

OPINION

by

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Member of the Scientific Jury, designated by Order No. R-109-187 / April 26, 2021 by Prof. Dr. Valentin Ignatov, MD, PhD - Rector of Medical University Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov, Varna.

Subject: Competition for the occupation of the academic position Associate Professor in the field of higher education 7 Health and Sports, in the professional field 7.1 Medicine and scientific specialty "Pulmonology and Phtysiatics " for the needs of the First Department of Internal Diseases, Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University of Varna and for the Clinic of Lung Diseases at the University Hospital "St. Marina "- Varna.

Brief information about the competition

By order No. R-109-187/26.04.2021 of the Rector of the Medical University-Varna I was appointed to prepare an opinion. The competition was announced in the State Gazette No. 17/26 Feb 2021. Dr. Valentina Dimova Dimitrova is the only candidate. The procedure for announcing the competition is in accordance with the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria / 05.05.2018 and with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Medical University-Varna / 28.01.2021.

Short details of the applicant

Dr. Valentina Dimittrova completed her higher education in medicine in 1995 at the Medical University of Varna. She started working as a physician in the Centre for Emergency Medicine in Shumen in 1995, and since 2000 she was appointed as resident in the Clinic of Lung Diseases, Intensive Respiratory Care Ward of UMHAT Sv. Marina in Varna. Since 2011 she was appointed an assistant professor in Educational and Scientific Sector of Department of Internal Medicine, and since 2019 as a chief assistant professor in Educational Sector of Lung Diseases and Allergology of First Department of Internal Medicine, Medical University of Varna and UMHAT Sv. Marina. Dr. Dimitrova uses English and Russian languages.

Specialties acquired and postgraduate qualifications

Dr. Valentina Dimitrova has acquired specialties in Intrenal Medicine - 2002 and Pulmonology and Phtysiatics - 2006.

Specializations:

Qualification for Highly Specialized Activity Bronchoscopy 2010.

Projects:

She participated in a project financed by Science Fund of MU-Varna on the topic: “Prognostic biochemical markers in patients with pulmonary thromboembolism”.

Professional Experience

Dr. Valentina Dimitrova has devoted her interest for a long time in the internal medicine and Pulmonology and Phtysiatics in particular, and she has now more than 25 years dedicated to treating patients with lung diseases.

In terms of professional qualification, she fulfills the requirements for habilitation.

Research activity

Dr. Valentina Dimitrova received her PhD degree in 2018 after successfully defending her dissertation on the topic: "Clinical and prognostic characteristics in patients with chronic postthromboembolic pulmonary hypertension (CTEPH)".

In this competition, the applicant presented the following scientific data – 53 scientific publications (of 66 in total):

- a monography work with a total volume of 144 pages on the topic: "Pulmonary embolism – a predictable mistery" - 2020, 100 points.

- Publications:

A. To cover the minimum state requirements by the Law from 2018 and the Rules of MU-Varna / 2021: **202,5 points**.

o In scientific publications, abstracted or indexed by world famous databases WOS or Scopus: in full text – 2, abstracts in scientific journals – 6, **total 8**.

o In non-refereed scientific peer-reviewed journals or in published collective volumes: full text – 11, totally **11**.

o Chapter in a collective monograph - 0.

B. Articles in non-refereed journals with scientific review beyond the required minimum state requirements – 4, total **23 points**.

- Publications and presentations at scientific meetings participating in previous contests which are not reviewed - 13.

- Participation in international scientific events – 1, national and regional scientific events - 14.

Number of citations: total **6**: 2 in abstracted or indexed by world famous databases scientific journals, 4 in peer-reviewed non-referred: **50 points in total**.

Dr. Dimitrova is an individual author in 1 publications, first author in 9, second author in 2, and third and subsequent in 8 of all scientific papers.

Thus, the publication activity on this indicator fulfills the minimum state requirements of the Law for Academic Development in Republic of Bulgaria and of the Regulations of the Medical University of Varna for acquiring the academic position of Associate Professor.

Scientific achievements and contributions

Dr. Valentina Dimitrova's main scientific interests are in the field of Pulmonology and Phtysiatrics:

1. Chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension. For the first time in Bulgaria, the prevalence of CTEPH is determined. Risk factors for CTEPH development, prognostic markers for unfavorable outcome are established. Various methods for monitoring patients were evaluated, using clinical and laboratory variables. A major contribution of scientific and practical importance is the definition of an algorithm for the diagnosis and follow-up of patients with CTEPH.

2. Acute and chronic pulmonary embolism - A register of patients with acute, recurrent PE and DVT has been made for the first time. Modern recommendations and guidelines for urgent assessment of clinical probability, diagnosis and decision-making for the most appropriate personalized treatment in patients with acute PE have been synthesized. The advantages of modern treatment with fibrinolysis to improve the prognosis are highlighted.

3. Non-invasive ventilation in acute and chronic respiratory failure.

4. COPD

5. Pulmonary tuberculosis

6. Dyspnoea

7. Pneumonia

8. Bronchology.

Dr. Dimitrova is a member of the Bulgarian Society of Pulmonary Diseases and for 4 years she served as a Secretary of the society. She is a member of the Association Heart-Lung.

Educational and teaching activities:

Dr. Valentina Dimitrova was selected as a full-time Assistant Professor at the Department of Internal Medicine of the Medical University of Varna, in 2011, and since 2018 she is a Chief Assistant Professor in the First Department of Internal Diseases, MU-Varna.

A record of teaching workload over the last 5 years indicates mean teaching load of 171,2 hours of practical training and lectures with Bulgarian-language medical students, as well as in theoretical education of specializing physicians in Pulmonology.

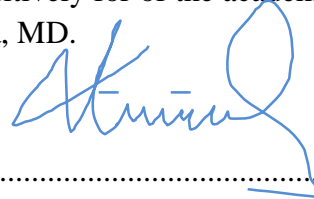
She co-authored 2 textbooks for Specialists in Health Care, in 1 guidance book in Lung Diseases, part 2, and in 1 guide for patients how to apply oxygen therapy at home.

According to this indicator, Dr. Dimitrova fulfills the required minimum according to the Law and the Regulations for Academic Development of MU-Varna.

Conclusions:

Dr. Valentina Dimitrova is an established professional in the field of internal diseases and Pulmonology, with extensive knowledge and skills especially in the field of intensive respiratory care, of the venous thromboembolism and pulmonary hypertension, of various chronic lung ills, with excellent professional training and proven skills. She has accumulated teaching experience and is loved and respected by her students and colleagues. Her scientific output is sufficient in volume, covers the minimum state requirements and shows a variety of interests, publications are in different journals. It complies with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for the Academic Staff Development in the Medical University of Varna. This gives me reason to recommend to the honorable members of the scientific jury to vote positively for of the academic position of Associate Professor to Dr. Valentina Dimova Dimitrova, MD.

14.07.2021



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/Prof. Dr Yoto Trifonov Yotov, PhD/