

STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kiril Stefanov Slaveykov, MD

I-st Department of Internal Disease and General Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, Trakia University, Stara Zagora

Member of the academic committee appointed by order № R-109-227/26.07.2024 of the Rector of MU – Varna

On the competition for the academic position of "**Assoc. Prof**"

Professional field: **7.1. MEDICINE**

Specialty: **General Medicine**

Candidates: **Chief. Assist. Svetlana Hristova Hristova, MD, PhD**

For the needs of the Department of "General Medicine", Faculty of Medicine, Varna

The scientific committee, at its first meeting, reviewed the documents and admitted one candidate in the competition for "Associate Professor" in "General Medicine" – Chief Assistant Svetlana Hristova, MD, PhD. The set of documents submitted by Ch. Assist. Dr. Hristova for the competition are presented in accordance with the requirements; there are no missing documents, and the submitted evidence is correct, thorough, and in compliance with the requirements of the current regulatory documents related to the development of the academic staff. At its meeting, the scientific committee assessed the compliance with the minimum national requirements and decided to admit the candidate for substantive evaluation. This statement has been prepared in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for its Implementation, and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University – Varna.

Professional Development: Ch. Assist. Svetlana Hristova, MD, PhD, graduated in 1998 from the Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University of Varna with a Master's degree in the field of "Medicine". She obtained a specialty in "Internal Medicine" in 2007, and in 2011, a specialty in "Rheumatology". She successfully completed her thesis in 2019, and a year earlier, in 2018, she acquired a specialty in "General Medicine". She began her teaching career in 2005 as an Assistant at the Department of General Medicine, where she has progressed through all stages of academic development – Senior Assistant in 2008, and Chief Assistant in 2011, a position she currently holds.

Teaching Activity: Ch. Assist. Svetlana Hristova, MD, PhD, participates in the training of 4th-year medical students, as well as in the training of residents specializing in General Medicine. The covered topics and the acquisition of specific skills are entirely within the scope of the candidate's scientific interests, practical experience, and career, and include: health promotion activities, interdisciplinary approach, communication skills, screening, and prevention of socially significant diseases. All this shows that Ch. Assist. Svetlana Hristova, MD, PhD, has gone through the necessary stages and steps in her academic career, has established a reputation, and has proven herself among the teaching teams and students of the faculties where she has been invited for collaboration. Among the submitted documents, there is evidence of the candidate's

active and in-depth work with students and residents. From the submitted set of documents, it is clear that Ch. Assist. Hristova, MD, PhD, is proficient in English and Russian languages, has leadership abilities and motivation, management skills, excellent communication skills, strong personal adaptability, and teamwork ability in a multicultural environment. In conclusion, I highly appreciate the professionalism and pedagogical skills, as well as the theoretical and practical preparation of Ch. Assist. Svetlana Hristova, MD, PhD.

Scientific Research Activity: Ch. Assist. Svetlana Hristova, MD, PhD, has submitted a total of 23 scientific works for evaluation, including full-text publications classified as follows:

- Monograph/habilitation work on the topic: "Predictors and Prognostic Indices for Clinical Course and Treatment Effect in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis" – 1;
- Publications in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific databases – 6;
- Publications and reports published in non-referenced journals with scientific review – 18.

The main topics of the publications are interdisciplinary, focusing on obesity, rheumatological diseases, and patient communication, which are entirely within the scope of the scientific specialty of the announced competition and confirm the author's contributions. The main contribution comes from the multidisciplinary approach used in the scientific production and the smooth and elegant transition and collaboration between primary healthcare, represented by the general practitioner, and specialists from secondary care – cardiologist, pulmonologist, social worker, pediatrician, and rheumatologist. The candidate's publication activity supports her contributions and serves as a natural continuation of her dissertation and monograph work. A reference for identified citations shows 6 positive citations of the candidate's scientific and publication activity. I accept the presentation of contributions by scientific directions and priorities.

Conclusion: The submitted documents and facts prove that Ch. Assist. Svetlana Hristova, MD, PhD, is an established academic figure, expert, and specialist within the scope of the scientific specialty of the competition, who manages to combine teaching and scientific work with the expectations of the managerial positions she holds. Ch. Assist. Hristova, MD, PhD, has gradually gone through all stages of academic development, actively and responsibly participating in educational, scientific, and administrative activities. Based on the facts presented in the review, public and professional activities, opinions, and assessment of the candidate's moral and ethical qualities, I believe that the teaching and scientific activities of Ch. Assist. Svetlana Hristova, MD, PhD fully meet the requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in "General Medicine" for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University of Varna, and I give a positive evaluation. Based on LDASRB, its Regulations for Implementation, and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University of Varna, I propose that the members of the HONORABLE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE vote positively and suggest to the Academic Council of the Medical University of Varna to elect CH. Assist. Svetlana Hristova, MD, PhD, as "Associate Professor" in "General Medicine" in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports", professional field 7.1 "Medicine", for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University of Varna (announced in the State Gazette, issue 45/28.05.2024).

24.08.2024

Prepared by:

/Assoc. Prof. Kiril Slaveykov, MD, PhD/

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