

EXPERT ASSESSMENT

for

Assoc.prof. Dr. Tsonko Paunov Paunov, MD

for awarding the educational and scientific degree "professor" in the field of higher education
7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine,
scientific specialty "Epidemiology" at the Faculty of "Public Health", Department of
"Hygiene and Epidemiology", according to an announcement in the State Gazette, no. no. 59
of 26.07.2022

From

Assoc.prof. Dr. Nikolina Koleva Valkanova DM, with code of the scientific specialty
03.01.29, designated as an external member of the Scientific Jury, with Order from Prof. Dr.
Valentin Ignatov, DM rector of the University of Varna according to protocol No.
1/06.10.2022 from a meeting of the Scientific Jury, determined by order No. R-109-
370/21.09.2022 of the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" -
Varna.

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Procedure data

The documents in the procedure are presented according to the requirements of MU-Varna.
No procedural violations were found.

Brief biographical data

Assoc.prof. Dr. Tsonko Paunov Paunov, DM was born on 16.01.1966 in the city of Plovdiv.
Primary education and German language high school - graduated in the city of Pazardzhik. He
completed his higher education Master of Medicine at the "Iv.P. Pavlov" Medical Institute in
the city of Plovdiv. He obtained a specialty: "Epidemiology of infectious diseases" and a
"doctor" in a scientific specialty: "Epidemiology" -. He participated in courses for PGS, 9,
continuing education 3 pcs. Course at the NCZPB "Legal capacity to head DDD activities"
03.08.2005. Qualification in other fields: Professional qualification Aikido trainer; NSA "V.
Levski" - Sofia

Professional development: Started work in 1993. Septemvri city polyclinic - doctor in the
"Emergency and urgent medical care" unit, where he worked since 1998. From 1998 to 2002,
he was an assistant at the Department of Infectious Diseases, Epidemiology and Tropical
Medicine - MU - Varna: - then senior assistant and chief assistant. From 2012/until now
"docent" in the specialty: "Epidemiology". Head of the Sector "Epidemiology of Infectious
Diseases" at the "Hygiene and Epidemiology" Department of the University of Varna. From

2020/until now Head of the "Hygiene and Epidemiology" Department of the Medical University of Varna.

Additional qualification Assoc.prof. Dr. Tsonko Paunov Paunov, Ph.D. acquired through participation in international projects, scientific conferences and seminars, specialized courses in the country and abroad on the issues of:

- "To learn how to teach" 2002;
- "e-Learning in the medical education" 2003
- Course at the NCSPB "Problems of HIV/AIDS in Bulgaria 2004;
- "European training program in applied epidemiology" 2005.
- Course at the NCZPB "Legal capacity to head DDD activities" 03/08/2005.
- "New methods of training in Epidemiology in Medical Universities in Bulgaria" 2007.
- "Innovative ideas in the field of planning and construction of modern departments for central supply of sterile materials" 2010.
- "Basic principles for cleaning and disinfection in the medical sector - products and solutions" 2011.
- Health Management Course - MU Varna 2011.
- ECDC "Control of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) in healthcare settings 2021" 2021
- "Patient safety first: how to optimize reprocessing processes in CSSD" 2021.
- Digital skills (intensive training) - 24 hours" 2022

Evaluation of research activity is for the period from 01.01.2005 to 18.08.2022.

Scientific works and participations

1. Full-text publications - 30 articles in scientific journals and anthologies by Tsonko Paunov for holding AD "Professor"
2. Monograph (main habilitation thesis) MODERN ASPECTS OF THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES PART 1. DISINFECTION IN THE MODERN CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT. THEORY AND PRACTICE Ed. 2022, 208 pages.
3. Dissertation work "Study of the role of disinfection in the control of infections in medical facilities", ed. 2010, MU-Varna.: 265 p.
4. Articles in English in scientific publications (7 ISSUES), referenced and indexed in world-famous databases (Web of Science and Scopus) (G7, Acad. reference #15 of the attached documents).
5. Impact factor- One of the articles is in a journal with - Helminthologia IF=0.731 for 2018 (Academic reference #15 of the attached documents).
6. Full-text publications in Bulgarian and international scientific publications with ISSN - 2 articles are in English - a total of 15

7. Full-text publications in Bulgarian and international scientific publications with ISSN beyond the minimum requirements of 8 copies. (G8 and list p.8-9, Academic reference are also presented #15 of the attached documents)

8. Participation in scientific forums from 2001 to 2022, a total of 59, such as 30 participations with scientific reports and posters in national and international scientific forums, which refer to the period 2012-2022. after the loan not to JSC "docent" (List No. 18 of the attached document)

Citations:

As of 01.08.2022, the scientific works of Assoc.prof. Dr. Ts. Paunov have been cited 13 times for the competition for "Professor" (without self-citations) out of a total of 28 times in scientific publications, monographs, and collective volumes, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus), dissertations, (D10-12, Academic reference No. 15 (645/18.08.2022) issued by the Library of MU-Varna). The author's individual h-index stands at 2 according to Google Scholar.

