

Masaryk University	
Faculty	Faculty of Science
Procedure field	Environmental Health Sciences
Applicant	MUDr. Martin Bobák, PhD
Applicant's home unit, institution	Faculty of Science, Masaryk University
Board members	
Chair	prof. RNDr. Jana Klánová, Ph.D. <i>Faculty of Science, Masaryk University</i>
Members	prof. MUDr. Michal Vrablík, Ph.D. <i>III. Internal Clinic - Clinic of Endocrinology and Metabolism, First Faculty of Medicine and General University Hospital in Prague</i> Prof. Fernando Rodríguez Artalejo, MD PhD <i>Department of Preventive Medicine, Public Health and Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain</i> Prof. Michael Murphy <i>Department of Social Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK</i> Prof. Pekka Martikainen <i>Population Research Unit, Centre for Population, Health and Society, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki, Finland</i>

Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

As confirmed by the Annexes in the supplied documentation, Martin Bobak has a distinguished academic record in epidemiology, including environmental epidemiology. The importance of his work is reflected in the high number of citations of his papers and in his ability to obtain adequate funding, in an increasingly competitive environment, to maintain the follow-up of the very important HAPIEE cohort over many years.

Over this fruitful career, he has fostered knowledge on the role of environmental factors, alcohol drinking patterns, diet and the social status and context on the population's health of the populations. He has a solid body of work published in academic journals in epidemiology and public health, many in the very best journals. In addition, he has contributed to major books and book chapters. He has undertaken research using several different methodological approaches, but what is common in most of his work is the use of longitudinal studies on a variety of health topics.

He has made the best of his data to not only describe associations, but to search for explanations, with a key focus on international differentials in the determinants of poor health and health inequalities. The quality of his research work is not only exemplified in his publications but is further demonstrated by numerous presentations at international meetings.

A large part of his work is comparative across countries and thus – in addition to scientific relevance – also has significance for policymaking in Europe. In addition, he continues to play a key role in development of capacity in his field especially in Central Europe by leading large-scale projects, and he has reconciled this enormous task with scientific service roles, such as editor of the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, and participation in numerous national and international scientific advisory committees. There is absolutely no doubt that he would be an asset for any department, and we have no hesitation in recommending his promotion to Professor.

Conclusion: The applicant's scholarly/artistic capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a professor appointment procedure in the field of Environmental Health Sciences.

Evaluation of the applicant's pedagogical experience

Martin Bobak has long-term experience in teaching and educational activities in the field of epidemiology and public health, both in the UK and Czech Republic. As a professor of UCL, he has demonstrated a high level of pedagogical expertise by developing several post-graduate courses, directing MSc programmes, and supervising both taught course students and PhD candidates for an extended period in one of the most highly respected Departments in the World. His teaching work at both UCL and elsewhere has become an important national and international resource for training the next generation of scholars in social determinants of health with focus on solid quantitative and theoretical skills. He is an asset for any department that takes teaching seriously.

Conclusion: The applicant's pedagogical capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a professor appointment procedure in the field of Environmental Health Sciences.

Evaluation of the applicant as a respected and recognized scholarly or artistic figure in a given field

Martin Bobak has played a leading role in epidemiology and public health in Europe, particularly in the study of the determinants of healthy ageing in Central and Eastern Europe and how they differ from those in the UK. It is a work of enormous originality, entering a very little explored scientific territory, contributing to the development of epidemiology in Central and Eastern Europe and to the training of its human

resources. In short, his work is of great importance in advancing the process of European construction in scientific and social terms, and in building bridges with the United Kingdom.

His research interests in this area are broad. He has been heavily involved with a number of key articles on the causes of health differences between the East and West of Europe, and, in particular, the behavioural causes of these differentials. He has also been involved with comparative analyses of social inequalities in health in Europe and been involved in research on the contribution of early life-circumstances on health and developmental outcomes later in life in various European cohorts. He has been PI or co-PI for many projects – a significant demonstration of the quality of his research projects in itself. In particular, he has significant involvement in major research consortia that aim at understanding health differentials in a comparative perspective.

He has demonstrated his role as a respected scholar in his field across several key indicators such as continuing collaborations with many of the leading scholars in his discipline, editorship of a core field journal, membership of a wide range of advisory and supervisory boards, including international ones, as well as having a key role in leading the influential HAPIEE cross-national prospective cohort study. The breadth of his expertise was confirmed by his lecture of 5th March that brought together insights from a broad range of approaches and findings, much of which was based on his own research.

Conclusion: The applicant **is** a respected and recognized scholarly figure in his/her field. The applicant **has** made a significant contribution to the development of his/her field. The applicant **constitutes** a leading figure in his/her field of scholarship or research.

Secret vote results

Voting took place: electronically

Number of board members		5
Number of votes cast		5
of which	in favour	5
	against	0

Board decision

Based on the outcome of the secret vote and following an evaluation of the applicant's scholarly or artistic qualifications, pedagogical experience and role as a respected and recognized scholarly or artistic figure, the board hereby submits a proposal to the Scientific Board of the Faculty of Science of Masaryk University to **appoint the applicant professor** of Environmental Health Sciences.

In Brno on 21.03.2024

prof. RNDr. Jana Klánová, Ph.D.