

ACADEMIC OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rosen Stefanov Kalpachki, PhD

**Head of Neurological Clinic,
University Hospital "St. Anna", Sofia**

**Member of the Scientific Jury determined by order № P-109-232
from 02.06.2021 of the Rector of the Medical University – Varna**

Subject: Competition for academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and sport, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, specialty Neurological diseases, announced in SG, vol. 27/02.04.2021

The documents of one candidate have been submitted - Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, PhD. All documents submitted have been prepared according to the requirements and fully meet the criteria of the Rules of Application of the Law on The Development of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and the Development Regulations of the Academic Staff of the Medical University - Varna.

Education and professional qualification

Dr. Detelina Stoylova Zhelyazkova graduated in medicine in 1997 from the Medical University, Sofia. Since 2002 she has a recognized clinical specialty in Neurology Diseases, and in 2013 successfully defended a doctoral dissertation (Ph.D.) on the topic "Clinical-

immunological correlations in patients with multiple sclerosis (profile of cytokines, chemokines and adhesion molecules – influence of immunomodulatory therapy with Interferon- β)" for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

The professional path of Dr. Detelina Stoilova, PhD, began at University Hospital "Alexandrovska" in June 2001 as a medical resident in the Neuro-ophthalmological Office of the Neurological Clinic. She was subsequently appointed as an assistant in November 2002; since November 2004 – as a senior assistant; and since March 2008 – as chief assistant at the Neurological Clinic of "Alexandrovska" University Hospital. Since June 2011 she has been appointed as Chief Assistant in the Neurology Clinic at University Hospital "St. Ivan Rilski", where she leads the Specialized Center for the Research and Treatment of Patients with Multiple Sclerosis. She has a professional qualification in neuro-ophthalmology and in ultrasound diagnostics of the nervous system.

Research and publication activity

Based on the attached academic reference from Medical University – Varna it becomes clear that Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, PhD meet the scientific-metric criteria set by all indicators. The requirements set out in the Rules of Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University - Varna are met. Dr. Detelina Stoilova presents for the purposes of the competition total of 30 scientific works, including one dissertation thesis for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"; a 2019 monograph dedicated to Multiple Sclerosis; six publications in international journals, referenced and indexed in a global database with a general impact factor 5; as well as twenty-two publications in magazines of the National Reference List and edited

collective works. Dr. Detelina Stoilova presents also a list of 7 citations of publications in international journals indexed in world databases (Scopus and Web of Knowledge).

In general, the scientific production of Dr. Detelina Stoilova, PhD can be systematized in the following areas: immunology and therapy of multiple sclerosis; neuro-ophthalmology; neuro-oncology; case studies. The main contributions of the scientific works of Dr. Stoilova are concentrated in the field of multiple sclerosis. For the first time in Bulgaria the applicant conducts complex of clinical-immunological examinations on a large contingent of patients with relapsing-remitting MS. She researches and systematizes immunopathogenesis, immunotherapy and therapeutic algorithms in MS and creates the first in Bulgaria specialized therapeutic guide for MS designed for neurology specialists and the first specialized MS manual for patients and general practitioners.

Educational and teaching activities

The teaching activity of Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, PhD meets the normative requirements of the Medical University – Varna for participation in the competition. Dr. Stoilova has a total teaching experience of 18 years and 9 months. Over the past five years, her workload has averaged 130 hours. She is the co-author and editor of several editions of the Textbook on Neurology for medical students and specialized physicians.

Conclusion

The submitted materials for this competition show that Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, PhD, fully meets the requirements and quantitative criteria of the Law on The Development of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and the Development Regulations of the Academic Staff of the Medical University - Varna.

Based on the above, I confidently give my positive opinion and propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to vote positively Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, PhD, to take the academic position "Associate Professor" in the professional field "Medicine", in the scientific specialty "Neurological Diseases".

27.07.2021

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rosen Kalpacki, PhD

