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The chairman of a scientific jury, determined by Order No. R-2392 / 12.07.2024
of the Vice Rector of Science and Research of the Medical University - Plovdiv

STATEMENT

according to a competition for the occupation of AP "Associate professor" in the scientific specialty "Medical radiology and roentgenology (incl. use of radioactive isotopes)", field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine at the "Clinical Oncology" Department, Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine Section at the Faculty of Medicine, MU - Plovdiv, announced in State Gazette No. 35 / 19.04.2024. with only one candidate in the contest chief. assistant Dr. Albena Dimitrova Botushanova, MD

By Prof. Zhanet Grudeva Grudeva-Popova, MD, PhD
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Pursuant to the order of the Vice Rector of Science and Research of MU-Plovdiv No. R-2392 /12.07.2024, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the stated competition. At the first meeting of the SJ there was a decision to prepare a statement.

Analysis of the candidate's career profile

Dr. Albena Dimitrova Botushanova, PhD graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, MU – Plovdiv in 1992. with excellent results. She started working as a resident doctor at the Radiotherapy Clinic - UMBAL "St. George", Plovdiv. Acquired the specialty "Radiobiology" - 1998, and in 2003 - second specialty "Nuclear medicine". Since 2004, she has been working on the scientific topic "Nuclear-medicine methods for the diagnosis of abnormal parathyroid glands in primary and secondary hyperparathyroidism". She obtained a doctorate in the scientific specialty "Medical

radiology and roentgenology (including the use of radioactive isotopes)" at the Medical University - Varna in 2019. In the same year, she was elected as an assistant at the "Clinical Oncology" department of the Medical University of Plovdiv. Participates in teaching medical and dental students in radiology. She is also a lecturer at the Medical College, MU - Plovdiv of X-ray laboratory technicians in nuclear medicine and radiobiology.

Dr. A. Botushanova, PhD graduated as a Master of Health Management in 2019. From 2020 is the head of the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the "St. George" - EAD, Plovdiv. In 2021 after a competition, Dr. A. Botushanova, PhD, holds the post of "chief assistant" at the Department of Clinical Oncology.

Dr. A. Botushanova, PhD, has participated in EANM congresses, as well as in national forums. She is a member of foreign and our scientific and professional organizations - BAR, ESR, UEMS, SUB.

She is the leader of the intra-university project "Diagnosis of bone metastases by hybrid SPECT/CT and markers of bone metabolism in patients with prostate cancer" - 2023, as well as a participant in the national project Doctoral student -2.

Dr. Botushanova, PhD has a specialization in working with PET/CT in the city of Erlangen, Germany – 2015. She was the tutor of two doctors specializing in nuclear medicine.

General description of the submitted materials for the competition

The submitted documents for the competition by the candidate ch. assistant Dr. Albena D. Botushanova, PhD, in accordance with the requirements of the LDASRB and the Regulations for the implementation of the LDASRB in MU-Plovdiv, related to the procedure for awarding AP "Associate Professor". All the necessary materials are available and very well structured, which allows responsible analysis and correct conclusions by the members of the scientific jury.

Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works related to her academic development

The academic development of chief assistant professor A. Botushanova, PhD., includes a complex evaluation of the scientific production and publication activity, application of the candidate's scientific and practical achievements, participation in the implementation of projects, teaching and diagnostic-treatment activities, incl. personal contributions related to them.

A. Scientific production and publication activity

Chief assistant professor A. Botushanova, Ph.D., presents her scientific papers to the competition, structured in two lists, according to the requirements of the Regulations of the MU - Plovdiv. The publications are from interdisciplinary collectives in the field of nuclear medicine, nephrology, oncology. Dr. A. Botushanova, PhD is the leading author (up to second incl.) in nine of them. Dr. A. Botushanova, PhD has a successfully defended dissertation work (with the above mentioned topic), which defines the focus of scientific interests. Modern nuclear-diagnostic methods and modern nuclear-medical equipment were used in the developments. Scientific contributions can be combined:

- *Nuclear medicine methods for diagnosis of abnormal parathyroid glands in primary and secondary hyperparathyroidism*

For the first time, the results of nuclear medicine studies performed in a large group of patients with PHPT and SHPT have been summarized. The advantages and disadvantages of single-isotope dual-phase method and two-isotope subtraction modality with ^{99m}Tc-sestamibi and ^{99m}Tc-tetrofosmin are presented. The role of the SPECT technique in improving the diagnostic sensitivity of the indicated methods is emphasized. The risks of false-negative and false-positive results were analyzed; protocols for the combined use of SPECT technique have been drawn up; an algorithm was prepared for the study of parathyroid glands.

