

## STATEMENT

*of*

***Professor Doctor Margarita Dimova Gospodinova – Bliznakova, MD***

***Head of the Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and  
Dermatovenereology***

***Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna***

**Re:** The competition for the position of associate professor in Higher education 7. Professional Health care and sport 7.1. Skin and Venereal Diseases for the needs of the Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Dermatovenereology Department at Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna, published in State Gazette, issue 43 of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019.

By order № P-109-240, dated 26.07.2019, of the Rector of the University of Medicine – Varna and in accordance with a Decision of the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, I was chosen to prepare a statement.

The only candidate for the above-mentioned competition for the academic title of associate professor at the Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Dermatovenereology Department is Doctor Stoyan Ivanov Pavlov, MD. The candidate has presented all the required documents specified in the By-laws for the development of the academic body of the University of Medicine – Varna. All documents are up-to-date and in accordance with the Rules of Applying the Law for the Development of the Academic Body in the Republic of Bulgaria and the By-laws.

### **Biographical Data**

Dr. Stoyan Pavlov was born on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1964 in the town of Sofia. Having completed his secondary education in the town of Turgovishte in 1982, he was admitted the same year in The University of Medicine – Varna which he graduated with very good grades in 1988. During his compulsory military service, he completed a six-month course at the Military Medical Academy – Sofia on the topic of Organization and Tactics of the Medical Service in the Army, after which he was the Head of Regimental Health Center at a Bulgarian military division. From 1990 to 1995 he worked as an intern in a dermatological surgery in the Municipality Hospital at the town of Novi Pazar. He acquired the speciality of Dermatology and Venerology in 1995 and, after a competition, he was assigned the academic position of an assistant at the Department of Dermatology and Venerology of the University of Medicine – Varna. Then he held the positions of senior assistant (1999-2005) and chief assistant (2005-2015). In 2017, under the guidance of Ass. Prof. Stefanka Racheva, MD, he defended a dissertation on Vitamin D Status and systematic inflammatory instances in patients with psoriasis vulgaris.

## Science Metrics Data

Dr. Pavlov has published 49 scientific studies altogether. Thirty of them are part of the evidence material for covering the minimum requirements necessary for the position of associate professor under the Rules of Applying the Law for the Development of the Academic Body in the Republic of Bulgaria of 2018. There are 19 additional publications besides the evidence material for covering the minimum requirements necessary for the position of associate professor under the Rules of Applying the Law for the Development of the Academic Personnel in the Republic of Bulgaria. According to the academic reference of the library at the University of Medicine – Varna № 300 of June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 the publications have IF= 1.437. In academic reference №295 of June 20th, 2019, twenty-three citations of Dr Pavlov's scientific studies are listed, out of which 17 – in referenced and indexed world-known databases, 1 citation in monographies and collected volumes with peer-reviewed scientific publications, 4 citations in referenced, non-indexed publications

The candidate's scientific activities include a list of 46 national and international conference and congress participations; one of the synopses was published in an impact factor journal.

Dr. St. Pavlov has participated in 1 scientific research project as a co-researcher, Clinical-experimental studies of two-component polymeric systems, Project of the Ministry of Education, scientific research national fund, University of Medicine, Varna.

The author's participations in the presented scientific studies are shown in Table 1.

The candidate is the solitary author of 4 publications, principal contributor in 22 publications, second contributor in 11, third in 5, and below these - in 6.

**Table 1.** Authorship in the presented scientific studies

		Solitary author	Principal contributor	Second contributor	Third Contributor	Below third contributor
<b>Scientific studies – evidence of meeting the minimal requirements for acquiring the position of Associate Professor</b>						
Monography		<b>1</b>				
Full-text publications in journals, referenced and indexed in world-known databases with scientific information	Foreign scientific publications		<b>1</b>			<b>2</b>
Full-text publications in unreferenced peer-reviewed editions	Bulgarian scientific publications	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>



	Foreign scientific publications	1	1			
<b>Scientific publications additional publications besides the evidence material for covering the minimum requirements necessary for the position of associate professor</b>						
Publications connected with the dissertation	Bulgarian scientific publications		3			
Published summaries in scientific journals	Bulgarian scientific publications		6	5		1
	Foreign scientific publications		3		1	

The submitted scientific studies and the results from the research are arranged in themes in the following scientific areas:

**I. Research of infectious and sexually transmitted diseases**

**II. Research of skin tumours**

**III. Research of autoimmune and inflammatory dermatoses**

**IV. Rare dermatoses and their clinical symptoms**

**V. Others**

**I. Research of infectious and sexually transmitted diseases: publications №№ 1, 2, 5, 8, 12, 13, 18, 21, 22, 23**

What is impressive are the developed therapeutic and prophylactic algorithms for the various clinical forms of erysipelas on the basis of retrospective analysis of the treatment results of patients with erysipelas in the Clinic of Dermatology and Venerology – the town of Varna.

The predisposition factors for onychomycosis in the region of Varna, as well as the onychomycoses themselves are regarded as risky for the occurrence of some dermatoses.

