

REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Hristo Stoyanov Bozov, MD
Faculty of Public Health and Healthcare,
University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas,
of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the occupation of an
academic position "associate professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and
sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, Specialty
03.01.14 "Gastroenterology"

In the competition for "Associate professor", announced in the State Gazette, no. 45 of
17.06.2022 and on the website of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, one
candidate submitted documents and was admitted to participate - Dr. Milko Bozhidarov
Mirchev, MD.

By Order No. RD-269/15.09.2022 of the Rector of "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University -
Burgas, I am designated as a member of the scientific jury, and by Protocol No. 1 of
2.09.2022, I am designated as competition reviewer.

General presentation of the received materials

A set of materials on paper in accordance with the "Regulations on the terms and conditions
for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the University of "Prof. Dr.
Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas", "Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic
of Bulgaria", Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the
Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria" has been presented by Milko Bozhidarov
Mirchev, MD, and includes the following:

1. Application to the Rector for admission to the competition;
2. Copy of the announcement in the Official Gazette;
3. Curriculum vitae (CV);
4. Copies of diplomas:
 - 4.1 Copy of diploma for higher education Medicine
 - 4.2 Copy of diploma for PhD Degree "Doctor"
 - 4.3 Copy of diploma for specialty in Gastroenterology
5. Documents to prove work experience;
6. Document for participation in scientific research projects;
7. Reference for educational and teaching activity;
8. Declarations in accordance with paragraph 18 of these Regulations;
9. Certificate of fulfillment of the minimum requirements;
10. Complete list of publications;
11. List of publications for participation in the competition;
12. Author reference and summaries of the scientific contributions of the works;
13. Reference to the citations in which the applicant's publication is cited;
14. Copy of scientific works;
15. Training

The candidate, Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev, has submitted a complete list of 22 scientific
publications, of which 1 monograph and 21 full-text scientific publications.

It is clear from the submitted documents that the professional qualification and quantitative
indicators of the candidate's scientific development meet the requirements for holding the
academic position of "Associate professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and

sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty 03.01.14 "Gastroenterology".
The materials are complete and carefully arranged.

Brief biographical data of the applicant

Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev was born on October 4, 1977 in the city of Varna. In 2002, he graduated from the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" in the city of Varna, and in 2014 acquired the specialty "Gastroenterology" at Varna Medical University.
In 2011, Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev obtained the educational and scientific degree "doctor" at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna, in "Gastroenterology" after a successfully defended dissertation on the topic "Clinical significance of microsatellite instability and promoter methylation of DNA in patients with colorectal carcinoma".

Dr. Mirchev has extensive clinical experience as a gastroenterologist. His work experience began as a full-time doctoral student at the Gastroenterology Clinic of UMBAL "St. Marina" - Varna. For the period 2007 - 2022, he went through the positions of resident doctor, specialist, chief assistant, associate professor, head of the "Gastroenterology" Clinic of the UMBAL "St. Marina" - Varna. From 11.04.2022, he is the Head of the Department of Gastroenterology at the "Heart and Brain" Hospital - Burgas.

During the period of his work, Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev made continuous and purposeful efforts for his professional confirmation and growth as a specialist doctor, researcher and teacher. This is evident from the many successfully completed qualification courses and specializations in the field of gastrointestinal endoscopy - diagnostic and interventional, hepatology and molecular biology. He is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Union, the Bulgarian Society of Gastroenterology, and since October 2022 he has been a member of the Governing Board of the Society, the European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE), the European Crohn's and Colitis Organization (ECCO).

General characteristics of the applicant's activity

Assessment of the candidate's educational and pedagogical activities

According to the presented Reference for educational and teaching activities, Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev, as an associate professor at the Medical University of Varna, led practical and lecture courses in gastroenterology for foreign medical students and a lecture course in gastroenterology for Bulgarian medical students. He has participated in the development and delivery of lectures from the Gastroenterology Training Course for obtaining a Board Certificate in Gastroenterology.

Dr. Mirchev is training two doctoral students in "Gastroenterology" at UMBAL "St. Marina" Varna.

Evaluation of the candidate's scientific activity

Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev participated in the competition with an abstract of a dissertation work for the acquisition of the PhD Degree and 22 scientific works, distributed as follows:

- 1 monographic work;
- 21 full-text scientific publications, of which 18 in periodicals and 3 in participation in scientific forums.

Of the total of 21 scientific works presented for the competition, in 11 of them he is first author (52.4%), in 5 works (23.8%) - second author and in 5 (23.8%) - third and subsequent author.

He participated in 4 research projects that were funded by the University of Varna.

Scientific and applied contributions and citations of the candidate

The contributions and scientific interests of Dr. Milko Mirchev presented for participation in the competition are in the field of the molecular biology of colorectal carcinoma, its clinical significance, risk factors of gastrointestinal neoplasia, probiotics and infection with *Helicobacter pylori*, opportunistic infections in inflammatory bowel diseases, etc.

1. Molecular biology of colorectal carcinoma and its clinical significance:

In this direction, the candidate presents in-depth research on the role of some genetic and epigenetic changes in colorectal carcinomas and their association with disease stage, morphological characteristics, localization, presence of synchronous colonic polyps, prognosis, etc. Eleven publications are presented in this direction.

In the monographic work "Hereditary neoplastic syndromes in gastroenterology", Published by the Medical University, Varna, ISBN 978-619-7137-71-2, 2015, Dr. Mirchev examines the genetics, clinical presentation, diagnosis, approach to patients and the possibilities for the early detection and prevention of hereditary carcinomas of the stomach, small intestine, colon (including familial adenomatous polyposis, MYH-associated polyposis, Lynch syndrome and those with hamartomatous polyposis) and pancreas.

2. Risk and protective factors of gastrointestinal neoplastic diseases:

Herein, the results are summarized in 4 publications. They represent the first epidemiological study conducted in the country on the role of eating habits, obesity, age, smoking, alcohol use, intake of certain medications and others in esophageal, gastric and colon carcinogenesis.

3. Others

Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev has scientific contributions related to: the treatment of *H. pylori* infections with probiotics, complications of therapeutic upper endoscopy, tuberculosis infection in patients with Crohn's disease treated with biological therapy, small intestinal tumors, etc.

The scientific results obtained from the presented research were reported personally by the candidate at numerous specialized scientific conferences and congresses.

The papers submitted for participation in the competition have been evaluated by the scientific community, as evidenced by the attached Reference with 23 citations.

Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution

I believe that the formulated contributions and obtained results are to a large extent the personal merit of the candidate. Dr. Mirchev's personal contribution is also evident from the fact that he is the first author in more than 50% of the scientific works submitted to the competition.

Critical notes and recommendations

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Conclusion

The overall scientific production of Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev is in accordance with the professional direction and is in the scientific specialty of the announced competition.

The documents and materials presented by Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of

Bulgaria (LDASB), the Regulations for the Implementation of LDASB and the "Regulations on the Terms and Procedures for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding academic positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas". They cover, and in some of the indicators, significantly exceed the minimum quantitative requirements for occupying the academic position "Associate professor" at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov". I believe that sufficient scientific and applied contributions have been achieved.

After thorough review of the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific and original contributions, I give a positive evaluation for the election of Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev to the academic position of "associate professor" at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty 03.01.14 "Gastroenterology".

10.2022
Burgas

Reviewer:
/prof. Dr. Hristo Bozov/