

**TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY,  
DETERMINED BY ORDER № P - 109-232  
OF THE RECTOR OF MEDICAL UNIVERSITY  
VARNA**

**SCIENTIFIC OPINION**

**OF PROF. DR. GENO KIROV KIROV, MD, DSc**

**MEMBER OF A SCIENTIFIC JURY, APPOINTED BY ORDER № P - 109-232 / 02.06.2021 OF THE RECTOR OF MEDICAL UNIVERSITY – VARNA, IN CONNECTION WITH A COMPETITION FOR ACADEMIC POSITION "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION 7. HEALTHCARE AND SPORT; PROFESSIONAL DIRECTION 7.1. MEDICINE; SPECIALTY NEUROLOGY DISEASES**

In the competition announced in the State Gazette, issue 27 of 02.04.2021 documents have submitted one candidate:

**DR. DETELINA STOYLOVA ZHELYAZKOVA, PhD**

**I. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova graduated in 1997 as a Master of Medicine at the Medical University of Sofia. In 1998 she started a specialization in the Neurology Clinic of University Hospital "Alexandrovska", and in 2002 she acquired a specialty on Neurology. Since 06.2001 she has been appointed as an attending physician in the Neuro-ophthalmological department of "Alexandrovska" University Hospital. As of 11.2002 she became an assistant professor; since 11.2004 – senior

assistant professor and since 02.2008 – chief assistant professor at the Neurology Clinic of University Hospital “Alexandrovska”. Since 07.2011 she is chief assistant professor at Neurology Clinic of University Hospital “St. Ivan Rilski”, Sofia.

In 2013, Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova successfully defended a dissertation on a topic "*Clinico - immunological correlations in patients with multiple sclerosis (profile of cytokines, chemokines and adhesion molecules – influence of interferon-beta immunomodulatory treatment)*" and acquired the ESD "Doctor" in the specialty of Neurological Diseases. Her professional development up to this date is related to numerous courses and specializations in the field of multiple sclerosis, neuro-ophthalmology and therapy of neurological diseases.

## **II. SCIENTIFIC AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

In the framework of this competition Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova submitted a list of 30 scientific papers, including one author's thesis on her dissertation, one monograph, six publications in scientific journals, which are referenced and indexed in a global world database – Scopus and Web of Science with a common impact factor of 5; as well as twenty-two publications in scientific journals from the National Reference List and in edited collective volumes. According to the *ResearchGate* platform, the publications of Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova have 45 citations. Total of seven citations in international journals indexed in global world databases have been presented for the present competition.

Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova's dissertation work entitled "*Clinico-immunological correlations in patients with Multiple Sclerosis (profile of cytokines, chemokines and adhesion molecules – influence of interferon-beta immunomodulatory treatment)*" has a scientific-applicational contribution as the first comprehensive clinical - immunological study on a large contingent of MS patients in Bulgaria – with or without interferon- $\beta$  therapy.

In this competition Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova presents a published monograph on "*Immunopathogenesis and Therapy of Multiple Sclerosis*" in a volume of 248 pages. The book contains a critical analysis of the current knowledge in the field of immunopathogenesis and immunotherapy of MS and essentially represents a significant theoretical contribution in this field. At the same time, this single author's monograph also has a contribution of applicational nature. The book is a full practical therapeutic guide for any specialist working in the field of MS.

Besides the dissertation and the monograph, a diverse publishing activity of Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova is reported. This activity is based on a solid professional experience for more than 20 years. The scientific ideas are reported in author's scientific papers and in collective research works. The indicated publications possess a scientific and applicational value and can be considered as a contribution to the corresponding field. The papers are devoted to variety of neurological topics. The main scientific areas are:

- ✓ Neuroimmunology;
- ✓ Clinical course and differential diagnosis of multiple sclerosis;
- ✓ Therapy of Multiple Sclerosis;
- ✓ Neuro-ophthalmology;
- ✓ Rare neurological diseases.

Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova has a long-lasting activity in the theoretical and practical training of students and specializing doctors in the field of Clinical Neurology. The average learning workload was 130 teaching hours for the last five years. She is a co-author and co-editor of a Textbook on Neurology for Medical Students. She participates in the author's team of the Neurology for medical students and Neurology fellows (two editions); as well as she wrote a chapter in the English version of the Textbook on Neurology for training of foreign language students. She also created the country's first MS manual for patients and for general practitioners.

### III. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the submitted documentation and evidence material for the competition cover the scientific and metric indicators for holding the academic position of "*Associate Professor*", according to the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University – Varna and the legislative framework in the country, reflected in the following table:

GROUP OF INDICATORS	CONTENT	REQUIRED POINTS	AVAILABLE POINTS
A.	<b>Indicator 1:</b> Dissertation work on the acquisition of ESD "Doctor"	50	50
B.	<b>Indicator 3:</b> Habilitation work - monograph	100	100
C.	<b>Sum of indicators 5 - 9</b>	200	306.75
D.	<b>Sum of indicators 10 - 12</b>	50	105

The candidate in this competition is an experienced neurologist with a serious scientific and teaching activity that evidenced a high professional level, achieved on the basis of extremely rich clinical experience.

On the basis of the submitted documentation, I give my **positive vote** with full conviction and I invite the esteemed jury to give its **positive assessment** of the election of **Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, PhD, as Associate Professor in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sport, Professional direction 7.1. Medicine, in the scientific specialty "Neurological Diseases"**.

12 Jul 2021

PROF. DR. GENO KIROV KIROV, D. Med. Sc.

