

## STATEMENT

from

**Assoc. Prof. Dr Kalina Stoyanova Pavlova, MD, PhD**  
*Head of the Department "Infectious Diseases, Parasitology and Dermatovenereology"*  
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### About:

The competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, speciality "Epidemiology" - one, for the needs of the Academic Sector "Epidemiology", Department of "Hygiene and Epidemiology", Faculty of "Public Health", according to an announcement published in the State Gazette No. 59/26.07.2022

According to Order No. R-109-382/26.09.2022 of the Rector of MU-Varna and the Decision of the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, I am appointed to prepare the present statement.

In the current competition, documents for participation are submitted by a single candidate – chief assistant Dr Miglena Asenova Kolarova - Dimitrova, MD, PhD. The candidate has submitted all the required documents, prepared following the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and the Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University " - Varna University of Varna (MU-Varna). The deadlines for their submission have been met. I have no comments regarding the procedure for the current competition.

### BIOGRAPHICAL DATA AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Dr M. Kolarova was born in 1972 in the city of Varna. In 1996, she obtained a master's degree in medicine at the MU-Varna. Worked successively as a regional therapist in the ORBK-I VPO, Shumen (1996 - 1997), resident doctor in The hospital for active treatment-Varna, Military Medical Academy and UMHAT "St. Marina" Varna (1997 - 2003), resident doctor of the Medical Center "Dr Emilova" (2003 - 2009), senior and chief inspector in Directorate "Anti-epidemic control" of the Regional Health Inspection-Varna (2009 – 2015). She acquired two medical specialities - "Internal Diseases" in 2003 and "Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases" in 2012. After successfully passing a competitive exam in 2015, she acquired the academic position of "assistant" at the "Hygiene and Epidemiology" department of MU-Varna, where she currently works. In 2019, after defending a dissertation on the topic "State and prospects of the epidemiological surveillance and control of HIV/AIDS in the Varna Region", she obtained a Doctorate degree, and in 2020 and the academic position of "chief assistant". Since 2020, she has been working in parallel as a hospital epidemiologist at SBAGAL "Prof. Dr Dimitar Stamatov"-Varna.

Dr M. Kolarova is a member of the Bulgarian Scientific Society for Epidemiology of Infectious and Non-Infectious Diseases, the Bulgarian Public Health Association, and the Bulgarian Medical Union.

Over the years, Dr M. Kolarova has improved her knowledge by attending numerous postgraduate courses. She speaks English and Russian at an outstanding level. She has excellent computer skills.

## SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ACTIVITY

### 1. Scientific metrics

In fulfilment of the requirements for the current competition (according to academic reference No. 635/03.08.2022 issued by the Library of MU-Varna), Dr M. Kolarova is presented with the following scientific production:

**Paragraph A.1.** Dissertation thesis for acquiring the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” on the topic “Status and prospects of the epidemiological surveillance and control of HIV/AIDS in the Varna region”, MU-Varna, 220 pages - 50 points.

**Paragraph B.3.** Habilitation thesis (monograph) on “Rabies. The challenge” - 163 pages - 100 points.

The monograph was prepared solely by the applicant and is a complete and systematic presentation of an actual scientific problem. It has two scientific reviewers and meets all other requirements of the Rules for implementing the LDASRB.

**Paragraph G.7.** Publications and reports published in scientific papers, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases (WoS, Scopus) - 5 publications - 120 points.

Paragraph G.7 points exceed the minimum requirement of 60 points for clinical specialities.

**Paragraph G.8.** Publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or collective volumes - 5 publications – 95 points.

The sum of indicators D.5-9 is 215 points, exceeding the minimum according to the LDASRB.

**Paragraph D.11.** Citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review - 4 issues - 40 points.

**Paragraph D.12.** Citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific review - 2 issues - 10 points.

The sum of indicators D.10-12 is 50 points, corresponding to the minimum according to LDASRB.

In addition, two more full-text publications in scientific journals are presented, exceeding the minimum requirements for acquiring the academic degree “associate professor” and all the mandatory scientific information for acquiring the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”.

