

STATEMENT

on the competition for acquiring the academic position "professor" in professional direction 7.1 Medicine (Internal diseases – Rheumatology), announced in State Gazette, issue 56, June 30, 2023, for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Diseases, Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology, Pediatrics, Epidemiology, Infectious and Skin Diseases

***Candidate:* Assoc. Prof. Lyubomir Marinov Marinchev, MD, PhD**

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The statement was prepared based on the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB and the Regulations for the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and for Holding Academic Positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (RTCASDHAPSU). It was written and presented based on order № RD-38-542/15.9.2023 of the Rector of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for the appointment of the scientific jury for this procedure, as well as the decision of the scientific jury for the procedure.

Documents for participation in the competition were submitted electronically, within the legally regulated period, by the only candidate: **Assoc. Prof. Lyubomir Marinov Marinchev, MD, PhD**.

1. General description of the presented materials

I was given access to the applicant's documents before the first meeting of the scientific jury, by the secretary of the jury. The candidate has submitted all materials required by RTCASDHAPSU: curriculum vitae; copies of diplomas for higher education; a copy of a diploma for the educational scientific degree "Doctor"; a certificate of practice in the specialty of the academic position "Associate Professor"; academic workload report; list of all publications; list of publications submitted for participation in the competition; a list of publications, conferences and scientific guides generated by the "Authors" system; certificate of fulfilment of the minimum national requirements, according to the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB; citation reference; author reference for the contribution of

the works; reference on the indicators under Art. 122, para. 2 of RTCASDHAPSU, copies of the scientific works; a copy of the advertisement in the State Gazette.

2. Brief biographical data

Lyubomir Marinchev was born in 1960 in Sofia. He graduated from the Medical Academy, Higher Medical Institute-Sofia, in 1983, majoring in "Medicine". In 1992, Dr. Lyubomir Marinchev obtained a diploma for a recognized specialty in the health care system in Internal Medicine, and in 1994 in Rheumatology. Defended a doctoral dissertation in Rheumatology (scientific specialty 03.01.18) on the topic "Antirheumatic therapy and infection with Helicobacter Pylori – damage to the upper gastrointestinal tract in rheumatic diseases" in 2008 in front of the Higher Attestation Committee (HAC).

For the period 1985-1987, Lyubomir Marinchev worked as a resident doctor at Hospital "Julia Vraevska", town of Byala. From 1987 to 2012, he was successively an assistant, senior and chief assistant at the Medical Academy-Sofia – Clinic of Rheumatology (UMBAL Aleksandrovska and UMBAL St. Ivan Rilski). From 2012 to the present, Assoc. Prof. Marinchev is the Head of the Department of Rheumatology, UMBAL "Sofiamed", and since 2017 he has held the academic position of "Associate Professor" in professional direction 7.1. Medicine (Internal Diseases – Rheumatology) at the Faculty of Medicine of the Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski".

3. Educational and lecturing activity

From the attached academic workload report of Assoc. Prof. Marinchev, is clearly visible that it exceeds the required hours at SU St. Kliment Ohridski". Assoc. Prof. Lyubomir Marinchev lectures students of "Medicine" and "Medicine in English" educational degree "master after secondary education" in the compulsory discipline: Internal Diseases – Rheumatology module and conducts classes in Rheumatology during the mandatory pre-graduate practice. Dr. Marinchev has extensive experience in the preparation of exam materials and evaluation, as a member of committees for state exams for medical students at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Assoc. Prof. Marinchev is the supervisor of four successfully graduated specialists with a recognized specialty in the health care system and co-supervisor of one doctoral student.

He is an erudite lecturer, distinguished by his high expertise.

4. Scientific research activity

4.1. Scientific indicators and fulfilment of the minimum national requirements

For participation in the competition (outside of the publications on the dissertation work and the assets for acquiring the academic position of "Associate Professor"). Dr. Marinchev has submitted one monograph "Crystalline arthropathies", 8 publications in journals, referenced and indexed in the world-famous scientific information databases Web of Science and Scopus, 3 book chapters, 5 publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals and 1 participation in a scientific forum.

The reference, presented by Assoc. Prof. Marinchev, for fulfilment of the minimum national requirements, according to the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB, for scientific area 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1 Medicine according to indicators, is prepared precisely, clearly and correctly. All presented data on the impact factors of the publications are correctly reflected for the respective years of publication, according to the data from Journal Citation Reports (JCR) of Web of Science and Scimago Journal Rank (SJR) for the metric of scientific publications referenced in Scopus. It is clear from the reference that the candidate fully meets and even exceeds, in some groups of indicators, the minimum national requirements for academic degree "Professor".

