

Statement

by Prof. Dr. Juliana Krumova Marinova, MD, PhD

member of the Scientific Jury, appointed with Order No R-109-162, by Prof. Dr. Valentin Ignatov – Rector of the Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna, from 14.04.2022.

In relation to: a contest for occupying the academic position "Professor" in the specialty "Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy" in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, announced in the State Gazette, No. 14/18.02.2022

Candidate for the contest: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Klara Georgieva Dokova, MD, PhD

With Protocol No 1/29.04.2022 from the first meeting of the Scientific Jury (SJ), I was appointed to submit a statement for the contest. The Statement is prepared on the basis of an analysis of the documents submitted by the applicant in accordance with the requirements and criteria of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna.

CARRIER'S PROFILE OF THE CANDIDATE

Klara Georgieva Dokova was born in Tervel, Dobrich region in 1969. She graduated as a “Master” in Medicine, Medical University – Varna in 1994. In the period 1995–2001 she worked consecutively as a therapist at the Municipal Hospital – Asparuhovo (1995-1996), coordinator of a research project – for the NGO Public Health Association – 99 (1999-2001). Since 2001 she has been appointed as a regular assistant professor at the Department of Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare, MU – Varna, where she works until this day. She consecutively held the positions of Assistant, Senior (2005-2010) and Chief Assistant (2010-2012). She was selected as a regular Associate Professor in the scientific specialty: “Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy” in 2012. In the period 2014-2018 she is a Vice Dean of the Faculty of Public Health at the MU – Varna and Dean of the same Faculty in the period 2018-2020.

She has a recognized specialty in "Social Medicine" from Medical University, Varna since 1999 in the system of post-diploma education. She has acquired an educational and qualification degree “Master of Public Health” from Maastricht University.

She holds an educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in the scientific specialty “Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy” since 2009, after successful defense of her PhD thesis on the topic: “Awareness, treatment and control of blood pressure among the rural population. Barriers for control.”

She is fluent in writing and spoken English and Russian languages.

SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY

1. Quantitative analysis:

Klara Dokova presents scientific works for the period 2013-2022, as follows:

Scientific publications – 47, of which: Dissertation work for the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” – 1; Monograph (habilitation work) – 1; Textbook – 1. Scientific publications in international journals – 15 of which: 10 full-text articles in reference to Web of Science and Scopus journals; 2 full-text reports published in the Web of Science and Scopus edition; 3 reports published as summaries in the European Journal of Public Health. Scientific publications in Bulgarian journals – 29, of which: 24 full-text articles in peer-reviewed Bulgarian periodical journals; 4 full-text reports from scientific forums published in collections with ISBN; 1 chapter of a collective monograph in English.

Participation in scientific forums – 30, of which: 12 in international forums and 18 in national forums.

Scientific metrics for occupying the academic position "Professor": The presented Academic Report, issued by the Library of MU - Varna by groups of indicators: *Scientific production, covering the minimum scientific requirements: the presented table confirms the compliance by groups of indicators with a significantly higher number of points than the required for AP "Professor"; List of citations forming 240 points; full text publications in scientific journals above the minimal requirements for obtaining the Academic position “Professor”; following are the scientific metric indicators presented for the occupation of the Academic position "Assoc. Professor" and publications for the acquisition of educational and scientific degree "Doctor"; *Annex IF: the impact factor of journal in which the candidate has publications: contains 31 publications with a total impact factor of 1307.034 is presented (above those for the positions "Assoc. Professor" and the educational and academic degree "Doctor").

2. Areas of research and contributions of the scientific publications:

The scientific research activity of Klara Dokova is in the subject area of the competition. The scientific works cover broad scientific issues addressing current and significant problems in public health and research activities in Bulgaria and globally.

