

TO
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY
ANNOUNCED BY ORDER No. R-109-121/25.03.2024
OF THE RECTOR OF THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY-VARNA

STANDPOINT

by Professor Dr. Georgi Todorov Popov, MD

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REGARDING:

Competition for filling an academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of Higher Education 7, "Healthcare and Sports", Professional field 7.1. Medicine, in the scientific specialty "Infectious Diseases" - one, half-time position for the needs of the Academic Sector "Infectious Diseases and Parasitology", Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Dermatovenereology, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University - Varna and 1 full-time position for the First Infectious Diseases Clinic at University Hospital "St. Marina" EAD - Varna, announced in SG, issue 7 of 23.01.2024.

In implementation of Order No **R109-121/25.03.2024** of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna, in my capacity as a member of the scientific jury, I am assigned to present an opinion on the selection for an academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Infectious Diseases." The standpoint is prepared in accordance with the requirements of ZRASRB, PPZRASRB, and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at MU - Varna.

There is one candidate participating in the announced competition: **Dr. Iliyan Todorov Todorov, MD.**

I declare that I have no conflict of interest within the meaning of Art. 4, para. 5 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB). I do not have any joint publications with Dr. Iliyan Todorov.

1. Biographical data and qualifications of the candidate

Dr. Iliyan Todorov Todorov was born on 19.10.1987 in Gabrovo. He graduated from the Medical University - Varna in 2012 (Diploma, series MU-V, u.i. No. 001423, registration No. 001859/2012). He began his professional career as a medical assistant in the First Clinic of Infectious Diseases, University Hospital "St. Marina" EAD - Varna, and in the Department of "Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Dermatovenereology," at MU - Varna, after successfully

passing a competitive exam. He subsequently progressed through the administrative positions of assistant and chief assistant. In 2017, he acquired specialty "Infectious Diseases" (Diploma series MUV, No. 3835, registration No. 021003/07.07.2017).

In 2020, he earned a scientific and educational degree "Doctor" after defending a dissertation on the topic "Changes in Serum Amyloid A Protein in Some Infectious Diseases of Viral Etiology" (Diploma No. 388/22.05.2020).

The various aspects of Dr. Iliyan Todorov's professional development, presented in his biography, are reflected in the discussions of the activities carried out by the candidate in the current competition, presented in this opinion.

2. Scientometric indicators

For participation in the current competition, the candidate presents one habilitation thesis, a reviewed monograph ("Clinical Course, Severity, and Prognosis of COVID-19 in Patients with Comorbidities"), a dissertation for acquiring the PhD degree ("Changes in Serum Amyloid A Protein in Some Infectious Diseases of Viral Etiology"), and four related publications in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review or published in edited collective volumes, three publications in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned scientific databases, twelve publications in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review or published in edited collective volumes, and one full-text publication, outside the minimum scientometric requirements for occupying the position of "Associate Professor." Dr. Iliyan Todorov's authorship contributions to these scientific works are as follows: leading author in seven scientific reports, second author in six, and third or subsequent author in two scientific publications.

The scientometric data can be summarized and compared with the recommended quantitative requirements for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" at MU-Varna and are summarized in the following table:

Table 1. Minimum Required Points by Indicator Groups for "Associate Professor"

Indicator group	Content	"Associate Professor" (number of points)	Dr. Iliyan Todorov
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-
C	Indicator 3	100	100
D	Total of indicators from 5 to 9	200	200
E	Total of indicators from 10 from 12	50	50
Total:		400	400

Regarding indicators from groups A, C, and D, the data in the detailed table entirely match the data from the List of Scientific Works – monographs, full-text publications, and others after acquiring the academic degree "Doctor." It is evident that Dr. Iliyan Todorov's publication

activity meets the minimum requirement of 200 points for group D. The qualitative characteristics of the presented publications are of high scientific and applied-scientific level. Regarding the citations of Dr. Iliyan Todorov's scientific works, an academic reference, issued by the Library of MU - Varna, is attached to the documents, based on information provided by the candidate and automated information from international scientific databases, in accordance with the PPZRASRB and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at MU - Varna. Self-citations by all authors are excluded. A total of six citations are listed – two for indicator D10 (in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned scientific databases or in a monograph) – 15 points each = 30 points and four for indicator D12 (in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review) – 5 points each = 20 points. In total, the citations of Dr. Iliyan Todorov's scientific works amount to 50 points.

The individual **h-index** of the author is 4 according to Google Scholar.

3. Membership in National and International Scientific Societies

Dr. Iliyan Todorov is a member of the Bulgarian Society of Infectious Diseases (BSID) and the Bulgarian Medical Association (BMA).

4. Teaching Activities

Dr. Iliyan Todorov is a long-standing lecturer in "Infectious Diseases," having gone through all stages of teaching as an assistant and senior assistant. He conducts **practical exercises in infectious diseases for students in medicine, dental medicine, BEA/AES, public health inspectors, medical laboratory technicians, and nurses**. He also participates in the training of trainee doctors in the sixth year, as well as in **practical exams** in the specialty.

The reference for teaching workload, issued by the Medical University - Varna, attached to the general set of documents for participation in the **current competition**, shows that for the period from 2018/2019 to 2022/2023, Dr. Iliyan Todorov has **between 308 to 433 teaching hours** per academic year, with a standard (by decision of the AS of MU - Varna) of 220 hours.

5. Diagnostic and Therapeutic Activities

Dr. Iliyan Todorov has been working full-time for over 10 years at the Clinic of Infectious Diseases at UMHAT "St. Marina" – EAD, Varna. He performs independent diagnostic and therapeutic activities for inpatients, consults patients within the multidisciplinary hospital, as well as in other hospital facilities in Varna. He examines patients according to a pre-approved work schedule and in the diagnostic and admission offices of the Infectious Clinic, Varna.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of professional qualifications, scientific works, and teaching qualities, I believe that **Dr. Iliyan Todorov Todorov, MD, meets the requirements** of the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at MU - Varna **for occupying the academic**

position of "Associate Professor" for the needs of the Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology, and Dermatovenerology at the Medical University - Varna, the Department of "Infectious Diseases and Parasitology," and for the First Clinic of Infectious Diseases at UMHAT "St. Marina" – EAD, Varna. Dr. Iliyan Todorov fully meets the minimum scientometric requirements necessary for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the Medical University - Varna.

All this, along with my excellent personal impressions of the candidate, gives me a reason to confidently propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury my positive opinion that Dr. Iliyan Todorov, MD, should occupy the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Infectious Diseases" for the needs of the Department of Infectious Diseases, Parasitology, and Dermatovenerology, the Department of "Infectious Diseases and Parasitology" at the Medical University - Varna, and for the First Clinic of Infectious Diseases at UMHAT "St. Marina" – EAD, Varna.

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Standpoint prepared by:

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