

## REVIEW

from

**Prof. Dr. Julian Ananiev, MD, PhD** - Dean of the Medical faculty, Trakia university, Chief Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology, and Dermatovenereology, Medical Faculty, Trakia University, Stara Zagora; Member of a scientific jury, appointed by order No. 15-05-82/27.03.2024 of the The Executive Director and the Procurator of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda"

Procedure for the academic position "**Professor**", in the scientific specialty "**Oncology**", professional direction 7.1 Medicine, field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, for the needs of the Clinic of Medical Oncology "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda" announced in OG No. 12/11.02.2025.

### 1. General

In the announced competition for the academic position of "**Professor**", one candidate is participating - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zhelyazko Iliev Arabadzhiev, MD, PhD, Head of the Clinic of Medical Oncology, "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda" - Sofia, and the same has submitted his documents within the specified deadline, has passed the relevant stages of document verification and is directed to the next stage of the procedure. The candidate provides a complete set of documents for the academic position.

### 2. Biographical data

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zhelyazko Iliev Arabadzhiev, MD, PhD was born on November 15, 1973 in Varna. He graduated in "Medicine" in 1997 at the Medical University of Varna, as well as Public Administration, specialty "Health Management" at the University of National and World Economy (UNWE), Sofia in 2012. In 2014, he acquired a specialty in "Medical Oncology" at the Medical University of Sofia. In 2020, he got his ESD "PhD" in "Oncology" with the topic of his PhD-thesis: "Predictive and prognostic value of tumor infiltrating lymphocytes in women with breast cancer" at the Medical University of Varna. In March 2021, he was habilitated as an "Associate Professor" in "Oncology". Assoc. Prof. Arabadzhiev, PhD has a number of qualification courses, some of which: master classes and schools related to the modern treatment of breast cancer, immunotherapy for metastatic melanoma in Tel Aviv, Israel, ESMO trainings in Great Britain and Hungary, specializations in Belgium, Italy, etc. He is a President of the Bulgarian Scientific Society of Immunology and the Board of the Institute for Research on the Treatment of Breast Cancer. He is a member of the Expert Board on Medical Oncology in the Minister of Health in the

Republic of Bulgaria; the Board of the Cancer Mission in the European Commission; the Joint Clinical Assessment subgroup, in the Directorate for Health and Food Safety at the European Commission; Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria in the European Initiative for Breast Cancer and Colon Cancer (EIBC&EICRC) at the European Commission. He speaks English – level C2 and Russian – B2.

### 3. Scientific research activity

From the documents submitted for participation in the competition for "**Professor**" in the professional field "Medicine" in the scientific specialty "**Oncology**" it is visible that Assoc. Prof. Arabadzhiev, PhD has a PhD-thesis on the topic: "Predictive and prognostic value of tumor infiltrating lymphocytes in women with breast cancer" with scientific supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eleonora Dimitrova-Gospodinova, MD, PhD.

The publications submitted for the competition are 38 in total, reflecting the scientific research activity of Assoc. Prof. Arabadzhiev, MD, PhD in the period after assuming the academic position of "Assoc. Professor". The candidate has prepared a reference and presents the indicated number of scientific publications, distributed as follows:

- ✓ **scientific publications in journals referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information** - 14 in number, of which as first author or last author - 4 in number;
- ✓ **scientific publications and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes** – 24 publications, of which as first author – 24 in number;
- ✓ **publications in university textbooks or textbooks used in the university network** – 4 numbers;
- ✓ **citations** – by reference total: 62 in number in Bulgarian sources from the library fund of the Central Medical Library, 52 from foreign sources discoverable in SCOPUS and 49 from foreign sources discoverable in WoS;
  - *citations or reviews in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information* – 50 in number;
  - *citations in non-refereed and peer-reviewed publications* – 62 in number;
- ✓ **participation in international scientific forums** – 10 in number;
- ✓ **participation in national scientific forums** – 16 in number;
- ✓ **participation in international scientific projects** – 2 in number;
- ✓ **participation in national scientific projects** – 2 in number;
- ✓ **supervision of a graduated PhD student** – 1 number;

The research activities of Assoc. Prof. Arabadzhiev, MD, PhD, show a high, consistent and focused interest in certain areas of oncology, in particular:

1) **breast cancer** - studies on the prognostic value of tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes in breast cancer; the frequency of PIK3CA mutations in patients with metastatic HR+/HER2– breast cancer in Bulgaria; studies related to new drug options for the treatment of HR+ HER2 negative breast cancer; studies on the incidence, diagnosis and treatment of triple-negative breast cancer.



