

REFERENCE

by Prof. Temenuga Donova, MD, PhD
Faculty of Medicine, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

About

A Procedure for holding a competition for occupying the academic position "Professor" in the professional field 7.1 Medicine (Internal Diseases - Rheumatology), announced in SG, issue 56 of 30.06.2023 by Order No. RD-38-542/15.09.2023 of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" Prof. Dr. Anastas Gerdzhikov and the Minutes of the Faculty Board of the Medical Faculty No. 118/04.09.2023, I was elected a member of the Scientific Panel for conducting the competition by providing a reference.

One candidate - Assoc. Prof. Lyubomir Marinov Marinchev, MD, was admitted to take part in the competition for the academic position "Professor",

Brief biographical data of the candidate

Assoc. Prof. L. Marinchev, MD, graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University in Sofia in 1983, after which for 2 years he had been a treating physician at the regional hospital in the town of Byala.

From 1987 to 2012, he was an assistant, senior assistant, and chief assistant at the Rheumatology Clinic of the Medical Academy - Sofia.

Since 2012, he has been the Head of the Rheumatology Department of the University Hospital "SofiaMed", Sofia.

He has recognized specialties in Internal Diseases and Rheumatology.

In 2008, he successfully defended a dissertation on the topic: "Anti-rheumatic therapy and infection with *Helicobacter pylori* - damage to the upper gastrointestinal tract in rheumatic diseases", after which in 2017 he received the academic position "Associate Professor" in Rheumatology at the Faculty of Medicine, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

He is a member of the managing board of the Bulgarian Rheumatology Society, the Bulgarian Rheumatology Association, and the European VLR.

Research activities

To enter the competition, Assoc. Prof. L. Marinchev, MD, submitted scientific publications in Rheumatology, Immunology, and such with an interdisciplinary focus, including:

- Helicobacter pylori and rheumatoid arthritis (RA)
- paraneoplastic arthritis and rectal cancer
- Sleep apnea and gout, SLE, and chronic hepatitis infection
- Coronavirus infection and dermatomyositis, by accurately analyzing interactions, treatment approaches, and predictive models.

The scientific works of Assoc. Prof. L. Marinchev, MD, consist of:

1 monograph and

3 chapters in shared books presenting current topics - rare diseases with immune genesis.

Research activities

of Assoc. Prof. L. Marinchev, MD, include active participation in national and international congresses and conferences.

He is a reviewer of scientific reports in leading international journals - American Journal of Case Reports, and Medical Science Monitor.

His scientific publications have numerous citations in international and Bulgarian scientific journals.

The teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. L. Marinchev, MD for the period 2017 - 2022 includes a significant number of classroom and extracurricular classes for medical students (Bulgarian and English speakers), participation in committees for semester and state exams in internal diseases, and training of postgraduate students in rheumatology.

The overall scientific research activity of the candidate sets significant and valuable contributions to medical science and practice:

- demonstrating the impact of Helicobacter pylori infections on the effectiveness of different therapeutic models
- follow-up of treated and untreated patients with RA and CTD for changes in the mucous membrane of GI with permanent antirheumatic and antisecretory treatment
- establishing a clinical consensus for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis by global guidelines depending on severity, stage, form and activity
- analyzing immunopathogenic mechanisms in rheumatic diseases - Post-Covid-19 dermatomyositis and/or vaccination
- establishing that treatment with conventional disease-modifying antirheumatic agents (DMARDs) and target synthetics (DMARDs) does not confer an increased risk of Covid-19 or poor prognosis, and treatment may reduce the incidence of Covid-19 cases or increase asymptomatic patients, such as women with RA

- evidence of autoimmune (auto-inflammatory syndrome) after placement of silicone implants and recommendation for the need to screen high-risk patients by specific antibody testing

The reference made for compliance with the minimum national criteria for the academic position "Professor" confirms that the candidate Assoc. Prof. Marinchev, MD, fully meets these requirements.

Conclusion:

The candidate for participation in the competition for the academic degree "Professor", Assoc. Prof. L. Marinchev, MD, is among the leading specialists in Rheumatology, with a long and successful clinical, scientific, and academic activity.

Assoc. Prof. Marinchev, MD has been an excellent university lecturer for more than 30 years with versatile knowledge, which he transmits in the most up-to-date and convincing way to the students of Medicine and specialized Rheumatology doctors. His research activities are varied, and of marked scientific and practical value, with valuable analyses, evidence and conclusions for clinical application and specialized training.

All this gives me a reason to vote positively and to recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Panel a positive vote for holding the academic degree "Professor" in the professional field 7.1 Medicine (Internal Diseases - Rheumatology) by Assoc. Prof. Lyubomir Marinov Marinchev, MD.

Sofia16.10.2023

Prof. Temenuga Donova, MD, Ph.D.