

**To the Members of the Scientific Jury,
appointed by order No. R-109-276/25.05.2023
of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna
for announced competition for AP "Associate professor"
State Gazette No 28/28.03.2023**

O P I N I O N

from

**Prof. Temenuga Zhekova Stoeva, MD, PhD
Medical University of Varna
Department of "Microbiology and Virology"**

On competition

**for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor"
in the field of higher education**

4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics

4.3 Biological Sciences

scientific specialty "Virology"

for the needs of the Department of "Microbiology and Virology"

Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University - Varna

announced in SG No. 28/28.03.2023

with candidate

Chief Assistant Professor Denitsa Todorova Tsaneva-Damyanova, MD, PhD

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Denitsa Tsaneva graduated in Medicine from Medical University - Varna in 2007. During the period 2007 - 2008 she works as a doctor at EMCC - Varna. In 2011 she acquired specialty in virology. In 2015 she is a part-time lecturer, and since 2016 after a competition, she was selected for a full-time assistant in the department of "Microbiology and Virology". In 2019 after a successfully defended dissertation on the topic "Clinical and laboratory study on the prevalence of viral hepatitis B and D in the general population and in patients with chronic liver

diseases in North-Eastern Bulgaria. Duration of HBV - post-vaccination immune response in vaccinated individuals", she acquires PhD degree in the scientific specialty "Virology". Since 2019 until now she is a chief assistant in the same department. In 2021 Dr. Tsaneva obtained a master's degree in Health Management at the Medical University, Varna. Since 2012 and until now she works as a laboratory doctor - virologist at MDL "Status" - city of Varna. After 2020 Dr. Tsaneva has participated in over 20 webinars related to training in the field of clinical virology. She participated in 3 research projects under the "Science Fund" at the MU-Varna, and in 2021 is included in the national program "Young scientists and postdoctoral fellows" of the Ministry of Education and Science.

Dr. D. Tsaneva is an active member of the Bulgarian Association of Microbiologists, the Bulgarian Society of Medical Virology and the Bulgarian Microbiological Society of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria. She is fluent in English and speaks intermediate French and elementary German.

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Scientific production

The submitted documentation of Dr. Denitsa Tsaneva fully complies with the requirements for the holding of a competition for acquiring AP "Associate professor". To participate in the current competition, she submitted a total of 19 scientific papers, which are distributed as follows:

1. Habilitation thesis: Monograph - 1 issue
2. Publications in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 15 articles.
3. Published book chapter - 1 issue
4. Published chapter of a guide for medical, dental and pharmacy students - 2 issues

Dr. Tsaneva's research and publication activity is presented in four main aspects, all of which relate to current topics in clinical virology, namely: infections caused by hepatitis viruses, SARS-CoV-2, as well as viral infections in immunocompromised patients. The candidate has a marked scientific interest in hepatitis viruses and related chronic hepatitis. I would like to highlight the most significant research contributions of Dr. Denitsa Tsaneva:

1. In the presented monograph, the author provides an in-depth overview, using over 300 literature sources, on the epidemiology, pathogenesis, replication, clinical course, diagnostic and differential diagnostic criteria and the therapeutic approach in HDV infection, also presenting important socio-economic aspects related to this infection. In Bulgaria, only single studies on HDV infection have been conducted so far, and in this sense, a large part of the own results presented in the monograph are the first for our country, which is a merit of the work.
2. Through modern molecular genetic methods, HDV genotype 1 has been identified as the dominant genotype in Bulgaria among patients with HDV infection.
3. An extensive sero-epidemiological study was conducted to define the duration of post-vaccination immunity against hepatitis B in a large number of individuals aged 6 months to

20 years, covered by the mandatory vaccination program, and the tendency to reduce the spread of HBV infection in the Bulgarian population was confirmed.

4. In a large sero-epidemiological study on HBsAg and anti-HCV positivity in patients with non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, a higher than average frequency for northeastern Bulgaria and the country was proven.
5. Reactivation of HBV and HCV in immunocompromised individuals has been found to be demonstrated by a sharp increase in HBV and HCV replication, with the clinical presentation of reactivation ranging from asymptomatic to severe hepatitis, liver failure, and death.
6. In 2020 the first sero-epidemiological and screening study for Bulgaria on the spread of antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 among a large group of outpatients was carried out.
7. An extensive sero-epidemiological study was carried out on the prevalence and clinical significance of Epstein-Barr virus infection among the population in North-Eastern Bulgaria in the period 2010-2015, and the diagnostic role of various laboratory (serological) markers in patients with different immune profiles regarding the response in primary EBV infection was also studied.
8. The EBV serological status of women of reproductive age in Varna (2010-2016) was evaluated in order to determine the risk of intrauterine and early postnatal EBV infection.
9. The possibilities for expanding the set of serological markers for analysis depending on the primary serological EBV profiles of the patients, on the age and clinical diagnosis are defined.

In the presented scientific production, Dr. D. Tsaneva is first or only author in 6 of the publications, second author in 1 and third - in 2 publications. The candidate's individual h-index is 4 (Google Scholar). Dr. Tsaneva's scientific works have been cited a total of 26 times in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world databases with scientific information.

EDUCATIONAL - TEACHING ACTIVITY

Dr. Denitsa Tsaneva is an university lecturer with more than 8 years of teaching experience. Her total classroom occupancy for the last 5 academic years is 1416 hours, of which 1365 are hours in the English language program. Dr. Tsaneva is very actively involved in the development and conduct of exercises and lectures for students of the specialties of Medicine (BLE and ALE), Dental Medicine (BLE and ALE) and Pharmacy, as well as in the conduct of the freely optional discipline "Clinical Microbiology", demonstrating initiative and responsibility in her work and demandingness towards students.

CONCLUSION

Dr. Denitsa Tsaneva is a highly qualified and established specialist in the field of Clinical Virology, a respected and valuable university teacher. I know her as very responsible, proactive and consistent both in her scientific and teaching work, a person who knows how to set and achieve her goals. The scientific metrics, the contributions of her scientific production and her teaching

activities are fully in line with and exceed the minimum national requirements of the Law of Development of the Academic Staff and the minimum requirements of MU-Varna for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor". Based on all this, as a member of the Scientific Jury, I strongly support her candidacy and recommend to the Scientific Jury to elect Dr. Denitsa Todorova Tsaneva-Damyanova as an associate professor in the scientific specialty "Virology" for the needs of the Department of "Microbiology and Virology" at the Medical University - Varna.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Stoeva', is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

06.08.2023

/Prof. Temenuga Stoeva, MD, PhD/