

OPINION

By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Nedkov Ivanov, MD, Department of Pathoanatomy, Medical University – Pleven, Pleven, Bulgaria, appointed as an external member of the scientific jury by order No. R-1251/13.03.2025, of the Vice-Rector of the Research and Development Department of MU-Plovdiv.

Subject: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Pathoanatomy and Cytopathology", at the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology" at MU-Plovdiv, by competition announced in the State Gazette No. 110/31.12.2024 and according to proposal approved by the Faculty of Medicine of MU - Plovdiv (pr. No. 3 of 12.03.2025) with one candidate for participation in the competition - Chief Asst. Dr. Maria Stoyanova Koleva-Ivanova, MD.

One candidate has submitted documents for participation in this competition and has been admitted - Senior Asst. Prof. Dr. Maria Stoyanova Koleva-Ivanova, MD, who has been a resident physician in the Department of Clinical Pathology of the University Hospital "St. George" EAD, Plovdiv since 2010. In 2017 she acquired a specialty in pathology, and since 2022 she holds the position of Head of the Department of Clinical Pathology. Since August 2021 she has been Chief Administrative Assistant in the Department of General and Clinical Pathology.

Overall assessment of the documents submitted for the competition: The documents submitted by the candidate, Senior Asst. Prof. Dr. Maria Stoyanova Koleva-Ivanova, MD are in accordance with the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at MU-Plovdiv.

Biographical data and professional development: The candidate, senior asst. Dr. Maria Stoyanova Koleva-Ivanova, MD, was born on 30.05.1984 in the city of Burgas, Bulgaria. The documentation submitted for participation in the competition shows her thorough, consistent preparation and improvement in the field of pathoanatomy. The candidate, senior asst. Dr. Maria Stoyanova Koleva-Ivanova, MD, obtained an MSc - Master of Medicine in 2009 at the Medical University of Plovdiv. In 2010, she held the position of assistant professor at the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology" at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University of Plovdiv. She also obtained a specialty "General and Clinical Pathology" in 2017. On 18.12.2020, she successfully defended her thesis on the topic "Eosinophilic metaplasia in the prostate epithelium: general characteristics, morphology, morphogenesis". In 2021, he acquired the academic position of Associate Professor at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas. Since August 2021, he has been Chief Administrative Assistant at the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology", and since 2022 he has held the position

of Head of the Department of Clinical Pathology at the University Hospital "St. George" EAD, Plovdiv.

Research activity:

In 2020, Senior Asst. Prof. Dr. Maria Stoyanova Koleva-Ivanova, MD, obtained PhD degree after successfully defending a thesis on the topic "Eosinophilic metaplasia in the prostate epithelium: general characteristics, morphology, morphogenesis", in the Scientific specialty "Pathoanatomy and cytopathology". The thesis was defended on 18.12.2020 at MU-Plovdiv, Plovdiv, Bulgaria. The total number of points from her PhD degree thesis is 50 points (out of 50 required).

The candidate presents a list of 14 publications in refereed and indexed periodicals, in 1 of which she is the first author, and in 4 others she is the second author. Of the mentioned publications, 7 (3,4,9,11,12,13,14) have a stated total impact factor of 12.2 (total 181.6 points).

Chief Asst. Dr. Maria Stoyanova Koleva-Ivanova, MD also presents 4 publications in non-refereed journals (total 40 points).

She participates in a team that registered a utility model (reg. No. 4924 priority from 12.06.2024)

The scientific production and contributions of Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Maria Stoyanova Koleva-Ivanova, MD are united around several main thematic areas. The main emphasis is on the scientific contributions related to urological pathology and more specifically Prostate pathology (app. 9; 13.2; 13.3; 13.4.) to which the candidate's thesis is dedicated. Among the more important highlights of the results are the established expression of MUC1 in eosinophilic cytoplasmic granules observed in prostatic eosinophilic metaplasia, in the absence of expression of MUC2, MUC5 and MUC6. The described eosinophilic cytoplasmic granules were found to express PSA and MUC1, as well as lysosomal markers. Another significant point is the establishment of eosinophilic metaplasia as a pathological process. Of importance for practice is the description of the first case of a combination of nonspecific granulomatous prostatitis with eosinophilic metaplasia and prostate adenocarcinoma. Other important highlights are the study of lymphoepithelial lesions in inflammatory processes in the prostate (app. 13.3; 13.4; 13.14), and the expression of PD-L1 in them. Among the works of the candidate are the study of histoepidemiological data on the frequency and clinicoanatomical characteristics of eosinophilic cystitis, giant cell cystitis and nephrogenic adenoma, which find their application in the monograph "Current pathology of bladder diseases". (app. 10)

