

**Review**  
from  
**Assoc.Prof Petar Milchev Petrov, MD, Ph.D**  
Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology  
Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” Varna

In relation to a published competition to acquire the academic position “Associate professor” in State Gazette, issue 62/06.08.2019 and a decision from Protocol №9/20.09.2019 of the Faculty Council of Faculty of “Medicine” at MU – Varna. Pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 1 and 2 of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), Article 57, paragraph 1 and 2 of the Regulations for the Application of ADASRB, Article 6, paragraph 1, Article 127, paragraph 1 and 2 of the Regulations to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff at Varna Medical University, Order of the Rector of MU – Varna №R-109-332/07.10.2019 and Protocol №1 from a Meeting of the Scientific Jury.

**Regarding:** Competition for acquiring the academic position “Associate Professor” in the area of Higher Education 7. Health and Sports, in professional direction 7.1 Medicine, and specialty “Forensic psychiatry” for the needs of the Department of “Psychiatry and Medical Psychology” for the English teaching programme and First psychiatric clinic at UMHAT “St. Marina” Varna, published in “State Gazette”, issue 62/ 06.08.2019.

One candidate has submitted documents in the legal timeframe – **Dr. Svetlin Varbanov, PhD**

### **I. Biographical data**

Dr. Svetlin Varbanov graduated medicine in 2005 at Medical University “Prof.Dr Paraskev Stoyanov” Varna. After graduation he worked as a medical representative and regional manager in international pharmaceutical companies.

In 2012 he began his residency in Forensic psychiatry in Medical University “Prof.Dr Paraskev Stoyanov” Varna.

Since 2013 he has been working as an Physician in First Psychiatric clinic UMHAT “St. Marina”.

In 2016 he acquired a specialty in Forensic Psychiatry in Medical University “Prof.Dr Paraskev Stoyanov” Varna. Since 2016, he is appointed as Assistant professor in Forensic psychiatry with the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology at Medical University “Prof.Dr Paraskev Stoyanov” Varna, and since 2018 is Chief Assistant Professor in Forensic Psychiatry at the same department.

He defended the academic degree “Ph.D” in 2018 at Medical University “Prof. Dr Paraskev Stoyanov” Varna with a dissertation on “Cross-cultural analysis of suicidal attitudes”.

Since 2017 he is a resident in Psychiatry. He is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association and the Bulgarian Psychiatric Association.

## **II. Evaluation of research and scientific works and applied activities**

### **A. Quantitative data**

The total publication activity of the candidate, which was presented for review, included: 32 scientific publications, from which 1 monograph, 1 book based on a defended dissertation thesis to award the educational and academic degree “doctor”, 7 chapters from textbooks, 23 full-length publications in journal and periodicals. From the publications 16 are in Bulgarian and 7 in English.

The collected points from the presented publication activity, according to the reference for minimum scientometric requirements in the separate categories cover the requirements.

### **B. Habilitation thesis**

The monograph, submitted by the candidate as a habilitation thesis, titled “Forensic Psychiatric Expertise in Family Law” was published in 2019. It represents an original and comprehensive examination of the current issues and problems, relating to parenting, in the context of psychiatry, child and forensic psychiatry, as well as addressing the challenges facing the forensic psychiatry evaluation in situations of conflicts between parents and children at risk. A very important issue, discussed by Dr Varbanov, is related to the exercising of parental rights. The difficult, but current topic of child abuse and “child murder” is reviewed in detail in the monograph. Special attention is paid to the widespread in forensic psychiatry practice term of “parental alienation syndrome”, which is still under discussion in other scientific fields. The completed study possesses considerable scientific and research contributions, as well as being practical in nature. The monograph demonstrates interdisciplinary character and is of interest to a wide range of specialist in the field of psychiatry, child psychiatry and forensic psychiatry, as well as psychologist, judges, lawyers, social workers. Two reviews are presented in the work, required by the Regulations to the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff at Medical University – Varna.

