



REVIEW

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Subject: Competition for the academic position «Professor» in the field of higher education 7. „Health and sport, ”, professional direction 7.1. „Medicine” and scientific specialty „General and clinical pathology” for the needs of Department “General and clinical pathology” at Medical Faculty, Medical University of Plovdiv, announced in the State Newspaper № 35/19.04.2024

According to the order (№ R-2303/03.07.2024) of the Vice Rector of Medical University of Plovdiv and Protocol № 6/26.06.2024 of the Faculty Council in Medicine at Medical University of Plovdiv I have been appointed to participate in the Scientific Jury of the above mentioned competition, and according to the decision of the first meeting of the Scientific Jury (protocol № 1/12.07.24) I have been elected for an reviewer of the competition procedure for the academic position «Professor» in the scientific specialty „General and clinical pathology” .

The only one candidate admitted to the participation in the competition is Elena Galabova Poryazova-Markova, MD, PhD, Associate Professor at the Department of general and clinical pathology at Medical University of Plovdiv. The received of me set of the materials on paper/electronically (USB) fully met the requirements of the announced competition for the academic position «Professor» in general and clinical pathology at Medical University of Plovdiv.

Career development

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Poryazova-Markova graduated in medicine at the Faculty of medicine of MU-Plovdiv in 1992. She is a long-term medical doctor with over 25 years of experience. Her academic and professional development began in 1993 and continues up to date as a teaching doctor (successively assistant, senior assistant, chief assistant and associate professor) at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Faculty of medicine, MU-Plovdiv, as well as a specialist doctor in general and clinical pathology in the Department of Clinical Pathology at the University Hospital“ St. Georgi ”of Plovdiv and Department of clinical pathology at the University Hospital “Palmed” of Plovdiv. Since 2000 she has a recognized specialty in general

and clinical pathology and in 2010 she obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" after successfully defending her dissertation. In 2014 she is elected "Associate Professor" at Department of general and clinical pathology, Medical University-Plovdiv and since 2024 up to date – Vice-Dean of International Relations and Project Activities of Faculty of Medicine at Medical University-Plovdiv. Since 2011 she has been appointed Head of the Department of Clinical Pathology at University Hospital "Palmed" of Plovdiv. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova has an additional qualification in health management. She speaks English and Russian.

Research activity

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova participates in the competition with 1 dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" (2010), 1 habilitation thesis - a monograph (2024), presented in connection with the habilitation procedure and a total of 45 real scientific publications, which were published after the acquisition of the academic position "Assoc. Professor " and are divided into 2 groups based on the NACID classification, namely:

- 20 publications in refereed and indexed in the world-famous scientific information databases Scopus and Web of Science; 7 of them in scientific journals with IF.
- 25 peer-reviewed publications in journals and collections, not refereed and indexed in the world-famous databases, 1 of them with IF.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova's scientific publications are mostly published in Bulgarian scientific journals, in Bulgarian or English (n=31), and the number of publications in foreign scientific journals is smaller (n=14). Prof. Poryazova is the first author in 3 of the presented publications (7%), second/last - in 16 (35%) and third or next/last - in 26 publications (58%). The presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova reference for IF of the publications published in scientific journals with IF (n=8) shows that their total IF is 6.913.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova has a total of 36 scientific reports in national and international scientific forums, which are after she acquired the academic position of "Associate Professor", and 1 of them was presented as an abstract in the referenced and indexed in the world-famous database Web of Science journal "Virchows Archiv", (with IF). Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova is a co-author in one collective monograph - "Malignant tumors of the vulva" (2015).

For the period after her election as an associate professor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova was the scientific supervisor of 3 intra-university doctoral projects (2018, 2020, 2022), which were successfully completed, and since 2024 she has been the supervisor and principal researcher, respectively, of another two scientific research projects under the program for strategic research and development innovations of MU-Plovdiv, which are related to digital pathology and the application of artificial intelligence in the field of pathology. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova is also a participant in the team of an European international Erasmus+ project (2023).

The reference for citations presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova shows that the total number of citations of her scientific publications is 72 and 39 of them are in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases and with an impact factor. Based on the author's data citation reference and automated information from the world-famous Web of Science and Scopus databases, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova has h-index =5.

