

ACADEMIC OPINION

From Assoc. Prof. Veselin Todorov Belovezhdov, MD,
Head of the Department of „General and Clinical pathology“
Medical University – Plovdiv,
*in his capacity as a member of the **scientific jury** based on*
an order of the Rector of the University
„Prof.d-r Asen Zlatarov“-Burgas ,
№ RD 93 / 07.04.21 y.

regarding procedure for acquisition of the academic position „**associate professor**“, announced in SG, no. 12 from 12.02.2021 y. in the field of higher education 7. Health and sport, professional field 7.1. Medicine, a scientific specialty „Pathoanatomy“ and report of the Dean of the Medical Faculty with reg. № 902/06.04.2021 y.,

D-r Maria Koleva-Ivanova, MD is the only candidate and has submitted for the procedure paper and electronic materials. They include all necessary documents related with the Regulation for application of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulation of the terms and conditions for acquisition of academic positions in the University „Prof.d-r Asen Zlatarov“-Burgas.

I. Career development of d-r Maria Koleva.

D-r Maria St. Koleva-Ivanova was born in 1984 y. in the city of Burgas. She graduated English Language School „Geo Milev“, Burgas, with a second language – German language in 2003 y. She was accepted as a medical student at Medical University, Plovdiv, where she graduated with a master's degree in 2009 y. In 2010 y. she began working as an assistant in the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology" of MU – Plovdiv and as a doctor pathologists in the University Hospital "St. George". In 2017 y. she acquired a specialty in Pathology. From 2019 y. she is an administrative assistant in the Department, in December 2020 y. she defend a dissertation and acquired educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

II. Description of the scientometric indicators of d-r Maria Koleva.

D-r Koleva presents 17 publications in peer-reviewed journals, **seven** of which are published in journals with IF on TR, 2 are publications from scientific forums in peer-reviewed journals, 5 are publications in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review. One of the publications is the result of individual work with students.

D-r Koleva has 11 participations in scientific forums, with posters and reports, 2 of which - international and 9 - national. She also presents 5 certificates for successfully completed postgraduate trainings and advanced training courses. She has 1 participation in a successfully completed intra-university project.

Scientific publications have led to 12 positive citations, 11 of which are in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information and one in a monograph.

The total impact factor from the publications of d-r Koleva-Ivanova is 7.17 in Thomson Reuters and Global Impact Factor - 0.388.

III. Assessment of the contributions of the scientific work of d-r Maria Koleva.

They can be divided into:

1. **Contributions with original character.** They include the investigation of the main indicators (frequency, age and leading clinical symptoms) of prostate eosinophilic metaplasia (EM). The later is the subject of d-r Koleva's dissertation. It and related publications demonstrate the mixed exocrine and lysosomal nature of eosinophilic granules. It is scientifically concluded that chronic histological prostatitis is related with the development of both EM and basal cell hyperplasia.

Scientific-applied and methodological contributions. Scales for semi-quantitative morphological assessment of the histological spreading of EM (focal and diffuse) and the histological distribution of EM have been developed. The advantage of standard histological stains containing floxine instead of eosin (HES and HPS) for easier tissue identification of cytoplasmic granules in prostate EM has been demonstrated. In addition of being a microscopic phenomenon in benign prostatic epithelium, a diagnostic value of EM has been

reported for chronic prostate inflammation, describing the association of nonspecific granulomatous prostatitis with EM and prostate adenocarcinoma.

Another contribution is the participation of d-r Koleva in a collective monograph ("Current pathomorphology of urinary bladder diseases", 2020), which is the first scientific study in the country, dedicated to the pathology of the urinary bladder. The monograph is structured to serve as a practical guide in the field of uropathology.

Apart from them, although more modest, d-r Koleva has several contributions in the field of gastrointestinal pathology, neuropathology, lung pathology related to the description of rare cases and methodological guidelines.

IV. Assessment of participation in the scientific-teaching activity of d-r Maria Koleva

D-r Koleva is engaged in teaching in the regular course of pathology for training students in the specialties "Medicine", "Dental Medicine" and "Pharmacy", in Bulgarian and English. She is actively involved in the creation and use of new teaching manuals for teaching, learning and conducting exams.

D-r Koleva is a co-author of 5 textbooks and 5 manuals (with Bulgarian and English versions) for students of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and health specialties, with a team from the Department of General and Clinical Pathology at MU - Plovdiv.

In connection with the introduction of e-learning manuals, she participated in a survey of student opinion (2011), which demonstrated the high interest of students in the introduction of computer technology in the teaching of pathology. The expanded opportunities for teaching the discipline, which became relevant in the course of the epidemic and the implementation of distance learning, are taken into account.

D-r Koleva actively participates in the training of trainees through consulting biopsies in the daily diagnostics of the Department of Pathology of the University Hospital "St. George" - Plovdiv, as well as by participating in the online seminars together with Assoc. Prof. Dikov.

Conclusion :

D-r Koleva's career development, her scientometric indicators, the acquired scientific and educational degree "Doctor", the contributions from her research

activity, fully correspond to the set of obligatory conditions, scientometric criteria and indicators for acquisition of the academic position "associate professor", according to LDASRB, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for acquisition of the academic position "ASSOCIATE ASSOCIATE", adopted in the Regulations for the structure and activity of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov "- Burgas.

This gives me reason to say that I will vote in favor of acquisition of the academic position of "Associate Professor" to d-r Koleva, and I allow myself to recommend to the members of the esteemed scientific jury to support also this choice.

30.05. 2021 y.

assoc. prof. d-r ~~V. Belovezh~~dov, MD