

OPINION

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A competition for occupying the academic position “Associate Professor” in the scientific field of Epidemiology (03.01.29), announced for the needs of the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology at the Medical University of Varna and advertised in the State Gazette: issue 59/26.07.2022.

Applicant for the competition is **Dr. Miglena Asenova Kolarova-Dimitrova, PhD,MD**, a Senior Assistant Professor at the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology at the Medical University of Varna.

The current review is in accordance with the requirements of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, the Regulations for occupying the respective academic position of Medical University of Varna and the decisions made by the appointed academic jury.

Career profile analysis of the candidate

Dr. Miglena Asenova Kolarova-Dimitrova, PhD,MD acquires her qualification degree in Medicine in 1996 at the Medical University of Varna.

In 2015 after winning an open competition, she is appointed as an Assistant Professor at the Medical University of Varna. She undertakes research in the field of HIV and AIDS and defends her doctoral thesis titled “State and Perspectives of the Epidemiological Supervision and Control of HIV/AIDS in Varna District”, for which she is awarded a PhD degree in 2019. From 2020 she holds the position of Senior Assistant Professor at the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology.

Her specialty in “Infectious Diseases Epidemiology” is certified in 2012.

Evaluation of the scientific work of Dr. Kolarova-Dimitrova, PhD, MD for her overall academic development

The publication activity of Senior Assistant Professor **Dr. Miglena Asenova Kolarova-Dimitrova, PhD**, as an author or a co-author is as follows:

Original articles in Bulgarian and foreign medical journals - 15.

Twelve of them are published after she is awarded a MD degree in 2019. Five of them are published in peer reviewed medical journals in Bulgaria and foreign countries (none of them published in journals with an impact factor (IF).

Three of the articles address the problem of nosocomial infections. The author does a thorough epidemiological analysis based on her own research. Her conclusions and recommendations are aimed at implementation of specific procedures in the medical field so as to improve the quality of work.

Articles published in peer reviewed medical compendia or compendia with reviewed reports from scientific activity, published in full text with references and a summary in a foreign language; as well as publications in unreferenced medical journals after acquiring MD - 7.

Dr. Kolarova-Dimitrova presented her work in **1 monograph** titled “Rabies - The Challenge” (2022). The author justifies her choice of topic with the argument that despite the successes in the fight against rabies, to this day the disease has not been eradicated by medicine. Dr. Kolarova examines in full the problem of rabies, taking into account the morbidity and the potentiality for prevention from ancient to modern times and concludes that: “Pasteur might have created a vaccine, but has not eradicated the disease.” In this way the author points us to the opportunities to limit the intensity of the epizootic process and interrupt the mode of transmission contributing to the emergence of cases within the human population.

My recommendations for the candidate include expanding on the problems in infectious disease epidemiology, increasing the quantity of scientific output and precision of the scientific style and terminology used in future scientific studies.

Positive citations in Bulgarian or foreign scientific sources are as follows:

Citations throughout the professional career: 6, all of which are from Bulgarian sources.

Dr. Kolarova-Dimitrova is a **member** of authoritative scientific and professional organizations.

The number of participations in national scientific events is 23.

Complex evaluation of teaching experience

Dr. Kolarova-Dimitrova's teaching experience includes teaching the discipline “Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases” and taking part in the examination of the students at Medical University of Varna.

The provided academic workload for the last 3 academic years is as follows:

Academic year 2018/2019 - 477 total hours

Academic year 2019/2020 - 447 total hours

Academic year 2020/2021 - 400 total hours

Conclusion

All of the minimum requirements, conditions and criteria have been fulfilled in accordance with the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations on the conditions and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at the Medical University of Varna.

On the basis of the aforementioned, I recommend to the members of the Scientific Jury, appointed with Order N P-109-382/26.07.2022, that **Dr. Miglena Asenova Kolarova-Dimitrova, PhD, MD** acquires the academic position “**Associate Professor**” in the scientific field of “Epidemiology” at the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Faculty of Public Health of the Medical University of Varna.

Asso.Prof.Y.Mitova-Mineva

