

## **STATEMENT OF OPINION**

prepared by

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Regarding:

A procedure for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific speciality of "Pneumology and Phthysiatry" at the Faculty of Medicine, First Department of Internal Diseases, ES Pulmonary Diseases and Allergology at the Faculty of Medicine at Medical University - Varna, within the higher education field of 7. "Healthcare and sport", professional subfield 7.1. "Medicine", which was announced in Issue 17/26 February 2021 of the State Gazette.

As per Order No. P-109-187/26.04.2021 of the Rector of Medical University - Varna and after a meeting of the Academic Jury, Protocol No.1 dated 10.05.2021, I have been appointed to prepare a statement of opinion regarding the procedure for holding the academic position "Associate Professor".

The following single applicant has been allowed to participate in the competition after a review of the submitted documents and an evaluation of the scientific production: Dr. Valentina Dimova Dimitrova, MD, PhD, Chief Assistant Professor at the First Department of Internal Diseases, ES Pneumology and Phthysiatry, Clinic for Pulmonary Diseases, Unit for Intensive Care and Non-Invasive Ventilation, UMHAT "St. Marina"

### **I. Brief biographical data**

Dr. Valentina Dimova Dimitrova, MD, PhD was born on 25 July 1970 in Varna. She graduated from Medical University - Varna, majoring in "Medicine", in 1995. She has worked consecutively as a doctor at the Emergency Medical Care Centre - Shumen and a resident doctor at the Department of Internal Medicine at the Ministry of Transport's Hospital in Varna, and since 2011, she has also worked as an assistant at the Clinic for Pulmonary Diseases and the Respiratory Intensive Care Unit at UMHAT "St. Marina" - Varna. She has acquired two specialities: one in "Internal Medicine" and one in "Pulmonary Diseases". She acquired a professional qualification to perform the highly specialised procedure of bronchoscopy in 2010. She is fluent in English and Russian - both written and spoken. She has excellent computer literacy. She is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, the European Respiratory Society and the Bulgarian Society of Pulmonary Diseases.

### **II. Scientific research activity**

The submitted reference regarding the scientific production of Dr. Valentina Dimitrova, MD, PhD, testifies to the fact that she presents with the following indicators:

**Indicator A1** A dissertation for conferment of the academic degree of Doctor of Science in the scientific speciality of "Pulmonary Diseases" **50 points**.

**Indicator C3** A monograph entitled "Pulmonary Thromboembolism - One Predictable Mystery", Varna, 2020 **100 points**.

**Indicator D7:** publications and papers published in scientific editions, which are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases containing scientific information (Scopus/WOS) - **eight publications**. Dr. Dimitrova is the first author of two of these publications, the second author - of one of them, the third author - of four of them, and the last author - of one publication. **116 points**.

**Indicator D8:** publications and papers published in unreferenced journals with scientific reviewing or published in edited collective volumes - **eleven**. Dr. Dimitrova is the first author of seven of these publications, the second author - of one of them, the third author - of two of them, and the last author - of one publication **86.5 points**.

**Full-text publications** in scientific journals and anthologies besides the ones obligatory for fulfilment of the minimal requirements for acquisition of the academic position "Associate Professor": **four publications** are presented - **23 points**.

In the competition for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor", Dr. Valentina Dimitrova presents for review: **11 participations in scientific congresses, conferences and symposia in Bulgaria and abroad** after the acquisition of her academic degree of Doctor of Science.

**Indicator E10:** Citations or reviews in scientific editions, which are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases containing scientific information, or in monographs and collective volumes - **two citations** are established.

**Indicator E12:** Citations or reviews in unreferenced journals with scientific reviewing - established **four citations in total - 50 points**.

**Indicator F16: The applicant also presents a participation in a national scientific or educational project for review.** The applicant presents one participation in a scientific research project approved by the Science Fund of Medical University - Varna, Competitive-Based Session 2016 of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, with registration No. НИ-2/05.12.2016 on the subject of: "Prognostic biochemical markers in patients with pulmonary thromboembolism".

