

REVIEW

Regarding: Competition for the occupation of the academic position "professor" in the field of education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Human anatomy, histology and embryology", announced at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the State Gazette, issue 48/28.06.2022.

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Competition procedure:

The competition is for the academic position "professor" in the field of 7.1. Medicine (Human anatomy, histology and embryology) and a full-time position for the needs of the Department of "Anatomy and histology, pathology and forensic medicine" at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The competition announcement was published in the Official Journal Issue 48 of 06/28/2022. The procedure is in compliance with the rules of the Sofia University the relevant laws in the Republic of Bulgaria.

At the first meeting of the jury appointed by the Dean, the only candidate, assoc. prof. Ivan Ilkov Maslarski Ph.D., was admitted. The regulatory requirements regarding the competition procedure have been completed.

The candidate has submitted the complete set of documents that are in full compliance with the regulatory requirements for admission and participation in a competition for the academic position of "professor" at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". The documents were transmitted electronically in sequence from №1 to №3, from №5 to №7 and from №10 to №18, including attached materials of proof:

1. CV;
2. University diploma;
3. Ph.D. diploma;

5. Assoc. Professor document;
6. Work experience in the specialty;
7. Certificate and employment contract for the University position;
- 10A. List of all the candidate's scientific works;
- 10B. List of scientific works to participated in the competition;
11. Contributions generated by the "Authors" system of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski";
12. Table and evidentiary material of the minimum national requirements for the scientific and teaching activity of the candidate for the academic position "professor";
13. Reference for the citations of the candidate for the position – „professor “;
14. Original scientific contributions;
15. Documents proving study load during the last five years at the University;
16. Full text of the scientific works that are used for the competition.
17. Summaries of scientific papers submitted for participation in the competition;
18. Copy of the competition announcement in the State Gazette.

Biography and academic development of the candidate

Ivan Maslarski was born on 03.03.1980 in Sofia. From 1986 to 1993, he studied in the 16th primary school, Sofia. He completed his secondary education at the capital's 7th high school. He obtained his higher education with a master's degree at the University of Sofia “St. Kliment Ohridski”, in the major of "Biology and Chemistry", in 2002. During his studies he has volunteered in anatomy and anthropology, participated in student projects and research related to physical anthropology and dermatoglyphics research. He was a full-time doctoral student in the Department of Biological Education of the University of Sofia and became Ph.D. in 2006 year. In 2007, he won a competition for the position of assistant at the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Faculty of Medicine, Department of “Anatomy, histology, pathology and forensic medicine”.

In the first years, he helped, together with the rest of his colleagues, in the selection and equipping of teaching aids, dry and wet preparations. Assisted qualified teachers in the preparation of the curriculum. In the second year of his work experience, he was assigned to be an administrative assistant and participates in the distribution of academic work for lecturers and was directly responsible for the organization of colloquiums, practical exams and problems related to student training in various disciplines in the department.

In 2012 he participated in an international project in the city of Cologne and helped established a good relationship between the two departments. In 2014, after three years of specialization, Ivan Maslarski successfully acquired a medical specialty in "Anatomy, cytology and histology". In 2016, he acquired the academic position "Associate Professor" in direction 7.1. Medicine (Cytology, human histology - general and special). Two years later (2018), the candidate in the competition for professorship became the head of the Department of "Anatomy and histology, pathology and forensic medicine".

Contributions during this period include the digitization of teaching microscope preparations, as well as the implementation of an innovative online learning method during COVID lockdowns. During the last two years, he established a good relationship between the department he leads and the neurosurgery department at Tokuda Hospital. Joint dissections of neurosurgeons and anatomists have been carried out on a project related to 3D learning. Three-dimensional images were captured and processed, and based on them, virtual reality models of different regions of the human body were created. Software and virtual glasses designed for the learning process were purchased. Articles have been published covering these projects and the partnership continues.

Scientific research activity and scient metric data

The only candidate in the competition is the author and co-author of a total of 54 scientific papers, and in most of them he is the first author (30 scientific papers or 51%) or is the lead author. The total number of publications is 31, 19 of which are in pier-reviewed journals and 12 in non pier-reviewed journals. Two of the works are textbooks for basic courses of study in higher schools, two monographs and 19 sectional reports and posters. Prof. Ivan Maslarski has submitted 22 publications for the competition, of which 13 in refereed and 9 in non-refereed

journals, 1 monograph, 1 textbook and 11 works from participation in plenary sessions, reports and posters.

