

STATEMENT

By Prof. Dr. Rinaldo Savov Shishkov, PhD, MD

Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" Varna

Member of the Scientific Jury

About: Competition for the occupation of the academic position Assistant Professor in the field of higher education area 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine; Specialty - Forensic Psychiatry, for the needs of Faculty of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology and First Clinic of Psychiatry at UMHAT "St. Marina" - Varna, announced in State Gazette No. 62 / 06.08.2019.

The one candidate that submitted documents for the position is Dr. Svetlin Varbanov Varbanov, PhD, senior assistant at the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology and Psychiatrist at the Psychiatric Clinics of the MHAT "St. Marina" - Varna.

I. Biographical data

Dr. Svetlin Varbanov Varbanov graduated in 2005 at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" Varna, Faculty of Medicine.

In 2012, he started a specialization in Forensic Psychiatry, which he successfully completed in 2016. Since 2017 he specializes in psychiatry.

Since 2013 he has been working at the First Psychiatric Clinic in UMHAT "St. Marina."

He acquired PhD degree in 2018 at the Medical University of Varna, with a dissertation on "Cross-cultural analysis of suicide attitudes".

Since 2016, she has been an assistant professor of forensic psychiatry at the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology at the University of Medicine, and since 2018 he is a senior assistant in forensic psychiatry at the same department.

He is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association and the Bulgarian Psychiatric Association.

II. Evaluation of research and application

A. Quantitative data

The total publication activity of Dr. Varbanov submitted for review is: 32 scientific publications - 1 monograph, 1 book based on the PhD thesis, 7 book chapters, 23 full-text publications in scientific journals. Of the publications, 16 are in Bulgarian and 7 are in English.

The "Minimum State Requirements" report contains twenty publications and the other 12 are presented in supplementary information, which exceeds the "Minimum Requirements stipulated by law.

B. Habilitation work

The monographic work "Forensic Psychiatric Expertise in Family Law" was published in 2019. The monograph is an in-depth study of current issues related to parenting, in the context of psychiatry and forensic psychiatry. It also presents the challenges of forensic psychiatric assessment in disputes between parents or children at risk, examining in detail the impact of the most common psychiatric disorders on parenting and the impact these disorders have on family and children. Another problem addressed by Dr. Varbanov is the one related to the child custody; the topic of child abuse, as well as the phenomenon of "child murder" is discussed in detail. Particular attention has been paid to the popular at the court, but still controversial in the scientific community, "parental alienation syndrome". The research made is a significant contribution of scientific and practical nature. The monograph is of a highly interdisciplinary nature and is of interest to a wide range of specialists - both in the field of psychiatry and forensic psychiatry, as well as for psychologists, judges, lawyers, social workers. The monograph also presents two reviews required by the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University -Varna.

C. Publication activity

1. The textbook chapters presented by Dr. Varbanov are: 3 in Psychiatry - a textbook for nurses and midwives, and 4 in the textbook "Psychiatry - a textbook for students and trainees", published by MU-Varna.

Topics include psychosexual disorders, childhood and adolescent psychiatric disorders, impulse control disorder, aggression.

2. The publications presented are in the following thematic areas:

The first area - "Suicide"

Includes dissertation for obtaining a doctorate degree, published book based on dissertation and 10 publications (7.1., 7.2., 7.3., 8.1., 8.2., 8.3., 8.6., 8.11., 8.12 8.15). A tool for assessing suicide attitudes in English and Bulgarian has been developed. The scientific surveys target suicidal attitudes in different countries and socio-cultural communities. The relationship between suicidal attitudes and depressive and anxiety experiences, history of suicidal ideation and suicide attempts, and with some socio-demographic characteristics has been analyzed. Other aspects of the area studied are motor vehicle suicide, suicide risk assessment, suicide prevention.

Contributions in this area are related to:

- Testing and validation of a new methodology for the study of suicidal attitudes in Bulgarian and English samples;
- Establishing a correlation and influence between suicidal behavior and attitudes towards suicide; this can be used for cross-cultural studies in the field as well as in suicide prevention programs;
- Conceptualizing a model for the study of suicide attitudes, allowing comparisons of suicidal attitudes across groups and communities;
- Exploring the specificity of the cultural peculiarities of the suicidal attitude and establishing similarities and differences between Bulgarian and foreign samples;
- Finding adverse life events and situations that could most likely provoke suicidal behavior;
- Establishing a relationship and influence between anxiety and depression and suicidal ideation;
- Exploring the suicide by using motor vehicles.

