

STATEMENT OF OPINION

Prepared by **Prof. Ognyan Borisov Georgiev, MD, PhD**, Member of the Academic Jury appointed by Order No. P-109-288/26 May 2023 of the Rector of the Medical University – Varna, in connection with a competition for holding the academic position “**Professor**” within the field of 7. “Healthcare and Sport”, subfield 7.1 “Medicine”, scientific speciality “**Pneumology and Phthysiatry**”, for the needs of the First Department of Internal Diseases; ES Pulmonary Diseases and Allergology of the Faculty of Medicine at Medical University – Varna based at the Clinic for Pulmonary Diseases at UMHAT “St. Marina” EAD – Varna

This statement of opinion has been prepared in compliance with the Act and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Medical University – Varna.

There is a single applicant participating in the competition announced in Issue 28/28 March 2023 of the State Gazette – **Assoc. Prof. Diana Petkova Gospodinova-Valkova, MD, PhD**.

I have no conflict of interest as a Member of the Academic Jury. I found no evidence of plagiarism in the reviewed materials.

I. Brief biographical data of the applicant

In 1990, Assoc. Prof. Diana Petkova Gospodinova-Valkova, MD, PhD, graduated as the valedictorian of the class and earned a Master's Degree in the speciality of “Medicine” from Medical University – Varna. In 2001, she acquired a specialist degree in “Internal Diseases”, and in 2003 – a second specialist degree in “Pneumology and Phthysiatry”.

She developed a dissertation thesis, and in 2009, she was conferred the academic degree of “Doctor of Science” in Pulmonary Diseases on the topic of “Breathing disorders during sleep: assessment of the risk and clinical effectiveness of the application of non-invasive ventilation nCPAP, BIPAP, VPAP in home settings”.

Assoc. Prof. Petkova’s professional career started in 1990 as a resident doctor at the Internal Department of the United Regional Clinical Hospital in Shumen and Provadia. Between 1994 and 2017 she was elected consecutively as an assistant

professor, senior assistant professor, chief assistant professor and associate professor at the Department of Pulmonary Diseases at Medical University – Varna, as the Organiser/Head of the “Sleep Medicine and Non-Invasive Ventilation” sector at UMHAT “St. Marina” – Varna, and as the Head of the First Department with the activity of “Sleep Medicine and NIV”. Since January 2019, she has been the Head of ES Pulmonary Diseases and Allergology at Medical University – Varna. In 2012, she completed a course in health management.

She is fluent in English, German and Russian – both written and spoken.

II. Scientific research activity

1. Publications

In connection with her participation in the competition for the acquisition of the academic position “Professor”, Assoc. Prof. D. Petkova, MD, PhD, has presented *a total of 47 scientific publications after her acquisition of the academic degree of Doctor of Science and the Academic Position “Associate Professor”*. They include **1** monograph, **26** publications in journals, which are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases, and **20** articles in unreferenced journals with scientific reviewing.

The scientific publications of Assoc. Prof. D. Petkova, MD, PhD, are mainly in the fields of: breathing disorders during sleep and non-invasive ventilation; respiratory failure and home oxygen therapy; pulmonary arterial hypertension; pulmonary thromboembolism; pulmonary tuberculosis; idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis; broncho-obstructive diseases: COPD and bronchial asthma; infectious lung diseases and COVID-19.

2. Citations

- The presented reference for participation in the competition testifies that Assoc. Prof. D. Petkova, MD, PhD, has **52** citations in scientific editions, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes.

3. Participations in scientific forums

For the period between 2013 and 2023 Assoc. Prof. D. Petkova, MD, PhD, presents a total of 70 participations in scientific forums; 22 of them are

participations in international congresses and conferences, with part of the abstracts published in supplements of journals with an impact factor. She also has 48 participations in national forums.