**II. Research of skin tumours: publications №№ 10, 17, 18.**

Paraneoplastic erosive lichen, iatrogenic Kaposi's sarcoma, as well as comparatively rare multifocal vulva carcinoma are described.

**III. Research of autoimmune and inflammatory dermatoses: solitary-author paper, monography and publications №№ 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 20, 24 и 25.**

Dr Stoyan Pavlov's dissertation, *Vitamin D Status and Systematic Inflammatory Occurrences in Patients with Psoriasis Vulgaris*, for the first time in Bulgaria, studied and analysed the

Vitamin D status in patients with psoriasis; the human cationic antimicrobial peptide hCAP18/LL-37 level in the serum of patients with psoriasis was researched. The link between the inherited psoriasis and the weight of the available Vitamin D hypovitaminosis is a pilot study, too. The necessity of seasonal screening of Vitamin D status in patients with psoriasis was justified, and the disease was found to be a risk factor for the development of hypervitaminosis. Prophylactic algorithms were suggested for supplementing the Vitamin D deficiency in patients with psoriasis.

Dr Stoyan Pavlov's monographic paper, *Pathogenesis of the Psoriatic Disease*, analyses the contemporary clinical and epidemiological parameters of the psoriatic disease. Summarized are the factors that trigger psoriasis and the immunological mechanisms of the psoriatic disease in accordance with the current ideas of the disease, e.g. systematic inflammatory dermatosis. The monography consistently presents specific sides of the disease pathogenesis, starting with genetic predisposition, examining the factors that trigger the disease process and examining in-depth the immune mechanisms at the core of the chronic inflammatory process which damages not only the skin and the bones but also a multitude of organs and systems in the human organism. In addition it presents results of personal studies of the serum levels of 25(OH)D and of Cathelicidin and the interconnection between Vitamin D deficiency and the antimicrobial peptide Cathelicidin which is responsible for the initiation of an inflammatory cascade.

#### **IV. Rare dermatoses and their clinical symptoms: publications №№ 2, 12, 14, 15, 19**

Among the described rare dermatoses and clinical symptoms stand out the cases of Morbus Hailey – Hailey, Cervicofacial Actinomycosis, Swimming pool granuloma, and Dyskeratosis follicularis. The association between primary Anetoderma and Wilson's disease is described for the first time in the accessible scientific literature, cited in the respected collection of Braun-Falco's *Dermatologie, Venerologie und Allergologie*. Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer Berlin Heidelberg; 2018

#### **V. Other: publications №№ 1, 4**

In cooperation with chemists, toxicologists and dermatologists, experienced in allergy testing, unique newly synthesized polymeric systems of thermoplastics were tested.

A first-time international comparative assessment concerning the life quality of children with pruritic dermatoses in Great Britain and Bulgaria was done using the cartoon version of CDLQI.

In the enclosed reference Dr Pavlov's **scientific** contributions are separated into three groups: with scientific applications, theoretical scientific, and original.

- ✓ Among the **contributions with scientific application and the original ones** are the studies of the role of cathelicidin, and vitamin D that regulates its synthesis, on the pathogenesis of psoriasis, the validation and pilot usage of the cartoon version for assessing the life quality of children suffering from chronic pruritic dermatoses.



- ✓ **Contributions with scientific application and corroborative value** are the development of prophylactic algorithm for controlling blood pressure, hyperglycaemia, osteoporosis, trophic disorders of gastrointestinal tract lining, result of prolonged corticosteroid and immune-suppressive therapy with patients with pemphigus, the suggested scheme for supplementing vitamin D hypovitaminosis, taking into account the regional clinical and anthropometric specifics with patients with psoriasis.

### **Instruction and teaching experience**

According to the submitted reference УД 0991666, dated 17th June 2019 issued by the University of Medicine – Varna, Dr Stoyan Pavlov has 27 years 7 months and 21 days teaching experience and he is still working, and his average teaching workload in the last 5 years has been 228 hours (reference УД 112-137 dated June 20<sup>th</sup> 2019). As a university lecturer with many years' experience, Dr Pavlov teaches medical and dental medical students, bachelor-degree students – nurses, midwives, rehabilitators, mentors dermatology residents, teaches thematic courses for professionals and dermatology and venerology modules for theoretical and practical training of general medicine and paediatrics residents. He participates as head and member of examination boards at the Board of Dermatology and Venerology.

### **Therapeutic Activities**

Dr Stoyan Pavlov, MD has developed as a healer, and acquired a specialty in skin and venereal diseases in 1995 under the supervision of Prof. Dr Zlatko Penev, DMedSc, a doyen of the Dermatology School of Varna. At the moment he is Head of the Skin and Venereal Diseases Ward at St Marina University Hospital – Varna. He holds certificates in the fields of dermatohistopathology, immunohistochemistry, dermatomycology, dermatosurgery and dermatoscopy.

### **Conclusion:**

**Dr Stoyan Ivanov Pavlov meets all the obligatory and specific requirements and science metric criteria for the academic position of Skin And Venereal Diseases Associate Professor.**

**I approve Dr Stoyan Pavlov's candidacy for the academic position of Skin And Venereal Diseases ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR.**

*October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 Varna*

*Prof. Dr. Margarita Gospodinova, MD*

