

REVIEW

By competition for the academic position of **associated professor**, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, for the needs of MU-Varna "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Dermatovenerology, Educational Sector "Infectious Diseases and Parasitology" (0.5 full-time position) and First Infectious Diseases Clinic at University Hospital "St. Marina" - Varna (1 full-time position), published in the State Gazette 07/23.01.2024

Reviewer: Professor Mariyana Stoycheva Vartigova, MD, PhD, DSc external member, MU-Plovdiv, retired teacher, less than 5 years ago.

1. General conditions and career profile of candidate in the competition Iliyan Todorov Todorov, MD, RhD.

Based on the order of the Rector of the MU-Varna, No. 109-87/21.03.2024 and on the basis of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in Bulgaria, and the Rules for its implementation, and the Regulations of the MU-Varna, decision of the FC of the MU-Varna (Protocol No. 18/11.03.2024), with decision of the scientific jury for this competition (Protocol No. 1 dated 03.04.2024) I have been designated as a reviewer for the competition for the acquisition of the academic position **associate professor** in professional direction 7.1. Medicine, Scientific specialty Infectious diseases, (code 03.01.33) for the needs of MU - Varna "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Dermatovenerology, and First Infectious Diseases Clinic at UH "St. Marina" - Varna.

Only one candidate participated in the competition - Iliyan Todorov Todorov, MD, PhD., who at the time of application was the Head and administrative assistant in the Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Dermatovenerology, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" Varna.

Career profile of Iliyan Todorov Todorov, MD, PhD:

In 2006 Dr. Iliyan Todorov graduated from the Nature mathematics high school "Acad. Ivan Gyuzelev", city of Gabrovo, with profile "biology".

University education - six-year academic course (2006 - 2012), MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" Varna, educational and qualification degree "master" specialty "medicine", diploma series MUV, U.I. No. 001423, registration No. 001859/2012.

Acquired specialty: "Infectious diseases" 01.06.2017, diploma series MYB, №3835, registration №021003/07.07.2017.

In the period 2017/2020 Dr. Todorov is a doctoral student in an independent form of study at the Department of "Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Dermatovenerology", MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" Varna.

Educational science degree PhD in infectious diseases with defended dissertation "Changes in serum amyloid A protein in some infectious diseases with viral etiology", Diploma No. 338/ 22.05.2020.

Scientific titles:

Assistant in infectious diseases at the Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Dermatovenerology, FM, MU Varna (2013 - 2021) .

Chief Assistant in Infectious Diseases at the Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Dermatovenerology, MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", city of Varna (from 2021 to the present).

The professional career of Dr. Iliyan Todorov, PhD started as a physician, in the First Clinic for Infectious Diseases, UMBAL "St. Marina" EAD, Varna in 2013 and assistant at the Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Dermatovenerology, MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", city of Varna, where he has been working until now.

Total medical experience is 11 years and teaching experience is 11 years. Iliyan Todorov, MD, PhD is member of: Bulgarian Medical Association, Bulgarian Society of Infectious Diseases, Union of Scientists in Bulgaria.

2. The evaluation of the candidate was made in accordance with Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in Bulgaria, and the Rules for its implementation in the following directions: scientific-research, educational and teaching activities, and diagnostic and therapeutic activity.

2.1. Research activity.

Iliyan Todorov, MD, PhD is the author/co-author of twenty-two scientific reports and has presented his work at two international and nine national scientific forums.

In the current competition Iliyan Todorov, MD, PhD participates with seventeen scientific works, which include: dissertation work for the acquisition of the science degree PhD; habilitation thesis, monograph (1); three articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information; twelve publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes.

Scientific production presented by Iliyan Todorov, MD, PhD for the current competition, it fully meets the minimum scientometric requirements of the University of Varna for the occupation of academic position **Associated professor**.

Iliyan Todorov, MD, PhD is an independent author of a monographic, habilitation work. Of the research papers carried out in collaboration (15), he is the lead author in seven, second author in six and third author in two of them. There are six citations reflecting the scientific activity of Iliyan Todorov, MD, PhD – two in publications referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information and four in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

Self-citations by all authors are excluded (Academic Reference No. 899/07.11.2023, MU-Varna Library).

The author's individual h-index stands at 4 according to Google Scholar.

The candidate has active scientific profiles in: Google Scholar, Research Gate, ORCID, ResearcherID, eLibrary.

The scientific research activity of Iliyan Todorov, MD, PhD covers the clinical characteristics, diagnosis and treatment of various, socially significant infectious diseases.

