

To  
The Chairman of the Scientific Jury,  
Prof. Rumen Konstantinov, MD, PhD  
(Ordinance № P-109/ 20.09.2021)  
of the Rector of MU-Varna

## STATEMENT

by prof. Ani Kevorkyan, MD, PhD  
Head of the Department of Epidemiology and Disaster Medicine,  
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in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor  
in scientific specialty **Epidemiology (03.01.29)**  
announced for the needs of MU-Varna, Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology, FPH, MU-  
Varna in SG, iss. 61 / 23.07. 2021

### Only candidate in the announced competition:

**Eliana Panayotova Ivanova, MD PhD**  
Senior assistant professor at the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology  
at the Faculty of Public Health of Medical University, Varna

#### I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile.

Dr. Eliana Ivanova is a doctor with 28 years of experience in the field of epidemiology of infectious diseases. She graduated with a degree in Medicine from the Medical University of Varna in 1992. In the period 1994-2008 she successively held the position of resident, senior and chief sanitary inspector in the system of RHI (HEI) Burgas and Varna. She gained organizational and practical experience as an epidemiologist in a medical institution for outpatient medical care (Medical Center "Sanita" Ltd. - Varna), where she worked until 2013. Since then and up to now combines teaching and research activity as an assistant professor and later as a senior assistant professor in the department "Hygiene and Epidemiology" of Medical University - Varna.

The candidate speaks English and Russian - a prerequisite for successful research and professional growth. Her postgraduate qualification includes:

- 2006 – acquired specialty "Epidemiology of infectious diseases";
- 2008 – acquired qualification for contractor of disinfection, disinsection and deratization activities;
- courses and seminars for postgraduate education at MU-Varna, MU-Sofia and NCIPD - Sofia;

In 2017, as a full-time doctoral student in independent training in the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology of MU-Varna, she was awarded Educational and Scientific Degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Epidemiology" with the topic "Epidemiological effectiveness, organization and management of immunizations in the Varna region."

She is a member of many professional and scientific organizations: Bulgarian Medical Union (BMU), Union of Scientists in Bulgaria (USB), Bulgarian Scientific Society of

Epidemiology of Infectious and Non-Infectious Diseases (BNDEINB), Bulgarian Association for Prevention and Control of Nosocomial Infections (BULNOSO), The Bulgarian Public Health Association, the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) and the Bulgarian Society for the History of Medicine.

## **II. General description of the materials submitted for the competition.**

The submitted documents and materials for the competition meet the requirements of the Regulations for implementation of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of MU-Varna. The evidence correctly supports the presented lists of scientific papers, participations, contributions and citations.

## **III. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works for the overall academic development.**

Dr. Ivanova is an established epidemiologist. Epidemiology as a prophylactic and applied discipline allows for research related to both classical infectious pathology and other areas of preventive medicine. The scientific production of the candidate covers the following areas: immunoprophylaxis, epidemiology of some respiratory, intestinal, transmissible, wound infections and infections with multiple transmission mechanisms, as well as health promotion and nutrition. By genre, the materials for participation in this competition include mostly own research, but also several review articles.

The total publication activity of the candidate up to now so far covers 33 scientific papers. The distribution of scientific papers is as follows:

Dissertation thesis: **1pc**; Monograph: **1 pc.**; Chapter from a collective monograph: **1 pc.**; Full-text articles: **27** (related to the dissertation thesis - 3; for chief assistant professor - 12; for associate professor - 12), of which:

- in referenced and indexed scientific journals in world-renowned databases of scientific information: **8** ;

- in non-referenced journals with scientific reviewing: **19**

There are also 3 publications presented, apart from the evidence for fulfillment of the minimum requirements for awarding the AP "Associate Professor".

**In the reference for fulfillment of the minimum requirements for awarding the AP "Associate Professor", according to LDASRB from 2018 Dr. Ivanova participates with evidence from 14 scientific articles: Monograph: 1; Chapter from a collective monograph: 1 pc .; Full-text articles: 12 pcs. [6 in referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information (5 in Web of science and 1 in Scopus) and 6 in non-referenced journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes]. In the above 14 scientific papers, the candidate is an independent author in 3, first author in 5, second in 2 and third/next author in 4.**

The presented evidence in the tender for acquisition of AD "Associate Professor" gives the following number of points:

- **Indicator A:** Dissertation thesis (author's summary)- **50 points**;

- **Indicator B:** Monograph- **100 points**;

- **Indicator C 5-9 (minimum number according to the regulations 200 points) - 215.57 points**;

- **Indicator D10-12 (minimum number according to the regulations 50 points).** A

reference for 7 positive citations by Bulgarian authors without autocitations is presented - **50 points**.

