

REVIEW

By Prof. Dr. Nikolay Vladimirov Conev, M.D. PhD

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at the Department of Oncology, Medical University - Varna**

Regarding: *Competition for the Academic Position of "PROFESSOR" in the field of Higher Education 7. "Healthcare and Sports", Professional Direction 7.1 "Medicine", Scientific Speciality "ONCOLOGY" for the needs of the Department of Medical Oncology at Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda*

Competition Information

The competition was announced for the needs of the Department of Medical Oncology at Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda EAD. The competition notice was published in the State Gazette, Issue 12/11.02.2025, and on the website of ACC UMBAL Tokuda EAD.

*In accordance with Order No. 15-05-82/27.03.2025 by the Executive Director and Procurator of ACIBADEM CITY CLINIC UMBAL TOKUDA, EAD, and in compliance with the requirements of the Higher Education Act, its implementing regulations, and the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD, as well as the decision of the Scientific Council (Protocol No. 57/26.03.2025), I have been selected as an external member of the Scientific Jury for the competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of Higher Education 7. Healthcare and Sports, Professional Direction 7.1 Medicine, Scientific Speciality "Oncology". The decision of the first non-attended meeting of the Scientific Jury was to present a review.**

All procedural requirements for announcing the competition, the deadline for submitting documents, and the selection of the Scientific Jury have been met. Only one candidate, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jeliazko Iliev Arabadjiev, M.D., PhD, a specialist in "Medical Oncology" and Head of the Department of Medical Oncology at ACC UMBAL Tokuda EAD, has submitted

documents for participation in the competition. He meets all the requirements of the Higher Education Act, its implementing regulations, and the Regulations for the conditions and procedures for acquiring academic degrees and holding academic positions at Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda EAD.

All regulatory requirements regarding the competition procedure have been met. The candidate's documents are exhaustive and fully comply with the regulatory requirements for admission to the competition for the academic position of "Professor" at ACC UMBAL Tokuda EAD.

Biographical Data of the Candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jeliazgo Arabadjiev, M.D. completed his secondary education in 1991 at the 5th Secondary School with English Language Studies in Varna. In 1997, he graduated in Medicine from the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" in Varna. Since 2014, he has held a recognized specialty in Medical Oncology. In 2020, he successfully defended his doctoral thesis, "Predictive and Prognostic Value of Tumor-Infiltrating Lymphocytes in Women with Breast Cancer," at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" in Varna, earning the academic degree of "Doctor of Medicine" in the specialty "Oncology," code 7.1.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jeliazgo Arabadjiev, M.D., PhD began his academic career as an **Assistant to the Professor** in 2013 at the Department of Medical Oncology, USbalo EAD, Sofia. In 2021, he was elected **Associate Professor** in Oncology at the Department of Medical Oncology, Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda EAD, Sofia. He has published a monograph on a topic different from his doctoral thesis.

In 2012, he earned a Master's degree in Public Administration, specializing in "Health Management," from the University of National and World Economy (UNWE), Sofia.

Assoc. Prof. Arabadjiev has completed numerous specialization and advanced training courses abroad, including at Harvard Medical School, Università di Pisa (Italy), Budapest (Hungary), Institute Bordet (Brussels, Belgium), and others.

He is a member of several international scientific and professional organizations, including the Bulgarian Scientific Society of Immuno-Oncology (BSSIO), where he serves as Chairman, the Bulgarian Medical Association (BMA), BMA – Member of the Central Ethics Committee, BMA – Deputy Chairman of the Ethics Commission of the SLC, the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO), the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ACCO), the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC), the General Medical Council (GMC), and others. He is fluent in English, French, and Russian.

The candidate's career progression demonstrates upward development, reflecting increasing competence and extensive professional experience in the field of medical oncology.

Fulfillment of Requirements for the Position of "Professor"

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jeliazgo Arabadjiev, M.D. PhD has met and even exceeded the minimum national requirements for the position of "Professor."

Indicators Group A: Includes the requirement for a defended doctoral thesis, which covers **50 points**. Evidence for this has been provided.

Indicators Group B: Under this group of indicators, Assoc. Prof. Arabadjiev has achieved **113.61 points**, with a required minimum of **100**.

Indicators Group C: This group includes the submitted publications. Assoc. Prof. Arabadjiev has submitted **[38 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals]**, all in full text and **[published]** after holding the academic position of "Associate Professor." Twelve of the publications are in English, and 26 are in Bulgarian. This significantly exceeds the mandatory minimum number of publications. In this group, Assoc. Prof. Arabadjiev has **413.5 points**, with a required minimum of **200**. The corresponding evidence has been provided.

Indicators Group D: Includes the total number of citation points. In this group, Assoc. Prof. Arabadjiev has achieved **1,055 points**, with a required minimum of **100**. A list and evidence of citations for publications, only after acquiring the academic position of "Associate Professor," have been attached. Assoc. Prof. Jeliazgo Arabadjiev has **a total of 163 citations**, including **101 Bulgarian citations** and **62 citations in international journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Knowledge**, as confirmed by a citation report from the Central Medical Library at the Medical University - Sofia (excluding self-citations).

The total Impact Factor is 21.

