

To: Department of Career Development Medical University – Varna

REVIEW

by

Prof. Dr. Valentina Christova Madjova, MD, PhD,

Department of Family Medicine, Medical University – Varna

1. General Presentation of the Procedure According to the Order of the Rector of MU-Varna № 109-202/16.04.2025, Protocol from Faculty Council № 38/14.04.2025, and Protocol from meeting №1 of the Scientific Jury, I have been appointed as its Chairperson and reviewer. Regarding: Competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the specialty "Nephrology", professional direction 7.1. Medicine, field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, with candidate Dr. Aleksandar Aleksandrov Petrov, MD, in compliance with the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and the Rules and Procedures for Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at MU-Varna.

The candidate's documents have been submitted within the deadline and approved by the Admission Committee for the competition, meeting the requirements of LDASRB and the Rules and Procedures for Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at MU-Varna.

The provided set of documents, both in paper and electronic format, fully complies with the requirements for the procedure of acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor" according to the regulations of MU-Varna. I have no conflict of interest regarding this competition.

2. Biographical Data and Professional Development of the Candidate Dr. Aleksandar Aleksandrov Petrov was born on July 8, 1990, in Varna. He completed his secondary and higher education in Varna. After graduating with a Master's degree in Medicine in 2015 from MU-Varna, he started working as a resident physician at the Clinic of Nephrology, University Hospital "St. Marina" – Varna, and one year later, he was appointed as an Assistant at the Second Department of Internal Medicine at MU-Varna.

In 2020, Dr. Aleksandar Petrov obtained his specialty in Nephrology, and a year later successfully defended his PhD dissertation on the topic: "Level of Awareness Among Patients with CKD Regarding Kidney Transplantation and the Importance of Awareness in Choosing Renal Replacement Therapy" (2021).

He is proficient in English and German languages. Dr. Petrov has attended several courses in nephrology and kidney transplantation in Italy, Turkey, and Austria. At the time of this

competition, Dr. Petrov has over 9 years of professional experience as a physician and 4 years as a specialist nephrologist.

3. Scientific Research Activities: Evaluation of Quantitative and Qualitative Scientific Indicators For the current competition, Dr. Petrov presented scientific works for the period from 2016 to 2025 – a total of 14 publications: • Habilitation thesis – monograph (131 pages) – 1 • Scientific articles published in journals indexed with SJR and/or IF (Scopus/Web of Science) – 11 • Scientific articles refereed in Web of Science – 0 • Articles published in non-refereed scientific journals or conference proceedings without IF and SJR (non-indexed) – 3

Out of the 14 presented publications, Dr. Petrov is the first author of 4, and second or third author of 9, demonstrating his independence in scientific problem formulation, presentation of results, and their publication. Dr. Petrov participates in the competition with 5 citations (excluding self-citations), all in refereed journals.

Scientific Forums: Dr. Petrov has participated in 19 scientific forums.

Evaluation of Contributions to Scientific and Clinical Activities: PhD Dissertation: Dr. Aleksandar Petrov's dissertation addresses an important and practical nephrological issue – chronic kidney disease (CKD), a major global public health problem. A crucial reason for this research was that, until 2021, no comprehensive study had been conducted in Bulgaria on CKD patient awareness regarding kidney transplantation and its importance for selecting renal replacement therapy.

Monograph: "In Search of 'Liquid Biopsy': Urinary Proteomics as a New Approach in the Diagnosis and Prognosis of Chronic Kidney Disease" reveals new aspects for the early diagnosis of kidney damage.

Dr. Petrov's main research contributions fall within several key areas:

1. Chronic kidney disease and related complications
2. Genetics in nephrology – clinical aspects
3. The future of medicine: The role of 3D technologies and bioartificial organs in healthcare
4. Clinical manifestations in glomerular and tubulointerstitial diseases

In summary, Dr. Petrov's scientific research encompasses a broad range of modern medical approaches, including innovations in diagnostics (contrast-enhanced ultrasound) and urinary proteomics for early detection of kidney damage. An important part of his research includes clinical challenges related to autoimmune diseases and acute kidney injury, necessitating individualized and innovative therapeutic approaches.

4. Teaching and Educational Activities: Dr. Petrov has been an Assistant at MU-Varna since 2016. He delivers lectures and practical exercises in nephrology to fifth-year medical students in both Bulgarian and English.

According to the MU-Varna reference (Outgoing №112-55/12.03.2025), Dr. Petrov's teaching workload for the last 5 years totals 1087 academic hours:

Academic year	Lectures (Bulgarian/English)	Practical exercises (Bulgarian/English)	Total hours per year
2019/2020	0/0	0/198	198
2020/2021	0/0	0/210	210
2021/2022	0/0	3/206	209
2022/2023	0/2	0/212	214
2023/2024	0/4	0/252	256

5. Clinical and Diagnostic Activities: Dr. Aleksandar Petrov actively participates in clinical, diagnostic, expert, and consultative activities at the Second Department of Internal Medicine, University Hospital "St. Marina". He has more than 9 years of clinical experience, with extensive expertise in nephrology and kidney transplantation patient management.

Other Activities: Dr. Aleksandar Petrov is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, Bulgarian Society of Nephrology, Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, and others. He is also part of the editorial board of the journal "Current Nephrology."

Conclusion: Dr. Aleksandar Petrov, MD, possesses the necessary qualifications and meets the minimum requirements for scientific research and teaching activities to hold the academic position "Associate Professor". The total points from all scientometric indicators, professional biography facts, scientific publications, clinical, diagnostic, and teaching activities of Dr. Petrov fully meet the legal requirements outlined in LDASRB, its Implementation Regulations, and the Regulations of MU-Varna. This clearly provides grounds to vote "YES" and strongly recommend that the Scientific Jury positively vote for awarding Dr. Aleksandar Aleksandrov Petrov, MD, the academic position "Associate Professor in Nephrology" for the needs of the Second Department of Internal Medicine and the Clinic of Nephrology at University Hospital "St. Marina".

23.06.2025

Reviewer:

Заличено на основание чл. 5,
§1, б. „Б“ от Регламент (ЕС)
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(Prof. Dr. Valentina Madjova, MD, PhD)