Furthermore, Assoc. Prof. D. Petkova, MD, PhD, has been the Chairperson of the Organisational and Scientific Committees of the National Congresses of the Bulgarian Society of Pulmonary Diseases with scientific participation in 2014, 2016, 2018, 2022. She has participated as the organiser and speaker of courses and summer schools of the Bulgarian Society of Pulmonary Diseases with an international participation. She has been a moderator and guest speaker at Berner Schlaf-Wach-Tage 25 – 27 Oktober 2017, Inselspital Bern

4. Participation in scientific research projects

- Assoc. Prof. D. Petkova, MD, PhD, has presented documents that testify to her participation in 6 national scientific projects, in 5 of which she has been the lead researcher, and 1 international project.

III. Educational and teaching activity

Assoc. Prof. D. Petkova, MD, PhD, has presented the following reference for teaching activity and teaching workload in Bulgarian and English for the last four academic years:

- teaching activity and teaching workload *for academic year 2018/2019* – 198 teaching hours
- teaching activity and teaching workload *for academic year 2019/2020* – 199 teaching hours
- teaching activity and teaching workload *for academic year 2020/2021* – 213 teaching hours
- teaching activity and teaching workload *for academic year 2021/2022* – 223 teaching hours

Assoc. Prof. Petkova is the scientific supervisor of 5 post-graduate students in the speciality of “Pneumology and Phthysiatry”, one of whom has acquired their speciality. She was the moderator and speaker of the Courses for Young Pulmonologists organised by the Bulgarian Society of Pulmonary Diseases in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2022. She is a member of the state examination commission for Pulmonary Diseases

IV. Membership in creative and professional organisations

- Assoc. Prof. D. Petkova, MD, PhD, is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, the Bulgarian Society of Pulmonary Diseases and the European Respiratory Society (ERS). She was the Chairperson of the Management Board of the Bulgarian Society of Pulmonary Diseases from June 2014 to 2018 and from 2022 to the present, and she was the National Delegate of Bulgaria in the European Respiratory Society from 2014 to 2018.
- She is a member of the Management Board of the “Heart – Lung” Association, Varna
- She is an honorary member of the pulmonary league “St. Gallen”, Switzerland; 2013.
- She is a member of the National Expert Board on TB
- She has been a member of the National Expert Board on Pulmonary Diseases since 2018
- She has been an external expert of the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) since 2018
- She was a member and the chairperson of the Ethics Commission of the Bulgarian Medical Association, Varna, until 2017.
- She is the chairperson of the Pulmonary League, Varna
- She was the head of an expert group in the “National Information Campaign for Asthma and COPD”; the program for the support of non-governmental organizations in Bulgaria under the financial mechanism of the European Economic Area; 1 July – 30 December 2016.
- She was the Chief Editor of the “Heart – Lung” Journal until 2022.
- She is a member of the editorial board of the “ASKLEPIOS international annual of history and philosophy of the medicine” Journal;
- She is a member of the editorial board of the “GP Medic” Journal
- She is a member of the editorial board of the “Medic Plus” Journal

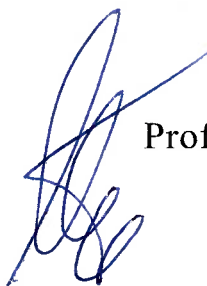
V. Reference regarding the fulfilment of the minimal national requirements and the requirements of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Medical University – Varna according to Appendix 3:

Indicator	Requirement for minimum total number of points	Applicant's points
A	50	50
B	-	-
C	100	100

D	200	396.6
E	100	780
F	100	304.7

In conclusion: From the materials submitted by the applicant, I established that she fulfils the minimal requirements determined by the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Medical University – Varna. After the careful review of the materials provided to me, I confidently give a positive assessment to **Assoc. Prof. Diana Petkova Gospodinova-Valkova, MD, PhD**, in the ongoing competition. I hereby recommend to the Academic Jury to vote for the conferment of the academic position “**Professor**” to the applicant by the Faculty Council.

3 July 2023
Sofia



Prof. Ognyan Georgiev, MD, PhD