The scientific contributions of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova's publications are in various areas of clinical pathology, mainly gastrointestinal, gynecological, surgical, maxillo-facial. They have a scientific-theoretical and applied nature, with the aim of improving the diagnosis and the choice of treatment for patients with tumor and non-tumor diseases of different localization. Her dissertation is on the differential-diagnostic significance of the immunohistochemical expression of certain markers (CK 7, CK 20, CDX2 and beta catenin) in primary colorectal and ovarian carcinomas, and peritoneal metastases from adenocarcinomas of unclear origin. A predominant part of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova's research activity, including her recently published monograph, is devoted to an extensive research of the epithelial mesenchymal transition (EMT) and its role in tumor progression in tumors of different localization - breast, stomach, ovarian, endometrial carcinomas and carcinosarcomas, and others. The results of the conducted immunohistochemical studies with E-cadherin and a number of other markers related to EMP have been published in a large number of the presented publications. They have an original character for our country and contribute to clarifying and confirming the role of EMT in the complex biological mechanisms of progression and metastasis of the tumors studied by the authors. Another series of publications is related to colorectal carcinoma and the obtained results have a direct scientific and practical application. In them, the importance of individual clinico-

morphological characteristics (tumor size, histological type and degree of differentiation, tumor stage) as well as the degree of immunohistochemical expression of the proliferative marker Ki 67, p 53 or Her 2 for the prognosis of patients with colorectal carcinoma is evaluated. There are several publications in the field of oral pathology reporting current data on the surgical treatment and morphologic diagnosis of odontogenic cysts and some tumors of the jaws, including a rare case of peripheral osteoma of the mandible. As proof of the wide range of scientific interests of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova are the publications related to detailed clinical-morphological description of cases with rare tumor and non-tumor diseases in the field of CNS, orthopedics, pediatrics, etc. In the field of CNS tumor pathology, a rare case of myxopapillary ependymoma of the filum terminale has been described; a pediatric case of solitary neurofibroma of the cauda equina; a rare case of intramedullary meningioma in the lower thoracic region. In the field of orthopedics, the morphological changes in the tenosynovial tissue in patients with idiopathic carpal tunnel syndrome are described, as well as the most important anatomical variations of the median nerve and their importance for the surgical treatment of the disease. Several other publications have described rarely observed cases in diagnostic practice such as a case of pleomorphic adenoma in the sinonasal region, initially diagnosed as malignant melanoma; a case of undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma of the mammary gland; a case of Ewing's sarcoma of the spine. The publication related to the use of some useful pedagogical methods and practices in the pathology training of medical students is also of particular interest.

Teaching activity

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova has more than 25 years of teaching experience in teaching general and clinical pathology to medical, dental and pharmacy students (Bulgarian and English), as well as to undergraduate students, including medical laboratory assistants and assistant pharmacists. The data from the attached reports on academic workload (practical exercises, lectures, semester exams) during the last three study years (a total of 1328 academic hours for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years) show that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova significantly exceeds the established hour norm for habilitated lecturer at MU-Plovdiv. She is a member of the state examination committee for acquiring the specialty "General and

Clinical Pathology" and participates in scientific juries for dissertation defenses at the Medical University of Plovdiv and other medical universities in the country.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova is the research supervisor of 2 successfully defended doctoral students at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, MU-Plovdiv (1 in 2015 and 1 - in 2019) and is currently research supervisor of third PhD student enrolled in 2022.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova is the author of a manual on histopathology in English (Handbook of histopathology and immunohistochemistry, 2016) and participated as a co-author in the publication of 4 textbooks - Lecture Course in General Pathology for medical students, Lecture Course in Clinical Pathology for medical students, Lecture Course in General and Clinical Pathology for dental students and "General and Clinical Pathology" for pharmacy students (also translated into English). She is the co-author of a total of 9 training manuals (4 practical exercises in general and clinical pathology for students of medicine and dentistry, in Bulgarian or English; sample tests in general pathology for students of medicine in Bulgarian or English, "A look at pathology" for students training to become nurses and midwives and the undergraduate programs for laboratory assistants and pharmacist assistants).

Diagnostic-therapeutic activity

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova is an outstanding medical practitioner in general and clinical pathology, with extensive clinical experience. Daily she performs routine diagnostic and consultative biopsy work in the field of tumor and non-tumor pathology with scientific precision and competence. She participates actively in the practical training of the postgraduate students in general and clinical pathology. Undisputed proof of her diagnostic skills is her appointment as Head of the Department of clinical pathology at University Hospital "Palmed" of Plovdiv.

Conclusion

Based on the above data, I believe that the career development and research, teaching and diagnostic activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova in the field of general and clinical pathology exceed the minimum national requirements and fully meet the criteria for the academic position of "Professor" under the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the structure and activity of MU-Plovdiv.

Based on her established professionalism, her multifaceted and fruitful research activity, as well as a large volume of teaching activity, I recommend the respected members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Galabova Poryazova- Markova, PhD, to occupy the academic position "Professor" in the scientific specialty "General and Clinical Pathology" for the needs of the Department of General and Clinical Pathology at Faculty of Medicine, Medical University of Plovdiv.

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