2.1.1. Scientific contributions could be combined in several directions:

2.1.1.1. Clinical relevance of serum amyloid A (SAA) protein for: (1) early diagnosis of acute viral infectious diseases, and its advantages over other inflammatory markers (ESR, leukocytes and CRP); (2) timely and precise assessment of the severity of the course, the effect of treatment and prognosis of the outcome of the disease, according to the dynamics in the values of SAA; (3) Justifies the inclusion of SAA as part of the mandatory laboratory minimum in patients with infectious diseases

2.1.1.2. Clinical course, severity and prognosis of COVID-19 in comorbid patients. Comorbidities are a major risk factor determining the course and outcome of COVID-19 with a bidirectional negative impact, and long-term prognosis is largely determined by the nature and number of comorbidities.

2.1.1.3. Complications in patients with infectious diseases with an emphasis on those from the excretory system: acute postscarlatinous glomerulonephritis; cytomegalovirus infection with predominant renal damage; nephritis, pyelitis, pyelonephritis, acute renal failure in intestinal infections with diarrheal dyndrom; HUS in Shiga-toxin producing *Shigella dysenteriae* and EHEC; varicella nephrotic syndrome.

2.1.1.4. Clinical characteristics of mixed infections (*Yersinia enterocolytica* + Astrovirus; HBV+HDV+HCV, varicella + scarlet fever) and other modern and current topics in infectology, a major part of which the author studied for the first time in Bulgaria.

The scientific developments are original, thorough, precisely executed, valuable and with reliable results.

The relevance of the presented scientific production is supported by the citations in journals, including peer-reviewed journals, referenced and indexed in global databases: Детские инфекции, 2022, 21(3 (80)), 65-67;

Ther Adv Infectious Dis, 2016, Vol 3 (5) 128-132

DOI: 10.1177/2049936116661949.

I especially want to highlight the applied contributions, of exceptional relevance to clinical practice. The practical orientation of the publications supports the activity of the infectious disease doctor in direct contact with the patient.

2.2. Educational and teaching activities

Iliyan Todorov, MD, PhD conducts exercises on Infectious Diseases for students from the specialties of medicine and dentistry (in Bulgarian and English), as well as for health professionals - midwives, nurses, medical laboratory assistants, public health inspectors.

As a teacher Iliyan Todorov, MD, PhD has the required for acquiring the academic position of **Associated professor**.

2.3. Diagnostic and therapeutic activity

Immediately after his graduation in 2012, Iliyan Todorov, MD, PhD started working as a doctor in the First Clinic for Infectious Diseases, University Hospital "St. Marina" EAD, Varna. He is involved in the diagnostic and treatment work of patients in the clinic, as well as in the implementation of advisory activities for outpatients and those treated in other therapeutic units of the "St. Marina" UH.

3. Overall evaluation of the candidate's compliance with the National Minimum Scientometric Indicators

Iliyan Todorov, MD, PhD has included in the documentation a table of the National minimum scientometric indicators and the number of points he collects according to the established methodology fully covers the criteria for acquiring the academic position of **Associate professor**.

Critical notes. Iliyan Todorov, MD, PhD is a young, intelligent and promising scientist who needs to intensify his scientific activity. More courageously and with self-confidence to present the results of their own scientific pursuits at international forums and renowned scientific journals.

Conclusion

The assessment of the career development, research, teaching and diagnostic and treatment activities of Iliyan Todorov, MD, PhD shows that the candidate fully meets the criteria of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in Bulgaria, the Rules for its implementation and Rules of MU - Varna for occupying the academic position of **Associated professor** in the scientific specialty of Infectious Diseases. The professional path of Iliyan Todorov, MD, PhD is an example of consistent, thorough and upward development, containing all the mandatory stages of academic growth.

I believe that scientific productivity with the scientific impact of the publications, the data on the overall scientific and research activity, teaching and teaching qualities and diagnostic and therapeutic skills of Iliyan Todorov, MD, PhD show that he is a highly qualified professional, promising scientist, teacher and responsible clinician who possesses all the necessary qualities for awarding the academic title of **Associated professor**.

The candidate's personal and professional qualities give me reason to confidently and with pleasure vote for the candidacy of Iliyan Todorov, MD,

PhD and I recommend the respected members of the Scientific Jury to give a positive vote for the academic position of **Associated professor** in "Infectious Diseases".

Professor Mariyana Stoycheva Vartitova, MD, PhD, DSc

Plovdiv

14.05. 2024

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