**Indicator F20 Publication of a university textbook or a study aid book used within the school network** Dr. V. Dimitrova presents a participation in a chapter of a textbook on "Pulmonary Diseases" and a participation in the textbook on "Internal Diseases for Healthcare Specialists".

**Indicator F21 Publication of a university textbook or a study aid book used within the school network** A participation in one study aid book is presented - a patient guide.

**The data from the academic reference regarding the impact factor** of the journals, in which the applicant Dr. Valentina Dimitrova has publications, testifies to a total IF of 64.67.

Dr. Dimitrova has active scientific profiles in: Google Scholar, ORCID and Research Gate (RG), Researcher ID, eLibrary.

### **III. Educational and teaching activity**

The applicant presents an academic reference regarding her teaching workload from Medical University - Varna, which encompasses the last five years and testifies to the fact that the applicant has an **average annual teaching workload of 171.2 hours** in the taught clinical discipline of "Pulmonary Diseases". Dr. Dimitrova is directly involved in the practical seminars and the lecture course of the 4th-year Bulgarian students of "Medicine".

### **IV. Qualitative characterisation of the scientific research and applied scientific activity of the applicant.**

Dr. Dimitrova's scientific publications are related to the following main directions:

- pulmonary thromboembolism
- pulmonary arterial hypertension
- chronic postthromboembolic pulmonary hypertension
- non-invasive ventilation in acute and chronic respiratory failure
- bronchology

In her scientific research, the applicant summarises data that characterises the incidence of chronic postthromboembolic pulmonary hypertension and she makes a characterisation of the main risk factors for chronic postthromboembolic pulmonary hypertension. The applicant defines the prognostic factors and methods for early assessment of patients with chronic postthromboembolic pulmonary hypertension, and she suggests an algorithm for diagnosis and follow-up of patients with chronic postthromboembolic pulmonary hypertension. The applicant's scientific work reflects primarily her affiliation with the Clinic for Pulmonary Diseases at UMHAT "St. Marina" - Varna with a focus on the scientific research and the diagnostic and treatment activities regarding the emergencies in pulmonary medicine, as well as the introduction of innovative approaches to the processes of diagnosis and treatment. The applicant's research work is enriched by her theoretical preparation and clinical experience. Her thorough knowledge and application of highly specialised procedures contribute to the presentation of scientific work with results and conclusions that are targeted at the medical practice.

### **V. Personal impressions**

I have known and worked together with Dr. Valentina Dimitrova for more than 20 years. She is an erudite and experienced pulmonologist - a clinical doctor who has mastered the methods of pulmonology, intensive pulmonology and bronchology. As a doctor and a scientist, she takes her rightful place in the Bulgarian pulmonological scientific society. As a lecturer, she is always prepared and devoted. As a colleague, she is always ethical and cooperative. With all these qualities, she fully meets the criteria of The Act and The Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Medical University - Varna to hold the academic position "Associate Professor".

## **VI. Conclusion**

The materials presented by **Dr. Valentina Dimova Dimitrova, MD, PhD** in connection with the competition scientometrically fulfil the minimal National Requirements under The Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Medical University - Varna - as far as the quantitative indicators of the criteria for conferment of the academic position "Associate Professor" are concerned.

**The collected total number of points by the applicant under Appendix 1 regarding "Minimal Scientometric Requirements of MEDICAL UNIVERSITY-VARNA" exceeds the minimal requirements by groups of indicators for the academic position "Associate Professor" - 400 points.**

All of these facts provide me with the grounds to vote for the election of the applicant and to suggest confidently to the members of the esteemed academic jury to confer the academic position "Associate Professor" to Dr. Valentina Dimova Dimitrova, MD, PhD, within the higher education field of 7. "Healthcare and sport", in the professional subfield 7.1. "Medicine" and the scientific speciality of "Pulmonary Diseases".

19 July 2021  
Varna



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Diana Petkova, MD, PhD