



**To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury,
determined by Order No. R-2303/03.07.2024
of the Vice-Rector for NID Medical University - Plovdiv
V. Aprilov Blvd. No. 15A 4002 Plovdiv**

On your Protocol No. 1/ of 12.07.2024, as well as Protocol No. 6 of 26.06.2024 of the Faculty Council of the Ministry of Education at the MU-Plovdiv

Attached I present: Opinion

by competition for the academic position "PROFESSOR"

in scientific specialty: "Pathology and cytopathology"

announced for the needs of MU-Plovdiv, Department of General and Clinical Pathology in SG, no. 35/19/04/2024

From a member of the scientific jury: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iliya Bivolarski, MD

Research specialist: Pathologoanatomy and cytopathology

Professional management: 7.1 Medicine

Institution: Medical University - Plovdiv, Faculty of Medicine, Department of General and Clinical Pathology

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

Opinion

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iliya Petrov Bivolarski, MD
Department of "General and Clinical Pathology",
MF of MU - Plovdiv

Internal member of the scientific jury for the academic position "Professor", according to a competition announced in the Official Gazette, no. 35/19.04.2024, confirmed by Order No. P-2303/03.07.2024 of the Deputy Rector of the National Institute of Health, MU-Plovdiv on the scientific specialty "Pathology and cytopathology" area of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, for the needs of the "General and Clinical Pathology" Department, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University - Plovdiv for teaching in Bulgarian and English.

I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile

In this competition for the occupation of academic title "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Pathology and cytopathology", announced for the needs of the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology", in the Official Gazette, no. 35/19.04.2024, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Galabova Poryazova-Markova, PhD is the only participant.

Assoc. Prof. Poryazova was born in the city of Plovdiv. He completed his higher medical education in 1992 at Medical university-Plovdiv (then High Medical Institute). There she began working as an assistant in 1993 in the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, where she later became a senior and then chief assistant. In 2000, Assoc. Prof. Poryazova acquired a specialty in "Pathology with cytopathology", and in 2005 - a professional qualification in "Health Management" at the College of Economics and Management, Plovdiv. In 2007, she was enrolled as a doctoral student of independent training, succeeded and in 2010 was awarded her Doctorate from MU-Sofia.

During the same period, Assoc. Prof. Poryazova also worked as a resident doctor in the Department of Clinical Pathology at UMHAT "St. Georgi" - Plovdiv, and in 2011 became the Head of the Department of Clinical Pathology at UMHAT "Palmed", Plovdiv.

In 2014, she acquired the title Associate Professor at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology of the Medical University of Plovdiv, where she is working to this day. In 2024, she was elected Deputy Dean for "Projects and International Cooperation" at the Faculty of Medicine in MU - Plovdiv.

Assoc. Prof. Poriayzova participates in state examination committees for the acquisition of a specialty in pathology, is a member of academic professional associations, a scientific journal for academic positions, and a reviewer of scientific projects. Fluent in written and verbal English and Russian.

II. General description of the submitted materials for the competition.

The materials for the competition are presented on an electronic medium. Assoc. Prof. Poryazova's documents are in full compliance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for Academic Development of the MU - Plovdiv. Assoc. Prof. Poriyazova participated in the competition with: Author's abstract of a dissertation work for the scientific title "Doctor in medicine" (PhD); Habilitation thesis - peer-reviewed monograph; 20 publications in referenced and indexed in the world-famous Scopus and Web of Science databases, including those with IF; 1 abstract in Scopus and Web of Science refereed journal, with IF; 25 publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes; 6 chapters in a collective monograph; 36 participations in scientific congresses and conferences; in 5 university textbooks; in 10 textbooks; 72 citations in journals referenced in Scopus and Web of Science, of which 39 citations in IF journals.

III. Evaluation of the scientific works of the candidate for the overall academic development.

The scientific issues in the presented works of Assoc. Prof. Poriyazova are mainly aimed at diagnostic search and application of a complex of modern morphological methods mainly in oncopathology - diagnosis of metastases from adenocarcinomas in the peritoneum, determination of immunohistochemical profile in colon and ovarian carcinomas, morphological studies in the field of gynecological pathology, mammary gland pathology, study of tumors and cysts of the jaws, rare localizations of CNS tumors, study of gastric carcinomas, study of the mechanisms of tumor progression and metastasis of solid malignant tumors. Rare diagnostic cases from practice are described, well-illustrated and properly documented.

