

OPINION



I. Review of candidate's career profile.

Assoc. Professor Rositsa Valerieva Karalilova, MD, PhD, DMSc was born on 10.10.1979 in the city of Plovdiv. She completed her secondary education at Humanities high-school „St. Cyril and St. Methodius” city of Plovdiv with excellence. She is an alumna of Medical University – Plovdiv which she graduated from in 2005 as a physician with excellent result from state examinations. The same year she commenced her physician practice at UMHAT Kaspela in the city of Plovdiv. In 2014 she acquired clinical specialty “Rheumatology”. As at April 2024, she has 18 years and 6 months of service as a physician as per the submitted Certificate of service.

After winning competitions at the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Diseases at MU - Plovdiv, the candidate consistently passed through the positions of Assistant (2013), Chief Assistant (2018), Associate Professor (as of January 2022). Since 2018 she has been also working as Chief Administrative Assistant and Academic Activities Supervisor at the same department. In 2023 Assoc. Professor Karalilova was also a provisional Head of the Department of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine. In January 2024 she became **Deputy Dean** for Academic Activities at the Faculty of Medicine at MU - Plovdiv.

Assoc. Professor Karalilova has defended two dissertations, in 2018 and 2021, thus acquiring *Educational and Scientific degree “Doctor”* and *Scientific degree “Doctor of Science”*, respectively. Over the years, she has taken a series of international courses in musculo-skeletal ultrasound and holds the highest level of EULAR qualification. In 2017 she became certified European MSUS trainer; She also holds qualification in capillaroscopy.

Assoc. Professor Karalilova is a member of international and national organizations - Bulgarian Rheumatology Association, Bulgarian Medical Association of Osteoporosis and Osteoarthritis, Managing Board of the Bulgarian Association of Musculo-Skeletal Ultrasound of which she became President in 2023. She is also a member of the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Medicine at MU - Plovdiv. She is the **leader** of an European working group of COST action for osteoarthritis under the European Cooperation in Science and Technology program. She is a member of the OMERACT, TUI, EUSTAR groups. She is a part of the teams on intrauniversity and international projects and as at the time of this competition she participates in 8 international projects.

II. General description of materials submitted for the competition.

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Karalilova has submitted on time the full set of documents in compliance with Article 120 of Section V of the Rules for Academic Development at Medical Uni-

versity - Plovdiv. All documents conform to the requirements of ASDARB and its Implementing Rules at MU - Plovdiv.

III. Evaluation of candidate's academic papers for the overall academic development.

The scientific works of Assoc. Professor Karalilova are diverse both in terms of the researched problems in the rheumatology field and topics outside rheumatology which explains her joint scientific activity with various interdisciplinary teams with the primary lines of these academic pursuits being relevancy of the researched problems and search of solutions for them. This demonstrates on the one hand the vast interests of the candidate and on the other hand that she is a team player. A large portion of her scientific activity involves the application of the musculo-skeletal ultrasound with its new modalities in various conditions as well as research in systemic sclerosis with the latter being the subject of her two dissertations. The high praise of her scientific works explains the 3 publications submitted for the purpose of this competition which have been published in the highest ranking rheumatology journal ARD with an Impact Factor (JCR) - 20.3. The candidate participates with 24 full-text publications in scientific editions referenced and indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science; 7 full-text publications in unreferenced peer-reviewed journals; participation in the writing of university textbook and one self-authored monograph; she has submitted participation in 8 international scientific projects and is the leader of 1 international project.

Assoc. Professor Karalilova has submitted documentation on supervising 2 successful PhD candidates. Furthermore, she is the supervisor of 5 current PhD candidates.

IV. Evaluation of the candidate's monograph submitted for participation in the competition for "PROFESSOR".

The candidate participates in the competition with a monograph titled "Ultrasound phenotypes in osteoarthritis" published in 2024 with ISBN 978-619-237-134-0. Osteoarthritis is a condition of social importance considering the fact that its prevalence is rapidly growing with age, the aging population globally, and in particular the absence of an effective primary therapy, the high costs involved in combating the disease and the host of comorbidities, all of which have an adverse effect on the quality of life and increase mortality in such patients. Candidate's own research in such patients, the application of ultrasound in osteoarthritis phenotyping represent yet another innovative approach of the candidate which will contribute significantly to the stratification of patients with osteoarthritis and will facilitate the decision-making process. Accordingly, this monograph will be a helpful tool for physicians in various specialties when choosing a treatment.

