



The chairman of the scientific jury,
determined by Order No. R - 2303/ 3.07.2024

On your Protocol No. 1/ dated 12.07.2024.
(date of the 1st meeting)

Attached I present:

Opinion

on a competition for the occupation of the academic position "PROFESSOR" in a scientific specialty "Pathology and Cytopathology", field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1 Medicine, announced for the needs of MU-Plovdiv, by the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology" in State Gazette, no. 35/19/04/2024

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Pepa Koseva Atanasova, MD
Scientific specialty "Anatomy, histology and cytology"
Institution Medical University-Plovdiv, Department of "Anatomy, Histology and Embryology"

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The only candidate in the announced competition for the academic position of PROFESSOR at the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology" of the Medical University of Plovdiv is Assoc. Dr. Elena Poryazova-Markova, MD.

I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile

Assoc. Prof. Elena Poryazova-Markova, PhD, was born on January 7, 1968 in the city of Plovdiv. In 1986, she graduated from the Medical University of Plovdiv. Since 1993, she has been working in the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology" of the Medical University of Plovdiv as an assistant, senior, chief assistant. She has a specialty in Pathology and cytopathology. In 2009, she obtained PhD degree in the scientific specialty "Pathology and cytopathology". Dissertation work "Differential - diagnostic significance of the immunohistochemical examination with Cytokeratin 7 and 20, Beta-catenin and CDX2 in colorectal carcinomas and metastases from adenocarcinomas in the peritoneum". Since 2014, she has been an associate professor in the Department of General and Clinical Pathology at the Medical University of Plovdiv.

She has 31 years of teaching experience. She skillfully uses her knowledge from the acquired specialty, conducts practical exercises and lecture courses for medical, dental and pharmacy students in Bulgarian and English.

For the 2022/2023 academic year her total classroom employment, scientific activity and extra-auditory activity is 712.9 hours, above the permissible norm for MU-Plovdiv. The study load includes 420.9 hours - lectures 184 hours and 236.9 hours of exams.

Assoc. Prof. Elena Poryazova participates in the Erasmus program. She works actively with students and doctoral students. Trains doctors specializing in general and clinical pathology. Participates in state examination boards in the specialty.

She is the supervisor of 3 doctoral students, two of whom have successfully defended the PhD degree.

Prof. Elena Poryazova is the author of the Histopathology Manual in English. Participates in the author's team of 3 textbooks in English for the teaching needs of English-speaking students, respectively in general and clinical pathology for medical and dental students. She is the co-author of the textbook for pharmacists.

Prof. Poryazova was the supervisor of three intra-university doctoral projects, all three of which were successfully completed. She is the head of the applied project PSNIIR-MUP "Program for strategic research and innovation for the development of MU-Plovdiv". Participated as a contractor in one European Erasmus+ international project.

She speaks English. Her computer literacy is at a very good level.
She has received a maximum rating on the last accreditation.
Since 2024, she has been Deputy Dean of Project Activity and International Cooperation.

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

The candidate has correctly submitted all the materials and required documents, in accordance with the requirements of the RASRB and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the MU-Plovdiv.

III. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works

In connection with the competition, Assoc.Prof. Elena Poryazova presented 45 scientific publications, 20 of which are referenced in the Scopus and Web of Science databases. Of these, 7 publications are in IF journals.

25 publications are in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals, and 1 of them is in an IF journal. In total, there are 8 publications in journals with IF.

There is a self-published peer-reviewed monograph (with ISBN): Poryazova E. "E-cadherin - metastasis, tumor progression, clinical-morphological aspects". She is also a co-author in a collective monograph: Malignant tumors of the vulva, G. Chernev, A. Chokoeva, Uve Volina, St. Filipov, E. Poryazova, Ed. Lax book, Plovdiv, 2015, where she participated in writing 6 chapters.

Assoc. Poryazova has 36 scientific reports at scientific forums at home and abroad.

Scientific contributions of the scientific works

The reference was made for the period 2014-2024 after the habilitation as an associate professor.

The scientific issues in the presented scientific works, including the abstract of a dissertation work, monograph, full-text publications and summaries of participation in scientific forums, are mainly aimed at diagnostic search and application of a complex of modern morphological methods for the diagnosis of metastases from adenocarcinomas in the peritoneum, to establish an immunohistochemical profile in colon and ovarian carcinomas, morphological studies in the field of oncopathology, tumor and non-tumor gynecological pathology, endometrial pathology, mammary gland pathology, examination of tumors and cysts of the jaws and rare localizations of CNS tumors, examination of carcinomas of the stomach, tissue hypoxia and the mechanisms of tumor progression and metastasis of solid malignant tumors.

Some of the publications are co-authored with clinicians, in which the participation of Assoc.Prof. Poryazova as a pathologist ensures accuracy in the diagnostic verification of the results and their morphological interpretation. For the first time in our country, immunohistochemical expression was investigated with a quadruple panel of antibodies (SK7, SK20, Beta-catenin and CDX2) in primary colorectal and ovarian carcinomas and in metastases from adenocarcinomas in the peritoneum for the purpose of differential diagnosis. The production and application of a tissue matrix that enables easy and rapid testing and reporting of the expression of a number of antibodies for the needs of oncological diagnostics, combined with economy, is new for our country. This is the first study for Bulgaria of the profile of new immunohistochemical markers, such as Beta catenin and CDX2, which develops a rational classification system successfully tested on independent data including metastatic tumor samples. An original contribution is the study of the epithelial-mesenchymal transition in endometrial carcinomas, carcinosarcomas of the uterine body and endometriosis, which is a first for Bulgaria. For the first time in Bulgaria, together with EMP, the relationship between p53 and Ki67 expression was studied.

The monograph examines current and complex from the pathologist's point of view biological mechanisms in the progression and metastasis of malignant tumors. Contemporary aspects, molecular and functional signatures of their epithelial-mesenchymal transition are reviewed. Based on the

immunohistochemical expression of E-cadherin, a parallel is drawn with the clinical-morphological characteristics.

Dissemination and application of the candidate's scientific and practical achievements among the scientific community

Proof of the value of Assoc. Prof. Poriazova's scientific work are the citations of her scientific works. A list and supporting material for 72 citations of articles in journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases, Scopus and Web of Science, are presented. Of these, 39 citations are in IF journals. This indicator represents the high evaluation of the scientific and practical achievements of the candidate among the scientific community at home and abroad.

My complex and qualitative assessment of the scientific works and the teaching-methodical and teaching activities incl. scientific supervision of doctoral students of Prof. Poriazova is high. The candidate as an excellent colleague, an authoritative teacher and a scientist who enjoys the respect of the academic community.

I have no critical notes and recommendations.

Conclusion

The presented documents and materials comply with the mandatory and specific conditions and scientometric criteria of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria (LAD), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LAD and the Regulations for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and the Occupancy of Academic Positions at the Medical University-Plovdiv. Assoc.Prof. Elena Poryazova-Markova, PhD, has a high teaching and scientific qualification. The attached works have high scientific and applied contributions.

Based on the above, I consider that Assoc. Prof. Elena Poryazova covers the specific requirements, defined in the Regulations for academic development at the Medical University - Plovdiv for occupying the academic position "PROFESSOR" in a scientific specialty "Pathology and cytopathology", area of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1 Medicine, announced for the needs of MU-Plovdiv, by the department of "General and Clinical Pathology".

08/19/2024

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

REVIEWER:

Prof. Dr. Pepa  Atanasova-Hrischeva, PhD