There are 21 scientific publications in Bulgarian, 9 in a foreign language (English).

As an independent author, he is in 2 publications, co-authored 30 publications. In most cases, he is with large teams, which shows that he creates teams for various studies related to hospital pathology and organizational management activities in municipal and prophylactic institutions and RZI for the epidemiological supervision of infectious diseases. First author - in 2 publications, second author - in 9 publications, third author - in 9 publications, fourth author - in 4 publications, subsequent author - in 6 publications

Scientific - research work - Main directions

The main directions in the scientific and research work of Assoc.prof. Dr. Tsonko Paunov are aimed at general preventive and anti-epidemic activities in the fight against infectious diseases. The main directions are general epidemiology of infectious diseases - theory and practice, infections related to medical care - ISMO, Vaccine-preventable infections, Immunoprophylaxis, Epidemiological surveillance in the conditions of pandemics, including Covid 19, Marine epidemiology, Diseases subject to international health regulation (Malaria, TB, HIV), Disinfection, disinsection and deratization

A large part of the developments include studies of airborne infections - measles, mumps, TB, intestinal -, characteristic of the ecological and health-demographic conditions of the Dobrich region as the main factors determining the epidemiological geography of intestinal infections, transmissible - CKHT, Marseilles fever, Lyme disease disease, Q-fever, roof-tetanus, parasites-Toxocarosis, enterobiosis in children and adults and Covid19 in medical institutions.

The contributions in the thematic directions of the research activity show:

1. Disinfection, disinsection and deratization are a serious emphasis in the research activity of Assoc.prof. Dr. Tsonko Paunov

- The organization, management and control of the preventive measures for disinfection, disinsection and deratization carried out in the period 2011-2015 in the structure of UMBAL were studied. The need for the creation and development of a targeted program of action in the medical facility, regarding the organization of DDD events as an element of the prevention and control of infections related to medical care and minimizing the biological risk for the staff, has been proven in practice (G8 .2.).
- Disinfection methods and means are thoroughly examined, and the wrong practices related to the reprocessing of disposable devices and the care of venous catheters are indicated. Special attention during the study was paid to the placement and maintenance of already placed central and peripheral venous catheters. A brief financial analysis of ISMO costs in real cases has been made. Important recommendations are made about the risks and the cost of risk in these activities (D8.4.).
- The knowledge of hand disinfection among medical students was studied and concrete proposals were made for the inclusion of the material in teaching (IMNI 7).
- Due to the primary importance of disinfection in the modern conditions of social development to protect society from infectious threats, it is considered in a separate monographic work (B3).

2. In modern healthcare, patient safety is discussed in terms of infection prevention and control

- Best Practices in Infection Prevention and Control. (IPC) including decontamination, disinfection and sterilization, hand hygiene, aseptic techniques are at the heart of safe patient care. As part of the implementation of the International Patient Safety Programs of the WHO and the International Alliance for Patient Safety, a thorough and large-scale study and analysis was carried out on the knowledge and application of the "Medical Standard for the Prevention and Control of Nosocomial Infections" by nurses and midwives in medical facilities, training bases and those that are not bases. Precautions regarding personnel and the organization of disinfection and sterilization have been studied. Along with the good practices in disinfection and sterilization, there are negative trends in the injuries of the staff with sharp and cutting objects, with the relative share of the injured being large. The standard is not known. The study directed the measures to additional training of the personnel (G8.7.).
- The organization of the epidemiological surveillance of infections associated with medical care (ISMO) in the conditions of St. Marina University Hospital - Varna including two types of activities - basic and supporting. In the conditions of the Covid19 pandemic, the impact on healthcare-associated infections (HCI), adequate registration and antibiotic policy, targeted staff training and adequate communications with laboratory units and external control have been studied. Mechanisms have been identified that, if necessary, enable rapid changes in the resource management policy (G8.8, G8.9.).

3. Studies of the epidemiology, etiology, diagnosis, clinic, treatment and control of some parasitosis

- On the basis of a large-scale study of 14,611 patients with routine parasitological laboratory methods for the country, the epidemiological structure of parasitic diseases in the Varna region is presented, valuable conclusions are drawn about the growing epidemiological significance of the "hidden" incidence of parasitic diseases and the need to differentiate the approach and the normative base (G8.14.).