The presented full-text publications in the period 2014-2024 are the result of joint studies in a team with specialists from various clinical specialties and work on intra-university, national and international research projects. They are mainly in the fields of surgical pathology, gastroenterology, orthopedics, pediatric surgery, gynecological pathology and maxillofacial surgery. Interdisciplinary developments have also been carried out on joint inter-university projects and research topics of doctoral students such as: epithelial-mesenchymal transition and ovarian carcinomas and the role of E-cadherin in the progression of ovarian carcinomas, with contributions to clarify the pathogenesis of primary ovarian and tubal carcinomas; Pathology of endometriosis, endometrial carcinomas and carcinosarcomas, with presented new hypotheses on the development and differentiation of the latter; Study of the expression of E-cadherin in pathological processes of the mammary gland.

Assoc. Prof. Poriyazova was the scientific supervisor of 3 intra-university doctoral projects (2018, 2020, 2022), which were successfully completed, and since 2024 she is the supervisor and main researcher of two other scientific research projects under the program for strategic studies and innovations for the development of MU-Plovdiv, related to digital pathology and the application of artificial intelligence in the field of pathology. Assoc. Prof.

Porjazova is also a participant in the team of a European international project under Erasmus+ (2023).

IV. Evaluation of the monographic work in the competition for "PROFESSOR" by the candidate.

The monographic work is entitled: "E-cadherin - metastasis, tumor progression, clinical-morphological aspects.". It has a volume of 140 pages and presents the in-depth study of the epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) and its role in tumor progression in malignant tumors frequently encountered in practice with different localizations - of the mammary gland, of the stomach and colon, of the endometrium and ovaries. The results are original and contribute to clarifying the role of EMT in the complex biological mechanisms of tumor progression and metastasis processes. The monograph adds value to the knowledge of molecular genetic mechanisms and carcinogenesis relevant to morphological and oncological practice.

V. Reflection (citation) of the candidate's publications in national and foreign literature (publication image).

The reference for citations presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Poryazova shows that the total number of citations of her scientific publications is 72, 39 of which are in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with impact factor. The total IF of Assoc. Prof. Porjazova is 6.913. Based on the citation reference and automated information from world-famous databases, Assoc. Prof. Porjazova has an h-index – 5 (Scopus); 6 - (Web of Science)

VI. Comprehensive, qualitative evaluation of the teaching methods and teaching activity, incl. scientific guidance of students, doctoral students, specialists.

Assoc. Prof. Poryazova is a long-time university teacher at MU-Plovdiv. She has over 25 years of total work and teaching experience. She led practical lessons and subsequently lectures in Bulgarian and English to students of medicine, dental medicine and pharmacology, as well as to students at the Medical College. The data from the attached reports on the academic workload (practical lessons, lectures, semester exams) during the last three academic years (a total of 1328 academic hours for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years) show that Assoc. Prof. Poryazova significantly exceeds the established norm for qualified teachers at MU-Plovdiv.

In addition to teaching students, Assoc. Prof. Porjazova also trains specialists in Pathology and cytopathology. He is a member of the state examination committee in the same specialty. He also participates in the training of students under the Erasmus program at MU-Plovdiv.

Assoc. Prof. Poryazova was the supervisor of two doctoral students who successfully defended their defenses and is currently the supervisor of a doctoral student of independent training.

Assoc. Prof. Poriyazova's 2019 attestation grade is "Very Good", which is the highest grade according to the Regulations of MU-Plovdiv.

VII. Critical notes and recommendations

I don't have any.

VIII. General assessment of the applicant's compliance with the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3, respectively, to the requirements under Art. 2b, para. 5 of the Law for the development of academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the requirements specific to MU - Plovdiv, defined in the Regulations for academic development at the Medical University - Plovdiv for the occupation of the academic position "Professor"

The career development, the large volume of research, teaching and diagnostic activities of Assoc. Prof. Poryazova, exceed the minimum national requirements and fully meet the criteria for occupying the academic position of "Professor" according to the Law for the development of academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the regulations for the structure and activity of the MU-Plovdiv. Assoc. Prof. Poriyazova meets all the specific criteria for holding AD "Professor", with a total number of points 3953.34 out of a mandatory 1240.

IX. Conclusion

Taking into account the full compliance with the national criteria and indicators for the appointment of academic title Professor, according to the Law for the development of academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for its implementation, as well as the specific requirements of the Rules for Academic Development of MU-Plovdiv, in the scientific specialty Pathology and cytopathology, professional direction 7.1 Medicine, area of higher education 7. Health care and sports, I recommend to the respected scientific jury to award Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Galabova Poryazova-Markova, PhD, the academic title of "Professor" in the scientific specialty "General and Clinical Pathology" for the needs of the Department of General and clinical pathology at Medical University - Plovdiv.

Date: 30.08.2024

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iliya Bivolarski, MD

Plovdiv

