

## OPINION

by Professor Dr. Plamen Stoyanov Dimitrov, MD, PhD  
on a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor",  
field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, in the  
scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Health Management", for the needs of the  
Department "Analysis of Health Policies and Accreditation Procedures" at the Directorate  
"Health Promotion and Disease Prevention", National Center of Public Health and Analyses  
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The announced competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" for the  
needs of the Department of "Health Policy Analysis and Accreditation Procedures" at the  
Directorate for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention is for two places. Two candidates are  
participating in the competition, one of whom is Dr. Atanas Radinov Radinov, MD.

The candidate has submitted all necessary documents for participation in the  
competition, meeting the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff  
in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations on the  
terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the  
National Center for Public Health and Analysis

Dr. Radinov, PhD meets the minimum national requirements under Art. 1a of the  
Regulations for implementation of Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the  
Republic of Bulgaria.

### ***Brief data on the candidate's career development***

Dr. Radinov graduated in 1988 at the Medical Institute in Varna. He has two medical  
specialties "Internal Medicine" from 1994 and "Clinical Hematology" from 1997, which he  
acquired at Medical University-Sofia. In 2015 he obtained a master's degree in health  
management at the University of National and World Economy - Sofia, and in 2021 - an PhD  
degree in the scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Health Management". Dr. Radinov's  
career began in 1989 as head of a medical center in Pomorie, where he worked until 1990.  
Then until 1995 he worked as head of the laboratory of immunology at the Center for  
Immunology at the Military Medical Academy-Sofia. From 1995 to 2003 he worked at the  
Clinic of Hematology, Chemotherapy and Oncology at the Military Medical Academy-Sofia,  
and since 2000 he has been a chief assistant. After that he successively worked at the IV  
MHAT, Sofia as a therapist and at the XXV DCC - as a hematologist. From 2006 to 2014 he  
worked at Tokuda Hospital, first as head of the hematology department and then as medical  
director. Since December 2014 he has been the Head of the Department of Hematology at the  
University Multidisciplinary Hospital for Active Treatment "St. Ivan Rilski", Sofia. Dr.  
Radinov has participated in numerous clinical trials focused on clinical hematology and  
medical oncology. He is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Union, Expert Council on Clinical  
Hematology at the Ministry of Health, Bulgarian Medical Association of Hematology.

### ***General characteristics of the research and scientific-applied activity of the candidate***

The publications and references submitted for participation in the competition prove



the high scientific productivity of the candidate mainly in the field of hematology, oncology, immunology, healthcare management, public health.

The total number of scientific works of Dr. Radinov is 111 (6 are related to the PhD dissertation), and he participated in the competition with 105. 13 of them are in prestigious foreign journals, 26 are in refereed Bulgarian editions, 3 are chapters from monographs, scientific report of a scientific project funded by the National Science Foundation "Scientific Research", 17 participations in world congresses and 37 participations in national congresses and conferences, 1 publication in an unrefereed journal and 7 participations in scientific meetings.

The candidate's works have been published in prestigious scientific journals in Bulgaria and abroad, such as: Bulgarian Journal of Public Health, Contemporary Medicine, Clinical and Transfusion Hematology, Military Medicine and Pharmacy, Hematology, Folia Medica, Lancet, International Journal of Immunopharmacology, Archive of Oncology, British Journal of Haematology, Molecular and Clinical Oncology, Leukemia, Balkan Journal of Medical Genetics

Evidence of the quality of the publications and their reflection in the international and Bulgarian scientific literature is presented. The report presented by Dr. Radinov from the Central Medical Library on citations by Bulgarian and foreign authors contains 10 citations in Bulgarian sources, 711 citations in the Scopus database and 719 citations in the Web of Science Database (databases are partially covered), which is indicative of relevance of the considered topic and the recognizability of the candidate from the world and Bulgarian scientific community. The official note presented by the Central Medical Library certifies that the total impact factor of Dr. Radinov's publications is 229,905, which is proof of the importance of the candidate's scientific works.

The presented report on the scientific contributions of the works of Dr. Radinov covers the period 1990-2021, including areas of scientific, scientific-applied, clinical-diagnostic and clinical-therapeutic nature. The research covers scientific issues aimed at a wide range of highly relevant and significant issues.

The main thematic areas of the candidate's research activity unite the achievements of his overall creative and professional path and can be divided into the following areas:

- *Clinical trials and their relevance to patients' access to innovative therapies*

The candidate has achieved significant scientific and scientific-applied contributions, especially as a leader and manager of many clinical trials conducted in our country. The candidate's experience in this field dates back about 15 years, and he was the principal investigator of dozens of clinical studies in the field of clinical hematology and medical oncology. As a principal investigator, the candidate has conducted clinical trials for herpes vaccines in patients with haematological and oncological diseases, epoetin alfa in anemic patients with low-risk myelodysplastic syndrome. Of particular value is the study of the effect of selinexor in combination with bortezomib and dexamethasone in patients with multiple myeloma, the study of the efficacy and safety of ruxolitinib in patients with myelofibrosis and anemia, the study of the effect of pevonedistadine in combination with risky MDS, HMML or OML with low blast percentage. In the field of clinical research management, the candidate proves high qualities and skills, thanks to his professional qualities as a health manager, which



he demonstrates in addressing important socially significant diseases, the subject of his clinical and managerial activities.

