

## POSITION

Of Assoc. Prof. Kamen Yankov Yankov

Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, MU Varna

*Information on the procedure:* The competition for associate professor of lung diseases at the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine educational sector in Lung Diseases and Allergology was announced in the State Newspaper No. 17 / 26.02.2021. It complies with the new requirements of the legislation in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations to it and the Regulations for development of the Academic staff of MU Varna. The only candidate is Dr. Valentina Dimova Dimitrova, Chief Assistant at the Clinic of Pneumology and Phthisiatry at the Department of Internal Medicine, Medical University of Varna.

The deadline for submitting the documents has been met.

*Biographical data related to the scientific and practical activity of the candidate:* Dr. Dimitrova completed her former education in medicine in 1995 in Varna. Initially, she worked as an intern at the Center for Emergency Medical Care - Shumen, after which she was appointed. resident doctor in the Internal Department of the Transport Hospital - Varna. One year later he started working in the ICU at the Clinic of Lung Diseases of the University Hospital "St. Marina" Varna. During the period 2011/2018 she was an assistant physician in the First Department of Internal Medicine, Educational sector of Pneumology and Tuberculosis, and in 2019 she was elected Chief Assistant at the same department.

Dr. Dimitrova was awarded specialties in Internal Medicine in 2002 and Pneumonology and Phthisiatry in 2006 respectively. In 2018 she acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". Dr. Dimitrova has an additional qualification in highly specialized activity "Conventional Bronchoscopy".

*Analysis of the scientific production and contributions:* In the current competition Dr. Dimitrova has presented 66 scientific papers, of which Dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor", monograph, textbooks and manuals 5 pcs., Full-text publications in foreign and Bulgarian scientific journals and collections -26, of which 2 in international scientific journals, participation in forums in Bulgaria, with published abstracts 21, participation in international forums with published abstracts 13

Dr. Dimitrova is the first author in 25 of the publications in Bulgarian journals and in six of the publications in international journals and forums. According to a reference prepared in the library of MU Varna on the basis of the information provided by the candidate and the automated information from the international scientific databases, it is evident that so far the works of the candidate have been cited 4 times. The impact factor is not specified in the same reference.

The main direction in Dr. Dimitrova's scientific research, closely related to her daily work in the intensive care unit, are the problems of pulmonary thromboembolism and the pulmonary hypertension caused by it. On this topic are 9 of the presented scientific papers, including the dissertation and the monograph. In this direction are the main contributions of the candidate:

- For the first time in Bulgaria the frequency of CTEPH is determined.
- Analysis and detailed characterization of the main risk factors for CTEPH, as well as definition of prognostic factors, methods for early assessment of patients with CTEPH
- Analysis of biomarkers and their correlation with echocardiography parameters and dyspnea scales
- A valuable scientific-practical and scientifically-applied contribution is the creation of a register of patients with acute and recurrent PE.

The monograph "Pulmonary thromboembolism a predictable mystery" provides a comprehensive overview of the information accumulated in the medical literature in recent years in the field of VTE. In addition, the ten-year experience of the intensive respiratory department at the Clinic of Pneumology and Phthisiology of the University Hospital "St. Marina" in the diagnosis and treatment of this socially significant disease. A register of patients with acute, recurrent PE and DVT was made for the first time, which includes 832 patients.

Lung infections, including tuberculosis, are another area of lung disease in which the

candidate has shown scientific interest. Nosocomial and community-acquired pneumonia, upper respiratory tract infections and related antibiotic resistance, the pathomorphosis of tuberculosis infection, complications in the application of biological therapy are some of the various problems covered in her research. Closely related to her work with critically ill patients are the publications in Bulgarian and international journals related to the treatment of COPD and the respiratory failure caused by it, including invasive and non-invasive mechanical ventilation.

Dr. Dimitrova is an active member of the Bulgarian Society of Lung Diseases, she was its secretary for two terms.

Teaching activity: Dr. Dimitrova leads practical exercises in Lung Diseases for fourth year students since 2011. The study load and the teaching experience correspond to the requirements for habilitation.

*Evaluation of the diagnostic and treatment activity:* Dr. Dimitrov actively participates in the treatment activity of the lung diseases clinic. She has many years of experience in the Intensive Care Unit of the clinic, of which she has been the head since 2019. She has excellent knowledge of all diagnostic and therapeutic methods, including non-invasive and invasive lung ventilation. Actively participates in the bronchoscopic activity of the clinic.

The brief review shows that the scientific, medical-diagnostic and teaching-teaching activity of the candidate is in accordance with the requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor" of the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the Medical University - Varna. Dr. Diitrova is an experienced specialist with great creative activity and a penchant for innovation.

In conclusion, based on the analysis of the submitted papers and documents, as well as my personal impressions, I believe that Dr. Valentina Dimova Dimitrova, MD, can be elected Associate Professor of Lung Diseases (code 03.001.17) in the Department of Internal Medicine Medical University Varna

03.07.2021

  
Assoc Prof Kamen Yankov ND