Indicators group	Minimal national requirements	Candidate's score
A	50	50
B	100	100
C	200	206
D	100	945
E	100	130

The total number of citations of Dr. Marinchev's scientific works in journals referenced in Web of Science and Scopus is 69 (excluding self-citations and hidden self-citations), out of which 50 are submitted for participation in the competition. The Hirsch index is 3 (Scopus).

4.2. Contributions of the candidate's scientific works

- Monographs

In the monograph "Crystalline arthropathies" are reviewed diseases related to disorders of purine metabolism, which have been known for a long time, but in recent years are of increasing frequency, which makes them significant for medical practice. The monograph analyses and summarizes results based on the author's personal experience, as well as

international epidemiological studies. A systematic assessment of purine metabolism in general, as well as the role of the kidney in uric acid transport, has been made. The etiology and clinical picture of gout and other crystalline arthropathies are discussed in detail. Emphasis is placed on modern diagnostic methods, mainly from the field of imaging – computerized tomography, positron emission tomography, magnetic resonance tomography, etc., as well as molecular biological and genetic approaches, in order to clarify the complex mechanisms of the mentioned diseases. Much attention is focused on the modern methods of mono- or combined therapy, the mechanisms of action of the various substances, their advantages and/or side reactions.

- **Book chapters – 3 items, included in "Rare diseases with immune pathogenesis", edited by Prof. Marta Baleva, MD, PhD** (№№. II.1, II.2 and II.3 from the list of publications presented for participation in the competition).

In this group of studies, the etiology, pathogenesis, clinical picture and treatment of diseases from the group of vasculitis other rare diseases and the importance of timely and adequate diagnosis in order to prevent complications are reviewed.

- **Scientific publications** (publications included in III. A, III.B and III.C).

The scientific publications presented for participation in the competition by Assoc. Prof. Marinchev describe various pathological conditions, with detailed analysis and summaries of scientific literature data and own results.

The various publications consistently review:

- Autoimmune/auto-inflammatory syndrome induced by adjuvants (ASIA), which occurs in some women after breast implants surgery. As a result, the need to detect high-risk patients by ANA and APA screening (screening of antinuclear and antiphospholipid antibodies), rheumatoid factor and ASO titre (antistreptolysin titre), in patients planning aesthetic breast surgery, is discussed.

- The relation between the COVID-19 pandemic and the risks for patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), due to the connection between the increased frequency of respiratory diseases in patients with RA. A total of 156 RA patients on biologic or target-synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) therapy and 102 patients on conventional DMARDs were included in the study, with no distinct clinical symptoms and an increased risk for COVID-19 observed in patients on biologic or target-synthetic DMARD, compared to those treated with conventional DMARS.

- Reactive arthritis – an inflammatory joint disease characterized by joint inflammation associated with an accompanying infectious disease. Typical for this case is that symptoms

develop during or shortly after an infectious disease. In the particular publication, a case of a woman with a "forgotten" intrauterine device is presented. The case demonstrates that asymptomatic genital infections should be considered when infection-related reactive arthritis is suspected.

- A case of psoriatic arthritis, dermatomyositis and other diseases relevant to rheumatology practice were followed up and described.

Assoc. Prof. Lyubomir Marinchev is the author of a number of reviews of publications in journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science – Medical Science Monitor, American Journal of Case Reports, Rheumatology Oxford. He is a member of the Bulgarian Society of Rheumatology, the Bulgarian Rheumatology Association, the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) and the Bulgarian Medical Association.

5. Personal impressions

Assoc. Prof. Marinchev is a strict and competent colleague – a doctor, a specialist in rheumatology and a university lecturer and scientist who is respected by colleagues and students.

CONCLUSION

Based on the materials and scientific works presented for the competition, the above analysis of their significance and the scientific contributions in them, I confidently give my **positive assessment** and recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" for awarding the academic position of "Professor", in professional direction 7.1 Medicine (Internal diseases – Rheumatology) to Assoc. Prof. Lyubomir Marinov Marinchev, MD, PhD.

Prof. Lyubomir Dimitrov Spassov, MD, PhD

November 15, 2023

Sofia