

## **OPINION**

By Assoc. Prof. Milena Krasimirova Bozhkova, MD, PhD

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MU-Varna

**Subject:** Participation for the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education: 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.4. Public Health, specialty "Public Health Management (Clinical Microbiology)" for the needs of the Department of Microbiology and Virology at the Faculty of Medicine, MU-Varna, Laboratory of Clinical Microbiology at the University Hospital "St. Marina", according to an announcement in the State Gazette, No. 85/08.10.2024

### **Normative bases of the opinion**

On the basis of Order No. R-109-440/05.12.2024. of the Rector of MU-Varna I have been elected as a member of the scientific jury in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", announced in State Gazette No. 85 of 08.10.2024. I am informed that the only candidate in the competition is Dr. Denis Sunay Niyazi, MD, PhD, Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Microbiology and Virology at MU-Varna

### **Professional and creative biography of the candidate**

Dr. Denis Niyazi was born on 17.07.1993 in Razgrad. In 2018 he graduated with a Master's degree in Medicine from the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna. He began his professional development immediately afterwards as an Assistant professor at the Department of Microbiology and Virology at the Medical University – Varna and the Laboratory of Microbiology at the University Hospital "St. Marina - Varna. He currently holds the academic position of Chief Assistant Professor in the same department. He is the author of a dissertation for the acquisition of PhD degree in Medicine with the topic "Study on bacteremia and invasive mycotic infections in patients after autologous and allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation" with scientific supervisor Prof. Temenuga Stoeva, MD, PhD, DSc. He specializes clinical microbiology in the period 2020-2023. From 2024 after successfully passing the exam, he

has a specialty in Clinical Microbiology. Dr. Denis Niyazi has a Master's degree in Public Administration with a specialization in Health Management from year 2023. In 2024 he published an monography entitled "Invasive Aspergillosis in Patients after Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation"

### **Regulatory documentation for participation in the competition**

Dr. Niyazi has submitted all documents required by law for participation in the competition: CV, diploma for educational and scientific degree "Doctor", diploma for acquired specialty, list and copies of publications and scientific papers, list and evidence of participation in scientific forums in Bulgaria and abroad, list of citations of scientific publications, certified by the Library of MU-Varna, as well as an author's reference for the contributions of the published scientific works.

### **Scientific production of the candidate**

Dr. Niyazi presents an author's reference for scientific papers, distributed as follows: dissertation - one issue on the topic "Study on bacteremia and invasive mycotic infections in patients after autologous and allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation", habilitation work - monography on "Invasive aspergillosis in patients after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation", ed. of MU – Varna, 2024, full-text scientific publications totaling 21 issues, in 11 of which Dr. Niyazi is the leading first or only author. The candidate's participation in scientific forums in Bulgaria and abroad is a total of 17 (5 international and 12 national) in the period 2019 – 2024, and the participation in research projects – 3.

**Compliance with the requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor" to the candidate according to the minimum national requirements set out in the Law on Associate Professors and Associate Professors and according to the mandatory requirements at MU – Varna.**

For his participation in this competition, Dr. Niyazi presents:

- Dissertation for the acquisition of the degree of Doctor on the topic "Study on bacteremia and invasive mycotic infections in patients after autologous and allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation" (indicator A – **50 points**)

- Habilitation work - monograph on "Invasive aspergillosis in patients after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation" - on indicator B3 - **100 points**.
- Scientific publications in journals, refereed and indexed in world-famous databases (Web of Science/ Scopus) - a total of 17 issues under indicator G7 - **319.71 points**.
- Publications and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review or published in edited collective volumes – a total of 3 under indicator G8 – **65 points**.
  - A total of 384.71 points were **presented by indicators from group D** with a required 200.
- Citations in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases (Web of Science/ Scopus) according to criterion D10 – 16 and citations in non-refereed scientific journals according to indicator D12 – 3. The total number of citations of Dr. Niyazi's publications is 19, equivalent to **255 points**.
- Full-text publication in scientific journals and collections, outside the minimum scientometric requirements for occupying the Associate Professor's Degree – 1, equivalent to **5 points**.

The contributions of Dr. Niyazi's scientific works are summarized in the following main areas:

- Infectious Complications and Antimicrobial Resistance in Patients with Hematological Malignancies and Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation
- SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19
- Mycotic infections
- Others

The in-depth study of the presented problems, the analytical presentation of a large volume of informative data, the result of the candidate's own research, the introduction of modern molecular genetic methods for research in routine diagnostic algorithms in clinical microbiology

are among the main contributions in these areas. For each of them, Dr. Niyazi presents clearly substantiated evidence, reflected in his publication activity.

### **Teaching and Learning Activities**

Dr. Niyazi is a respected lecturer at the Department of Microbiology and Virology at MU-Varna, who has consecutively held the positions of "Assistant" and "Chief Assistant" and actively participates in the teaching activities in conducting practical seminars (in Bulgarian and English) for students of Medicine, Dental Medicine and Pharmacy with a total workload significantly exceeding the regulatory requirements of MU-Varna. In addition, he was unanimously elected by the staff of the Department of Microbiology and Virology as an administrative assistant and successfully performs this activity at present.

### **Personal impressions**

I know Dr. Niyazi as an established physician and specialist in the field of clinical microbiology, with in-depth knowledge in all its key aspects. Throughout the entire period of his professional development, he has demonstrated in an undeniable way high professionalism and expertise in this dynamically developing medical specialty.

### **Conclusion**

The professional qualification, research and teaching activities of Dr. Denis Sunay Niyazi fully comply with the requirements of the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna. The publications submitted for participation in the competition fully comply with the quantitative criteria for occupying this position. I declare that I will vote positively for the election of Dr. Niyazi to occupy the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific specialty "Public Health Management (Clinical Microbiology)" and I call on the members of the scientific jury to do the same.

20.01.2025

Varna

Sincerely:

Заличено на основание чл. 5,  
§1, б. „В“ от Регламент (ЕС)  
2016/679

/Assoc. prof. Milena Bozhkova, MD, PhD/

