

OPINION

from **Assoc.prof. Dr. Eliyana Panayotova Ivanova, MD, PhD**

**Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Faculty of Public Health, Medical University
"Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - city of Varna**

Member of the scientific jury for the competition, published in the State Gazette no. 59 of 26.07.2022, for the occupation of the academic position "Professor" in the specialty "Epidemiology" (Bulgarian language training), professional direction 7.1. Medicine, area of higher education 7. Health care and sports, for the needs of the Academic Sector "Epidemiology", Department "Hygiene and Epidemiology", Faculty "Public Health" of Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - city of Varna.

By order of the Rector of the MU - city of Varna R - 109-370/21.09.2022, I was elected as a member of the scientific jury, and according to protocol No. 1 of the meeting of the NJ, I was appointed to prepare an opinion on the procedure for the acquisition of JSC "Professor" for the needs of the Faculty of "Public Health", department of "Hygiene and Epidemiology", educational sector "Epidemiology" at the Medical University of Varna.

The only candidate under the announced competition for the acquisition of JSC "Professor" at the "Hygiene and Epidemiology" Department, "Epidemiology" Department is **Assoc.prof. Dr. Tsonko Paunov Paunov, MD**. The candidate has submitted all the required documents specified in the Regulations for the Development of the academic staff of the MU-Varna. The documents were prepared in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation at the MU-Varna.

I. Brief biographical data about the applicant:

Assoc.prof. Dr. Tsonko Paunov Paunov, MD was born in Plovdiv. He completed his secondary education in 1985. in the German language high school in Pazardzhik. In 1993 obtained a master's degree in medicine at the Medical Institute "Iv. P. Pavlov" - Plovdiv.

In the period 1993/1998 works as a doctor in the "Emergency and urgent medical care" unit at the City Polyclinic in Septemvri. After successfully passing the competitive exam in 1998. holds the academic position of "assistant" in the Department of "Infectious Diseases, Epidemiology and Tropical Medicine" - MU - Varna. He acquired a medical specialty in "Epidemiology of infectious diseases" in 2002. In 2010 as a doctoral student of independent training at the Department of "Infectious Diseases, Epidemiology and Tropical Medicine" - MU - Varna, obtained a scientific and educational degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Epidemiology" with the topic of the dissertation "Study of the role of disinfection in infection control" in health facilities".

In the years 2002/2004, 2004/2010. and since 2012 successively held the academic positions of "senior assistant", "principal assistant" and "associate professor" at the same department of MU - Varna.

From 2019/2020 Prof. Dr. Tsonko Paunov has been appointed to the administrative position Head of the "Epidemiology" Department at the "Hygiene and Epidemiology" Department of the Medical University of Varna and from 2020. until now he is the Head of the Department of "Hygiene and Epidemiology" at the Faculty of "Public Health" MU - Varna.

Assoc.prof. Dr. Tsonko Paunov is a member of BLS, 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 in public health.

Over the years, Assoc.prof. Dr. Tsonko Paunov improved his knowledge by attending numerous postgraduate training courses in the country and abroad. He speaks English, German and Russian at a very good level. Has excellent computer literacy.

II. Scientific - research activity of the candidate - assessment of quantitative and qualitative indicators:

In fulfillment of the minimum requirements for this competition, Assoc. prof. Dr. Tsonko Paunov, MD is presented with the following scientific output:

Criterion A.1. Dissertation work for the acquisition of the ONS "Doctor" on the topic "Study of the role of disinfection in the control of infections in healthcare facilities" - *50 points*.

Criterion B.3. Habilitation work (monograph) on the topic "Disinfection in the modern conditions of social development. Theory and practice" in a volume of 208 pages - *100 points*.

Criterion G.7. Scientific publications in publications referenced and indexed in world-famous databases (Web of Science and Scopus) - 7 publications - *100 points*.

Criterion G.8. Scientific publications in non-refereed journals with scientific review - 15 issues - *102.9 points*

Criteria D.10-12. Cited in scientific publications, monographs and collective volumes, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus), and non-refereed journals with scientific review - a total of 13 issues, according to Academic Reference No. 645/18.08.2022. issued by the Library of MU-Varna - *100 points*.

Criterion E.14. Supervisor of a successfully defended doctoral student - 1 and 1 as co-supervisor - *total 60 points*.

Criterion E.15. Acquired medical specialty - *40 points*

Criterion E.16. Participation in a national scientific or educational project - 1 item - *15 points*

Criterion E.17. Participation in an international scientific or educational project - 1 item - 20 points

Criterion E.22. Training of interns, specialists and doctoral students (seminars and practical classes) – 30 points

Apart from the evidentiary material to cover the minimum state requirements for holding JSC "Professor", 8 more full-text publications in Bulgarian and international scientific publications with ISSN have been presented - a total of 33.6 points.

A list of 59 participations with reports and posters, of which 5 nos. participation in national congresses and conferences with international participation and 54 participations in national scientific events. For the competition, the candidate participated with 30 of them, held in the period 2012-2022. after occupying AD "docent".