The distribution of the presented scientific works in the main thematic areas of research is as follows:

Thematic area of scientific works	No of publications from the attached lists
1. Assessment of public health and health inequalities through indicators of morbidity, mortality and burden of disease	A1, B3, G7.2, G7.3, G7.4, G7.5, G7.6, G7.7, G7.9, G7.11, G7.12, G7.13, G7.14, G7.15, G8.1, G8.2, G8.3, G8.4, G8.11, G8.12, P1, P5
2. Prevention and health promotion	G7.8, G8.5, G8.7, G8.8, G8.9, G8.13, G8.14, G8.15, G8.17, G9.1
3. Medical Sociology	G8.4, E20, P3, P8, P9, P10
4. Education of specialists in the field of Public Health	G7.1, G7.6, G8.6, G8.10, G8.18, P6

The first area of research "*Assessment of public health and health inequalities through indicators of morbidity, mortality and burden of disease*" is the richest and the research in it can be further divided into sub-groups: (a) studying regional health inequalities; (b) registries of diseases and epidemiological assessment based on the information collected from the registers; (c) studies of morbidity, mortality and burden of disease. In this thematic area is the independently developed **monograph, presented as the main habilitation work** "*Burden of disease studies. Analysis of the burden of disease in Bulgaria 1990-2019*", which received extremely high praise from the reviewers prof. Iskra Mircheva, PhD and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nevyana Feschieva, MD, PhD. The monograph is written on 215 pages, and is structured in three main sections with 16 chapters, richly illustrated with figures and tables, the book contains 155 references, 145 of which in latin; 9 appendixes with results discussed in the main text are also presented.

A complex assessment of the burden of disease in Bulgaria for the period 1990-2019 was made for the first time, based on the latest results of the Global Burden of Disease Study. The analysis includes also results on the role of the main health risk factors among the Bulgarian population. Discussion of the methodological features of the Global burden of disease study points to the assumption that the likely health losses in Bulgaria are even greater than those presented. An analysis of the achievements in relation to the health aspects of the global goals for sustainable development was made, on the basis of which priorities for health policy in Bulgaria were proposed.

A historical review of the development of summary measures for public health has been carried out. Health losses related to hypertensive heart disease in Bulgaria for the period 1990-2019, were assessed. They are often overlooked but are an important cause of burden of disease in Bulgaria from the cardiovascular disease group. The burden of strokes and their three main pathological subtypes has been assessed on a global and regional level in a series of publications. The contribution of the disease burden of strokes to health inequalities between Western and Central/Eastern Europe has been analysed. In a series of publications, the international attempt to create registers for chronic diseases and in particular: registers of diabetes, diabetic retinopathy (DPP) and strokes was studied and presented. Own results of the efforts to build regional registries of Diabetic retinopathy and stroke are presented.

The second scientific area "*Prevention and health promotion*" includes ten publications that discuss: The development of the idea and the possibilities for practical realization of the concept of health promotion by applying their principles in the so-called "places for health promotion". Considered are: the process of development and establishment of the global network of health promoting universities; seeking successful strategies for practical realization of the principles of health promotion in the university environment has led to the presentation of successful application of the whole university approach in the British Network of Healthy Universities. Basic socio-psychological models are applied to study and influence health-related behavior. Modern trends and alternative approaches to providing early childhood care and social change are presented, which has led to radical changes in the care of people with disabilities.

The third strand: "*Medical Sociology*" includes a total of 6 publications, one of which is the textbook on "Medical Sociology", suitable for the medical sociology classes of students of all health specialties. For the first time a textbook in Bulgarian is presenting the application of basic sociological theories for analysis of problems in the field of medicine and health care. The theoretical scope is broad, but deliberately adheres to classical sociological theories: structural functionalism and the roles of the doctor and the patient; the theory of conflict (E. Friedson) and the dominant role of doctors and the hierarchy between health professions; the topic of professional socialization of health professionals; symbolic interactionism presented mainly through Goffman's contribution; social constructionism through the topic of medicalization is also reached. At the end of the textbook, the main points related to body sociology are also presented. Questions about social status and professional satisfaction of different health specialties are also considered.

In the fourth area: "*Training of specialists in the field of public health*" are included six publications aimed at an analysis of: development of public health education on the Bachelor level in Bulgaria; Analysis of the compliance of the PH training at the "Bachelor's degree" and assistant pharmacist with European recommendations regarding the competences of specialists from the respective health professions.

In summary, the contributions of the scientific works of Klara Dokova can be presented as innovative in cognitive, methodological and practical-applied context, defining her profile as a thorough and conscientious researcher.

