

STATEMENT

From

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REGARDING

The procedure for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor" in a competition announced in the State Gazette No. 53 / 12.06.2020 and Order of the Rector of MU - Varna №109 / 304 / 07.08.2020.

According to Protocol # 1 from the meeting of the selected scientific jury, held on 24.08.2020, I was assigned to prepare a Statement.

Dr. Darina Nikolova Miteva - Mihailova, MD is admitted to the competition after a review of the documentation and evaluation of her scientific production.

Based on the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at MU Varna, I express the following opinion:

Brief biographical data

Dr. Darina Miteva graduated in medicine in 1990 at the Medical University -. After graduation, she has worked in several hospitals. Since December 2000 she has been

appointed as a pulmonologist at the 2nd Lung Clinic of the University Hospital "St. Marina" Varna, and since October 2012 she has been an assistant in lung diseases. Since June 2017 she has been working as a Senior Assistant in the Instructional and Research Sector on Lung Diseases and Allergology at the First Department of Internal Medicine and Senior Assistant at the Clinic of Pneumology and Phthiisology at the University Hospital "St. Marina" – Varna. In 2015 she enrolled in a doctoral programme with independent instruction. She defended her dissertation entitled *The role of comorbid diseases and some biochemical markers in determining the severity and prognosis of community-acquired pneumonia*. In 2020 she published a monograph, "*Pneumonias: Current Aspects of Diagnosing, Treatment and Prevention*", of which Dr. Miteva is the single author. She has one participation in a research project funded by the Science Fund of MU Varna. She is a member of the Bulgarian Society of Lung Diseases, the European Respiratory Society and the Heart-Lung Association. She is fluent in German, English and Russian.

Research

Dr. Darina Miteva presents herself in the competition with 36 scientific papers. After acquiring her doctoral degree and the administrative position of a senior assistant, she has published 3 articles in indexed media (SCOPUS / WOS), as one of the articles is in print. To these can be added five abstracts from posters presented at the annual congresses of the European Respiratory Society and published in the European Respiratory Journal. Dr. Miteva has published 18 articles in non-peer-reviewed journals and is an independent author in the published monograph and in four of the articles.

The candidate's main research interests are lung infections and pneumonias in particular.

In what represents mainly retrospective studies, she analyzes the role of concomitant diseases in the course and outcome of community-acquired pneumonia (CAP), the risks they bear in the course of the disease, as well as for the development of complications and death. The latter topics contain contributory elements and enrich the data for Bulgaria. In several of her studies, the candidate assesses the importance of biomarkers showing the severity and prognosis of CAP. Data on CRP, procalcitonin and proadrenomedulin have been published. The data for the last marker are among the first in Bulgaria. The candidate also studies the frequency of elevation of D-dimer in the course of pneumonias, reviews the severity scales and the treatment, and, in addition, analyzes the mortality from nosocomial pneumonias. Yet another accent in her work are the risk factors for the development of antibacterial resistance. Dr. Miteva summarizes the data from her research in a monograph, where the modern understandings of the diagnosis, course, complications and treatment of pneumonias are presented in detail.

The second direction in the scientific work of the candidate are the bronchoobstructive diseases.

Research on this topic includes analyzes of the pathogenic microflora in the sputum of patients with COPD, the role of concomitant bronchiectasis, the prevalence of emphysema, the assessment of symptoms in these patients. The effects of a 6-months of azithromycin treatment in patients with COPD with frequent exacerbations as well as the importance of CRP were monitored.

In several review publications, Dr. Miteva discusses current recommendations for the diagnosis and treatment of bronchial asthma in the latest editions of GINA. Also,

her review articles on pulmonary thromboembolism and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis have educational orientation.

Dr. Miteva has participated in 12 scientific congresses, conferences and symposia in Bulgaria and 6 abroad.

The assessment of the weight of the scientific publications of Dr. Miteva is as follows:

A. Dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor of science" (PhD) – 50 points.

B. Published monograph – 100 points.

C. Articles in indexed scientific journals and in non- indexed peer-reviewed journals – 424 points.

D. Citations in indexed scientific journals and in non- indexed peer-reviewed journals – 80 points.

Total 654 points

Teaching load

Dr. Miteva is a senior assistant at Instructional and research sector in lung diseases and allergology at the First Department of Internal Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine. Her average teaching load for the last five school years is 238.8 academic hours per year against the standard in MU - Varna of 220 hours.

Conclusion

Given the above, it is clear that Dr. Darina Miteva is a clinician with many years of practice and experience, as well as an instructor and scientist. She meets the minimum requirements for being awarded the academic position "Associate Professor".

I propose to the members of the scientific jury to vote positively and award the academic position "Associate Professor" to Dr. Darina Miteva.

20. 10. 2020 г.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Diana Petkova, Ph.D.