



МЕДИЦИНСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ СОФИЯ

Проф. Георги Ончев, дм, Ръководител на Катедра по психиатрия и медицинска психология
София 1431, ул. „Св. Г. Софийски“ №1; 02/9230680, email: georgi.onchev@gmail.com

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY SOFIA

Prof. Georgi Onchev, MD, PhD, Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology, Head
Sofia 1431, 1 St G. Sofiisky str.; ph/f: +3592/9230680; email: georgi.onchev@gmail.com

STATEMENT

by Prof. Georgi Neichev Onchev, MD,
from the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology
at the Medical University (MU) Sofia,
member of a scientific jury according to Order No. R-109-270/ 25.05.2023 of the Rector of the
MU-Varna

for holding a contest for the position of “Professor”—one post in the area of higher education 7.
“Healthcare and Sports”, the professional field 7.1 “Medicine”, and scientific specialty “Child
Psychiatry” for the needs of the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology at the Faculty
of Medicine of MU-Varna, based at Fourth Clinic “Child and Adolescent Psychiatry”, UMHAT
“Sveta Marina”, announced in the “State Gazette”, issue 28/28.03.2023.

1. General overview of the procedure

The only candidate who submitted documents to participate in the contest is Assoc. Prof.
Dr. Petar Milchev Petrov, MD, PhD, DrSci. The documents and materials delivered by him have
been submitted within the legally established deadline and **comply** with the procedure for
occupying the academic position of “Professor” according to the Development of the Academic
Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Statutes for its implementation, and the
Statutes for Development of the Academic Staff at the MU “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” Varna
(last rev. 21.11.2022) and its appendices.

2. Brief biographical sketch and career development

Dr. Petar Petrov graduated in medicine from MU-Varna (1995) and worked as a
consultant in a pharmaceutical company and as a general practitioner while simultaneously
specializing in psychiatry (2000-2004). He obtained specialties in psychiatry (2004), child
psychiatry (2011), and forensic psychiatry (2016). Since 2005, he has been working at UMHAT
“Sveta Marina”, and since 2016, he has been the head of the Clinic of Child and Adolescent
Psychiatry at the hospital. He became Lecturer in 2013, a Senior Lecturer in 2014, and Associate
Professor in child psychiatry at the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology at MU-
Varna in 2015. In 2012, he defended his dissertation to obtain PhD degree, and in 2018 he
obtained the academic degree of “Doctor of Medical Sciences”. His rapid academic development

is accompanied by a breadth of professional orientation with the acquisition of specialties in all three psychiatric fields.

3. Research papers

The candidate has a total of 44 publications—2 monographs and 42 articles, out of which 17 are in journals referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific databases, and 25 are in non-referenced journals.

After deducting the publications presented for the procedures of PhD, DrSci and Associate Professor, the ones presented for the current procedure are 1 monograph and 12 articles, of which 6 are in Bulgarian and international journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific databases, and 6 are in non-referenced Bulgarian publications with scientific review. Among these publications, 3 are in referenced journals with impact factors (IF) of 7.494, 3.813, and 3.004, respectively. Additionally, one article is presented beyond the minimum requirements for the academic position in “Lancet Psychiatry” with an IF of the journal being 77.056.

The total number of citations for the candidate’s publications is 115, according to the official report from the Library of MU-Varna (or 1725 points), the self-citations and citations used in previous procedures for Associate Professor and Doctor of Sciences being excluded. The evidence for these bibliometric indicators is precise.

Out of the 12 articles, the candidate is the sole author of 6. These articles cover various thematic areas, which can be categorized as follows: non-suicidal self-injurious behavior in adolescents and assessment tools; eating disorders (risk factors, clinical case, complications, connection with suicide and non-suicidal self-harm); locus of control, post-traumatic stress and negative life events in children and adolescents; clinical case of anorexia nervosa; anxiety and depressive symptoms in adolescence; mechanisms of pain in COVID-19.

