opinion.

by Prof. Dr. Kiril Vasilev Draganov, DSc.

Clinic for general, hepatic, biliary, pancreatic and general surgery

ACK UMBAL Tokuda EAD

Regarding: Conducting a competition for the occupation of an academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of Higher Education 7. "Health and Sports", Professional Direction 7.1. "Medicine", Scientific specialty "Obstetrics and gynecology" for the needs of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinic, "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD, announced in the State Gazette No. 82/14.10.2022.

**1. Comments on the procedure**

By order No. 19-844/30.11.2022 of the Executive Director and Procurator of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD and on the basis of the current legal framework in the country (Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations for the Implementation of the Law for the development of the scientific staff in the Republic of Bulgaria at "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" and Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions in "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda"), as well as on the basis of the Decision of the Scientific council (protocol No. 44/24.11.2022) I have been appointed as an internal member of the Scientific Jury for the above-mentioned competition for employment at AP "Associate Professor".

Two candidates submitted documents for participation in the competition:

1. Dr. Lachezar Stoyanov Tanchev, PhD;

2. Dr. Maria Gicheva Atanasova - Elenkova, PhD.

The documents of the candidates were examined by a committee, which found that both candidates met the conditions and were admitted to participate in the competition.

At the first absent meeting of the scientific jury and on the basis of Article 56 (Section III) of the "Regulations for the development of the academic staff at "ACK UMBAL Tokuda" EAD, I was appointed to prepare an opinion.

I received a complete set of documents in electronic and paper form by the established official route and on time.

The procedure for conducting the competition up to now and the deadlines, the materials provided to me by the candidates Dr. Lachezar Stoyanov Tanchev, PhD and Dr. Maria Gicheva Atanasova – Elenkova, PhD, as well as the opinion prepared by me are fully compliant with the requirements of the above-mentioned regulatory framework.

The order of the further presentation follows the order of submission of the documents.

**2. Short professional and biographical data for the candidates**

2.1. Dr. Lachezar Stoyanov Tanchev, PhD, graduated in medicine from the Medical University - Sofia in 2007. He specialized in obstetrics and gynecology at the Medical University - Pleven, where he was enrolled as a full-time doctoral student. Since 2009, he has been an assistant in obstetrics and gynecology at the MU - Pleven. In 2011, he acquired a specialty in obstetrics and gynecology. In 2012, after a successful defense of his dissertation, he obtained the PhD "Doctor". In the period 2013-2017, he was the main assistant at the MU - Pleven. From 2016 to 2017, he was the Head of the Department of Oncology and Gynecology at the "Georgi Stranski" UMBAL - Pleven. In 2017, Dr. Tanchev became part of the team of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD, where he still works at the present time.

2.2. Dr. Maria Gicheva Atanasova - Elenkova, PhD graduated in medicine from the Medical University - Sofia in 2004 with "Golden Hippocrates". She specializes in obstetrics and gynecology at SBALAG "Mother's House" - Sofia. She acquired a specialty in obstetrics and gynecology in 2009. In the period 2010-2018, she was an assistant in obstetrics and gynecology at the Medical Sofia University. In 2009, she was enrolled as a full-time doctoral student at the Department of AG, SBALAG "Mother's House" - Sofia. The dissertation work developed by her was successfully defended in 2014, with which Dr. Atanasova acquired the PhD "Doctor". She holds a master's degree in public health and health management (FPH of the MU - Sofia, 2012-2014). From 2018 to 2021, she was an assistant in health care at the Medical Center of the University of Sofia - Sofia. she has been working at the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinic, "ASK UMBAL Tokuda" since 2018.

**3. Publication activity. Citations and impact factor. Fields of scientific research activity. Contributions.**

3.1. The topic of the dissertation work for the acquisition of the PhD "Doctor", developed by Dr. Lachezar Tanchev, is "Study on selected anatomical structures in the course of minimally invasive radical hysterectomy combined with pelvic lymph dissection." There are a total of 9 scientific papers related to the dissertation topic: 3 full-text articles printed in refereed editions, 3 published abstracts in proceedings of scientific forums and 3 participations with reports in scientific forums without printed abstracts.

Dr. Tanchev is the author of two chapters in one textbook (in press): "Anatomy of the anterior abdominal wall" (Gr. Gorchev, D. Kiprova, L. Tanchev, N. Khinkova) and "Laparoscopic anatomy of the small pelvis and retroperitoneal space" (L. Tanchev, Gr. Gorchev) in "Minimally invasive gynecological surgery" (ISBN978-619-245-124-0. Published by BAS "Prof. Marin Drinov").