3. Participation in research projects, supervision of PhD students and postgraduates:

For the period 2013-2022 Klara Dokova participates in the work of **9 national and international projects, for three of which she is the project leader**: "Infant mortality in Bulgaria – a source of new approaches for optimizing children's healthcare", 20.12.2021 – 20.12.2024, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna; (national project); Training and professional realization of Bachelors in Public Health", 19.12.2019 – 19.12.2022, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna (national project); Empowering service users through support and involvement (ESSI) "Erasmus Intensive Programme; Empowered to the users of services, through support and inclusion in the management of chronic diseases, 01.09.2013 – 31.08.2014; Medical University "Prof. Dr. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna (Leader of the Bulgarian team in an international project). She is a participant in research projects: COST Action CA1818 European Burden of Disease Network, Member of the Management Committee; 2020 – 2022 (International Project); Global Burden and Geospatial Analysis of Antimicrobial Resistance (GRAM Project), IHME, University of Washington and The University of Oxford, UK -2021 (international project); NuTransAge "Nutrition and healthy ageing science" (BB). 01DS19002) 2018 -2020 (international project); "Regional Partnership for Health and Sustainable Development", BG07 "Initiatives for public health" 2017 (international project); Electronic register of stroke, diabetes and diabetic retinopathy for the study of the epidemiology of diseases and the effectiveness of their management 19.12.2019 .12.2022; Medical University "Prof. Dr.

Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna (national project); BG05M20P001-2.016-0025, Creating a multidisciplinary educational environment for the development of personnel with integral competences in the field of biomedical and health care, 21.07.2021 – 31.12.2023; Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna (national project).

Klara Dokova is **the scientific supervisor** of 5 PhD students who have successfully acquired the Doctoral Degree for the period 2013-2021, and she currently leads 4 PhD students in the scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Organization of Health and Pharmacy" and in the scientific specialty "Public Health Management", as well as she provides scientific guidance to graduate and undergraduate students.

She participates in the **editorial boards** of: the Journal "Social Medicine" and "Scripta Scientifica Salutis Publicae" – published by the MU-Varna.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY:

Klara Dokova has many years of teaching experience at the Department of Social Medicine and HealthCare Organization. From the presented "**Workload Report**" for the last 5 school years, it becomes clear that she has between 264 and 557 teaching hours per school year. At the time of the procedure she holds lectures and seminars in the following disciplines: lectures in Social medicine and biostatistics; Introduction to epidemiology; Applied epidemiology and health promotion; Medical sociology; Sociology of health and disease; Medical aspects of disability; Indicators and assessment of public health; Introduction to public health; Seminars in: Social medicine and biostatistics; Medical sociology; Design of research and statistical analysis.

She is a member of a number of scientific and professional and organizations: ✓International: European Public Health Association (EUPHA); International Epidemiological Association; European Stroke Organization; ✓National: Bulgarian Medical Association; Bulgarian Public Health Association; Bulgarian Society of Public Health; Member of the Management Board of Public Health-99 Association. Klara Dokova is a contributor of the Global Burden of Disease Study and the WHO Network "Health Regions" Focal Point for Varna Region.

ASSESSMENT: I give a **complex high assessment of the candidacy** of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Klara Georgieva Dokova, MD, PhD for the academic position "Professor". With her scientific output in terms of quantity and quality, the innovation of contributions of the scientific works, her competence, thoroughness, precision, authority as an erudite lecturer and organizer of public health education and high international prestige, she surpasses the formal frameworks of this assessment.

FINAL STATEMENT:

I give my positive vote "Yes" for occupying the academic position "Professor" from Associate Professor Dr. Klara Georgieva Dokova, MD, PhD.

I strongly recommend that the honorable members of the Scientific Jury **vote positively Associate Professor Dr. Klara Georgieva Dokova, MD, PhD** to take up the academic position "**Professor**" in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine and scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Organization of Health and Pharmacy", at the Faculty of Public Health, Department of Social Medicine and Health Organization, according to the contest announced in the State Gazette, issue. 14/18.02.2022).

19.05.2022
Stara Zagora

Statement by
Prof. Dr.  Marinova, MD, PhD