The habilitation monograph “Eating Disorders in Childhood and Adolescence. Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Nervosa” (2022) represents a substantial overview of the most prevalent topic within the author’s scientific interests and publications. In this book, the author systematically presents historical aspects, diagnosis, epidemiology, etiology and pathogenesis, triggers, the relationship with suicide and non-suicidal self-injury, assessment scales, and therapeutic guidelines related to eating disorders. An advantage of this monograph is the inclusion of the author’s own clinical material in it.

4. Scientific contributions

The candidate’s scientific, pragmatic and methodological contributions can be systematized into several directions. The two dissertations and their related publications are dedicated to the only epidemiological study on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in Bulgaria, with a 10-year long-term follow-up of the adolescent sample. Another thematic direction of the candidate’s work is related to the issue of eating disorders in children and adolescents, with a specific focus on anorexia nervosa. In this area, the candidate’s research holds significant value due to the shared clinical experience and therapeutic algorithm presented.

The international research in child and adolescent populations allows for valid cross-cultural comparisons regarding research subjects such as locus of control, its association with negative life events and traumas, substance use, familial factors, as well as approbation of various screening tools in different populations.

In a more general direction, publications with predominantly review characteristics on other issues in child and adolescent as well as adult populations, and participation in educational manuals can be grouped together.

5. Research projects

Assoc. Prof. Petrov is involved in the ICMH Study Group and has participated in three international research projects in the field of child psychiatry

6. Teaching activity

Assoc. Prof. Petrov teaches psychiatry, child psychiatry, and medical psychology to medical students at MU-Varna in both Bulgarian and English languages. Over the last two academic years, he had a teaching load of 114 and 121 academic hours, respectively. He has been a supervisor of five child psychiatry trainees and a research advisor of five PhD—from whom three have successfully defended their dissertations.

7. Clinical activity

Assoc. Prof. Petrov is theoretically and practically well prepared clinician with competencies in general, child and adolescent, and forensic psychiatry, with most extensive experience in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry. The current demand for skilled specialists in this complex and crucial area of psychiatric therapeutics in the country places him in a position of merit not only from clinical and academic point of view but also in a methodological context. While clinical activity might not be a required criterion for habilitation, it is an integral part of the comprehensive evaluation of an academic candidate.

8. Participation in scientific events and organizations

Assoc. Prof. Petrov is a member of the Bulgarian Psychiatric Association and President of the Bulgarian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. He participates in the regular congresses under the auspices of ESCAP и IACAPAP, including 4 posters and thematic educational seminars. The candidate has active profiles on platforms such as Scopus, ORCID, Google Scholar and ResearchGate.

9. Summarization and conclusion

The table below presents summarized quantitative data from various areas of the candidate's scientific research activities, compared to the requirements of the respective indicator groups according to the Statutes for Development of the Academic Staff at the MU Varna (Appendix 1) for the academic position of "Professor" in the area 7. Healthcare and Sport,

professional field 7.1. Medicine—clinical subfield. It is evident that the candidate’s actual parameters satisfy, and surpass those of the national law and the University’s Statutes.

Table. Compliance of the candidate’s actual indicators for scientific activities with the minimum requirements of the Statutes for Development of the Academic Staff at the MU Varna (Appendix 1) for occupying the academic position of “Professor” in the area of 7. Healthcare and Sport, professional field 7.1. Medicine—clinical subfield

Groups of indicators	Quantitative requirements of the SDAS MU Varna	Real candidate’s indicators
A1	50	50
C3	100	100
D5-D9	200	223,45
E10-E12	100	1725
F	100	280
Total sum of points	550	2378,45

The overall assessment of the candidate’s scientific and teaching activities demonstrates that he meets the requirements of the DASRBA and the Statutes for Development of the Academic Staff at the MU “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” Varna for the position of Professor in the field of 7. Health Care and Sports, professional field 7.1 Medicine—Clinical subfield. This provides a basis for a **positive opinion** on the appointment of Assoc. Prof. Petar Milchev Petrov to the academic position of “Professor” in the area of higher education 7. “Healthcare and Sport”, professional field 7.1. “Medicine”, specialty “Child Psychiatry”.

Prof. Dr. Georgi Onchev, PhD

