

S T A T E M E N T

by Prof. Dr. Kiril Vasilev Draganov, MD, PhD, DSc

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Subject: Competition for the academic position "Assoc. Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, direction 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Gastroenterology" for the needs of the Clinic of Gastroenterology, Acibadem City Clinic University Multiple Profile Hospital for Active Treatment, published in "DV" 2/05.01.2024.

I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the aforementioned competition by ordinance No. 11-07-27/18.04.2024 of the Manager of Acibadem City Clinic University Multiple Profile Hospital for Active Treatment (ACC UMPHAT) Mr. Andrey Markov and the Procurator of ACC UMPHAT Mr. Mehmet Sarbayak and according to the decision of the Scientific Council of ACC UMPHAT (protocol No. 22/10.04.2024).

I was assigned to prepare a statement at the first meeting of the scientific jury held online.

The statement was drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB and the Regulations for the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at ACC UMPHAT.

The deadlines for holding the competition have been met and the procedure for it is fully compliant with the aforementioned regulatory framework.

Only one candidate, Dr. Ani Agop Chavushyan, MD, PhD was allowed to participate in the competition.

Brief biographical data. Professional Development.

Dr. Ani Agop Chavushyan, MD, PhD graduated from the Medical University - Sofia in 1994.

Her professional path began at the Department of Internal Medicine, Military Medical Academy - Sofia, where she specialized in Internal Medicine in the period 1994-1999. After that, she worked and specialized in Gastroenterology at 5th Multiple Profile Hospital for Active Treatment, Sofia (MPHAT) (1999-2006). She has been a member of the team of the Internal Department, MPHAT "Tokuda Hospital Sofia" (now "ACC UMPHAT Tokuda") from 2006 till 2012, and from 2012 to the present - at the Gastroenterology Clinic, ACC UMPHAT. He holds specialties in "Internal Diseases" (1999) and "Gastroenterology" (2003).

Dr. Chavushyan's continuous pursuit of professional development and improvement is evidenced by her participation in many post-graduate qualification courses and specializations in Bulgarian and foreign renowned gastroenterology centers. Almost all of them are for the acquisition of various levels of qualification in ultrasound and gastro-intestinal endoscopy and are a prerequisite for guaranteeing the high quality of the diagnostic and therapeutic activities carried out by her, as well as the depth and significance of her research activities.

Scientific works. Research activity. Contributions.

Dr. Ani Chavushyan obtained her "PhD" degree in "Internal Diseases" after successfully defending a PhD thesis titled: "Diverticulosis and diverticular disease - pathogenetic mechanisms and clinical manifestations" in 2020.

The candidate in the current competition presents one monograph, 21 full-text scientific works in Bulgarian and 3 in English in addition to the aforementioned PhD thesis.

The candidate's production is original and of high scientific value. A number of topics in gastroenterology have been examined by Dr. Chavushyan. This fact makes her explorations full of significant theoretical and scientific applied contributions. These contributions can be grouped into the following main areas:

1. Diverticulosis and diverticular disease of the colon

This is one of the main topics in the research activity, resp. in the publication activity of Dr. Ani Chavushyan, PhD. The problems of diverticulosis and diverticular disease are the subject of the PhD thesis, of the monograph "Known and Unknown Diverticulosis and Diverticular Disease of the Colon", as well as scientific works No. 19-21 of the list of scientific production.

The PhD thesis and the monograph are not peer-reviewed for this competition (they have been peer-reviewed earlier), but I would like to point out the magnitude and importance of both studies with a small additional comment on the monograph. Its value is due to the thorough and up-to-date literature review on the problems associated with colonic diverticula. The author's own view in every aspect of diverticulosis, the discussions and answers to the debatable questions, which are given are of no less importance. They are based on the extensive personal and institutional experience, including a series of 453 cases that were

hospitalized or outpatients passed through ACC UMPHAT in the period 2013-2018.

2. Hepatology (scientific works with No. 1-11).

Consensus was created by a team of Bulgarian gastroenterologists with the participation of Dr. Chavushyan on the diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of patients with chronic liver diseases, including viral, toxic, autoimmune and dysmetabolic etiopathogenesis. The manifestations and complications of liver cirrhosis such as varices of the upper gastrointestinal tract, porto-systemic encephalopathy, ascites, as well as malignancy with the development of primary hepatocellular carcinoma are discussed.

The study of the cholecystokinetic and hepatoprotective effect of cinarix in operated patients (those after cholecystectomy, choledochotomy and insertion of Kehr-drainage in the extrahepatic bile ducts) is also innovative and with a clear practical focus.

3. Inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) and enteropathies (scientific papers with No. 12, 13)

Immunomodulatory treatment in IBD and gluten enteropathy is presented in depth and detail with an emphasis on the need to involve members of a multidisciplinary team in the diagnosis and treatment of this pathology.

4. Diagnostic ultrasound (scientific papers with No. 14, 16)

The ultrasound examination being non-invasive in diverticulosis and pathological processes in the ileo-cecal region is the first method of choice that may guarantee relatively good specificity and sensitivity. Its usage in the hands of an experienced

professional can answer many questions as well as it can also justify the need of further studies.

5. Clinical case reports (scientific papers with No. 15,17,18,21).

Several casuistic but extremely interesting from a practical point of view cases of endometriosis of the ileum and appendix, giant sigmoid diverticulum, mesenteric cyst, sepsis in diverticular disease fall into this direction.

Citations

Three of the articles in English with the participation of Dr. Ani Chavushyan, PhD in the author teams have been cited by 9 authors.

Memberships in societies, organizations and associations

Dr. Chavushyan is a member of a number of national and international societies, organizations and associations, which is a proof of the great authority and image she has among the gastroenterological guild both in our country and abroad. BLS, Bulgarian Association of Surgeons, Gastroenterologists and Oncologists, Bulgarian Society of Gastroenterology, Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and Ultrasound, Bulgarian Association of Ultrasound in Medicine, European Crohn's and Colitis Organization (ECCO), European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE), European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (EFSUMB), International Bowel Ultrasound Group (IBUS Group).

Educational and teaching activity

Dr. Ani Chavushyan, MD, PhD is a part-time assistant in Internal Medicine Propedeutics at the Faculty of Medicine of the Sofia University of St. Kliment Ohridski". A certificate from the Faculty certifies the candidate's total study load of

585 study hours during the academic years in the period from 2019/2020 to 2022/2023 incl.

CONCLUSION

Based on the presented evidence of the overall scientific research activity, the achieved results, the scientific contributions and the academic workload, I do believe that Dr. Ani Agop Chavushyan, MD, PhD is fully developed as a specialist, scientist and assistant.

The attestation report for the fulfillment of the national requirements for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" according to Art. 26 of the LDASRB proves that the total sum of all science metric indicators of the candidate is 527.95 points and exceeds the set minimum criteria of 400 points.

The scientific production of Dr. Chavushyan is of an original nature, repetitions and plagiarism have not been found.

That is why I recommend the members of the honorable scientific jury to vote positively for the appointment of Dr. Ani Agop Chavushyan, MD, PhD to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Gastroenterology" for the needs of the Clinic of Gastroenterology, ACC UMPHAT, for which I confidently give my positive vote.

Signed by:

/Prof. Dr. Kiril Draganov, MD, PhD, DSc/

16th, May, 2024