

## STATEMENT

by Professor Peter Ivanov Ghenev, MD, PhD

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**RE:** Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in General and Clinical Pathology, in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, and scientific specialty "General and Clinical Pathology", published in the State Gazette (№ 8/28.01.2020) and on an approved proposal by the Council of the Faculty of Medicine, (№ 20/16.03.2020), for the needs of the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at Medical University - Varna.

With order № P-109-179/03.06.2020 of the Rector of MU-Varna, I was elected a member of the Scientific Jury, and based on Protocol №1/10.06.2020 of the meeting of the Scientific Jury, I was appointed to prepare a statement on the procedure for obtaining the academic position of "Associate Professor" with a candidate chief assistant Dr. Svitlana Yurievna Bachurska, MD in MU-Varna.

The only candidate for the competition for acquiring the academic position of Associate Professor at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology is Dr. Svitlana Bachurska, MD, Head of Clinic "Clinical Pathology" at USBALO-Sofia.

## **I. Analysis of the applicant's career profile**

Dr. Bachurska was born on March 6, 1982 in Odessa, Ukraine. She graduated from high school in 1999, after which she was accepted as a student at the Medical University - Plovdiv. She graduated in 2005 and obtained the master's degree in Medicine. Started working as a medical representative of Pfizer Luxembourg, Bulgaria branch (from 02.05.2007 to 15.04.2011). After that, Dr. Bachurska was selected as an assistant in the Department of General and Clinical Pathology at the Medical University - Plovdiv and began specialization in General and Clinical Pathology at the University Hospital "St. George" - Plovdiv. On January 1, 2018, she was elected Chief Assistant in Pathology. In 2016 she acquired a specialty in "General and Clinical Pathology" (diploma № 002419 - 28.06.2016) and worked as a specialist in the Department of General and Clinical Pathology at the Hospital - Asenovgrad and for a short time - as Head of the Department of Clinical Pathology at Oncology Center - Plovdiv.

At that time Dr. Bachurska formed her scientific interests, mainly in Uropathology and in 2017 successfully defended his dissertation on "Diagnostic value of EGR in the immunohistochemical panel for the detection of prostate cancer by needle biopsies" and acquired PhD degree in General and Clinical Pathology (diploma №196/01.06.2017) at Medical University – Plovdiv.

Over the years, Dr. Bachurska has made serious efforts to improve her skills in diagnostic pathology - she has regularly attended courses, diagnostic seminars and other forms of postgraduate training on various topics of Pathology in the country and abroad.

Currently, Dr. Bachurska holds the position of Head of Clinic of Clinical Pathology at USBALO - EAD Sofia and has a professional experience of almost ten years, of which about eight are related to teaching.

## **II. Scientometric data**

Dr. Svitlana Bachurska has submitted for evaluation a total of over 40 full-text publications in Bulgarian or English, distributed as follows:

- monographic work "Morphological dilemmas of prostate oncopathology"
- 21 publications in refereed and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science journals, as evidence in the report on the implementation of the minimum requirements for the academic position of "associate professor"
- four full-text papers, outside the evidence for the fulfillment of the minimum requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor"
- 17 publications in unreferenced journals with scientific peer-review and collections
- The submitted documentation describes a dissertation for the acquisition of PhD degree on "Diagnostic value of EGR in the immunohistochemical panel for the detection of prostate cancer by needle biopsies", but a copy of the abstract is not presented

The lack of an abstract does not allow proper assessment of the dissertation for the acquisition of PhD degree. Among the materials there is enough information that the thesis was positively assessed and it can be assumed that Criterion A of the Minimum Requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" is completed.

In the monograph, Dr. Bachurska analyzes the difficulties in the histological diagnosis of different variants of prostate cancer and its distinction from benign (proliferative, metaplastic, atrophic) lesions. In general, the structure, content and volume of the monograph meet the Minimum Requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" and I accept Criterion B as fulfilled.

Dr. Bachurska has submitted for participation in the competition 21 publications, referenced and indexed in world databases (SCOPUS and Web of Science). A reference in PubMed (Appendix 1) revealed that only nine of them are full-text and only they should be reviewed.

