

To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury

Appointed by order of

Rector of Varna Medical University

No. P-109-267/25.05.2023

## **OPINION**

By Assoc. Prof. Svetlin Varbanov Varbanov, MD, Ph.D.

Department of Health Care, Sliven Branch, Medical University - Varna

Member of the scientific jury for the competition (SG No. 28/28.03.2023) for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1 Medicine and scientific specialty "Psychiatry" for the needs of the Department " Psychiatry and Medical Psychology" at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University - Varna and the Second Psychiatric Clinic at UMHAT "St. Marina" EAD, Varna.

By Decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University of Varna, minutes 02/04/05 2023 and Order No. R-109-267/25/05/2023. of the Rector - Prof. Dr. V. Ignatov, I am elected as a member of the scientific jury, and according to Protocol No. 1 of its first meeting, I am appointed to prepare an opinion on the procedure for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor" for the needs of the Department " Psychiatry and Medical Psychology" at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University - Varna and the Second Psychiatric Clinic at UMHAT "St. Marina" EAD, Varna.

The announcement procedure complies with the legal requirements and there are no established procedural violations. Documents were submitted for the competition by one candidate – Ch. Assist. Prof. Zivko Pavlinov Apostolov, MD, Ph.D., Ch. Assist. Prof. at the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology at the Medical University of Varna. The information provided by the candidate complies with the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at Varna Medical University.

### 1. Brief biographical data about the candidate

Zhivko Pavlinov Apostolov, MD, PhD, graduated from Varna Medical University, specialist in "medicine" in 2010. After graduation, he worked as a medical doctor at Емергенцъ медицал сержице - Varna, then at Individual outpatient medical practice. From 2017 to 2021, he worked as a psychiatrist at the Medical center "St. Marina", Varna. From 2012 until now, he has been working at UMHAT "St. Marina" in the city of Varna.

From 2011 to 2013, Dr. Apostolov was a full-time PhD student at the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology at the Varna University of Medical Sciences. In 2014, he defended a

dissertation for the acquisition of the PhD title on the topic "On some dimensions of brain asymmetry in schizophrenia". In 2016, he acquired a specialty in Psychiatry.

From 2016 to 2018, Dr. Zhivko Apostolov was a part-time lecturer at the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology at the Medical University - Varna, from 2018 to 2019 he was an assistant in psychiatry, and from 2019 to the present he is a senior assistant at the same department.

## 2. Scientific research activity

For participation in the competition, Dr. Zhivko Apostolov submitted the following scientific production:

- Dissertation work for the acquisition of the PhD - 1 copy
- Habilitation work - monograph – 1 copy
- Publications in journals - 15 issues

Of the full-text scientific publications in journals, 4 are in English and 11 in Bulgarian. 5 of the publications are his own, and 10 are co-authored, and in 6 Dr. Apostolov is the first author.

The main directions in the research work of Dr. Apostolov can be divided into 5 areas:

- Schizophrenia (Publications D.7.1; D.8.2; D.8.3; D.8.4; D.8.9)
- Evolutionary psychiatry (B.3. Monograph; Publication D.8.1;)
- Brain asymmetry (A.1. Dissertation work)
- Depression and anxiety disorders (Publications D.8.5; D.8.6; D.8.7; D.8.8; D.8.11; D.8.12)
- Philosophy and psychiatry (Publication D.7.2)

In order to cover the minimum required scientometric indicators, Dr. Apostolov has submitted 1 dissertation work – PhD thesis, 1 habilitation work - monograph, 2 Publications and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, 12 Publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes. 11 citations in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals are presented. The presented scientific production fully covers and exceeds the required minimum criteria.

## 3. Educational and teaching activity

Dr. Zhivko Apostolov has nearly 5 years of teaching experience at the Medical University - Varna, having completed his academic development at the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology of the Medical University as an assistant and senior assistant. Conducts practical classes in Psychiatry and Medical Psychology for both Bulgarian students and students with English language education from the various structures of the MU - Varna. His academic load exceeds the norm determined by the decision of the AC at the MU – Varna, and for the academic year 2021/22 it amounts to 229 academic hours.

#### 4. Therapeutic and diagnostic activity

Dr. Apostolov has 13 years of medical experience, 7 of which as a psychiatrist. He has accumulated extensive clinical experience both in his work in outpatient psychiatric care, and during the more than 10 years of clinical work in the Psychiatric Clinics at UMHAT "St. Marina", city of Varna.

#### 5. Conclusion

The presented data on the scientific, teaching and medical activities of Ch. Assist. Prof. Zhivko Pavlinov Apostolov, MD, PhD, definitively indicates that the candidate fully meets the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria and its regulations, as well as the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the MU-Varna for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" .

I propose to the esteemed jury to vote positively for awarding the academic position "Associate Professor" in the specialty "Psychiatry" at the Department of "Psychiatry and Medical Psychology" of MU-Varna to Dr. Zhivko Apostolov.

22.08.2023

Prepared the opinion:

Assoc. Prof. Svetlin Varbanov, MD, PhD