

STATEMENT OF OPINION

By Prof. **Vanya Alexandrova Gerova-Nankova**, MD, PhD

Gastroenterology Clinic "Academician Tasho Tashev"

UMBAL "Tsaritsa Joanna - ISUL", Sofia

Regarding: competition announced in the State Gazette № 07 /23.01.2024, for the occupation of the academic position "professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, specialty "Gastroenterology" - one, 0.5 part-time position for the Department of "Anatomy and Cell Biology", Faculty of Medicine, and 1 full-time position for the "Gastroenterology" Clinic at University hospital" St. Marina" - Varna.

By decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine (Protocol No. 18/11.03.2024) and by order of the Rector of the MU - Varna Prof. Dimitar Raykov, MD, PhD, DSc, No. R-109-93 /21.03.2024 I was elected as a member of the Scientific Jury, and at the first meeting of the Scientific Jury (Protocol No. 1/04.04.2024) I was appointed to prepare an opinion on the procedure. The only candidate in the competition is **Assoc. Prof. Antonia Yordanova Atanasova, MD, PhD, DSc**. The competition procedure was correctly followed. For the preparation of the opinion, Assoc. Prof. A. Atanasova, MD, PhD, DSc has submitted all necessary documents in time according to the requirements of the announced competition.

Assoc. Prof. Antonia Yordanova Atanasova, MD, PhD, DSc. graduated from Medical Academy, Higher Medical Institute-Varna in 1986 with excellent results. She started her career as a resident in the internal medicine department of District Hospital-Shoumen, and since 1987 he has been successively an assistant, senior and chief assistant in the Department of Internal Medicine, University of Gastroenterology, Medical University-Varna. From December 2015 until now he is an associate professor in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology; associate professor at the Department of Internal Medicine, Department of Gastroenterology – Medical University, Varna.

Assoc. Prof. A. Atanasova has acquired specialties in "Internal Diseases" (1994) and in "Gastroenterology" (1996). She has certificates of professional qualification and highly specialized activity in diagnostic and therapeutic gastrointestinal endoscopy, abdominal conventional and Doppler ultrasound, as well as interventional and endoscopic abdominal

ultrasound in gastroenterology. Her impressive high qualification is also related to the numerous specializations she has completed, mainly abroad. He is fluent in French, English and Russian.

Scientific research activity and scientometric indicators

Assoc. Prof. A. Atanasova has a doctorate from the National Academy of Sciences in the specialty "Gastroenterology" since 2014, based on a defended dissertation on the topic "Clinical assessment of patients with ulcerative colitis - a modern approach". In 2021, she also obtained the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" after defending a dissertation on the topic: "The serum expression of microribonucleic acids in patients with chronic inflammatory bowel diseases."

During her entire career, Associate Professor A. Atanasova has produced a total of 201 scientific works. They include: dissertation for PhD "doctor", one monograph; 3 participations in chapters of books, textbooks and collections; dissertation for the scientific degree "Doctor of Science"; 98 full-text publications. A total of 97 abstracts have been published in collections. 15 of the publications are in journals with an impact factor - 3 full-text and 12 abstracts; total impact factor 101.6.

To participate in the current competition, Assoc. Professor Atanasova presents 92 publications, realized after occupying the academic position of "associate professor": dissertation for the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences"; 68 full-text publications (58 in Bulgarian and 10 in foreign scientific journals) and 24 published summaries of presented reports and scientific communications at national (4) and international (20) scientific forums.

The scientific activity of Associate Professor A. Atanasova after taking the academic position of "associate professor" includes a total of 71 participations in other scientific forums (52 in the country and 19 abroad) and 23 participations in schools, training courses and practices.

Prof. Atanasova is an independent author in 19 (17.48%) of the scientific works, first author in 25 (23%), second author in 27 (24.84%) and third author in 11 (10.12%). The fact that in 65% of the scientific publications Assoc. Atanasova is an independent, first or second author, represents a serious argument for her leading authorship in the presented scientific production, as well as in the obtained results and contributions.

According to the attached reference from the Library at Medical University-Varna, a total of 22 citations of Assoc. Prof. Atanasova's scientific works were found after her election as an associate professor - 20 of them in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information and 2 in non-refereed journals with peer review.