During the last few years the problems relating to the “Parental alienation syndrome” have concerned several expertises in the child and adolescent age group. Very few publications, which discuss the topic in its entirety, are available in our country. On a global scale, it is still an understudied phenomenon, which needs a comprehensive examination and interpretation.

### C. Publication activity

The presented publications are in 6 thematic areas:

Outside the field of general psychiatry, a central place hold 2 thematic areas:

- “Suicide”

It includes the dissertation for the acquisition of educational and scientific degree "Ph.D", the published book based on the dissertation and 10 publications. The contributions in this area are considerable, due to the fact that a new methodology for assessing suicidal attitudes in Bulgarian and English-speaking population was approbated and validated. The cultural aspects of suicidal attitudes and evidence of similarities and differences between Bulgarian and foreign samples was also studied.

- „Forensic Psychiatry“

It includes the monograph presented as rehabilitation work and three other publications. The contribution in this area are considerable. For the first time in Bulgaria a comprehensive analysis is performed on the forensic psychiatry expertise aspects of parenting and family law. A critical analysis of the theory “parental alienation syndrome” is performed and its use in the Bulgarian judicial and expert practice.

### D. Scientific activity

Dr. Varbanov has participated with reports in the annual Conference of the Bulgarian Psychiatric Association, as well as the 114<sup>th</sup> and 115<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology. He was a participant and the leader of multinational teams to study the cross-cultural aspects of suicide. In 2017 he was honoured with the prestigious award of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology „JSPN Fellowship Award“ for his work in the field of suicide.

From the above is evident that the candidate successfully combines his scientific interest from various fields. He works well in a team, including international teams, as well as with specialists from his own field and related ones and others from broader fields of medicine. International and transcultural studies are referenced in the publications, which makes Dr. Varbanov’s work significant and comparable from a national and international view.

### E. Scientometric indicators

The presented scientific and publication activity coincide completely with the minimum scientometric requirements for the candidate for the academic position of “Associate professor”, field of Higher Education 7. Health and Sports, in professional direction 7.1 Medicine.

The full-length publication, presented by Dr. Varbanov, has a total of 21 citations, 4 of which in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases and 17 citations in non-refereed journals, with scientific peer-review.

### III. Teaching activity

Dr. Svetlin Varbanov has over 3 and a half years of teaching experience at Medical University "Prof. Dr Paraskev Stoyanov" Varna, and is currently Chief Assistant Professor with the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology.

As an Assis.professor at the university he teaches psychiatry and medical psychology to Bulgarian and foreign students, studying medicine, dental medicine, pharmacy and health care professionals. During the last two academic years he has been involved exclusively with the English teaching programme of international students at Medical University "Prof. Dr Paraskev Stoyanov" Varna.

### IV. Evaluation of clinical, therapeutic and expertise activity

Dr Varbanov is a resident at First Psychiatric clinic at UMHAT "St. Marina" from 2011, and from 2012 was appointed a physician at the same clinic. He has prepared over 40 independent and complex forensic psychiatry expertises in civil and criminal cases.

### Conclusion:

Based on the presented materials by Chief Assis. Prof. Svetlin Varbanov for the competition I find that he **meets** the Requirement for awarding academic degrees and occupying academic positions in accordance with ADASRB and the Regulations for the development of the Academic staff at Medical University Varna for occupying the academic position "Associate professor".

The significance and relevance of the presented scientific papers, the high level of preparation, the practical and academic activities of the candidate are basis for me to give a **positive evaluation** to Dr Svetlin Varbanov for the occupation of the academic position "Associate professor" in the field of Higher Education 7. Health and Sports, in professional direction 7.1 Medicine, specialty "Forensic psychiatry" for the needs of the Department of "Psychiatry and Medical Psychology".

Varna  
06.12.2019

Reviewer:   
Assoc.Prof Petar Petrov, MD, PhD