The individual h-index of Assoc. prof. Dr. Ts. Paunov amounts to 2 according to Google Scholar.

Of the total of 32 scientific papers presented, Assoc. prof. Dr. Ts. Paunov is the independent author of 1 monograph and 1 dissertation, first author in 2 scientific publications (6.7%), second author in 9 issues. (30%) and subsequent co-author in 19 nos. publications.

III. The scientific fields in which the candidate worked can be thematically divided into the following scientific fields:

- Epidemiology of healthcare-associated infections
- Disinfection, disinsection and deratization
- Immunoprophylaxis
- Epidemiology of respiratory tract infections
- Epidemiology of intestinal infections
- Epidemiology of zoonotic infections (blood-borne)
- Epidemiology of viral hepatitis
- Epidemiology of direct contact infections

IV. Scientific and applied contributions:

The main part of the scientific developments of Assoc.prof. Dr. Ts. Paunov are in the following directions:

Epidemiology of healthcare-associated infections:

Conducts an in-depth epidemiological study and analysis of the organization of the epidemiological surveillance of infections associated with medical care (HCI) in the "St. Marina" UMBAL - Varna and points out the main mechanisms providing, if necessary, the possibility of rapid changes in the policy of hospital resource management.

Tracks the profile of pathogens and the spread of ISMO during the periods 2011-2015, 2016-2020. and during the COVID-19 pandemic in the "St. Marina" UMBAL - Varna, drawing the

main guidelines for improving the epidemiological surveillance system, adequate registration and antibiotic policy.

Conducts large-scale research and analysis on the knowledge and application of the "Medical Standard for the Prevention and Control of Nosocomial Infections" by nurses and midwives in medical, training and non-base facilities.

Disinfection, disinsection and deratization (DDD)

Researches the organization, management and control of preventive measures for disinfection, disinsection and deratization carried out in the period 2011-2015. in the structure of UMBAL. Disinfection in the modern conditions of social development to protect society from infectious threats is studied in detail in the monographic work.

Other contributions of Assoc.prof. Dr. Ts. Paunov in epidemiological science and practice can be highlighted in the areas of:

Immunoprophylaxis and epidemiology of respiratory tract infections - participates as a scientific consultant in a large-scale study of parental attitudes and hesitations towards immunizations, as well as in monitoring the level of immunization coverage and the activities of epidemiological surveillance of vaccine-preventable and airborne infections in the Varna region with an assessment of their importance to public health.

Epidemiology of intestinal infections, HIV infection, zoonotic blood-transmissible infections and infections of the outer coverings with emphasis in studies on the epidemiological geography of intestinal infections, epidemiological characteristics of HIV infection in the Varna region for the period 2004-2017, the dependencies of the changing environment and the processes of emergence of tick-borne infections in the Black Sea region of the Republic of Bulgaria and epidemiological characteristics of tetanus in the Varna region for the period 2010-2016.

Studies of the epidemiology, etiology, diagnosis, clinic, treatment and control of some parasitoses in the Varna Region and North-Eastern Bulgaria - toxocarosis, enterobiosis, etc.

V. Educational - teaching activity

According to the presented certificate No. 099-2550/ 10.08.2022, Associate Professor Dr. Tsonko Paunov has over 24 years of teaching experience with an average teaching load of over 320 hours in the last 4 academic years (Reference No. 112-390/08.08.2022). According to this indicator, it fulfills and exceeds the minimum requirements according to the ZRASRB and the Rules for its implementation in the Ministry of Education - Varna.

As a university teacher, Assoc. prof. Dr. Ts. Paunov teaches medical students (Bulgarian and English language training), dentistry (Bulgarian and English language training), protection and control of public health, public health, health care management, health management, inspectors of public health, medical laboratory assistants, nurses and midwives in the structures of the Medical University, the branches in Sliven, Veliko Tarnovo and Shumen and Medical College-Varna. He participates in the development and systematic updating of the curricula for theoretical and practical training in all disciplines with the teaching of "Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases" and participates as chairman or member of the relevant examination committees.

Assoc. prof. Dr. Ts. Paunov supervises doctoral students and specialists in "Epidemiology of infectious diseases" and courses in the same discipline in the programs for specialization in infectious diseases, medical parasitology, hygiene, etc., as well as independent courses for postgraduate studies.

In conclusion: Assoc. prof. Dr. Tsonko Paunov Paunov, MD is an established and established professional in the field of "Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases". The excellent professional training and practical experience enrich the learning process in the disciplines taught by him, and support his development and confirmation as a successful hospital epidemiologist and head of the "Sanitary Control" unit at the "St. Marina" - Varna. A long-time teacher at Medical University - Varna, Assoc. prof. Dr. Ts. Paunov is respected by his students and colleagues. The documents presented in the competition fully meet the mandatory and specific requirements and scientometric criteria according to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation at the MU-Varna. This, together with the candidate's personal qualities, give me reason to propose to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively and confirm the awarding of the academic position "Professor" to Assoc.prof. Dr. Tsonko Paunov Paunov, MD, PhD.

23.11.2022г.
гр. Варна



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