

Университет "Проф. Д-р Асен Златаров" 8210 Бургас, бул. "Проф. Якимов" №1	
Рег. № 2128	24.06.2024 г.

REVIEW

from

Prof. Dr. Veselin T. Belovezhdov, MD, PhD

Head of the Department of General and Clinical Pathology,
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in his capacity as a member of a scientific jury according to Order No. RD – 134 /12.04. 2024
of the Rector of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

Subject: Conducting a competition for filling the academic position "Professor" in the scientific specialty " Pathology and Cytopathology ", in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports, professional direction 7.1. "Medicine", announced in the Official Gazette, issue 13 /13.02. 2024

Materials for the competition were submitted on paper and electronic media by the only candidate Prof. Dr. Maya Vladova Galabova, PhD , which include all the necessary documents according to the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Terms and Conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

I. Career development of Prof. Dr. Maya Galabova, MD, PhD .

Prof. Dr. Maya Vladova Galabova graduated with a master's degree of medicine in 1983 at the Sofia Medical Academy. After graduation, she started working at the hospital in Svishtov. In 1984, after winning a competition, she took the position of "assistant" in the Department of General and Clinical Pathology at VMI - Stara Zagora. In 1988, she acquired a specialty in " Pathologoanatomy and cytopathology ", and in 1999, educational and scientific degree "Doctor" after successfully defending a dissertation on the topic "Role of sinusoidal cells of Ito and pit cells in fibroplastic and neoplastic process in the liver". Since 1993, Prof. Galabova has been a chief assistant, since 2002 an associate professor (VAC), and since 2013 - a professor in the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology and Forensic Medicine and Deontology " at the University of Thrace, Stara Zagora. During the period 2003 - 2023, she was the head of the department of "General and clinical pathology and forensic medicine and deontology and dermatovenerology ". Prof. Galabova was the Deputy Dean of Research and Development at the Ministry of Education from 2004 to 2007, and from 2007 to 2019 she was the Dean of the Ministry of Education of Thrace University. Currently, Prof. Galabova is the Head of the General and Clinical Pathology Clinic at UMBAL "Prof. Dr. Stoyan Kirkovich "- AD.

In 1989, Prof. Galabova completed a one-month specialization at the 1st Moscow Medical Institute "I. Sechenov" in the field of liver pathology.

During the time when she was Dean, Prof. Galabova participated in the Program Accreditation of the specialties Medicine, Health Care (nurse and midwife), USG, Medical Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy, Medical Assistant, in the Accreditation of the Master's in Occupational Therapy, in Health Care Management care, Organization and management of the social sphere, in Accreditation of many doctoral programs: 25 current, 16 in process, 6 new doctoral programs.

She has created a number of scientific laboratories in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Thrace and in particular in the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, in which there are laboratories for immunohistochemistry and immunofluorescence, for molecular pathology and for confocal microscopy.

II. Description of the scientometric indicators of Prof. Dr. Maya Galabova, MD, PhD.

According to SCOPUS data, Prof. Dr. Galabova has 138 articles and 1573 citations until 30.11.2023. She has published in many international journals with IF – Archives of Physiology and Biochemistry (Journal of Metabolic diseases), International Journal of Colorectal Disease, APMIS, Journal of Molecular Histology, Hepato-Gastroenterology, Central European Journal of Medicine, Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Anatomia, Histologia, Embryologia, Clinical and Experimental Metastasis, World Journal of Surgical Oncology, Acta Histochemica, Neoplasma, Journal of Biotechnology and Biotechnological Equipment.

For participation in the competition as a habilitation thesis, she submitted 21 articles in international and Bulgarian refereed journals, 18 of which have an impact factor (IF = 22.385, and the total IF of all publications is 106.006). Among them, she is the lead author in 10 publications, and in four she is the second author. The high H-index = 21 is impressive. She was also part of the team of a number of research projects, 9 of which she was the leader of. These scientometric indicators give her a well-deserved place in the prestigious ranking of Stanford University (USA, California) in January 2021, along with 48 other Bulgarian scientists, and she is the only doctor.

Prof. Galabova is the winner of 6 international scientific awards.

