

8010 Бургас, бул. "Проф. Якимов" №1
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REVIEW

by Professor Dr. Vladimir Hristov Gonchev, MD
Faculty of Medicine at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas,

Member of the scientific committee, regarding Order No.RD 269/15.09.2022 of the
Chancellor of the University – Burgas

Regarding: Participation in the Competition for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Gastroenterology" for the needs of the Department of "Internal Diseases", at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Burgas, announced in SG No. 45/17.06.2022.

One candidate participated and was admitted to the announced competition:
Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev, MD

The candidate has submitted all the necessary documents for participation in the competition, corresponding to the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Rules for its Application and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University - Burgas.

Brief biographical and professional data of the candidate

Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev, MD, PhD was born in the city of Varna in 1977, where he completed secondary education at the 1st Language High School. He graduated with a master's degree in "Medicine" in 2002 at the MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna. In the period 2009 - 2013, he specialized in "Gastroenterology" at the Medical University - Varna and in 2014 acquired a specialty. In 2011, he obtained the "Doctor's degree" in the scientific specialty "Gastroenterology".

He began his professional career as a full-time PhD 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.

Evaluation of quantitative and qualitative indicators

Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev, MD, PhD has submitted a signed comprehensive evidentiary material containing detailed lists, references, summaries and full-text copies of scientific works, certificates and diplomas, references for citations, declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents. The presented materials contain the necessary information to carry out a quantitative and qualitative assessment of his overall academic development. The presented works are in the field and the issues of the competition - professional direction 7.1 "Medicine", scientific specialty "Gastroenterology".

A monographic work consisting of 139 pages is presented. The monograph examines the genetics, clinical presentation, diagnosis, approach to patients, and opportunities for early detection and prevention of hereditary carcinomas of the stomach, small intestine, colon, and pancreas.

The candidate fulfills the conditions for occupying the academic position "Associate professor" in accordance with Art. 29 of LDASRB and minimum required points for the academic position "Associate professor", according to LDASRB in District 7. "Health and Sports", professional direction 7.1 "Medicine". In table 1, I confirm the scientific-metric values, according to which Dr. Milko Mirchev fulfills all the conditions for occupying the academic position "Associate professor" in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University - Burgas and the minimum required points:

Table 1. Minimum required points for the academic position "Associate professor" in District 7. "Health and Sports", professional direction 7.1. "Medicine" according to LDASRB. Minimum required points for the academic position "Associate Professor" in District 7. "Health and Sports", professional direction 7.1. "Medicine" in accordance with the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the University - Burgas.

| Indicators | Associate professor, according to the LDASRB | Associate professor, according to the Local Regulations of the University of Burgas | Milko Mirchev, MD PhD |
|------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| A | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| B | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| C | 200 | 200 | 201 |
| D | 50 | 50 | 375 |
| Total | 400 | 400 | 726 |

A total of 21 full-text publications published in refereed and non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited scientific volumes are presented.

In 11 of them the candidate 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.

Main fields of publication activity

The presented works of the candidate can be distributed in the following main areas:

1. Gastrointestinal tumors: a total of 16 articles distributed in the following areas:
 - a. Colorectal carcinoma genetics: 11 publications demonstrating the clinical relevance of some newly identified genetic and epigenetic alterations in colonic molecular biology, namely: microsatellite instability and DNA methylation, and their role in patients with sporadic, familial, and hereditary colorectal carcinoma, in tumors with proximal and distal localization along the course of the colon, their importance as prognostic factors, etc.
 - b. Risk and protective factors in neoplasia of the esophagus, stomach and colon: 4 publications representing an epidemiological study on the role of dietary habits on the risk of benign and malignant tumors in the respective locations.
 - c. Small bowel tumors: 1 publication addressing the incidence, location, clinical presentation, diagnosis, and histologic variants of this relatively rare neoplastic disease.
2. Role of probiotics for the treatment of H. pylori infection: 1 publication presenting a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial showing the positive role of the probiotic *Lactobacillus reuteri* on the subsequent eradication of H. pylori.
3. Complications of interventional upper endoscopy: 1 publication addressing a relatively rare but possible complication of duodenal polyp removal.
4. Opportunistic infections in patients with inflammatory bowel disease: 1 publication looking at the incidence of tuberculosis infection before and after initiation of biological therapy.
5. The selective inhibitor Controlok for the treatment of peptic diseases: 1 review article examining the pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics of a preparation with low drug interaction.
6. Protocol for Orthotopic Liver Transplantation: 1 publication published in Manual of Hepatology detailing the organization, preoperative preparation, postoperative care, and

follow-up of patients after liver transplantation based on the experience of colleagues at Inselspital University Hospital - Bern, Switzerland .

Teaching activity

As an associate professor at the Medical University - Varna, Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev, MD, participates in the teaching of Gastroenterology to fifth-year medical students, Bulgarian- and English-language training. He also conducts a pre-graduate internship for intern-doctors specializing in Medicine. He participated in the lecture course of the Basic Course in Gastroenterology for specialists in the same discipline.

Conclusion

The examination of the materials for the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" of Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev, MD, shows that the normative requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its application and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the University - Burgas. The candidate presents scientific works of sufficient volume, in which there are original scientific and applied contributions.

In conclusion, I give a positive assessment of the activity of chief assistant Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev, MD and I VOTE POSITIVELY, suggesting that the members of the scientific jury also vote positively for her selection for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, professional direction 7.1. Public health, in the scientific specialty "Gastroenterology", in the Faculty of Medicine at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

04.11.2022
Burgas

Signature:
prof. dr. Vladimir Hristov Donchev, MD, PhD