



OPINION

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SUBJECT: Participation in a competition for an academic position
Associate Professor in the scientific specialty of *Internal Medicine* for the needs of
University „Prof. Dr. As. Zlatarov“ - Burgas.

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I. Normative grounds for the opinion

On the grounds of order № РД-243/21.12.2020 of the Rector of University „Prof. Dr. As. Zlatarov“ – Burgas, I was elected as a member of scientific jury in a competition for the academic position of *Associate Professor*, published in State Gazette, issue 90, dated 20.10.2020. I have been informed that the only candidate in the competition is Dr. Assia Andrianova Konsoulova-Kirova, MD, doctor at the Department of Medical Oncology, Complex Oncological Center - Burgas.

II. Professional and creative biography of the candidate

Dr. Assia Konsoulova-Kirova graduated in medicine in 2003 in Medical University Varna. In 2011 she obtained a specialization in Internal Medicine, in 2016 - in Medical Oncology, and in May 2016 she defended a dissertation for the obtaining of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" on the thesis: "*Expression of some plasma and tissue biomarkers as potential predictors of antiangiogenesis therapy with bevacizumab in metastatic colon cancer*". She is a member of the virtual European School of Oncology e-ESO - Oncology e-learning, of the expert board of the Annual National Conference "Multidisciplinary Oncological Discussions and Extracts" for the development of national standards for behavior in carcinoma of breast, prostate and urothelial carcinoma and of the ethics committee of the Club *Young Oncologist*, Bulgaria. She is also an ambassador of the European School of oncology (ESO) for Bulgaria, national representative for Bulgaria for ENTYAC (European network for teenagers and young adults with cancer), national representative for Bulgaria for EIQLCC (European Initiative for Quality Management in Lung Cancer Care) at the European Respiratory Society (ERS) and President of the Association of *Women in Oncology* - Bulgaria. She is the winner of the award for contribution to the Bulgarian clinical oncology "*Multidisciplinary Oncological Discussions and Extracts*" 2016.

III. Normative documentation for participation in the competition

The candidate submits all documents required by the competition: CV, copies of diplomas for educational and scientific degree MD, copies of diplomas for obtained specializations, list and copies of publications of scientific works, lists and evidence for participation in scientific forums in Bulgaria and abroad, list of citations, certified in a library, coefficient of influence (impact factor) and author's reference for scientific contributions of the presented works

IV. Scientific production participating in the competition

IV.A. Dissertation thesis for educational and scientific degree "Doctor": "Expression of some plasma and tissue biomarkers as potential predictors of antiangiogenesis therapy with bevacizumab in metastatic colon carcinoma", defended in 2016. The paper prospectively analyzes some predictive aspects related to tissue biomarkers related to VEGF signaling pathway in metastatic colorectal carcinoma treated with the antiangiogenic agent bevacizumab. 12 conclusions have been made and 5 contributions of scientific-theoretical and scientific-practical nature have been formulated.

IV.B. Scientific projects. The candidate participates in 5 scientific-research projects: (i) *Adjuvant behavior in men with breast cancer in Bulgaria*; (ii) *The European Initiative for Quality of Behavior in the Treatment of Lung Cancer*; (iii) *Electronic application ROSE to monitor the development of the disease in patients with breast cancer*; (iv) *Prospective registry and tissue biobank of patients with solid tumors*; (v) *Research of atherosclerotic changes in peripheral blood vessels in diabetics*.

IV.C. Scientific articles and coefficient of influence (impact factor). The candidate presents a list with a total number of publications - 71, of which 24 are in Bulgarian periodicals, 22 - in foreign scientific journals and compendiums and 25 - in textbooks, scientific compendiums and guides. She is a first author in 20 publications. Ten of the published articles in Bulgarian and 17 of those published in foreign journals are after the defense of the dissertation. The total impact factor of published articles is 32,884 (15,139 according to SJR) and of the abstracts is 78,034 (19,135 according to SJR).

A total of 39 articles have been submitted for participation in the competition for the obtaining of the academic position of Associate Professor, 18 of them are in English and have been published in books or journals with reference and indexing in world databases with scientific information such as *Web of science and Scopus*. Of the publications, 21 are in not-referred Bulgarian journals with scientific review, as 3 of them are chapters from national peer-reviewed scientific books and oncology guides, and 2 are in internationally edited collective papers. In 39 scientific publications (79.5%) Dr. Assia Konsoulova-Kirova is the only, first or last author. The total impact factor of the scientific publications submitted for the competition is 13,803 (8,132 according to SJR).

IV.D. Participation in scientific forums (congresses, conferences and symposia) and coefficient of influence (impact factor). Dr. Assia Konsoulova-Kirova is the author and co-author of 15 scientific papers and posters presented at prestigious international forums, 11 of which are from the last 2 years. The impact factor from the published abstracts is 78,034.

IV.E. Citations. The applicant submits a reference (Scopus) for 61 citations in international journals and for participation in the competition are included 25 citations, all of which in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world databases.

V. Interpretation of the scientific contributions of the candidate

The scientific presence of Dr. Assia Konsoulova in the Bulgarian oncological science has accents of the relevant current issues, methodological competence, analytical interpretability and clinical applicability.

VI. Teaching activity

The candidate presents a reference for 4 years of teaching experience as a full-time assistant (Bulgarian and English language training) in the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Diseases, Medical University - Varna and 5 years as a part-time assistant (2007/2008 and 2010 to 2014 incl.). She has participated in lecture programs from a thematic course for doctors specializing in Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology, and in individual training.

VII. Medical treatment practice

Until 11.12.2020 Dr. Assia Konsoulova-Kirova has overall professional work experience as a doctor over 14 years - 9 months and 1 day as a doctor in outpatient practice, 11 years, 3 months and 22 days in Multidisciplinary Hospital for Active Treatment "St. Marina" - Varna and 1 year, 10 months and 10 days in Complex Oncological Center - Burgas. As a specialist in internal medicine the experience of the candidate is over 9 years, and as a specialist in medical oncology - over 5 years.

Conclusion

Based on the significant scientific contribution in the field of Bulgarian Oncology Science, academic erudition and social authority of Dr. Assia Konsoulova-Kirova I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to choose her as *Associate Professor of Internal Medicine* at the *University "Prof. Dr. As. Zlatarov" - Burgas*

February 1, 2021
Varna

Signature by *D Kalev*
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