V. Presence (citation) of candidate's publications in national and international literature (publication image).

The citations of the scientific publications of Assoc. Professor Karalilova in scientific editions, referenced and indexed in globally renowned scientific data bases, amount to **184**, she has submitted **1** citation in a foreign peer-reviewed monograph, and the number of citations in unreferenced peer-reviewed journals is **7**. The official check from Scopus shows that the candidate has Hirsch index **9**.

VI. Comprehensive, quality evaluation of educational and methodology and teaching activity, including as an academic supervisor to students, PhD candidates, residents.

The educational and teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Karalilova as per the submitted academic transcript covering the teaching workload for the last three academic years at treatment units shows that the total workload is **5458.1 hours**, direct teaching workload is **2821.1 hours**. This activity includes lectures and seminars in Bulgarian and in English for students at the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Faculty of Public Health; training of intern and resident physicians in General Medicine and Internal Diseases, training of students and teachers from the Erasmus program. She is a member of a committee for the appointment at academic position “Assistant”, “Chief Assistant” in rheumatology, member of a scientific panel for competition for the academic degree “Associate Professor” and academic degree “Professor”, member of scientific panels for educational and scientific degree “Doctor”, scientific degree “Doctor of Science”, member of examination committees for midterm exams of Bulgarian- and English-speaking medical students, students at DPH, competition examinations for doctoral candidates at MU-Plovdiv, for colloquia and examination of doctoral students in rheumatology, for enrollment in the specialty “Rheumatology”, member of state examination committee for specialty “Rheumatology”. The candidate is a Chairperson of committee on Academic Activities at the Faculty of Medicine, MU – Plovdiv. She is actively involved in the delivery of courses in ultrasound and capillaroscopy. She has submitted an official information summary on the piratical supervision of 3 resident rheumatology physicians. She supervises 7 doctoral students, 2 of them have already successfully defended their theses, one is at the stage of “signed off with a right to dissertation defense”, the remaining ones are in the process of developing their theses. Her work with students, resident physicians and doctoral candidates has resulted in over 65 scientific publications and participations in national and international scientific events.

The most recent Evaluation sheet shows that the candidate has achieved a “very good evaluation score of 90.7 points“.

VII. Critical remarks and recommendations. None.

VIII. Overall assessment of candidate's compliance with the minimum national requirements under Art. 2(b), paras 2 and 3 and respectively with the requirements under Art. 2(b), paragraph 5 of ASDARB and the specific requirements of MU - Plovdiv.

MANDATORY MINIMUM ACADEMIC SCORING INDICATORS OF MU-PLOVDIV FOR FIELD 7.1.MEDICINE (medical and clinic)

Indicator group	Content	AP "PROFESSOR" (points)	Assoc. Professor R. Karalilova, DMSc (points)
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2		100
C	Indicators 3 and 4	100	100
D	Sum of indicators 5 to 9	250	295.49
E	Sum of indicators 10 to 12	300	2805
F	Sum of indicators 13 to 22	140	917.96
G	Teaching activity and Academic position	400	1235
TOTAL:		1240	5503.45

IX. Conclusion

All of the above and pursuant to ASDARB, its Implementing Rules and the Regulation on the appointment at the academic position "Professor" incorporated in the Internal Rules of Medical University - Plovdiv, give me solid reason to agree that the candidate Assoc. Prof. Rositsa Karalilova, DMSc **meets** the totality of mandatory and specific conditions as well as the academic scoring criteria and indicators for the acquisition of the academic position "Professor" and I do recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Panel to **vote in favor** of conferring the academic position "Professor" to Assoc. Professor Karalilova.

26.07.2024
city of Pleven

Opinion prepared by:

Prof. Nikolay Nikolov, MD, FRCR

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