4. The epidemiology of airborne, intestinal, transmissible and roof infections are described in interdisciplinary epidemiological studies. In accordance with the objectives of the European scientific program for research and highlighting the dependencies of the changing environment and the emergence processes of tick-borne infections EDEN TBD in the Black Sea region of the Republic of Bulgaria, etc.,

He participated in the preparation and implementation of one (E16 2018-2021) national project of the Varna University of Technology and one international (E172017-2019) project.

A significant place in the candidate's scientific output is occupied by the monograph

MODERN ASPECTS OF THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES. PART 1. DISINFECTION IN THE MODERN CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT. THEORY AND PRACTICE Publishing House Varna 2022, 208 pages.

The author analyzes an actual problem for society. The overview of the historical development and confirmation of disinfection in practice on the one hand, combined with theoretical and practical foundations of disinfection science in epidemiological activity, show that they are looking for ways to expand knowledge about the mechanism of transmission of infectious diseases and the role of the external environment in this process. The basic terminology, the regulatory documents introduced in the country in recent years, which will help a wide range of specialists to become familiar with and use it in their everyday life, are discussed. Sterilization, its control and its application in medical practice are also specified in detail. At the modern stage, the inclusion in the treatment process of equipment, apparatus "disposable tools" requires strict control of the methods and means for different types and features of the disinfection methods according to the medical device. The author's trials are relevant because they concern a significant problem - "Multiple use of single-use medical devices". The instructions for hand hygiene and the algorithm of behaviors for COVID-19, which is relevant for the practical skills and procedures related to personal hygiene on the one hand and hospital hygiene on the other, are thoroughly, detailed and usefully examined and applied. The monograph of 208 pages is structured in three chapters, 2 appendices and bibliography. It can be used by a wide range of specialists, as well as by people involved in the production - food industry, professional cosmetic and hairdressing activities, where disinfection is a mandatory element, and by anyone who is interested in the problem.

Hourly study employment for the last 4 years is within the limits of 348 hours, 330 hours, 290 hours, 319 hours - Bulgarian and English training of doctors and dental doctors. The reference submitted by the candidate shows that it fully covers, and with regard to a certain group of

indicators, exceeds the requirements of the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the University of Medicine - Varna for occupying the academic position "professor".

Scientific supervisor at the moment of 4 PhD students:

Donka Trifonova Sultanova, Deyana Ivanova Ilieva, Zlatina Yordanova Pandelieva, Dragomir Tsvetanov Ivanov

Successfully defended a doctoral student with the acquired ONS "Doctor" on 07/09/2017
Miglena Asenova Kolarova-Dimitrova

He speaks English, German, Russian - all spoken and written.

Membership in professional organizations: Bulgarian Medical Union, Bulgarian Scientific Society for Epidemiology of Infectious and Non-Infectious Diseases, Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, Bulgarian Association for Prevention and Control of Nosocomial Infections "BulNozo", Pest Control Association, Bulgarian Scientific Society for Public Health

Personal impressions

I know Assoc.prof. Dr. Paunov DM from starting work at the university. I have worked with him during his entire working experience here, I was his thesis supervisor, I worked on projects at the Varna University of Music, I participated in international forums Struga Macedonia 2009 together with him. I discovered very early on his innovativeness, curiosity, organization. His development as a teacher is very fast and comprehensive, due to the wide variety of subjects taught in Bulgarian, English and Russian languages. He is the only associate professor who, for the first time in Bulgaria, combines teaching and the position of hospital epidemiologist at UMBAL for 20 years. As a sought-after expert, he successfully helps in the organization of the prevention and control of the COVID pandemic in Varna institutions. By looking for solutions for their implementation in practice, he demonstrates to students the connection between theory and practice in the fight against infectious diseases.

The submitted documents for participation in the competition prove continuous training in prestigious educational institutions at home and abroad, which undoubtedly reflected his growth on his innovative thinking. I respect his ability to work, his willingness to be in constant contact with employers, staff and students for the benefit of the work, his organization and his decision-making skills in everyday life and in emergency epidemic situations.

Associate Professor Paunov is well-intentioned towards colleagues and students, responsive and attentive and has built the authority of a respected colleague and professional.

CONCLUSION

Assoc.prof. Dr. Tsonko Paunov Paunov, MD combines teaching and scientific activity. He is a thorough and fair researcher with serious scientific interests and significant scientific and applied contributions. He is distinguished by forward-thinking and excellent communication and teamwork skills. Based on the positive assessment and analysis of the overall significant

scientific and teaching activity and in accordance with the criteria of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University - Varna, I confidently recommend to the members of the respected scientific jury Assoc.prof. Dr. Tsonko Paunov Paunov, MD, to be elected "professor" in the specialty "Epidemiology", professional direction 7.1. Medicine, in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports at the Faculty of Public Health, Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.



6.11.2022
Varna

Prepared by: **Assoc.prof. Dr. Nikolina Koleva Valkanova, DM**