Indicators Group E: **162.9 points** have been achieved, with a required minimum of **100**.

Synthesized Evaluation of Key Scientific and Applied Contributions

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jeliazgo Arabadjiev, M.D. PhD has extensive clinical, scientific, organizational, and administrative experience in various areas of medical science and practice. His scientific interests are multifaceted and focused on socially significant diseases:

1. Breast Carcinoma

The predictive and prognostic value of tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) in women with breast cancer has been studied. The main patient groups are illustrated with the author's own clinical observations, demonstrating extensive clinical experience.

The frequency, role, and therapeutic behavior of PIK3CA in Bulgaria among patients with metastatic breast cancer have been analyzed.

New drug options for the treatment of HR+ HER2-negative breast carcinoma have been discussed.

Various aspects of the incidence, diagnosis, and treatment of triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) have been examined.

2. Lung Carcinoma

Modern immunotherapy options for the treatment of metastatic non-small cell lung cancer have been analyzed, as well as the challenges in applying targeted therapy. Emphasis has been placed on identifying potential prognostic and predictive factors in treatment with immune checkpoint inhibitors.

The synchronous occurrence of non-small cell lung cancer and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, which poses a serious diagnostic and clinical challenge, has been explored.

3. Immuno-Oncology

The immunological, neurosurgical, and oncological aspects of glioblastoma multiforme have been thoroughly investigated.

The role of cell death in maintaining tissue homeostasis and its relationship with the tumor microenvironment has been studied.

4. Cutaneous Melanoma and Non-Melanoma Skin Carcinomas

New therapeutic options for treatment with immune checkpoint inhibitors and targeted therapy have been examined, with an emphasis on personalizing treatment for patients with malignant melanoma and non-melanoma skin carcinomas.

5. **Modern Treatment of Malignant Gastrointestinal Tumors**

The application of immunotherapy in hepatocellular carcinoma, gastroesophageal junction carcinoma, and pancreatic cancer has been established.

The use of targeted therapy with entrectinib for tumors with identified NTRK fusions has been analyzed.

6. **Treatment of Malignant Tumors of the Urogenital System**

Treatment with immune checkpoint inhibitors for renal cell carcinoma and bladder carcinoma has been the subject of examination and in-depth analysis. Various therapeutic approaches for prostate carcinoma treatment have also been explored.

7. **Global Challenges in Oncology and Cancer Patient Care**

As a representative of Bulgaria in the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) from 2015 to 2019, Assoc. Prof. Arabadjiev served as an ambassador for the Bulgarian oncology community in this scientific organization. Following his election to the Board of the European Commission's Cancer Mission in 2022, he has represented Bulgaria in the European Breast Cancer and Colorectal Cancer Initiatives, participating in formulating European priorities in the fight against cancer.

He actively works to establish the role of the clinical pharmacist in ensuring cancer patients' adherence to prescribed treatment, as well as in forming and improving the multidisciplinary tumor board and managing drug toxicity, including vascular toxicity and immune-related toxicity.

Assoc. Prof. Arabadjiev makes significant efforts to establish screening, diagnosis, and treatment for patients with oncological diseases in Bulgaria. His undeniable organizational and leadership qualities are key to excellent collaboration among medical teams in his hospital and with numerous other hospitals in the country and abroad.

Evaluation of Teaching Activities

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arabadjiev teaches medical students as an honorary lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski," Sofia. For the period 2020–2024, Assoc. Prof. Arabadjiev has conducted **564.5 hours of total teaching load**, including classroom hours. He participates in delivering core lecture courses for medical oncology trainees and their practical training. To date, he has supervised four medical oncology trainees,

two of whom have successfully completed their specialization. Assoc. Prof. Jeliazgo Arabadjiev is the scientific advisor of two doctoral students, one of whom has already defended their thesis. He is also the chairman of the state examination committee for acquiring the specialty "Medical Oncology." The attached report from the "Academic Department" of Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda EAD, Sofia, shows that for the period 01.01.2020 to 31.12.2024, Assoc. Prof. Arabadjiev has conducted a teaching load equivalent to **1,447 hours**. The report on the teaching load as an honorary lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski," Sofia, indicates that for the period 2020–2024, Assoc. Prof. Arabadjiev has conducted **564.5 hours of total teaching load**, including classroom hours, some of which were delivered in English.

Conclusion

Associate Professor **Dr. Jeliazgo Iliev Arabadjiev, M.D.** is an established university lecturer, experienced specialist, and scholar with an affinity for scientific work. The submitted publications, citations, documents, and evidence convincingly demonstrate that **Assoc. Prof. Arabadjiev, M.D.** meets the quantitative and qualitative indicators for scientific and teaching activities required for the academic position of "**Professor**," in accordance with the requirements of the Higher Education Act, its implementing regulations, and the Regulations for the conditions and procedures for acquiring academic degrees and holding academic positions at Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda EAD.

Based on the above arguments and evidence, I confidently recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to award Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jeliazgo Iliev Arabadjiev, M.D. the academic position of "**Professor**" in the field of Higher Education 7. "Healthcare and Sports," Professional Direction 7.1. "Medicine," Scientific Specialty "Oncology."

Prof. Dr. Nikolay Conev, M.D.PhD

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