The extremely wide variety in the main thematic directions in the scientific research and applied scientific activity of Assoc. Prof. Atanasova is related to her direct participation in the diagnostic-therapeutic and clinical activity, her high qualification and professional competence. Her scientific works are devoted to various important areas in gastroenterology.

The main scientific contributions are systematized in 10 main areas: Inflammatory bowel diseases; Chronic liver diseases; Metabolic syndrome, overweight and obesity; Microribonucleic acids - application in inflammatory bowel diseases; Vitamin D and its impact on gastroenterological diseases; Preventable infectious diseases; Therapy of gastroenterological diseases; Necroptosis in inflammatory bowel diseases; Genetic diseases - modern diagnostics; Clinical cases.

Assoc.Prof. Atanasova was a member of the scientific jury in 6 procedures for acquiring the the scientific and educational degree "Doctor" - in 4 with the preparation of a review and in 3 - with a statement of opinion. She also participates in examination committees for the acquisition of a specialty in gastroenterology, University Hospital "Tsaritsa Yoanna-ISUL" Sofia; for state and semester exams in internal medicine, English language training and Bulgarian language training, Medical University-Varna.

Teaching and learning activity

Dr. Antonia Atanasova is a well-established and respected teacher, with over 36 years of extensive teaching experience, with an extremely diverse nature of teaching and teaching activities in internal medicine, cytology, histology and embryology and gastroenterology - in the form of practical exercises, seminars and lectures for students and interns -doctors of medicine, students of dental medicine, students - public health inspectors.

In addition, Assoc. Prof. Atanasova conducts seminars for doctors specializing in gastroenterology and practical exercises in conventional and interventional abdominal ultrasound and endoscopy. Thanks to her exceptional erudition and teaching experience,

Assoc. Prof. Atanasova is among the preferred lecturers on a variety of topics before

various specialists in national and regional meetings, conferences, symposia, academies, schools.

From the presented report it can be seen that during the last 4 academic years Associate Professor A. Atanasova has an average annual study load of 210.25 hours with a standard of 110 hours.

After the habilitation, Assoc. Prof. A. Atanasova was the scientific supervisor of three doctoral students, two of whom successfully defended their dissertations and obtained scientific and educational degree "Doctor" in 2022 and 2023, respectively.

Assoc.Prof. Atanasova participated in 4 projects - 3 national (in 2 of them as a leader) and one international. In addition, she is an active member and participant in joint developments of the scientific interdisciplinary group on "Gastro-entero-hepatoprotection and therapy" within the framework of the Scientific Research Institute at the University of Varna=

From the report presented by Assoc. Antonia Atanasova for the fulfillment of the minimum scientometric requirements (MSR), it is clear that the sum of the points for the individual indicators exceeds 3.5 times the points necessary for occupying the academic position "professor".

Group of indicators	MSR	Applicant reference
A1	50	50
B1	100	100
B4	100	336.5
Г	200	884.31
Д	100	310
E	100	295
Total	550	1975. 81

Community service

Assoc.Prof. A. Atanasova is a member of Bulgarian and foreign professional and scientific organizations - Bulgarian National Society of Gastroenterology with Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and Abdominal Echography, Bulgarian Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, Bulgarian Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and

Nutrition (co-founder), ECCO - European Crohn's Colitis Organization, Bulgarian Medical Association. Assoc. Prof. Atanasova has active scientific profiles in Google Scholar, Scopus Author and ResearchGate.

Conclusion

With her high professional qualification and extremely rich clinical experience, expert activity, authoritative scientific production, diverse educational and teaching activities and public-scientific commitment, Associate Professor Dr. Antonia Yordanova Atanasova, MD, PhD, DSc. is among the leading specialists in gastroenterology in our country, with an established authority both among the scientific community and among patients with various chronic diseases.

Its scientific indicators fulfill and repeatedly exceed the mandatory requirements and criteria for occupying the academic position of "professor", in accordance with Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"-Varna.

Based on the above, I confidently give **my positive assessment** and recommend the respected members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the election of **Antonia Yordanova Atanasova, MD, PhD, DSc.** for occupying the academic position of "professor" in the scientific specialty "Gastroenterology", for the needs of the "Anatomy and Cell Biology" Department, Faculty of Medicine and the "Gastroenterology" Clinic at the "St. Marina" University Hospital - Varna.

10.05. 2024r

Prof. Vanya Geroва-Nankova, MD, PhD

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