

ATTN: THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY  
ANNOUNCED BY ORDER NO R-109-517/NOVEMBER 30, 2023  
OF THE RECTOR OF THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY  
“PROF. PARASKEV STOYANOV” OF VARNA

## **STANDPOINT**

**by Assoc. Prof. Lyuba Dineva Miteva, PhD**

field of higher education: 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional trend: 4.3. Biological Sciences, scientific specialty: Molecular biology  
Department of Molecular Biology, Immunology and Medical Genetics, Medical Faculty, Trakia University of Stara Zagora  
e-mail: lyuba.miteva@trakia-uni.bg

**Concerning: the competition for tenure of the academic position of 'Associate Professor'**

in the field of higher education No 7. Health care sports, professional trend No 7.4 Public health, speciality of Public Health Management (Medical Biology)  
for the needs of the Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna announced in *State gazette* No 83/October 3, 2023.

### **INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPETITION**

The competition for tenure of the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in 'Public Health Management (Medical Biology)', field of higher education No 7 Health care and sports, professional trend No 7.4 Public health, is announced in *State gazette* No 83/October 3, 2023 for the needs of the Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna. I participate as a member of the Scientific jury according to Order R-109-517/November 30,2023 of the Rector of the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna as I am elected to present a standpoint on the procedure.

### **CANDIDATES FOR THE ANNOUNCED COMPETITION**

One candidate only participates in the competition, assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, of the speciality of Medical biology, assistant-in-chief in the Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University "Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov" of Varna. The complete set of documents according to the requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Statute-book for its application and the corresponding Internal Statute-book of the Medical University of Varna is submitted.

As a member of the Scientific jury, I declare that I have no common publications, projects, or other conflicts of interest with the candidate in the competition.

### **CANDIDATE' CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

The assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova acquires the master degree in Biology at the Faculty of Biology of the University 'Paisii Hilendarski' of Plovdiv. Since 2001 until now, the candidate has a total work length of service in the speciality of more than 22 years. In June 2001, she is appointed as biologist at the Immunohistochemical Laboratory

in the Clinic for General and Clinical Pathology at St. Marina University Hospital of Varna, sole joint-stock company. Since March 4, 2010, she occupies the position of assistant at the Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna during a period of more 12 years. In 2019, she enters the full-time PhD programme of Medical biology in the same department of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna. After the successful defense of the PhD thesis on the theme of 'Investigations and screening methods for early diagnosis of patients with gastrointestinal disorders because of mushroom consumption' on October 8, 2021, she acquired a PhD degree in the scientific specialty of Medical biology. Since June 2022, she holds the academic position of assistant-in-chief in the same department.

During the period between 2012 and 2016, Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova has studied and after successfully passing the state examination on June 1, 2016, she acquires the specialty of Medical biology and thus the candidate meets the additional precondition of the announced competition.

### EVALUATION OF CANDIDATE'S RESEARCH ACTIVITY

The candidate submits 22 scientific publications for participation in the present competition beyond those used for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree of 'doctor'. Of them, a total of 12 were published in referenced editions and 10 in non-referenced ones, according to the academic information provided by the Library of the Medical University of Varna.

The candidate has a dissertation work defended in 2021 and thus, the candidate covers the mandatory **indicator A** of the minimum national requirements for for the acquisition of the academic position of '**Associate Professor**' equivalent to **50 scores** is covered.

In terms of the **indicator V**, the candidate participates with 10 publications in editions which are abstracted and indexed in world-famous data-bases with scientific information and are the subject of the extended habilitation information submitted. The scientific publications according to this indicator are generalized within 4 main scientific directions:

- 1) characteristics of wild mushroom usage (V4.1; V4.3; V4.8);
- 2) dermatoglyphics and immunohistochemistry of breast cancer and patients' quality of life (V4.4; V4.5; V4.6; V4.9; V4.10);
- 3) ozone peculiarities in the COVID-19 pandemic (a review article V4.2);
- 4) behaviour of blastocysts after vitrification (V4.7).