Another main area in which the candidate works is gastrointestinal pathology, in which rare cases from practice are described and discussed. The candidate's developments also include scientific research related to pulmonary pathology (14.4), scientific research in the field of forensic medicine and deontology (13.1), neuropathology (14.3), scientific research related to

teaching and learning activities (14.1; 14.2), gynecological pathology (20.4; 20.5; 13.6) and others (13.5; 13.7; 13.8; 13.9; 13.10; 13.11)

Habilitation thesis:

The candidate, senior assistant professor Dr. Maria Stoyanova Koleva-Ivanova, MD, is applying for a habilitation thesis, "Current pathomorphology of bladder diseases". Vesselin Belovezhov, Dorian Dikov, Maria Koleva. 2022; Lax Book ISBN: 978-619-189-144-3 in which she is the author of a total of 101 pages. Total number of points from the habilitation thesis /monograph submitted in connection with the habilitation procedure: 100 points (out of 100 required).

She has certificate of recognized specialty in General and Clinical Pathology and Cytopathology (Certificate series AP, No. 002552 / 01.06.2017) (40 points). The candidate also presents evidence of a total of 10 published textbooks, manuals and tools, which brings a total of 22.16 points.

The candidate, Senior Asst. Prof. Dr. Maria Stoyanova Koleva-Ivanova, MD, has provided a reference for a total of 12 citations (in refereed and non-refereed publications), which carry 165 points. 100 points are required 7 citations in journals referenced in Scopus and/or Web of Science. She has participated in a total of 5 research projects in the country (75 points). Teaching and teaching activities. The candidate, Senior Asst. Prof. Dr. Maria Stoyanova Koleva-Ivanova, MD, has provided a reference for a total of 410.3 hours of classroom and 70 hours of extracurricular employment (incl. Teaching in the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Pharmacy) for the academic year 2023 / 2024; total of 470.3 hours of classroom and 90 hours of extracurricular employment (including teaching in the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences and Faculty of Public Health) for the academic year 2022/2023 and total of 394.9 hours of classroom and 70 hours of extracurricular employment (including teaching in the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Public Health and Faculty of Public Health) for the academic year 2021/2022. Total teaching experience 11 years, 4 months and 29 days as an assistant and 3 years, 5 months and 27 days as a chief assistant. According to the candidate's reference: academic workload (lectures and exercises) (+number of points): 440.3 points. Academic position (+number of points): 300 points (for 3 years).

Assessment of expert and clinical activity: Chief Assistant Dr. Maria Stoyanova Koleva-Ivanova, MD shows professional interests in the field of uropathology and gastropathology, having extensive clinical and administrative experience. Chief Assistant Dr. Maria Stoyanova Koleva-Ivanova, MD is a proven, respected physician with sufficient expert and clinical experience in the field of the scientific specialty "Pathoanatomy and Cytopathology".

Conclusion: Candidate Chief Assistant Dr. Maria Stoyanova Koleva-Ivanova, MD meets the current requirements for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, in the scientific specialty "Pathoanatomy and Cytopathology", in the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology" at MU-Plovdiv

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Maria Stoyanova Koleva-Ivanova, MD, demonstrates thoroughness and professionalism in both her research and teaching activities. Based on the review and evaluation of the documents and evidence submitted by the candidate related to the competition, I accept that the candidate, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Maria Stoyanova Koleva-Ivanova, MD, meets the regulatory requirements for acquiring the scientific title and academic position "Associate Professor" in the specialty "Pathoanatomy and Cytopathology". I vote positively for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Pathoanatomy and Cytopathology", by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Maria Stoyanova Koleva-Ivanova, MD.

Date: 10.04.2025

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Signature: 

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Nedkov Ivanov, MD