III. Evaluation of the contributions of the scientific works of Prof. Dr. Maya Galabova, MD, PhD.

Prof. Galabova's areas of scientific interest include: tumor microenvironment (colorectal, rectal, gastric, endometrial, lung and thyroid carcinoma), research for immune cells (myeloid and plasmacytoid dendritic cells, T-helpers, NK and NKT cells), study of cytokines with immunohistochemistry, ELISA, SNP, and cytokines from the tumor microenvironment, microsatellite instability, ultrastructural immunohistochemistry, immunogold method, in situ hybridization (FISH), Western blot method and confocal microscopy.

Developments in the above areas lead to publications in the field of liver pathology related to hepatic sinusoids, hepatocellular carcinoma, liver metastases, biliary tract pathology, peliosis, adhesion molecules, extracellular matrix, integrins. Others are related to experimental diabetes, with the study of insulin-producing cells in bile ducts, pancreatic duct and liver.

In recent years, Prof. Galabova has been engaged in the study of tertiary lymphoid structures that are inducible by tumors, infectious agents and autoimmune processes. A review on this topic has been accepted for publication in the American Journal of Clinical and Experimental Immunology IF=0.800.

Other areas of her research are related to the study of immune cells, namely T helpers, cytotoxic T lymphocytes, macrophages and dendritic cells in colon carcinoma and in rectal carcinoma before and after radiotherapy, with the study of type II pneumocytes in Covid-19 in tumors and pneumoconioses, with a study of biliary-hepatic pathology in experimental metabolic syndrome.

The study of immune cells in the tumor microenvironment in colorectal carcinomas involved monitoring material from 500 patients over a period of several years, treated with chemotherapy and radiotherapy and tested for mutations.

In her scientific career, Prof. Galabova was the scientific supervisor of 22 successfully defended doctoral students working in various specialties: surgery, pediatric surgery, forensic medicine, associate professor, gastroenterology, obstetrics and gynecology, molecular biology, anatomy and, of course, pathology. Many of these PhD students are already habilitated, incl. two colleagues from the field of pathology, one of whom is the Head of Department and Dean. And she is currently the supervisor of 5 current PhD students.

Prof. Galabova has earned the right to work on 14 internal university projects and 4 projects at the Ministry of Education and Culture for the Ministry of Finance, at Trakian University Stara Zagora. The topics of the latter are:

1. Immunomorphological examination of carcinoma of the colon and stomach and of the target organ for metastasis - liver. Prognostic significance of the immune markers CD56, alpha-smooth muscle actin, desmin, collagen type IV and laminin for tumor progression and metastasis (head).

2. Investigation of the role of tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes, dendritic cells and some regulatory cytokines in the development of primary and metastatic liver tumors and colorectal carcinoma. (head)

3. Study of the significance of the genetic polymorphism of enzymes involved in the metabolism of xenobiotics and of factors involved in the immune response for tumor progression and prognosis in colorectal carcinoma (member).

4. Competition for funding fundamental scientific research - 2018 H23/1 "importance of the tumor microenvironment in the development and prognosis of gastric carcinoma".

IV. Evaluation of the participation of the scientific and teaching activity of Prof. Dr. Maya Galabova, MD, PhD.

Prof. Galabova has 39 years of teaching experience. Consecutively as an assistant, senior assistant, chief assistant, associate professor and professor in Trakia University of St. Zagora, as a pathologist, she trained medical students, somatopathology and oncopathology students, nursing and midwives. She also taught in English, and took an active part in the exam sessions. The total and annual workload over the years varied between 240 and 360 hours. She was also a member of the commissions conducting exams for the pathology specialty at the national level.

Prof. Galabova has an award for contribution to nursing education and creation of the first doctoral program in Health Care.

Conclusion:

The career development of Prof. Dr. Maya Galabova, MD, PhD, the scientometric and indicators, the contributions from scientific research and activity, the rich experience of a doctor, scientist and teacher fully correspond to the requirements for occupying the academic position "Professor", according to Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), The Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and for holding academic positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas

This gives me the reason to give a positive assessment to Prof. Dr. Maya Vladova Galabova. I support the selection and allow myself to recommend to the members of the respected Scientific Jury to also support the selection for the academic position "Professor" in the scientific specialty " Pathology and cytopathology " at the Department of "Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology " of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

20.06. 2024

Prof. Dr. V. Belovezhkov, MD, PhD