medical University - Plovdiv) in the procedure (announced in the State Gazette No. 65/28.07.2023) for taking the academic position (AP) of Associate Professor in the scientific specialty “Human Physiology” at the Department of Physiology of the Medical University - Plovdiv (MU-Plovdiv), I provide an opinion regarding the competition procedure and the candidate – Petar Ivanov Hrishev, M.D., PhD.

The evaluation of the materials submitted for the competition is based on the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (abbr. LDASRB), its Implementing Regulations, and the Regulations for Academic Development at MU-Plovdiv (2021) (hereinafter – the Regulations).

Dr. Petar Hrishev has submitted all necessary documents in accordance with the requirements of art. 108 of the Regulations.

I. ANALYSIS OF THE CANDIDATE’S CAREER PROFILE

Dr. Petar Hrishev graduated MU-Plovdiv in 2013 as a Master of Medicine. In 2014, after a competition, he was appointed as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Physiology of MU-Plovdiv, where he is currently working. In 2018, he majored in Physiology. Since 20.01.2020 (over 2 years) he has held the position of “Head Assistant Professor”. The requirements of art. 24., par. 1, item 2.a of the LDASRB and art. 107, item 2a, of the Regulations are fulfilled. In 2018, Dr. Hrishev obtained PhD degree, after a successful thesis defense on “Functional, hormonal and clinical-chemical aspects of diet-induced metabolic syndrome in male and female rats under conditions of submaximal training”. The minimum national requirements (MNR) for the scientific activity of the candidates for taking the AP of Associate Professor in the group of indicators “A” and art. 107, item 1., of the Regulations are fulfilled. (50 points by group of indicators “A”)

II. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN THE COMPETITION

Dr. Petar Hrishev participated in the competition for the position of Associate Professor on the basis of the first hypothesis of art. 24, par. 1, item 3 of the LDASRB and art. 107, item 3., of the Regulations – by submitting a published monographic book entitled “Obesity and related pathological conditions in humans and experimental animal models” (AQUA GRAPHICS, Plovdiv, 2022, ISBN 978-619-7518-09-2). (100 points by group of indicators “B”).

Apart from the habilitation monographic book, Dr. Petar Hrishev also submits for participation in the competition: 15 scientific publications in journals that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus), having a quartile; 6 publications in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information (Scopus and Web of Science), not having a quartile. (A total of 227 points by group of indicators “Г”). The total IF of the papers (publications 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15 of the list) is 14.669. The total SJR of the papers (publications 1 to 15 of the list) is 4.297. In 9 (43%) of the publications, Dr. Petar Hrishev is the first or second author in the list of co-authors, which should be interpreted as a significant contribution to the respective scientific publications.

Evidence is presented by groups of indicators “Д” (50 points), “Е” (100.52 points) and “Ж” (1838.42 points).

III. COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE CANDIDATE’S SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

With his overall scientific activity, Dr. Petar Hrishev presents himself as a researcher who is able to identify problems significant for science and carry out purposeful scientific research with useful results. His scientific research is focused on a problem that has justifiably attracted significant scientific interest and has a high translational potential – the metabolic syndrome. It is evident from the presented scientific publications that the parameters of the metabolic syndrome and the immunochemical and immunohistochemical expression of a constellation of cytokines (such as leptin, NGF, adiponectin, etc.) playing an important role in the development of the syndrome have been studied in a complex manner. The research approach flexibly and complementary combines human studies and observations in experimental animal models (some of which are the author's own development). I accept without objection the detailed and well-grounded self-assessment of the candidate's scientific contributions to the clarification of pathogenetic mechanisms and pathomorphological changes, sex-related specificity, risk factors, the main markers for diagnosis, and the prevention and therapy of metabolic syndrome.

In addition to the monographic book and 21 scientific publications in reputable journals presented in the procedure, Dr. Hrishev also provides a list of 10 scientific reports presented at international congresses and conferences abroad, 18 scientific reports presented at scientific forums with international participation in Bulgaria and 14 scientific reports at national congresses and conferences. I take this as an indicator of high scientific activity and fruitful promotion of the candidate's scientific and scientific-applied achievements among the scientific community.

As a testimony to the productive and high-quality scientific activity of Dr. Petar Hrishev, I also appreciate his participation in 2 national inter-institutional projects, financed by the National Scientific Research Fund, and in 4 intra-university scientific projects (which earns 60 points by a group of indicators “Е” of MNR).