Second area - Forensic Psychiatry

It includes the monograph presented and three other publications (8.10., 8.13, 8.14). The forensic psychiatric aspects of suicidal behavior have been examined and analyzed in the PhD thesis.

Contributions in the field of Forensic Psychiatry:

- For the first time in Bulgaria a thorough analysis of the psychiatric aspects of parenting and family law has been made;
- Examples of good and bad practices have been presented and suggestions have been made to optimize the expertise;
- Critical analysis of the theory of "Parental Alienation Syndrome" and its use in Bulgarian case law and expert practice has been made;
- The aspects of protective behavior in expert practice have been explored.

Third area - Depression, Anxiety, Stress

Includes three publications (8.5, 8.7, 8.8). Evaluation of stress levels and their relation to anxiety and depressive symptoms among students at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov ", Varna has been made. The results of a screening study of depression and anxiety disorders in general practice are discussed, and the relationship between depression and endocrinological pathology is discussed.

Fourth area - "Alcohol and drugs use among adolescents"

One publication examines the role of personality and family factors in adolescent alcohol and drugs use, as well as the assessment of some risk and protective factors (8.4).

Fifth area - Schizophrenia

In schizophrenic psychosis, the first schizophrenic episode-the algorithm of behavior and pharmacological treatment were investigated (8.9).

Sixth - Other thematic areas:

- Assessment, in Bulgarian population, of psychometric characteristics of children and adolescents, through established and newly created scales used in similar multinational studies;
- Neurocognitive disorders and psychiatric comorbidity in HIV patients;
- Use of atypical antipsychotics in childhood.

D. Scientific activity

Dr. Varbanov has presented reports at BPA Annual Conferences, as well as at the 114th and 115th Congress of the Japan Association of Psychiatry and Neurology (JSPN). He has been a participant and leader of multinational teams for the study on cross-cultural aspects of suicide.

E. Scientific Awards

He is the recipient of the 2017 JSPN Fellowship Award from the Japan Association for Psychiatry and Neurology for his work in the field of suicide.

It can be seen from the above that the applicant successfully combines his scientific interests in different fields. He works well in a team, including an international team, with specialists in his and related fields as well as with specialists in the broader medical science field. International and transcultural studies are presented in the publications, which makes Dr. Varbanov's scientific work significant and comparable in national and international aspect, for which he has received international recognition.

Scientometric indicators

The presented scientific activity fully covers the "minimum scientific requirements" for the candidates for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Region: 7. Health and sport; Professional area 7.1. Medicine. For the "D" and "E" sections of the "minimum scientometric requirements", the requirements are exceeded.

From the full-text publications presented by Dr. Varbanov, 7 are in English and 16 in Bulgarian. He has a total of 21 citations, of which 4 citations in scientific publications - refereed and indexed in world-famous scientific information databases and 17 citations in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

III. Teaching activity

Dr. Svetlin Varbanov has more than 3 and a half years of teaching experience at MU "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" - Varna, and at the moment is a Senior Assistant at the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology. He teaches students in medicine, dental medicine, pharmacy and health care professionals

both in psychiatry and in medical psychology in Bulgarian and English. He is in charge for the elective course in Medical Psychology for medical students in English.

IV. Evaluation of the clinical, treatment and expert activity

Dr. Varbanov is a medical doctor with eight years of psychiatric experience at the First Psychiatric Clinic at the University Hospital "St. Marina. " He is a consultant in forensic psychiatry with extensive experience. He has produced over 40 forensic psychiatric expert reports in criminal and civil cases.

V. Conclusion:

According to those presented by Dr. Svetlin Varbanov Varbanov, PhD contest materials, I believe that the candidate meets the conditions for occupying an academic position "Associate Professor" in accordance with the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation. The importance of the presented scientific activities, the level of practical and theoretical training and the excellent teaching activities of the applicant are the reasons for giving a positive opinion on the occupation of the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, 7.1. Medicine and Specialty Forensic Science ,

Varna

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Prof. Dr. Rinaldo Shishkov, PhD, MD