**2) lung cancer** - studies of literature sources for patients with concomitant idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) and lung adenocarcinoma; studies on personalized treatment of non-small cell carcinoma, as well as various indices and scales having prognostic and predictive value in assessing the response to treatment in patients with metastatic lung cancer receiving immunotherapy; description of gastroenterological manifestations of immune-related toxicity from the use of immune checkpoint inhibitors and recommendations for their management.

**3) immuno-oncology** – studies on the immunological, neurosurgical and oncological aspects of glioblastoma multiforme; study of the role of cell death in maintaining tissue homeostasis and its relationship with the tumor system.

**4) melanoma and non-melanoma skin tumors** – studies on testing new drugs; description of immunological approaches to treatment; therapy of carcinoma of the esophagus and gastroesophageal junction with immune checkpoint inhibitors, in combination with chemotherapy; targeted therapy in the presence of NTRK fusions;

**5) malignant tumors in the gastrointestinal tract** - study of immune checkpoint inhibitors in hepatocellular carcinoma - cystography study; diagnostic and clinical behavior in pancreatic ductal carcinoma;

**6) tumors of the urogenital system** - immune checkpoint inhibitors in renal cell carcinoma and bladder carcinoma; consideration of therapeutic approaches in different stages of prostate carcinoma;

**7) global perspectives in oncology and care for oncological patients** - analysis of the possibilities for identifying barriers in screening, diagnosis and treatment of patients with oncological diseases in Bulgaria; analysis of the role of the clinical pharmacist in adherence of cancer patients to their prescribed treatment;

**8) innovations in training** - scientifically and practically oriented results, allowing clinicians in Bulgaria to reasonably choose a therapeutic strategy for their patients, taking into account the national recommendations for the treatment of malignant solid tumors in adults, the specific toxicity of certain medicinal products and the data provided by evidence-based medicine.

Based on the areas of interest and work indicated in this way, as well as well-structured and arranged publications, descriptions and focus, the scientific work of Assoc. Prof. Arabadzhiev, MD, PhD has contributions of a scientifically original nature, scientifically applied nature, as well as numerous recommendations and ideas for future science and clinical diagnostic activity.

Based on the indicated references from the candidate, it is evident that Assoc. Prof. Arabadzhiev, MD, PhD covers the required indicators and the relevant points, and even exceeds them, as the following distribution is presented: in group **A** - 50 points, with 50 points required; in group **B** - a total of 113.61 points, with a required score of 100 points; in group **Г** - 413.5 points, with a required score of 200 points; in group **Д** - a total of 1055 points, with a required score of 100 points; in group **Е** - a total of 162.9 points, with a required score of 100 points, or a total of **1795.01** points with a minimum required score of 550 points.

#### 4. Educational and teaching activity

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zhelyazko Iliev Arabadzhiev, MD, PhD has a fully established teaching profile and has teaching experience as an assistant and habilitated teacher. Based on the indicated references for teaching experience, it is visible that he conducts educational activities for students of the specialty "Medicine", with classroom employment, as follows: 2019/2020 – 135 academic hours; 2020/2021 – 177.5 academic hours; 2021/2022 – 81 academic hours; 2022/2023 – 81 academic hours; 2023/2024 – 60 academic hours; 2024/2025 – 30 academic hours at the Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

In addition, Assoc. Prof. Arabadzhiev, MD, PhD in the period 2020 - 2024 has realized a teaching workload with residents in the amount of 1447 equivalent hours.

The candidate's teaching workload is high and narrowly focused on the respective specialty, which further describes the candidate as a reliable teacher, dedicated to the development of medical personnel and specialists.

#### 5. Clinical and diagnostic activity

I have known Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zhelyazko Iliev Arabadzhiev, MD, PhD and his work for several years, and during this period I have built a high opinion regarding his clinical activity, capabilities and attitude towards patients. Assoc. Prof. Arabadzhiev, MD, PhD has high competence and expertise, numerous specializations and courses, all of which make him a reliable and specialist, and his participation in a number of forums, the development of scientific production based on his diverse clinical activity are proof of the candidate's profiling and competence.

#### 6. Conclusion

Based on the above, I can summarize that, based on the submitted documents, the candidate - **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zhelyazko Iliev Arabadzhiev, MD, PhD**, is a well-built scientist, teacher and physician, who skilfully manages to combine precise clinical, educational and scientific work. It can be seen that the scientific, publication and teaching activities of the candidate fully cover the requirements for AP "Professor" according to the regulations in the primary structure and the Republic of Bulgaria.

That is why I give my positive review and will confidently vote "Yes" the awarding of the academic position " **Professor**" of **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zhelyazko Iliev Arabadzhiev, MD, PhD** in the scientific specialty "Oncology", and kindly invite the other members of the respected Scientific Jury to vote positively.



Prof. Dr. Julian Ananiev, MD, PhD

10/05/2025  
Stara Zagora