



OPINION

by competition for the occupation of the Academic position "Professor" at the MU-Plovdiv

I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile.

Associate Professor Rositsa Karalilova, MD, PhD, DMSc graduated in Medicine from the Medical University of Plovdiv in 2005. In the same year, she began her medical internship at the Rheumatology Clinic of University Hospital of Kaspela, Plovdiv, where she still works to this day.

In 2013, after winning a competition, she was appointed to the position of "assistant professor" in the "Propaedeutics of Internal Diseases" Department "Prof. Dr. Anton Mitov" at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University of Plovdiv. She has consistently gone through the stages of her academic development, and in 2018, after a competition, she was appointed "chief assistant professor", and from 2022 she is an "associated professor" in the same Department. Since 2018, she also holds the position of "chief administrative assistant professor" and Head of Academic Activities at the Department. In 2014, she acquired the specialty "Rheumatology".

The candidate has defended two dissertation theses in 2018 and 2021, with which she acquired the academic positions "Doctor" and "Doctor of Sciences". She went through training in national and international courses in musculoskeletal ultrasonography (Austria, Italy, England, Spain), capillaroscopy (Italy). Since 2017, he has been a certified European teacher of musculoskeletal ultrasound, and since 2023 he has been the chairman of the Bulgarian Association of Musculoskeletal Ultrasound (BAMSU). She is part of the organizational team for conducting qualification courses in musculoskeletal ultrasonography and capillaroscopy.

In parallel with her professional development, the candidate also held administrative positions, both in the Department as an administrative assistant, and temporarily acting as the Head of the Department of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, and subsequently became part of the Faculty Council of the Ministry of Health of the MU-Plovdiv, as from the beginning In 2024, she was elected as the Deputy Dean of Academic Activities in the Ministry of Education of the MU-Plovdiv. Assoc. Prof. Karalilova is a member of international and national organizations - the Bulgarian Society of Rheumatology, the Management Board of BAMSU, she is the head of an international working group of the COST Action for Osteoarthritis under the European Program, she is a member of the OMERACT, EUSTAR groups. The candidate is a participant in a number of intra-university and international projects, providing information on participation in 8 international and 3 intra-university projects.

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

All materials for the competition are submitted on time and in accordance with the Regulations for Academic Development at MU - Plovdiv.

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

The object of Assoc. Prof. Karalilova's scientific developments are various nosological units in Rheumatology, and together with various interdisciplinary teams, they study current topics in other areas of medicine as well. The greatest object of interest is research on the disease Systemic Sclerosis and Musculoskeletal ultrasonography, but she is involved in numerous scientific projects on vasculitis, inflammatory joint diseases, osteoarthritis, biomarkers. The studies related to biomarkers, microbiome, cellular metabolism are innovative. It is on the basis of these scientific

researches and their results that the original scientific contributions with evidentiary material in a number of areas - Ultrasonography, Biomarkers, Ultrasound of the lung, Elastography, Rheumatoid and Psoriatic Arthritis, Osteoarthritis and Osteoporosis - are brought out. The topicality of the researched topics, the obtained results have been evaluated by international to international, an indicator of which is the high publication activity in international editions incl. in the top-ranked rheumatology journal ARD and the high number of scientific production citations. Systematic and joint work in international scientific teams leads to participation in international projects, and for the current competition the candidate provides data on participation in 8 international projects. She is the head of an international project.

For the purposes of this competition, Assoc. Prof. Karalilova provides 24 full-text publications in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science, of which 20 have an Impact Factor, and 4 are referenced and indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science, without IF; 7 full-text publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals; participation in writing a university textbook and an independent monograph.

Assoc. Prof. Karalilova is the supervisor of two doctoral students who have successfully defended their dissertations and of another 5 doctoral students who are developing their scientific theses, one of them is at the stage of "deducted with the right to defend". She has reviewed 8 publications.

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

For the purpose of the current competition, Associate Professor Karalilova participated with a monograph "Ultrasonographic Phenotypes in Osteoarthritis" published in 2024 with ISBN 978-619-237-134-0. This scientific work presents a current problem in rheumatology related to the limited therapeutic options and ineffective long-term attempts to deal with Osteoarthritis, regardless of the high prevalence of this disease. The need for correct stratification of these patients turns out to be leading. Based on the etiopathogenetic constellations of the disease, the author presents the key role of the clinical approach, followed by the ultrasonographic methodology in the process of stratification and the subsequent therapeutic decision. This monograph is a useful guide for multi-specialty physicians working in the field of osteoarthritis.

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

The official citation index reveals 51 papers in Web of Science and 45 in Scopus, 195 independently cited, excluding self-citations. They are a reflection of the high and quality publication activity of Assoc. Prof. Karalilova in renowned journals. Citations in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals are 7. The official reference from Scopus certifies the Hirsch-index is 9.

VI. Complex, qualitative evaluation of the teaching-methodical and teaching activity, incl. scientific guidance of students, doctoral students, specialists.

The teaching-methodical and teaching activities of Associate Professor Karalilova include the training of Bulgarian and English-speaking students in the specialties of medicine, dentistry, midwives, nurses, physician assistants in lecture courses and practical classes. In addition, she trains trainee doctors, specialists, doctoral students. The candidate is a member of committees for

conducting semester exams, state exams, competitive exams for doctoral students, committees for graduate student colloquiums and doctoral minimums for doctoral students. She is part of a scientific jury for the AD "Doctor" and SD "Doctor of Sciences", AP "Associated Professor", participates in examination committees of the state exam for the specialty "Rheumatology".

Assoc. Prof. Karalilova is the head of the practical specialization for 3 specialists in Rheumatology, 7 doctoral students. Scientific guidance and work with students have led to dozens of publications with them and participation in international and national scientific forums.

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, para. 2 and 3, respectively, to the requirements under Art. 2b, para. 5 of ZRASRB and the requirements specific to MU - Plovdiv by direction and for units with/without clinical activity, defined in the Regulations for Academic Development at the Medical University – Plovdiv.

MANDATORY MINIMUM SCIENCEMETRIC INDICATORS OF MU-PLOVDIV FOR FIELD 7.1. MEDICINE (medical-clinical)

	Contents	AP “ Professor“ (points)	Assoc. Prof. R. Karalilova, DMSc (points)
A	Indicator 1		
B	Indicator 2		
C	Indicators 3 and 4	100	
D	Sum of Indicators 5 to 9		
E	S		
F	S		
G	Teaching activity and academic position		
TOTAL		1240	

IX. Conclusion –

On the basis of the above and in accordance with the ZRASRB, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for occupying the academic position "Professor", the candidate Associated Professor Rositsa Karalilova, MD, PhD, DMSc fully meets the set of mandatory and specific conditions and scientometric criteria and indicators for occupying the academic position " "Professor" and I strongly recommend to the esteemed Faculty of Social Sciences to vote with a positive vote for awarding AP "Professor" to Assoc. Prof. Rositsa Karalilova, MD, PhD, DMSc.

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

08/26/2024

Reviewer:

Sofia

Prof. Simeon Valentinov Monov, MD, PhD