## APPENDIX 1.

- Γ 1 Histological Gingival Assessment after Conventional and Laser Gingivectomy. **10**  
Kazakova-RT, Tomov GT, Kissov CK, Vlahova AP, Zlatev SC, **Bachurska SY**. Folia Med (Plovdiv). 2018 Dec 1;60(4):610-616. doi: 10.2478/folmed-2018-0028.PMID: 31188758
- Γ 2 Diagnostic Value of ERG in Prostate Needle Biopsies Containing Minute Cancer Foci. **12**  
**Bachurska SY**, Staykov DG, Bakardzhiev IV, Antonov PA, Belovezhzdov VT. Folia Med (Plovdiv). 2017 Mar 1;59(1):84-90. doi: 10.1515/folmed-2017-0001.PMID: 28384107
- Γ 3 Lack of ERG-antibody in Benign Mimickers of Prostate Cancer. **15**  
**Bachurska SY**, Staykov DG, Ivanov GP, Belovezhzdov VT. Folia Med (Plovdiv). 2016 Mar 1;58(1):48-53. doi: 10.1515/folmed-2016-0007.PMID: 27383878
- Γ 4 Sarcomatoid Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Penis - a Report of Two Cases. **15**  
**Bachurska SY**, Antonov PA, Staykov DG, Dechev IY. Folia Med (Plovdiv). 2017 Jun 1;59(2):232-237. doi: 10.1515/folmed-2017-0002.PMID: 28704194
- Γ 5 Intraepithelial lymphocytes in relation to NIH category IV prostatitis in autopsy prostate.  
Dikov D, **Bachurska S**, Staikov D, Sarafian V. Prostate. 2015 Jul 1;75(10):1074-84. doi: 10.1002/pros.22991. Epub 2015 Apr 27. PMID: 25917232 **15**
- Γ 6 Bilateral pheochromocytoma/intra-adrenal paraganglioma in von Hippel-Lindau patient causing acute myocardial infarction. **10**  
**Bachurska S**, Staykov D, Belovezhzdov V, Sasano H, Galinac M, Stefanov C, Neumann HP. Pol J Pathol. 2014 Mar;65(1):78-82. doi: 10.5114/pjp.2014.12675.PMID: 25119015 Free article.
- Γ 7 [Case of atypical polypoid adenomyoma of the uterine cervix]. **12**  
**Bachurska S**, Yamakov K, Belovezhzdov V, Staykov D, Pehlivanov B. Akush Ginekol (Sofia). 2013;52(1):67-70. PMID: 23805464 Bulgarian.
- Γ 8 Paratesticular well-differentiated liposarcoma initially diagnosed as fibrous pseudotumour.  
**Bachurska SY**, Antonov PA, Dechev IY, Lopez-Beltran A. Indian J Pathol Microbiol. 2020 Feb;63(Supplement):S53-S55. doi: 10.4103/IJPM.IJPM\_130\_17.PMID: 32108629 **15**
- Γ 9 Morphometric distinction of signet-ring cell adenocarcinoma cells from foamy macrophages in gastric endoscopic biopsies. **15**  
Kram A, Pechewa M, **Bachurska S**, Domagala W. Pol J Pathol. 2011 Sep;62(3):145-7. PMID: 22102070 Free article.

**TOTAL =119 points**

There are also 19 publications, that are not referenced in world databases, which meet the requirements and I accept the 129.5 points indicated by Dr. Bachurska without objection. Thus, a total number of 248.5 points is obtained, which is sufficient to cover Criterion D.

According to the academic report presented by USBALO - Sofia, by that time, a total of 28 citations of scientific works of Dr. Bachurska has been established, which means that Criterion D is also fulfilled.

Dr. Bachurska's publishing activity thematically covers a number of areas of diagnostic pathology with an emphasis on diseases of the male reproductive system. These include the dissertation and the monograph, as well as most of the case reports. Most of Dr. Bachurska's research work has been developed in cooperation with other authors from different medical fields, a sign of an interdisciplinary approach and ability to work in a team.

### **III. Evaluation of the scientific contributions**

Dr. Bachurska presented a self-assessment of her scientific contributions to the publications after the doctoral thesis, which include: a monograph (on the topic of the dissertation) and 86 titles (full-text publications and abstracts). She has distributed the contributions as fundamental and scientific-applied according to the topics of the publications, respectively in the field of oncological, oral and experimental pathology.

I accept the contributions in general, because in all three areas there are publications that establish new scientific facts. There are such moments in the monograph, probably in the dissertation. An original contribution is: the description of the histological changes in oral precancerous lesions, in bone replacement treatment, in the therapeutic application of a laser; nuclear

morphometry in gastric cancer. Case reports are also of considerable value. The experimental model of chest trauma is especially impressive.

I cannot accept as an original contribution results established for “the first time in Bulgaria”. This is how most of the contributions to self- assessment are marked. The application of foreign experience (scientific formulation, diagnostic algorithm, methodology, staining techniques...) on own material under local conditions is an achievement with a significant contribution, but not in world science, but in expert activity.

#### **IV. Evaluation of teaching activities**

Medical University - Plovdiv has issued a Certificate №109/ 31.03.2020, confirming that Dr. Bachurska has more than 8 years of teaching experience with a very high workload (up to twice the accepted norm). She also actively participated in the development of teaching materials in the Department. This information gives grounds to assume that the candidate has the necessary pedagogical experience to organize lecture courses.

#### **V. CONCLUSION**

The documentation submitted for the Competition corresponds to the procedural requirements in the normative documents.

The scientific production of the candidate meets the necessary criteria. I accept the contributions without significant remarks. The candidate has professional experience and qualities to meet the new challenges of habilitation.

For these reasons, I am voting positively in favor of Dr. Svitlana Bachurska to receive the academic position of "Associate Professor" for the needs of the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at the Medical University - Varna.

17.08.2020  
Varna

Signature: .....  
Prof. Dr. Peter Ghenev PhD