

STATEMENT

**by Assoc. prof. Svetlana Peneva, PhD
Medical College, Medical University of Varna**

About: Competition for a Professor academic position, announced in the State Gazette, issue 7/23.01.2024, in the Public Health Management specialty, professional sphere 7.4. Public Health, field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports; for the needs of TS of Medical Laboratory Assistant, Medical College at Medical University of Varna, with the following candidate:

Assoc. prof. Emiliya Petrova Georgieva, PhD

By decree No. P – 109-90/21.03.2024 of the Rector of the Medical University of Varna and based on protocol decision No. 83/26.02.2024, I was appointed a member of the Scientific Jury, and by protocol No. 1/04.04.2024 from a Scientific Jury session, I was tasked with writing a statement as an internal member on a procedure for the acquisition of a Professor academic position in the Public Health Management specialty, professional sphere 7.4. Public Health, field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports; for the needs of TS of Medical Laboratory Assistant, Medical College at Medical University of Varna.

Based on art. 4, paragraphs 2 and 5, from the Regulations to the Law on the Development of Academic Staff of the Medical University of Varna, the Committee for approval of the participation of candidates in academic position competitions at the Medical University of Varna, established by ordinance No. P – 100-198/14.03.2024, allows the participation of the candidate, Assoc. prof. Emiliya Petrova Georgieva, PhD. Assoc. prof. Emiliya Petrova Georgieva, PhD, has submitted all necessary documents for the competition, according to the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff and the Regulations of the Medical University of Varna on its application. Based on the aforementioned legal papers, all procedural requirements related to announcing the competition, the deadline for document submission, and the Scientific Jury election have been satisfied.

Assoc. prof. Emiliya Georgieva was born in 1976 in Varna. In 1995, she graduated from the Medical College at the Medical University of Varna with a Medical Laboratory Assistant major and acquired a Professional Bachelor degree. In 2008 she obtained a Bachelor's degree in Health Care Management, and in 2013—a Master's degree with the same major, at the same university.

In 2010, she received her Master's degree in Marketing from the Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen. In the 2015–2016 period, she did her PhD at the Department of Nursing Care of the Medical University of Varna, majoring in Health Care Management. In 2016, she defended successfully her dissertation titled: *Provision of Medical Laboratory Services in General Medical Practices in Northeastern Bulgaria*, acquiring her PhD. In 2023, after successfully passing her state exam, she became an officially recognized specialist in Public Health Care. Assoc. prof. Georgieva has built upon her knowledge and skills by attending numerous courses and trainings. In the 22.05–02.06.2023 period, she specialized in Good Practices When Using Biolaboratory Technologies program in Torino, Italy.

Her professional development began in 1995 in St. Marina University Hospital in Varna as a medical laboratory assistant, a job position she held until 2008. In the 2008–2012 period, she was a medical representative of laboratory equipment, consumables, and reagents for Sofbiolife-Biomedica, Ltd., Sofia. In 2012, she became a lecturer at TS of Medical Laboratory Assistant at the Medical College, Medical University of Varna. In 2018, she acquired the Associate Professor academic degree in the same structure. In 2021, she was elected Vice-Director of Career Development, Quality, and Accreditation at the Medical College, Medical University of Varna, a position she is still holding. Assoc. prof. Georgieva is actively participating in the preparation and conduction of successful accreditation procedures of the programs offered at the Medical College in Varna.

The candidate is a member of the national Anti-Doping Center, the Bulgarian Public Health Association, the Bulgarian Association of Health Professionals in Nursing, and the National Association of Prevention and Therapeutic Training. Assoc. prof. Georgieva was a member of a research team, part of a completed project, and is currently a member of an ongoing project and a manager of another ongoing one.

She was the scientific supervisor of two PhD students who have successfully defended their dissertations and acquired their degrees. At the moment she is mentoring three PhD students and one graduate student.

The teaching activity of the candidate includes lectures and practice classes in the *Trends in Laboratory Diagnostics—POCT* discipline, practice classes in *Clinical Laboratory*, and training practice in *Clinical Laboratory* and *Microbiology*.

The manuscripts submitted for participation in the competition, reflecting the candidate's scientific work, are 39, adhering to an academic reference form, proving the compliance with the minimal requirements for the acquisition of the Professor academic degree, according to the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria from 2022.

Distribution of the works by type:

Dissertation—1;

Monograph—1;

Book chapter—1;

Publications in journals and books of proceedings—34;

Publications outside the minimal scientometric requirements—2.

Total points from the G 5–7 indicators: 349.06 of 200 required.

There are two titles of full-text publications outside the participating works that are part of the minimum requirements for the acquisition of the Professor academic degree.

The specific professional and research interests of Assoc. prof. Georgieva are reflected in her varied scientific production and are focused on an interdisciplinary approach for public health improvement by implementation of innovative methods and technological solutions. The presented works provide the needed publicity of the scientific contributions and author claims. They are current and applicable in practice.

