

OPINION

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Regarding the competition for the academic position of “Professor”
in the professional field 7. “Health and Sport”, 7.1. “Medicine”,
scientific specialty “Oncology”, for the needs of the Clinic of Medical Oncology,
Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital.

The competition was announced in State Gazette No. 12 dated 11.02.2025.

One candidate has applied – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jeli azko Iliev Arabadjiev, PhD, MD.

1. Education and Professional Development

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jeli azko Arabadjiev graduated in Medicine in 1997 at the Medical University – Varna. His entire professional career has been closely and continuously dedicated to the field of medical oncology. Following his specialization at the University Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment in Oncology (USBALO), he worked as an assistant and specialist physician. Since 2015, he has been a senior physician at the Medical Oncology Clinic of Acibadem City Clinic and has headed the clinic since 2018...

In 2020, he defended his doctoral dissertation at the Department of Oncology, Medical University – Varna. Since 2021, Dr. Arabadjiev has held the academic position of Associate Professor at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital.

2. Research Activity

For this competition, Assoc. Prof. Arabadjiev has submitted 68 scientific works (post-habilitation), reflecting the main directions of his scientific interests—breast cancer, lung cancer, urogenital tract cancers, cutaneous melanoma, and non-melanoma skin cancers. A particularly prominent area of interest is immuno-oncology, in which I, as an immunologist, can personally attest to his engagement.

Alongside his doctoral dissertation, he has presented 4 scientific manuals and 14 publications referenced and indexed in global databases, 10 of which have an impact factor. Additionally, he has submitted 24 peer-reviewed articles in non-indexed journals, 26 conference reports, and evidence of participation in 4 scientific projects—2 international and 2 national.

His scientific works have been cited 163 times, including 101 citations from international

sources. His research spans several subdivisions within oncology, giving him a broad and global perspective on cancer research. In my opinion, he is fully capable of maintaining such a perspective.

It is important to note the complete absence of "scientific spam" among the submitted works—something unfortunately still too common in Bulgarian medical science. This reflects a focus on quality over quantity, which is essential in disciplines where substance truly matters.

3. Teaching Activity

The candidate has supervised one PhD student who has successfully defended and is currently supervising a second. He has also mentored five residents, two of whom have completed their specialization in medical oncology. He has completed 1,447 hours of equivalent training activity, as documented.

Since 2019, Assoc. Prof. Arabadjiev has been a part-time lecturer in both Bulgarian and English. A teaching activity summary for the past five academic years has been presented from the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski." His teaching hours for each of the past five academic years are 135, 177, 81, 81, and 60 hours, respectively.

One particularly valuable initiative in his teaching portfolio is the annual summer school "Scientorium Juvenorum" for young immunologists and oncologists, which he organizes in collaboration with the Young Oncologist Club. His experience teaching various groups of students and trainees is an unquestionable asset in his overall academic development.

4. Expert and Public Activity

Assoc. Prof. Arabadjiev is:

- Chairman of the Bulgarian Scientific Society of Immuno-Oncology;
- Chairman of the Board of the Institute for Breast Cancer Research and Treatment;
- Chair of the State Examination Committee for the specialty "Medical Oncology";
- Member of the Expert Board on Medical Oncology at the Ministry of Health of Bulgaria;
- Member of the Board of the Cancer Mission of the European Commission;
- Member of the Joint Clinical Assessment subgroup of the European Commission's Directorate for Health and Food Safety;
- Representative of Bulgaria in the European Breast Cancer and Colorectal Cancer Initiatives (EIBC & EICRC) under the European Commission.

These roles alone are strong testimony to his expert and public engagement.

I have known Assoc. Prof. Arabadjiev for five years and have witnessed his presentations at various congresses and conferences. He consistently seeks discussion and analysis of the issues raised, remains well-informed, and defends his scientific positions convincingly. He is a person of broad intellectual interests and general knowledge. These qualities, alongside his unquestionable professionalism, define his academic and scientific standing.

A professor must embody not only scientific authority but also qualities of leadership, engagement, and multidisciplinary. One of the most notable characteristics of Assoc. Prof. Arabadjiev is his infectious energy. He inspires colleagues and builds professional communities across disciplines. The concept of multidisciplinary with a central role for medical oncology is evident throughout his research, teaching, expert, and public activities.

Conclusion

Based on the documentation provided, which reflects Assoc. Prof. Arabadjiev's scientific, teaching, and expert contributions, and considering that he fully meets the criteria of the LDASRB, its implementing regulations, and NACID's standards, I recommend that the esteemed Scientific Jury award the academic title of PROFESSOR to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jeliazko Iliev Arabadjiev, MD—a recommendation I make with complete confidence.

05.05.2025

Prof. Dr. D. Kyurkchiev, DSc (Med)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and strokes, positioned to the right of the name.