Of the scientific production presented in the competition, 5 are the sole work of the candidate. In 6 publications, she is the first author, or in a total of 78.6% (11/14 items) of the presented materials, Dr M. Kolarova is the sole or leading author. In 3 works, Dr M. Kolarova is a second (2 items) or subsequent (1 item) co-author.

To the scientific activity of the candidate, we can add the active participation of Dr M. Kolarova in 7 international, 12 national and 4 regional (or a total of 23) congresses, conferences, and scientific sessions, where a total of 46 reports and posters were presented with her participation.

The visibility and citation availability of the applicant’s research is confirmed by the presence of active scientific profiles in Google Scholar, Web of Science, and Research Gate and scientific identifiers such as ORCID and Scopus Author ID.

The presented scientific production of Dr M. Kolarova meets and exceeds the state requirements for acquiring an academic degree “Associate Professor” in a professional field 7.1. Medicine, according to LDASRB and the Regulations for its implementation of the MU-Varna.

## **2. Scientific fields and contributions**

The main scientific topics in the publications of Dr M. Kolarova, cover versatile problems from the spectrum of the epidemiology of infectious diseases such as sexually transmitted infections, zoonoses, infections related to medical care, occupational risk, etc.

In the personal reference attached to the competition documents, the following scientific directions are formed:

- Sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, HBV
- Zoonoses, rabies
- Epidemiology of other infectious diseases
- Healthcare-associated infections. Occupational risk

For each of the selected fields of the candidate's research activity, I accept the submitted list of contributions of an original and practical nature, as well as those enriching the existing scientific knowledge.

## **TEACHING ACTIVITY**

According to the presented certificate No. 099-2510/ 08.08.2022, Dr M. Kolarova has more than six years of teaching experience with an average load in the last five years of more than 400 teaching hours (Reference No. 112-343/04.08.2022). This fulfils and exceeds the minimum requirements of the LDASRB and the Rules for its implementation in the MU-Varna. As a university teacher, Dr M. Kolarova, educates students in the specialities - medicine (Bulgarian and English language training), dentistry (Bulgarian and English language training), protection and control of public health, health management, nurse, midwife, health care management, medical laboratory technician, public health inspector and kinesis-therapy, in the structures of the MU, the branches in Sliven, Veliko Tarnovo and Shumen, and Medical College-Varna. She also teaches intern doctors within the state internship in Epidemiology.

She participates in the teaching of the "Tropical Medicine" elective course for students in the 5th year of medicine (Bulgarian and English language training). She has developed a new elective course, "HIV/AIDS Epidemiology", for students of the specialities of medicine and nursing.

Dr Kolarova actively participates in developing and modernizing the curricula for theoretical and practical training in the disciplines with the subject of the epidemiology of infectious diseases and participates as a member of the relevant examination committees.

## **CRITICAL NOTES**

I have no critical remarks about the candidate and the submitted documents.

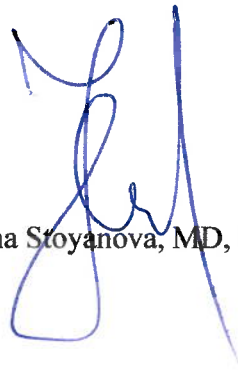
## **CONCLUSION**

Chief Assistant Dr Miglena Asenova Kolarova- Dimitrova, MD is an established professional in the field of epidemiology, with excellent theoretical training and proven qualities. As a result of her work in the past as an inspector and currently as a hospital epidemiologist, she has acquired invaluable practical experience, which she successfully incorporates into her research and teaching activities. She is a teacher with many years of experience, respected by her students and colleagues.

The documents presented in the competition fully meet the mandatory requirements and scientific metric criteria according to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation at the MU-Varna. As a member of the scientific jury, I strongly support the candidature and vote "POSSITIVE" for granting the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific speciality "Epidemiology" to Dr Miglena Kolarova, MD, PhD.

01.11.2022 г.  
Varna

**Statement prepared by:**  
Assoc. Prof. Dr Kalina Stoyanova, MD, PhD

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