

Statement

by Prof. Dr. Margarita Dimova Gospodinova-Bliznakova, MD

Department "Infectious diseases, parasitology and dermatovenerology"

Medical University Varna

Subject: Competition for the occupation of an academic position "associate professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and sports", professional direction 7.1. "Medicine", specialty "Epidemiology", 1 full-time position for the needs of the Academic Sector of Epidemiology, Department of "Hygiene and Epidemiology", Faculty of "Public Health", MU-Varna.

Procedure information

The competition for the occupation of an academic position "associate professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and sports", professional direction 7.1. "Medicine", specialty "Epidemiology" for the needs of the Academic Sector of Epidemiology, Department of "Hygiene and Epidemiology", Faculty of "Public Health", MU-Varna was announced in SG No. 59/26.07.2022. by Order No. R-109-382/26.09.2022 by the Rector of the MU-Varna, I have been appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury and according to the decision of the first absentee meeting, I present this statement.

For participation in the competition, documents were submitted by only one candidate – Dr. Miglena Asenova Kolarova-Dimitrova MD, who meets all the requirements and the regulations of the applications of Law on the development of the academic staff of the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) as well as the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the Medical University – Varna.

Professional data of the candidate

Dr. Kolarova obtained a master's degree in medicine at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna in 1996. She worked successively as a ward therapist in CHAT-I IPD, Shumen (1996 - 1997), a resident doctor-specialist in HAT at the MMA and MHAT "St. Marina" (1997 - 2003), resident doctor of the Medical Center "Dr. Emilova" (2003 - 2009), senior and chief inspector in the Directorate "IDS", department "AEC" of the RHI – Varna (2009 – 2015). In 2003, she acquired a specialty in internal medicine, and in 2012 – in "Epidemiology of infectious diseases". After successfully passing a competitive exam in 2015, she took the academic position of "assistant" at the "Hygiene and Epidemiology" department of the Medical University – Varna, where she currently works. In 2019, after defending a dissertation on the topic "State and prospects of epidemiological surveillance and control of HIV/AIDS in the Varna region", acquired the ESG "doctor". Since 2020, she holds the academic position of "chief assistant" and works as a hospital epidemiologist at SHOAT "Prof. Dr. Dimitar Stamatov"-Varna.

Dr. M. Kolarova, MD 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 Association.

Evaluation of the candidate's quantitative and qualitative indicators

A total of 14 scientific works were submitted for participation in the competition. One dissertation, one monograph and 12 full-text publications in journals and anthologies, which reflect the candidate's scientific-research activity in the period 2017-2022. In three of them, Dr. Kolarova is an independent author, in six of them she is the first author, in one – she is a second author, in two – third and subsequent author. Dr. Kolarova's publication activity includes 55 scientific works in various areas of epidemiology. 37 of the publications are in Bulgarian, and 18 are in a foreign language. The comparison of Dr. Kolarova's data with the national minimum requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor" shows that she meets them, and in some points exceeds them /table 1/. Dr. Kolarova's scientific works have been cited six times.

Table 1.

Group of indicators	Content	Ass. Professor required	Ass. Professor available
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-
C	Indicator C3	100	100
D	Total D7-D9	200	215
E	Total E10-E12	50	50

Outside of the minimum scientometric requirements, Dr. Kolarova has submitted two full-text publications in non-refereed/indexed scientific journals. To the candidate's research activity, we can add participation in 23 congresses, conferences and scientific sessions, where 46 reports and posters were presented on the issues of epidemiology of infectious diseases.

Major scientific contributions

The scientific works submitted for participation in the competition and the results of the research activity of Dr. Miglena Kolarova are thematically divided into the following scientific areas:

- ✓ Sexually transmitted infections. HIV/AIDS - A_1; C_7-5; D_8 -1, D_8-2
- ✓ Zoonoses, rabies - C_3; D_7-4; D_8-5
- ✓ Epidemiology of infectious diseases - A_1; C_3; D_8-2; D_8-4
- ✓ Infections associated with medical care. Occupational hazard - A_1; D_7-1; D_7-2; D_7-3; D_8-1

I accept as valid the contributions to the indicated directions of the conducted scientific-research activity, presented by Dr. Kolarova in the relevant author's reference.

Educational activity

The academic workload of Dr. Miglena Kolarova is well represented and includes active participation in the education of students in medicine, dentistry, public health protection and control, health management, nursing, midwifery, healthcare management, medical laboratory assistant, public health inspector and kinesitherapy in the structures of MU-Varna. According to the report presented, the academic workload in the last three years is more than 400 study hours, which exceeds the 360 hours required by law. Dr. Kolarova has developed a freely chosen discipline program "Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS" for medical and nursing students. The candidate takes an active part in the conduct of the examinations and in the development and updating of epidemiology study programs.

Conclusion

The candidate, Dr. Miglena Kolarova, MD fully meets the requirements of LDASRB as well as the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the Medical University – Varna, regarding the occupation of the academic position of "associate professor". Dr. Kolarova is a proven epidemiologist with extensive experience, sufficient volume, quality indicators and real theoretical-practical contributions of scientific activities. Considering the above, I vote "YES" and recommend the respected members of the Scientific Jury to vote positive for the election of Dr. Miglena Asenova Kolarova-Dimitrova MD to occupy the academic position of "associate professor" in the scientific specialty "Epidemiology" for the needs of the Academic Sector of Epidemiology, Department of "Hygiene and Epidemiology", Faculty of "Public Health", MU-Varna.

17.11.2022

Varna

Statement prepared by:

Prof. Dr. Margarita Dimova Gospodinova-Bliznakova, MD 