The candidate in the competition presents a list of a total of 115 titles, which can be grouped as follows: (a) 53 full-text publications - 15 in international (6 of which with IF) and 38 in Bulgarian editions (35 of which are indexed); (b) 27 printed abstracts of reports from scientific conferences - 8 in international and 19 national forums; (c) 35 scientific conference papers without printed abstracts. Dr. Tanchev is the first author on the indicated points (a, b, c) in 14, 5 and 20 papers, respectively, and second, third and consecutive author in the remaining 2.

A reference of the CMB to the MU - Sofia (issue no. 622/04.11.2022) certifies that Dr. Tanchev has 22 citations in Bulgarian and 63 citations in foreign publications found in the Scopus and Web of Knowledge databases, as well as 34 others citations. According to a reference of the same library (issue #621/04.11.2022), the journals in which full-text articles on candida have been printed have a total IF of 14,754.

Dr. Tanchev's research interests are primarily in the field of minimally invasive gynecological surgery (robotic and laparoscopic), pelvic anatomy, oncogynecology, obstetrics and general gynecology.

He participated as a researcher in three scientific projects.

3.2. Dr. Maria Atanasova, PhD, is the author of a dissertation work for the acquisition of the PhD"Doctor" on the topic: "Management of epidural anesthetized childbirth". In addition, the candidate participates in the current competition with a list of 38 scientific works. One of them is a co-author in a textbook chapter: "Fetal medicine and prenatal diagnosis. Possibilities for prenatal treatment of the fetus" (Ed. B. Sunnycha, M. Krasteva, R. Georgieva, Hr. Mumdzhiev. Publisher "Lax book" EOOD . 2018.). Twenty-nine are the publications in Bulgarian and international editions (four are accepted, in print), with 2 full-text publications in journals with IF, and the remaining materials are published summaries of reports presented at international scientific forums. In 13 of the scientific works, Dr. Atanasova is the first author.

A reference of the CMB to the MU – Sofia (issue no. 605/02.11.2022) certifies 25 citations found in the Scopus, Web of Knowledge databases, of which 5 are in Bulgarian and 20 in foreign journals.

The total IF of the journals in which both full-text articles and report abstracts were published was 15,378.

Maria Atanasova's research interests are mainly in the field of obstetrics and pregnancy pathology. In particular, studies on high-risk pregnancy, operative obstetrics, labor analgesia, fetal medicine, diabetes mellitus and pregnancy, rare diagnoses and others (eg stem cells) can be mentioned.

Dr. Atanasova participated as a researcher in 2 scientific projects.

**4. Teaching activity**

4.1. Dr. Lachezar Tanchev, PhD was an assistant and chief assistant in obstetrics and gynecology at MU - Pleven in the period 2009-2017. According to a certificate issued by MU - Pleven (ex. No. 1922/03.11.2022) Dr. Tanchev has realized a study load of 496.1 equivalent hours during the 2016-2017 academic year.

4.2. Dr. Maria Atanasova-Elenkova, PhD was an assistant in obstetrics and gynecology at the Ministry of Health of the Sofia University for 8 years (0.25 staff) and for an additional 3 years she was an assistant at the Health Department of the Sofia University (0.5 staff). According to a certificate issued by "ACK UMBAL Tokuda" EAD (ex. No. 19-805/10.11.2022), Dr. Atanasova has completed a study load of 974 equivalent hours for the period 2018-2022.

**5. Originality and authenticity of the tender documents. Fulfillment of the minimum national criteria.**

Both candidates in the current competition have submitted and signed declarations certifying that the results and contributions in their scientific production are original, not plagiarized, and that all the documentation provided corresponds to the objective truth.

The reports on the compliance of the scientometric indicators with the minimum national criteria for occupying AP "Docent" show the following:

 Dr. Lachezar Stoyanov Tanchev, PhD - total number of points: 2045.5.

 Dr. Maria Gicheva Atanasova-Elenkova, PhD - total number of points: 964.50.

**6. Conclusion**

After a thorough examination and analysis of the evidentiary materials provided to me in my capacity as a member of the scientific jury, I believe that Dr. Lachezar Tanchev, PhD and Dr. Maria Atanasova-Elenkova, PhD, possess high qualities as doctors, scientists and teachers to occupy AP ""Associate Professor". This is also confirmed by the fact that both candidates meet the minimum national criteria for holding this position. But the comparison of the scientometric indicators shows that Dr. Lachezar Tanchev, PhD has a greater number of publications in general and in particular publications with an impact factor, as well as more citations of the results of his studies.

This gives me the reason to rank Dr. Lachezar Stoyanov Tanchev, PhD in first place in the current competition and to propose to the members of the honorable scientific jury to award him the AP "Associate Professor", for which I am convinced to vote "For".

Prepared the opinion: ...................

/prof. Dr. Kiril Draganov, DSc/

29.01.2023