According to the current basic requirements in the regulations for the implementation of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, assoc. professor I. Maslarski covers all criteria in the following way:

Scientific contributions: The contributions of assoc. prof. Ivan Maslarski are presented in detail in the attached "Author's reference for the contribution nature of the scientific works". In general, contributions can be divided into several groups:

1. Contributions from a group of publications related to twin studies. In this group of publications also formed the monographic work "The Twin Method in Medical Research", numerous reports, announcements and posters. A practical biometric model for determining zygoty has been created.

2. Contributions from a group of publications related to three-dimensional images and virtual reality in medicine. This group of publications highlights an experimented and implemented sparing method for preparing the suboccipital fossa, using detailed layer-by-layer fascial sections and demonstrating a donor artery with preserved neuromuscular structures along its course.

3. Contributions from a group of publications related to breast cancer. For many years, Ivan Maslarski worked in a team with his colleagues from the Varna University of Medical Sciences on dermatoglyphic and etiological research related to breast cancer. Findings revealed statistically significant differences between women with breast cancer and healthy women in terms of mean values of papillary images of the five homologous fingers, as well as in terms of total digital ridge count.

4. Contributions from a group of publications related to anatomical variations. They are described several variations of clinical importance such as: brachial plexus variation and structures relevant to upper extremity reconstruction surgery. A few vascular variations have been described and analyzed, such as a. brachialis, a. obturatoria, arcus palmaris superficialis, a.

hepatica propria, which have an unusual origin, course or anastomoses and are used in surgical practice. A rare variation (less than 10 percent) of an additional lobe present or a lobe different from the macroscopic taxonomy of the liver is also described and discussed.

5. Contributions from a group of publications related to epidemiological

studies. Among these studies, emphasis has been placed on the relationships between genetic factors and environmental factors involved in the occurrence and prognosis of breast cancer. Some results from twin cohort studies conducted in Scandinavian and Northern European countries in monozygotic and dizygotic twins with breast cancer are reported, analyzed and modeled. A comparison is also made with the author's proposed biomarker model for early diagnosis of breast cancer.

6. Contributions from a group of publications related to ossification and

variations in skull with clinical significance. In this group, Ivan Maslarski and the scientific team analyze the emissary openings in the skull and respectively the emissary veins and describes their variants, in which there are extensions and an atypical anatomical arrangement. It has been proposed that these anatomical features are due to a pathology requiring their development to regulate intracranial pressure. Research in this group contributes to imaging before surgical interventions.

7. Contributions from a group of publications related to educational anatomical

innovations. In this group of publications, the author offers a global approach to neuroanatomy and its correct placement in the anatomy curriculum. Alternatives to dissections, incisions, plastination, microscopy.

8. Contributions from a group of publications related to Glomus coccygeum in

the pilonidal sinus and overview of sensory receptors. Glomus coccygeum (GC) specimens from pilonidal sinus excision detected and reported.

Teaching activity.

Assoc. prof. Ivan Maslarski has been a lecturer at the Faculty of medicine since his reinstatement in the ranks of the University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2007. From the report presented, for the last five years, Ivan Maslarski spent a total of 6,502 hours, of which

about 5,460 hours were in the classroom activity. The report has shown that Ivan Maslarski exceeds the mandatory norm of 360 hours per year for the position he holds.

Conclusion

The only candidate participating in the competition for professor in direction 7.1. Medicine (Human anatomy, histology and embryology) Assoc. Ivan Maslarski fully complies with the normative requirements of the local orders and rules, and the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring a scientific degree and holding academic positions at University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski". The candidate is highly educated and experienced lecturer having good communication and management skills. Assoc. prof. I. Maslarski has contributed to the development of the department by improving the student training process, attracting, and confirming young assistants and providing the necessary resources for quality training. He is very humble and is always ready to cooperate with colleagues from other medical faculties in Bulgaria and giving all the best to his students. His team work is beneficial for the management of the scientific and educational activities in the department.

The scientific parameters data of the candidate compared to the minimum requirements for this position, not only meet the requirements legally, but even exceeds the required number of points in some indicators. Assoc. prof. I. Maslarski's scientific works is impressive, which is also evident from the diverse contributions presented.

By everything presented so far and based on the comprehensive evaluation of the documents and activity presented for the competition, it gives grounds for a positive recension. For this reason, I convincingly suggest to the Scientific Jury to vote positively and elect assoc. prof. Ivan Ilkov Maslarski as "Professor" in direction 7.1. Medicine (Human anatomy, histology and embryology) in the Faculty of Medicine of University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Data: 23th of September, 2022

Sofia