- *PET/CT hybrid equipment*

For the first time, ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT examinations for carcinomas of: lung, stomach, mammary gland, kidney, colon, lymphomas have been introduced in UMBAL "St. George"-EAD, Plovdiv, for the purpose of staging and monitoring the therapeutic response.

- *SPECT/CT hybrid equipment*

For the first time in UMBAL "St. George" - EAD, Plovdiv, SPECT/CT protocols, nuclear medicine standard protocols, processing and interpretation of hybrid images for bone scintigraphy, radioiodine scintigraphy, lung and parathyroid scintigraphy have been introduced. In 2023, sentinel lymph nodes scintigraphy was introduced.

B. Participation in scientific and educational projects

Chief assistant professor Albena D. Botushanova, PhD., is the Head of the scientific project NO - 07/2023. on "Diagnosis of bone metastases by hybrid SPECT/CT and markers of bone metabolism in patients with prostate cancer" and participant in the national project Doctorate-2.

Evaluation of the monographic work presented by the candidate

Chief assistant professor A. Botushanova, PhD presents a monograph on the topic "Nuclear medicine and parathyroid glands - past, present and future" (2023), ISBN 978-619-7205-34-3. It is important to emphasize that the monographic work is the first on the subject for our country. In it, Dr. Botushanova, PhD traced the historical search for the most accurate radiopharmaceutical for the diagnosis of abnormal parathyroid glands and the development of new methodologies in connection with technological progress in this field.

Citability of the candidate's publications (publication image)

The attached citation report of Dr. A. Botushanova, PhD shows 20 citations. All are in journals from MBD (SCOPUS). Official evidence has been presented.

Comprehensive evaluation of the teaching-methodical and teaching activity

In the submitted materials for the competition, Dr. A. Botushanova, PhD, has an official reference from the Academic Department of the MU-Plovdiv about her academic workload in the last three academic years (units with medical-clinical activity). Ch. assistant Dr. Albena Botushanova, PhD, has classroom and non-auditory employment, exceeding the required minimum according to the regulations of MU-Plovdiv. The same includes teaching "Radiology" modules for third-year students of medicine/DM in MU-Plovdiv; teaching "Nuclear medicine" and "Radiobiology" modules to 1st and 2nd year X-ray laboratory assistants in MC, MU-Plovdiv. For the last two years (required in the self-assessment table), there is a total study load of 1588 hours (583 credits). Dr. Botushanova participated in the preparation of lectures and exercises for distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Involved in the preparation of exam tests for semester exams in Radiology. Head of Nuclear Medicine Graduates. Co-author in a collective of teaching aids.

Personal impressions of the candidate

I know Dr. A. Botushanova, PhD from our joint clinical, teaching and scientific activities as a responsible professional. She has the skills to work in a team, but she must direct efforts for scientific guidance of young colleagues with the idea of developing our opportunities for scientific and project activities, Erasmus programme, collaboration with related clinical units and departments.

Overall assessment of the applicant's procedure and compliance

All stages of the Announcement Procedure have been followed. They are in accordance with the requirements of the LDASRB and the Regulations for its application in MU-Plovdiv. The only candidate in the competition chief. assistant Dr. Albena Dimitrova Botushanova, PhD meets the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, par. 2 and 3, respectively, to the requirements under Art. 2b, par. 5 of LDASRB and those specific to MU-Plovdiv under direction 7.1. Medicine (medical-clinical activity), defined in the Regulations for Academic Development at MU-Plovdiv. The scientific works presented in the competition have a scientific and scientific-applied nature. The scientific developments are filled with a very well-structured research orientation, proving permanently oriented scientific interests.

Conclusion

In view of the above, I categorically accept that chief. assistant Dr. Albena Dimitrova Botushanova, PhD meets the mandatory and specific conditions and scientometric criteria for holding AP "Associate professor". I confidently give my positive assessment and suggest to the honorable scientific jury to vote positively ch. assistant Dr. Albena Dimitrova Botushanova, PhD to take AP "Associate professor" in scientific specialty "Medical Radiology and Roentgenology (incl. use of radioactive isotopes)", field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine.

DATE

08.08.2024

Prepare

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