**Total number of points from all indicators: 415.57 points.**

The presented scientific papers fully cover the required quantitative criteria for awarding the academic position of "Associate Professor", according to the regulations of the Medical University, Varna.

I agree with the presented report on the contributions of the scientific works. Dr. Ivanova's pronounced affinity for the history of medicine is impressive. She applies the historical-logical approach in studying the patterns in the development of the epidemic process in infectious diseases, as well as in the assessment of the preventive and anti-epidemic measures at the regional level in the Varna region. This approach is represented in her dissertation thesis, in several full-text publications and is presented in its entirety in the monograph "Epidemiological Chronicles of the Fight against Infectious Diseases in the Varna Region (1878 - 1944)". The epidemiological interpretation of the collected historical data for this period of time provides information about the evolution of infectious diseases and their distribution among the population in the Varna region, as well as about the health legislation in Bulgaria in the part regulating the structure and organization of epidemiological and sanitary supervision in the country, as well as measures to combat epidemic infectious and social diseases. The accumulated theoretical and applied knowledge reflects the difficult path of development of anti-epidemic and prophylactic work in the past and provides guidelines for more effective prevention and control of infectious diseases in the future. The monograph, taking us back in time, reminds us that despite advances in modern medicine, technology, diagnostics, knowledge about infectious diseases and the arsenal to deal with them, the main activities in the fight against infections are inherited from our teachers in epidemiology and remain isolation, quarantine, disinfection, immunization and international cooperation.

#### **IV. Complex, qualitative assessment of the teaching-methodical and teaching activity.**

Dr. Ivanova participates as a lecturer in the educational programs (practical training and part of the lecture course in Epidemiology) of students from different bachelor's and master's programs at MU-Varna:

- medicine, dental medicine, public health inspector, nurses, midwives, medical laboratory technicians, healthcare management, health management, kinesitherapy;
- modules in master's programs in Public Health Protection and Control, Public Health and Health Management, Health Care Management.
- Elective course "Tropical Medicine", "Infection Control",

The report from the educational department certifies annual classroom employment in the period 2016-2021 from 359 to 440 hours, depending on the curricula.

According to the Postgraduate department, the candidate is a leading lecturer in the course "Applied aspects of immunoprophylaxis - epidemiological effectiveness, supervision and control of immunization practices." She also participates in the postgraduate training of master's in medicine in the specialties "Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases" and "General Medicine". In addition to her teaching activity, she participated as a lecturer in the course on the Postgraduate department "History of Medicine" and a course in bioterrorism with lecturers from Israel and Bulgaria.

Dr. Ivanova is an academic mentor in a project of the Ministry of Education and Science "Student Internships - Phase 2" project BG05M20P001 - 2.013 - 001 for practical training of students in a real work environment.

#### **V. Critical remarks and recommendations.**

I have no critical remarks. Given the teaching and expert experience of the candidate, I would recommend to expand her research in collaboration with clinicians, as well as with authors outside MU-Varna, including participation in research projects, especially for

problems of a multidisciplinary nature. This will increase the possibility of publishing in journals with impact factor and citations respectively.

**VI. Conclusion:**

All these facts in summary convincingly prove that Dr. Ivanova is an established specialist, lecturer, and scientist. The presented evidence fully covers the specific scientometric criteria for acquiring the academic position of "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR", according to the regulations of the Medical University, Varna.

Based on this, I allow myself to recommend to the members of the Scientific Jury, determined by Ordinance № P-109/20.09.2021 of the Rector of MU - Varna, **Senior Assistant Professor Eliana Panayotova Ivanova, MD, PhD** to be elected as **"ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR"** in the scientific specialty **Epidemiology** for the needs of the **Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology**.

08.11.2021

**Author of the statement:**  
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