



МЕДИЦИНСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ СОФИЯ

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REVIEW

by Prof. Georgi Neichev Onchev, MD,
from the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology
at the Medical University (MU) Sofia,
member of a scientific jury according to Order No. R-109-118/ 22.03.2024 of the Rector
of the MU-Varna

for holding a contest for the position of “Associate Professor”—one post in the area of
higher education 7. “Healthcare and Sports”, the professional field 7.1 “Medicine”, and
scientific specialty “Psychiatry” for the needs of the Department of Psychiatry and
Medical Psychology at the Faculty of Medicine of MU-Varna, based at the Third
Psychiatric Clinic, UMHAT “Sveta Marina”, announced in the “State Gazette”, issue
07/23.01.2024

1. General overview of the procedure

The only candidate who submitted documents to participate in the contest is Dr. Tatyana Ivanova Telbizova, MD, PhD. The documents and materials delivered by him have been submitted within the legally established deadline and **comply** with the procedure for occupying the academic position of “Associate Professor” according to the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Statutes for its implementation, and the Statutes for Development of the Academic Staff at the MU “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” Varna (last rev. 21.11.2022) and its appendices.

2. Brief biographical sketch and career development

Dr. Tatyana Ivanova Telbizova, MD, graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at MU-Varna in 2001. She has worked as a medical representative in various pharmaceutical companies and since 2011 as a psychiatrist at the Psychiatric Clinics of University Hospital “Sveta Marina”, Varna. She became Board certified specialist in “forensic psychiatry” in 2017 and in “psychiatry” in 2019. Since 2019, she has been a PhD student

at the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology at MU-Varna, successfully defending her dissertation on the topic “Specifics and dynamics of pain symptoms and experiences in patients with depression” for the acquisition of the academic degree PhD in 2021. Since 2018, she has been an honorary Lecturer, since 2019, a Lecturer, and since 2022, a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology at MU-Varna, conducting practicals in both psychiatry and medical psychology at the University and at the Medical College-Varna. She holds an additional master’s degree in “Business Administration” and has other additional qualifications from specialized courses.

3. Research papers

The presented scientific publications, excluding those for the PhD degree, consist of 1 monograph and 9 full-text articles. Seven of the articles are published in Bulgarian journals referenced in global databases (Web of Science—Core Collection and Scopus), and 2 are published in non-referenced journals. The publication listed as a “full-text one ... beyond the minimum scientometric requirements for the position of Associate Professor” remains out of this list. The total score for indicators D 5-9 is 235 points, thus exceeding the mandatory minimum of 200 points.

The total number of citations of the candidate’s publications is 6, excluding self-citations. Two of the citations are in referenced journals, while the others are in non-referenced ones. The total score for this indicator is 55.

A main merit of the publications is the fact that the candidate is the sole author or the first author in all of them. The low number of publications and the absence of ones in journals with an impact factor (IF) are not incompatible with the requirements of the Statutes for the Development of Academic Staff at the Medical University of Varna for the respective academic position.

Thematically, the publications are mainly related to the psychological, psychopathological, and existential dimensions of pain experiences and their connection to depression and anxiety. One of them presents an original survey among neurologists and psychiatrists on the relationship between chronic pain and depression, while the others are developments from the dissertation work or reviews. There are also two descriptions of clinical cases with exogenous psychoses, accompanied by detailed literary references on the topics. The language is precise and academically sound

The habilitation work “Pain in the context of mental disorders” (2023) is a continuation and expansion of the dissertation’s topic in the realm of mental illness. The monograph is highly informative and reveals the complexity and bidirectional causality of the connections between pain and psychiatric symptoms in various groups of mental disorders. The multidimensionality of pain experience makes the work interdisciplinary.

The examples with specific clinical cases are relevant and useful, adding illustrative, specificity, and clinical density to the text.

4. Scientific contributions

The contributions are in the areas of psychiatric and phenomenological aspects of pain and the interrelationships between chronic pain and depression. The multidisciplinary approach to pain treatment is justified. An original model for studying patients with chronic pain and depression using quantitative and qualitative methods is presented, and an attempt is made to operationalize the “deconstruction” of experiences related to pain in patients with chronic pain and depression, towards hierarchically lower levels for description and analysis.

5. Teaching activity

Dr. Telbizova has teaching experience of 2 academic semesters as an honorary Lecturer and 4 years and 4 months as a regular Lecturer. From 2019 to 2023, her teaching workload was 223 and 231 academic hours per year.

6. Clinical activity

Dr. Telbizova has diverse clinical experience in general psychiatry pathology, which intersects with psychosomatic and general medicine, as well as medical psychology. The candidate has established a professional identity. Although clinical practice is not a specific criterion for habilitation, these qualities are an integral part of the comprehensive assessment.

7. Participation in scientific events and organizations

Dr. Telbizova has participated in 14 national and European conferences and congresses, with 7 scientific presentations delivered in 5 of them. She has active scientific profiles on Google Scholar, Research Gate, and ORCID.

8. Summarization and conclusion

The table below presents summarized quantitative data from various areas of the candidate's scientific research activities, compared to the requirements of the respective indicator groups according to the Statutes for Development of the Academic Staff at the MU Varna (Appendix 1) for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the area 7. Healthcare and Sport, professional field 7.1. Medicine—clinical subfield. It is evident that the candidate's actual parameters satisfy those of the national law and the University's Statutes.

Table. Compliance of the candidate's actual indicators for scientific activities with the minimum requirements of the Statutes for Development of the Academic Staff at the MU Varna (Appendix 1) for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the area of 7. Healthcare and Sport, professional field 7.1. Medicine—clinical subfield

Groups of indicators	Quantitative requirements of the SDAS MU Varna	Real candidate's indicators
A 1	50	50
C 3	100	100
D 5-9	200	235
E 10-12	50	55
F	0	0
Total sum of points	400	440

The overall assessment of the candidate's scientific and teaching activities demonstrates that he meets the requirements of the DASRBA and the Statutes for Development of the Academic Staff at the MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" Varna for the position of Associate Professor in the field of 7. Health Care and Sports, professional field 7.1 Medicine—Clinical subfield. This provides a basis for a positive opinion on the appointment of Dr. Tatyana Ivanova Telbizova, MD, PhD to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the area of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sport", professional field 7.1. "Medicine", specialty "Psychiatry".

Prof. Dr. Georgi Onchev

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