

## **OPINION**

**of Prof. Dr. Viktoriya Tsvetanova Doycheva , MD**

**Head of the Department of Epidemiology and Hygiene at MU-Sofia**

**External member of the Scientific Jury based on**

**Order No. P-109-392/20.09.2021 of the Rector of MU-Varna**

**Regarding:** Competition for acquiring the academic degree of **Associate Professor** in the scientific specialty of Epidemiology for the needs of the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology at MU-Varna, announced in SG, issue 61/23.07.2021, with a single candidate – **Dr. Eliyana Panayotova Ivanova, MD**, senior assistant at the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology at MU-Varna.

The set of documents provided to me meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and is in accordance with the regulations for the conditions and the procedure for acquiring academic degrees and occupying academic positions at MU-Varna for acquiring the academic degree of Professor.

### **Professional development:**

Dr. Ivanova was born on 24 February 1966 in the city of Burgas. She graduated medicine at the Medical University – Varna in 1992. From 1993 to 1997, Dr. Ivanova is a resident doctor in the Epidemiological Department at the Hygiene and Epidemiological Inspection Service – Varna. From 1999 to 2008, she is a senior and chief sanitary inspector in the Department of Epidemic Control at the Regional Health Inspectorate – Varna. From 2008 to 2013, Dr. Ivanova held the position of epidemiologist at the Medical Center “Sanita” OOD – Varna. From 2013, she is an assistant at the Education Sector of Epidemiology at the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Medical University of Varna. From 2017, she is a Doctor of Medicine in the scientific specialty of Epidemiology with a dissertation on the following topic: “Epidemiological efficiency, organization and management of immunization activities in Varna District”. She is a senior assistant in the same Department since 2018. She has a recognized specialty of Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases since 2006. She is fluent in English and Russian, she has very good computer literacy.

### **Scientific activity:**

The publishing activity of Dr. Ivanova comprises 33 scientific works, of which:

Dissertation – 1, Monograph – 1, Chapter from a collective monograph – 1, Full- text articles – 27,

12 of which are used for the Associate Professor competition.

Eight of all the submitted articles, were published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases, and 19 were published in non-referenced journals with a scientific review.

The presented scientific works by Dr.Ivanova are in a wide range of scientific fields:

Immunoprophylaxis and Vaccine-Preventable Infections, Epidemiology of Respiratory Infections, Epidemiology of Intestinal Infections.

Dr. Ivanova has **scientific interests** in the field of immunoprophylaxis of infectious diseases.

The wide range of **scientific contributions** of the candidate is impressive:

1. In-depth epidemiological studies and analyses of the changes in the organization and management of immunization activities in Bulgaria and in Varna District.
2. Theoretical and epidemiological analysis of the importance of immunoprophylaxis in the epidemiological control and monitoring of infection diseases.
3. Study of the level of professional training of general practitioners and neonatologists regarding the immunization activities in Varna Region.
4. The leading role of Medical Universities and the specialized departments in the training of medical specialists in the field of vaccine prophylaxis is highlighted.
5. Retrospective analysis of the measles epidemic in Varna Region 2009-2010.
6. Theoretical analysis of the evolution and modern aspect of diphtheria in Varna District, Bulgaria and Europe and mass immunoprophylaxis with diphtheria toxoid.
7. Historical and epidemiological study of the prevalence of cholera in Varna District.
8. Retrospective study of the epidemiological characteristics of typhoid fever in Varna Region.
9. Retrospective analysis of the prevalence of enterocolitis and dysentery in Varna District from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to 1944.
10. Study of the incidence of viral hepatitis B in Varna Region from 2005 to 2015 and the immunisation coverage of the liable contingent.
11. Retrospective studies of the prevalence of plague and rabies in Varna Region.

### Teaching activity:

Dr. Ivanova's teaching activities are focused on conducting practical exercises in epidemiology for students of medicine and dentistry, as well as trainee doctors in Bulgarian and English. She also teaches to students majoring in Public Health Protection and Control, Health Care Management, Health Management, Nurses, Obstetricians, Medical Laboratory Assistants and Public Health Inspectors.

Dr. Ivanova's study load significantly exceeds the required one. Her study load is 817 hours for the last two years – 377 hours for the 2019-2020 and 440 hours for 2020-2021 period.

### Conclusions:

Scientific and teaching indicators in common, show that Dr. Eliyana Panayotova Ivanova, MD, fully meets the requirements for acquiring the academic degree of Associate Professor under the Law on Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at MU – Varna, as well as the minimum national requirements.

I give a **positive assessment** of the candidate in the competition, based on all above. I recommend the members of the Scientific Jury to award to **Dr. Eliyana Panayotova Ivanova, MD** the academic degree of **Associate Professor** in the scientific specialty of Epidemiology for the needs of the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology at MU – Varna.

20 October 2021

Prof. Dr. V. Doycheva

