

## OPINION

by

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regarding a competition for the academic position "PROFESSOR" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine (Human Anatomy, Histology and Embryology), for the purposes of the Faculty of Medicine at SU 'St. Kliment Ohridski', announced in State gazette, issue 48 of 28.06.2022

The only candidate for the position is **Assoc. Prof. Ivan Ilkov Maslarski** from the Department of 'Anatomy and Histology, Pathology and Forensic Medicine' – Faculty of Medicine, with the competition having been announced for the purposes of the said Department. The evaluation for the final opinion is based on the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the regulations on its implementation, Rules on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions in SU 'St. Kliment Ohridski', in accordance with the Higher Education Act and the Rules on the Organization and Activities of SU.

### **I. Professional development of Assoc. Prof. Ivan Ilkov Maslarski.**

Assoc. Prof. Ivan Maslarski was born in 1980 in Sofia. He completed his higher education in 2003 in the Faculty of Biology of SU 'St. Kliment Ohridski', obtaining a specialty in Biology and Chemistry. From 2003 to 2006, he was a full-time doctoral student at the same faculty, and in 2007 he defended his dissertation on the topic 'Health through education, the teaching of anatomy' and received the academic degree of 'Doctor'. As of 2007 he has worked in the Department of Anatomy and Histology, Pathology and Forensic Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine of SU 'St. Kliment Ohridski', successively holding the following academic positions: Assistant Professor (2007 – 2008), Senior Assistant Professor (2008 – 2011), Chief Assistant Professor (2011 – 2016) and Associate Professor (since 2016). In 2016, he obtained a medical specialty in 'Anatomy, Histology and Cytology'. From 2008 to 2019, Associate Professor Maslarski worked as a medical specialist at Lozenets Hospital, Sofia, on a second employment contract. Since 2018, he has been the Head of the Department of 'Anatomy and Histology, Pathology and Forensic Medicine' at the Faculty of Medicine, SU 'St. Kliment Ohridski'.

Assoc. Prof. Maslarski is a member of the management board of the Bulgarian Anatomical Society (BAS) and an expert at the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (NEAA). He speaks English and Spanish.

## **II. Academic and teaching activities of Assoc. Prof. Ivan Ilkov Maslarski.**

Assoc. Prof. Maslarski conducts lectures and exercises in: 'General Cytology, Histology and Embryology', 'Human Anatomy' for students enrolled in the specialty 'Medicine' (in Bulgarian and English); 'Human Anatomy and Physiology', 'Human Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene' for students enrolled in the specialty 'Medical Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy' and 'Social activities' at SU 'St. Kliment Ohridski'.

The applicant has presented a certificate of academic employment by SU 'St. Kliment Ohridski', which makes it evident that his teaching activity amounts to a total of 5490 academic hours for the last 5 years. Currently, Assoc. Prof. Maslarski is the vice-chairman of the Commission for the verification and evaluation of candidate student works in biology (for the specialty 'Medicine' at the Faculty of Medicine of SU 'St. Kliment Ohridski').

## **III. Scientific and research activity of Assoc. Prof. Ivan Ilkov Maslarski.**

Assoc. Prof. Maslarski's scientific and research activity is diverse. One aspect of his work is related to studies on twins and creation of models for twin registries. The constructions of three-dimensional images and models of various organs and structures of the human body in normal and pathological conditions are interesting and innovative scientific elaborations. They represent a significant contribution to the education of students and post graduate students, as well as to specialist surgeons from various surgical fields. Some of Assoc. Prof. Maslarski's research examines interesting anatomical variations of the vessels in the human body. Other studies have demonstrated the changes in neurons and glial cells in the posterior roots of the spinal cord after trauma in experimental animals. Very relevant are the results related to the expression of SOX10 in the cells of Glomus coccygeum, examined after excision of the pilonidal sinus. Assoc. Prof. Maslarski also has several epidemiological studies on breast and lung cancer.

In the competition for the academic position of 'Professor' (excluding those for ESD 'Doctor' and AP 'Assoc. Prof.')

Assoc. Prof. Maslarski has presented 1 monographic work, 22 publications (13 of them refereed and indexed in major international databases and 9 non-

refereed), 31 citations (10 in refereed journals, 17 in non-refereed journals and 4 in monographs and collective volumes), 11 participations in scientific forums and 1 textbook chapter. The candidate has participated in 6 scientific projects (of which he has managed 3).

In the current competition, Assoc. Prof. Maslarski has presented scientific facts that meet all the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the regulations on its implementation. Below is a comparative table for the minimum required points by groups of indicators for those holding the academic position of ‘Professor’ compared with those of Assoc. Prof. Maslarski.

<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Minimum number of points</b>	<b>Points (Assoc. Prof. Maslarski)</b>
A	50	50
B	100	100
Г	200	504
Д	100	275
E	100	175

**Conclusion:**

Assoc. Prof. Maslarski is a respected colleague and teacher in the field of Cytology, Histology, Embryology and Anatomy, who skillfully combines scientific work with educational activities. The applicant fully meets the national requirements necessary to hold the relevant position, according to the regulations of the Republic of Bulgaria and the rules of SU ‘St. Kliment Ohridski’. Therefore, I propose that Assoc. Prof. Ivan Ilkov Maslarski be awarded the academic position of ‘Professor’.

29.09.2022  
Sofia

Signature:

/Prof. Boycho Lanzhov, MD, PhD/