

To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury,  
Appointed with order № 02/05.01.2021  
of the CEO  
of Acibadem City Clinic MBAL EAD Tokuda

## **STANDPOINT**

*from Prof. Zhasmina Mihaylova Milanova, MD, PhD*  
*Head of the Clinic of Medical Oncology at*  
*The Department of Hematology, Oncology, Pathology and Radiobiology,*  
*Military Medical Academy, Sofia*

**Subject:** Competition for selection for the position of associate professor "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education, 7. Health and Sports, in the professional field 7.1 Medicine, in the scientific specialty "Oncology", for the needs of the Department of Medical Oncology "Acibadem City Clinic, Tokude Hospital "EAD with the only candidate for the position of Dr. Zhelyazko Iliev Arabadjiev, MD.

This standpoint has been developed and presented in accordance with the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (RASRB), the Regulations for implementation of the RASRB and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff in Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital EAD.

### **I. Brief biographical data:**

Dr. Zhelyazko Arabadjiev completed his secondary education in Varna in 1991.

In 1997 he graduated from the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna with a master's degree in medicine. He started working in the Medical Oncology Clinic of SBALO EAD, Sofia in 2008. In 2012 he acquired a Master's degree in Public Administration, majoring in Health Management at the University of National and World Economy (UNWE), Sofia.

In the Clinic of Medical Oncology of SBALO EAD, Sofia, Dr. Arabadjiev specializes in medical oncology, and in 2014 he acquired a specialty in medical oncology.

From 2015 to 2017 he worked at the Clinic of Medical Oncology at Acibadem City Clinic - Oncology Center. Since 2018 he has been the head of the Department of Medical Oncology at Acibadem City Clinic, MHAT-Tokuda EAD, and has held this position until now.

He is a PhD student for the period 2019-2020 at the Department of Oncology of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"-Varna with research supervisor Assoc. Prof. Eleonora Dimitrova. In 2020 he obtained the scientific and educational degree "Doctor of Medicine", Specialty "Oncology", on the topic: "Predictive and prognostic value of tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes in women with breast cancer."

Dr. Arabadjiev is a member of the Expert Board in the medical specialty "Medical Oncology" at the Ministry of Health, as well as a member of the Expert Board at the SEA 2019, 2020, 2021 to develop recommendations for clinical oncological behavior in various tumor sites. National representative of the European Society of Medicine for the period Oncology (ESMO) for the period 2015-2019.

In addition to ESMO, Dr. Arabadjiev is a member of two American professional organizations - the American Organization of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the American Association for Clinical Trials (AACR). Participates in the editorial boards of Bulgarian and international magazines.

Dr. Arabadjiev is a participant in two international projects - CEE Uro-Oncology collaborative group (Sept.2015 - Oct.2017) dedicated to prostate cancer and Think Tank on ovarian cancer, dedicated to ovarian cancer (Apr.2017 - June 2018) and a national one on "Study of PIK3CA mutations in Bulgaria and scientific survey". He also

participates in 14 international research projects - clinical trials in the 2nd and 3rd phases.

## **II. Research activity**

In the competition for "Associate Professor" Dr. Zhelyazko Iliev Arabadjiev, MD participated with 59 scientific papers, of which 47 scientific papers in journals, 2 monographs and abstracts, realized in the period 2014-2020.

### **Scientific papers in connection with the dissertation and their contributions**

Eight publications in Bulgarian journals - seven articles and one abstract, six of which are reviews, and one article is an analysis of own results. Dr. Arabadjiev is the first author of all eight publications.

Dissertation on "Predictive and prognostic value of tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes in women with breast cancer"

1. For the first time in Bulgaria a study of the dependence of the overall survival and the rate of tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) in breast cancer in women was conducted. The obtained results determine the possibility to form an exemplary algorithm for assessing the impact of the degree of TILs on the prognosis of patients, as well as its application in clinical oncology practice. The development has scientific-theoretical and scientific-practical significance.
2. For the first time in Bulgaria, data on the relationship between the degree of TILs and overall survival depending on immunohistochemical status (IHC) are reported, statistically confirming the prognostic value of TILs in hormone receptor positive (HR +) / HER2-negative patients with breast cancer. The results of the analysis of these data have scientific and practical significance.
3. For the first time in Bulgaria statistically significant results of analysis have been established, which confirms the predictive value of TILs compared to treatment with sequential combination of chemotherapy (HT) and endocrine therapy (ET) or HT and ET as a stand-alone treatment for breast cancer. These results have scientific-practical and applied significance.

4. The established trend for correlation between the degree of TILs and adjuvant radiotherapy and their impact on overall survival in breast cancer patients allows to discuss the issue of refining the patient populations that would benefit most from adjuvant radiotherapy. This is a contribution of scientific-practical and applied significance.

Dr. Arabadjieva presents her own monograph as an independent author, related to the dissertation "Immunological strategies and treatment of breast cancer" in a volume of 159 pages, divided into 10 chapters and used 418 references.

The contributions of the monograph are

1. In it are developed and presented the theoretical and methodological formulations for the participation of the immune system in the human body and its role in carcinogenesis.
2. The practical application of the modulators of the immune system in the modern treatment of breast cancer is also presented.

#### **Scientific papers that are not related to the dissertation and their contributions**

Second monograph entitled "Drug toxicity from immunotherapy in the treatment of cancer", where the only author is Dr. Arabadjiev. - The monograph consists of 6 chapters, divided into two sections of 158 pages, using over 700 references. The contributions of the monograph are

1. It represents a theoretical and methodological contribution to the understanding of the immunotherapy of solid malignancies.
2. Due to its comprehensiveness, it can serve as a scientifically based basis for making therapeutic decisions in the treatment with check-point inhibitors.

Dr. Arabadjiev participated in the writing of seven chapters of textbooks and teaching aids - in 4 of them as a first author and in 3 as a co-author.

The contributions of the other scientific works of Dr. Arabadjiev can be systematized as follows.

1. Targeted treatment of ovarian cancer, prostate and lung cancer - these scientific papers of 29 articles bring contributions of scientific-theoretical and scientific-practical significance
2. Studies of rare clinical syndromes - four articles are devoted to different problems concerning rare clinical syndromes. And the analysis of data from 9800 chemotherapy courses and 2400 contrast imaging studies is particularly impressive and a proposed algorithm for therapeutic behavior in extravasates in patients treated with i.v. chemotherapy or imaging venous contrast has scientific-practical and applied significance.

## **II. Teaching activity**

Dr. Zhelyazko Iliev Arabadjiev, MD began teaching at the Medical Faculty of Sofia University "Client Ohridski" from 01.10.2019. During the academic year 2019/2020 he conducted 84 hours of students exercises in the discipline "Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine" with a specialty in medicine, ACS master and 60 hours in the discipline "Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine" with medicine / in English /, 3rd year, ACS Master.

During the winter semester of the academic year 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 the total workload of a part-time assistant Dr. Arabadjiev had 250 hours of study load.

Dr. Arabadjiev is the head of three doctors in training of medical oncology.

## **III. Conclusion**

The scientific works, publications and teaching activities of Dr. Zhelyazko Iliev Arabadjiev, MD fully comply with the requirements of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff in Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital EAD.

I strongly recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to choose Dr. Zhelyazko Iliev Arabadjiev, MD, to take the academic position of "ASSOCIATE ASSOCIATE IN ONCOLOGY" for the needs of the Department of Medical Oncology Acibadem City Clinic, Tokuda Hospital EAD.

Prof. Zhanina Milaylova, MD

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