- *Fundamental and clinical immunology, implementation and application of immunological methods in clinical practice*

After the specialization, the candidate masters the method of flow cytometric DNA analysis with propidium iodide, which he successfully implements at the Center for Immunology of the Military Medical Academy. Based on the accumulated knowledge about the possibilities of flow cytometry in clinical medicine, the candidate has developed a research project, with the help of which he funded research in the field of oncological diseases. The study on the effectiveness of the oral polybacterial immunomodulator Dentavax is of a contributing nature. The candidate has a wide scientific, scientific-applied and clinical activity in the field of otorhinolaryngology, where using a wide arsenal of methods for studying humoral immunity, as well as the flow cytometric method of immunophenotyping, DNA analysis and phagocytic activity of peripheral blood and peripheral blood a number of studies has been conducted. In his activity the candidate successfully combines the two specialties of medical oncology and clinical hematology, which allows more complex care for patients with such diseases and brings undoubted benefits to patients. The knowledge gained during his work at the Clinic of Hematology, Chemotherapy and Oncology at the Military Medical Academy are the basis of his personal management contribution to the establishment of such clinics at Tokuda Hospital in 2008 and St. Ivan Rilski Hospital in 2014, which he still manages. This is a clear proof of his outstanding qualities as a specialist in health management.

- *Quality of life in cancer patients and management of chemotherapy side effects*

A significant part of Dr. Radinov's scientific output is in the field of medical oncology. In his work as an immunologist, he explored the possibilities of clinical application of flow cytometric DNA analysis in oncological practice. Working at the Clinic of Hematology, Chemotherapy and Oncology of the Military Medical Academy, he has participated in studies of one of the side effects of chemotherapy - emesis, as well as the most effective means of controlling it. In this regard, he paid special attention to the quality of life of patients on chemotherapy, which is one of the most worrying health problems in cancer patients. Quality of life was assessed according to the EORTC-QoL-Q30 questionnaire, before and 7 days after highly emetogenic chemotherapy including cisplatin in patients with lung, head and neck and genital cancer. Metoclopramide and setrons have been compared, demonstrating the high efficacy and advantage of the latter over metoclopramide, especially at the psychological level.

- *Main problems in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with oncohematological diseases*

The candidate has a significant scientific contribution to the study of the possibilities for the diagnostic and prognostic significance of flow cytometric DNA analysis in malignant hemopathy. He has co-authored a number of publications and presentations at scientific forums on the treatment of non-Hodgkin's lymphomas and Hodgkin's disease, cytogenetic studies in multiple myeloma, cytogenetic studies in chronic myeloid leukemia, myelofibrosis, myelodysplastic leukaemia



• *Public health, crises and pandemics, the COVID-19 pandemic*

The candidate's interest in this area has been provoked since the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan in 2011, when he began an in-depth study of the consequences of the nuclear incident and the actions of the Japanese authorities to deal with them. Subsequently, as a result of his research, he found that there is something to offer in our country in terms of the organization of medical care. His work in this field is synthesized in a dissertation on "Organization and management of the elimination of the consequences of radiation contamination of the population as a result of terrorist acts and other radiation incidents." Subsequent events, especially in recent months, have shown the exceptional relevance of this topic. Research in this area is scientifically applied and offers organizational solutions in the event of such a scenario, as events in recent months have shown that radiation incidents are quite realistic. In the last two years, the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to purely medical problems, has revealed a number of psychological aspects related to the development of mental disorders. The number of psychosomatic illnesses has increased, and there has been a significant deterioration in health rates of morbidity and mortality, often due to difficult access to treatment for patients with cardiovascular, oncological and oncohematological diseases. Given the candidate's active work in the field of clinical trials, he conducted an in-depth study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on clinical trials and the treatment of multiple myeloma and other haematological diseases.

***Characteristics of the teaching activity of the candidate***

Dr. Radinov's teaching activities are aimed at training specialists in clinical hematology, medical oncology, gastroenterology, endocrinology and others. He was the supervisor of 4 specialists in clinical hematology (2 of them successfully passed the specialty exam). In all of them, he conducted the required colloquia - 32 colloquia. Of other clinical specialties that require training in the module "Hematology", Dr. Radinov has participated in the training of 49 specialists, and in some of them he conducted colloquia. According to a report submitted by the Education Department of St. Ivan Rilski University Hospital, it shows that in the period 2019-2021 he gave a total of 40 hours of lectures and led 180 hours of exercises.

**Conclusion**

Based on the materials presented in the competition and the analysis of the assets in the research, applied and clinical activity, I give high marks to Dr. Atanas Radinov Radinov, PhD. In all indicators he fully meets the quantitative and qualitative indicators and criteria for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

In connection with the above, I strongly recommend to the esteemed scientific jury, Dr. Atanas Radinov Radinov, PhD, to be awarded the academic position of "Associate Professor", field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, in the scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Health Management", for the needs of the Department of "Health Policy Analysis and Accreditation Procedures", "Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Directorate" at the National Center of Public Health and Analysis.

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