The main fields of the scientific publications are:

1. Introduction of innovative technological solutions for improving the time and access to medical laboratory services.
2. The role of the medical laboratory assistant as part of the interdisciplinary team during the diagnostic and treatment process.
3. Laboratory diagnostics as part of an integrated approach in the diagnostics and management of chronic conditions.
4. Studying the antimicrobial effect of natural products (essential oils), alone and in combination with established antibacterial medicinal forms.
5. New approaches in the fight against antimicrobial drug resistance.

Contributions in Field 1 (A1; G8.2; G8.6; G8.11; G8.13 and G8.14)

The scientific research work of the candidate is focused on improving the access of the population to laboratory services, implementing new methods and approaches for diagnostics of different conditions. Presented are the advantages of the implementation and application of new methods and point-of-care testing (POCT) in laboratory diagnostics, aiming at the increase of diagnostic possibilities. The submitted monograph, titled: *Rapid Tests, qPCR Systems, and Mobile Applications—the Key in the Fight Against the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic*, is current and very useful. It summarizes the use of rapid diagnostic methods based on the development of microfluidics, nanotechnology, and other spheres related to the evolution of POCT methods for the establishment of infectious diseases. The role of mobile technologies in providing better and timely health care is studied.

The contributions in Field 1 are of theoretical and applicable in practice character.

Contributions in Field 2 (G7.10 and G8.1; G8.4; G8.5; G8.7; G8.10; G8.16 and G8.18)

The place of the medical laboratory assistant as part of the health care team, performing specific tasks, observing ethics, and taking on professional responsibility, is studied. The significant dynamics, related to the migration of specialists, mean that those working in this field must adapt to the dynamic criteria of the market and constantly update their competences. The numerous regulations and legal limitations, stemming from the specifics of the health systems, are described. They make the health professional market accessible only to participants with high professional qualifications.

The contributions in Field 2 are of theoretical and informative character.

Contributions in Field 3 (B3; G8.3; G8.9; G8.12; G8.13; G8.15; G8.17 and G8.22)

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the significance of diagnostics and the need of development of rapid tests for timely control of various infectious agents. The main care, necessary in chronic disease patients, is described. In order to receive and provide it, the patients and their families need specific skills, psychological support, and material resources. There is a summary of the international experience in rapid testing and diagnostic methods with the aim of disease control and limiting the spread.

The contributions in Field 3 are of methodic and scientifically applied character.

Contributions in Field 4 (G7.1; G7.2; G7.3; G7.4; G7.5; G7.6; G7.11; and E-1; E-2)

The survey among menopausal women in Varna municipality showed an increase in the consumption of products of natural origin (Oenotherabiennis oil, Glycine max, Cimicifuga racemose extract, etc.) in order to manage the symptoms of menopause, helping to overcome the hormonal imbalance. The results from the study show that the tested Thymus vulgaris essential oils possess strong antimicrobial properties and can, in the future, be a new source of natural antiseptics with application in the pharmaceutical industry.

The contributions in Field 4 are of scientific and applicable in practice character.

Contributions in Field 5 (G7.7; G7.8; G7.9 and G8.19; G8.20; G8.21)

The combination of established antibiotic agents and essential oils from the Lamiacea family increases the interest in studying their potential synergistic effect. The unnecessary and prolonged use of antimicrobials has an unfavorable impact on patients' results, while improper antibiotic therapy increases the antibiotic resistance. Controlled studies have shown the benefits of using procalcitonin (PCT) algorithms for guiding the decisions to start and/or cease antibiotic therapy.

The contributions in Field 5 are of theoretical and applicable in practice character.

Assoc. prof. Georgieva's active participation in scientific forums, a total of 48 participations (national and international), has contributed to the good visibility of her work. An academic reference list is submitted, certifying that Assoc. prof. Georgieva has registered active scientific profiles in Google Scholar, Research Gate, ORCID, Researcher ID, and eLibrary.

Citations reflecting the scientific activity of the candidate as follows:

Citations or reviews in scientific publications, peer-reviewed and indexed in notable international databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes—5;

Citations in monographs and collective volumes with peer review—1;

Citations or reviews in non-indexed journals with peer review—3.

Total points: 100

The scientific activity and the presented original work of Assoc. prof. Georgieva indubitably show that she possesses profound theoretical knowledge, professional skills, and conducts her scientific research with the necessary precision and analytic skills.

In conclusion: Based on the fulfilment of the minimum national requirements, indicated in the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations to the Law on the Development of Academic Staff of the Medical University of Varna, the established contributions of the scientific work, high professional skills, and managerial skills of the candidate allow me to provide a positive statement and to convincingly suggest to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to give a positive vote and propose to the Rector of the Medical University of Varna that Assoc. prof. Emiliya Petrova Georgieva, PhD, obtain the Professor academic degree in the field of Public Health Management for the needs of TS of Medical Laboratory Assistant at the Medical College, Medical University of Varna.

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Author.

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(Assoc. prof. Svetlana Peneva Angelova, PhD)