The candidate is the only and first author of two of the presented publications, she is the second author in six, and the third and subsequent author in the rest two ones. In accordance with the number of co-authors in these scientific publications, the candidate is presented with a total of **187.3 scores**, which cover the required minimum of **100 scores**, according to group **V indicators** for the academic position of '**Associate Professor**'.

In terms of the group **G indicators**, the candidate participates with a total of **12 scientific publications**, two of which are **independent scientific works** published in editions abstracted and indexed in world-famous data-bases with scientific information such as *Web of Science* and *Scopus* equivalent to **120 scores**. In this way, the candidate meets the additional requirement, according to the Statute-book for the application of the law of the Medical University of Varna for **≥80 scores** for the non-clinical specialties concerning G.7 indicator. The remaining 10 publications according to **G indicator** were published in non-abstracted journals with scientific peer-reviewing or published in edited collective volumes. With the abovedescribed scientific publications presented under **G indicator**, the candidate has **228.9 points**, by which the required minimum of **200 points** is covered.

Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova supplements her research work with other scientific trends, too, namely, the clinical application of platelet-rich plasma (G8.9 and

G8.10); *Trichomonas tenax* presence in patients with periodontal disease (G8.2), and antimicrobial effectiveness of bioactive glass (G8.7).

In the documents submitted to group D indicators, the candidate participates in the present competition with a total of four independent citations in editions abstracted and indexed in *Web of Science* and/or *Scopus* thus achieving a total of **60 scores and the required minimum of 50 scores for this indicator is fulfilled.**

Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova has included to the documents an additional list of 12 participations with posters and reports at scientific forums.

### SCIENTOMETRIC INDICATORS FOR TENURE OF THE ACADEMIC POSITION OF 'ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR'

The Academic information about the scientometric indicators in terms of the fulfilled minimum national requirements submitted shows that assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova covers the scores required for A,V, D, and G indicators for the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in the field of higher education No 7. Health care and sports, professional trend No 7.4 Public health.

group of indicators	indicator	Content	Minimal scores' sum for the academic position of 'Associate Professor'	Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova
A	1	PhD thesis	50	50 scores
V	4	Habilitation work = scientific publications (not less than 10) in editions abstracted and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information	100	187.3 scores
G	7	Publications and reports published in scientific editions abstracted and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information	200 (≥80 scores for non-clinical specialties from indicator G.7.)	228.9 (120 scores)
	8	Publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes		
D	10	Citations or reviews in scientific publications abstracted and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes	50	60 scores

### TEACHING AND LECTURER'S ACTIVITY

Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, has a total lecturer's length of service of more than 13 years since March 4, 2010 as assistant and assistant-in-chief at the Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna. During the last five years, candidate's annual teaching loading varies from 476 to 608 hours of auditory workload.

Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, performed a lecture and practical course in the obligatory academic discipline of Biology to the students of the specialities of Master pharmacist and Assistant pharmacist as well as in the discipline of Human Biology to the students of the specialities of Medicine and Dental medicine. She was involved in the elaboration of a course with exercises and lectures in Biology for the masters pharmacists and assistant pharmacists, in the elaboration of test combinations for the

performance of the written examination within BLACKBOARD system and in the elaboration of textbooks, including a collection with test tasks for the candidate-student's examination in biology for the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> classes.

### CONCLUSION

Based on the materials and documents submitted to me for the standpoint, I consider that the research and teaching activities of assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, meet the required scientometric indicators according to the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Statute-book for its application as well as the specific requirements within the corresponding Statute-book of the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna.

In conclusion, I give my **positive evaluation** and propose to the honoured members of the Scientific jury and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University of Varna, assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, to be elected for tenure of the academic position of '**Associate Professor**' in the scientific speciality of Public Health Management (Medical Biology), field of higher education No 7. Health care and sports, professional trend No 7.4 Public health, for the needs of the Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna.

Заличено на основание чл. 5,  
§1, б. „В“ от Регламент (ЕС)  
2016/679

city of Stara Zagora

Standpoint prepared by .....

February 13, 2024

(Assoc. Prof. Lyuba Dineva Miteva, PhD)