

STATEMENT

From

Prof. Dr. Svetla Vasileva Staykova, MD, PhD

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Clinic of Nephrology and Dialysis, UMHAT "St. Marina" - Varna

Regarding: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health Care and Sports, professional direction 7.1 Medicine and specialty "Nephrology", for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine, Second Department of Internal Medicine, US by Nephrology, Dialysis and Toxicology and to the Clinic of Nephrology at UMHAT "St. Marina" EAD, Varna, announced in the State Gazette, issue 15/21.02.2025.

The statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the LDASRB and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

Documents have been submitted for participation in the competition by Chief Assistant Dr. Snezhana Atanasova Atanasova, MD, Chief Assistant at the Second Department of Internal Medicine and administrative physician responsible for "Dialysis Treatment". Dr. Atanasova has presented all the necessary documents according to the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna. Upon my detailed review of them, I did not find any violations of the procedure for participating in the competition for the AD "Associate Professor". I declare that I have no conflict of interest with the candidate.

Brief biographical data and career profile

Dr. Snezhana Atanasova Atanasova was born in Varna, graduating from III Natural Sciences and Mathematics High School "Academician Metodiy Popov" - Varna in 2007, and from MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" Varna in 2013. She began her specialization in "Nephrology" as a specialist doctor at the Dialysis Clinic in 2015, successfully passing the exam for the specialty in 2019. Since January 1, 2020, she has worked as a nephrologist at the Clinic of Nephrology and Dialysis at UMHAT "St. Marina", and since 2023 also as an administrative physician in charge of "Dialysis Treatment".

Since 2018, after a competition, she has been a regular assistant at MU - Varna in the Second Department of Internal Medicine. Since 2019, she has been a regular doctoral student at MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna. Her dissertation on the topic "Assessment and dynamic monitoring of hyperphosphatemia - predictor of bone-mineral disorders in dialysis patients" was defended in April 2022, earning her the GSD "Doctor" degree and appointment as "Chief Assistant."

Scientific research and teaching activities of Dr. Snezhana Atanasova, MD, can be summarized as follows:

The scientific interests of Dr. Snezhana Atanasova, MD, are focused on innovative biomarkers in CKD and bone-mineral disorders in patients with CKD, psychological problems of patients during adaptation to extracorporeal treatment, renal anemia in CKD-HD, and patient-staff relationships in HD center.

Dr. Snezhana Atanasova has published 30 scientific works: 19 in co-authorship and 11 as a sole author. She is also a co-author of two manuals, one in English and one in Bulgarian, and a member of the editorial board of the journal "Current Nephrology" - MU-Varna. Participation in clinical studies with scientific-clinical significance

- Anemia Studies in CKD: Erythropoiesis via a novel PHI Daprodustat – Non-Dialysis (ASCEND-ND) – GlaxoSmithKline
- DIALIZE-Outcomes – AstraZeneca
- Bax Duo - Pacific – AstraZeneca

The presented works of Dr. Snezhana Atanasova for participation in the competition total 25 and reflect the scientific research activity in the period 2015-2024.

Distribution of scientific works by type:

Dissertation work – 1 piece

Textbooks, aids – 2 pieces – manuals for students in Bulgarian and English

Publications in journals and collections – 25 pieces

Publications in Bulgarian – 23 pieces

Publications in foreign language (English) – 2 pieces

Distribution of scientific works by authorship:

As a sole author – 2 pieces

In co-authorship – 23 pieces, including:

first author – in 10 publications

second author – in 7 publications

third author – in 5 publications

fourth author – in 3 publications

This confirms her leading role in the process of scientific and publication activities and simultaneously serves as evidence of her team commitment and ability to work collectively. Of the presented articles, 25 are published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned scientific databases (Web of Science, Scopus) with IF and/or SJR.

Contributions related to the main directions of scientific works
Dr. Snezhana Atanasova has scientific work that can be summarized in several main directions with significant theoretical and practical contributions:

DIRECTION 1:

The contributions have a theoretical character, proving that full communication between patients and medical staff improves comprehensive patient care and contributes to psychosocial adaptation to chronic kidney disease.

DIRECTION 2:

The contributions are practical and prove that dynamic monitoring of serum concentrations of PTH, BAP, osteocalcin, and vitamin D in patients with chronic kidney disease has significant diagnostic-prognostic value, allowing stratification of patients with kidney damage, observation, and guidance towards specific therapeutic behavior. The new biomarkers - Sclerostin and Galectin-3 - were introduced for the first time in Bulgaria for diagnostic-prognostic purposes for analyzing contemporary bone biomarkers for chronic kidney diseases.

DIRECTION 3:

The role of conducting intradialytic aerobic exercises in hemodialysis patients using specialized adapted cycling equipment was evaluated. For the first time in our country, such a study was conducted, which positively influenced the emotional status of patients with CKD.

DIRECTION 4:

The contribution has a theoretical character, proving that patients with chronic kidney disease experience fear, anxiety, insomnia, suspicion, despair, and depression. Active involvement of the dialysis team in addressing the psychological problems of patients during adaptation to extracorporeal treatment improves their quality of life.

DIRECTION 5:

For the first time in our country, the effect, safety, and efficacy of the intravenous slow-acting iron preparation Monofer in patients undergoing hemodialysis were monitored. These publications have a practical-applied direction and original contribution.

Citations:

Dr. Atanasova presents a citation report from the Central Medical Library for the number of citations in editions indexed in world databases - 3 and in editions with scientific reviewing that are not referenced in world scientific databases - 17.

Teaching activities:

Since joining as an assistant at MU-Varna and currently as a chief assistant, Dr. Snezhana Atanasova participates in conducting practical exercises for fifth-year students, lectures for students specializing in "nephrology," as well as doctoral students and interns. After obtaining her doctorate in 2022, she also teaches part of the nephrology lecture course for fifth-

year students, primarily in English. She actively participates in semester examination committees at MU-Varna.

CONCLUSION

Chief Assistant Dr. Snezhana Atanasova Atanasova, MD, is a physician, established educator, and researcher with ambition in nephrological scientific research, deeply applying her knowledge in clinical and scientific-teaching activities. This defines the candidate as a complete clinician with extensive practical experience.

In conclusion, Chief Assistant Dr. Snezhana Atanasova Atanasova, MD, possesses all the necessary qualities and meets all the requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor" according to the LDASRB and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna. Based on the above, I recommend that the members of the scientific jury appointed with Order No. R-109-198/16.04.2025 of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna award Chief Assistant Dr. Snezhana Atanasova Atanasova, MD, the academic position of "Associate Professor."

June 19, 2025

Prof. Dr. Svetla Vasileva Stoykova, MD, PhD

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