IV. EVALUATION OF THE MONOGRAPHIC BOOK SUBMITTED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPETITION FOR TAKING THE AP OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Dr. Petar Hrishev submitted for participation in the competition a peer-reviewed monographic book entitled “Obesity and related pathological conditions in humans and experimental animal models” (AQUA GRAPHICS, Plovdiv, 2022, ISBN 978-619-7518-09-2). The monograph summarizes (based on 378 literary sources and the author's own research) the current views on an extremely significant and multifaceted medical and medicobiological problem, to which Dr. Hrishev has a pronounced scientific affinity. Based on a competent presentation of the nature, etiology, and pathogenesis of obesity, the author makes a reasoned transition to the main complication of obesity – the metabolic syndrome. Risk factors and markers of obesity and metabolic syndrome are outlined. Special attention is focused on adipokines (leptin, ghrelin, TNF- α , IL-6, adiponectin, NGF). Experimental studies of obesity and metabolic syndrome are very competently presented. The author's own research results fit well into the exposition.

V. CITATION OF THE CANDIDATE'S PUBLICATIONS IN NATIONAL AND FOREIGN LITERATURE (PUBLICATION IMAGE)

The objective high evaluation of the contributions and the significance of the achieved scientific results is given by the positive response in the scientific literature and the scientometric indicators of Dr. Petar Hrishev. A list and evidence are presented for 28 citations of Dr. Hrishev's scientific publications, and 25 of them are in journals, referenced, and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes (Scopus and Web of Science). (50 points by a group of indicators “Д”)

VI. COMPLEX, QUALITATIVE EVALUATION OF THE TEACHING ACTIVITY

Dr. Petar Hrishev has been a teacher at the Department of Physiology of MU-Plovdiv since 2014. His total teaching experience is over 9 and a half years. During these years, Dr. Hrishev methodically developed and improved himself as a teacher. Shows excellent results in the educational activity, actively contributes to the improvement of the teaching methodology, and participates in the development of teaching aids. He is a co-author of 19 (6 of them in English) manuals for practical exercises in Physiology and collections of test tasks for students of medicine, dental medicine, pharmacy, and the bachelor's specialties of the Faculty of Public Health and Medical College. (40.52 points by a group of indicators “E” of MNR)

Dr. Petar Hrishev has an extremely high academic load. For the last two academic years, his auditory employment is a total of 2021.8 hours (with a norm of 720), which brings him 1010.9 points by a group of indicators “Ж”. His auditory employment includes the conduct of practical exercises and seminars, and participation in exams with students of medicine and dental medicine, as well as lectures, exercises, and exams with students from the bachelor's specialties of the Faculty of Public Health and Medical College.

Everything highlighted above is a guarantee of accumulated experience and teaching maturity, which is also evidenced by the categorical assessment of the students – Dr. Hrishev has twice been elected as the best teacher by the students in the English-language medical training program at MU-Plovdiv.

VII. CRITICAL NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I have no critical notes and recommendations.

VIII. GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICANT'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE MINIMUM NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS UNDER ART. 2B, PAR. 2 AND 3, RESPECTIVELY, TO THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER ART. 2B, PAR. 5 OF THE LDASRB AND THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR MU-PLOVDIV BY FIELDS AND FOR UNITS WITHOUT CLINICAL ACTIVITY, DEFINED IN THE REGULATIONS FOR ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT AT THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY - PLOVDIV

The conditions deriving from the LDASRB and its Implementing Regulations have been met. The point asset (1838.42) of Dr. Petar Hrishev exceeds the required number of points (1030) according to the criteria for taking the academic position of Associate Professor in area 4. Natural sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, 3. Biological Sciences, mentioned in Table I.3 of Appendix 1.I. of the Regulations for Academic Development at MU-Plovdiv (2021).

IX. CONCLUSION

My opinion on the competition and the qualities of the candidate is entirely positive. The candidate, Dr. Petar Ivanov Hrishev, PhD, meets the mandatory and specific conditions and scientometric criteria, and possesses all the professional and personal qualities to take the academic position of Associate Professor.

Заличено на основание
Чл.5 §1, б."В" Регламент (ЕС)2016/679

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Prof. Dr. Zlatislav Stoyanov, PhD, DSc

November 13, 2023