

To
The Chairman of the Scientific Jury
designated by Order No R-109 -322/October 7, 2019
by the Rector of the Medical University-Varna

STATEMENT

By Prof. Dr. Mariana Dimitrova Arnaudova-Jekova, MD, PhD
Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology,
Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov " Varna
Member of the Scientific Jury

Regarding: Competition for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education area 7. Health Care 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 University Multiprofile Hospital for Active Treatment JSC – Varna, announced in SG 62/August 6, 2019.

I submit my opinion as a member of the Scientific Jury for the purposes of the present competition, designated by the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"-Varna with order No R-109 -322/October 7, 2019. The procedure meets the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University -Varna.

Only one applicant has submitted documents within the legal deadline: Dr. Svetlin Varbanov Varbanov, M.D., PhD, Chief assistant at the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology and Psychiatrist at the Psychiatric Clinics of the UMHAT "St. Marina"- Varna. The submitted documents by the applicant are in conjunction with the requirements of the Rules of the academic position "Associate Professor" and the Rules of MU- Varna.

Brief biographical background of the applicant

Dr. Svetlin Varbanov graduated higher education in medicine in 2005 at the Medical University of Varna. He specialized Forensic Psychiatry /2012-2016/ at the First Psychiatric Clinic, UMHAT "St. Marina"- Varna. He was awarded "Forensic psychiatry" specialty in 2016. He acquired PhD in medicine, defending a thesis on "Cross-cultural analysis of suicide attitudes" in 2018. He has become an Assistant in Forensic Psychiatry at the Department of Psychiatry and

Medical Psychology at Medical University "Prof. Dr Paraskev Stoyanov"- Varna from 2016 and since 2018 he is Chief Assistant in Forensic Psychiatry at the Department.

Research activity and development

The applicant submitted 32 scientific publications - 1 monograph, 1 book on the basis of the PhD thesis, 7 textbook chapters, 23 full-text publications in scientific journals, 16 of which are in Bulgarian and 7 - English. Twenty of the publications are presented in the Minimum State Requirements Reference and another 12 - in the Supplementary Reference to publications exceeding the Minimum Requirements.

Dr. Svetlin Varbanov has acquired his PhD degree in 2018 after a successfully defended dissertation on the topic "Cross-cultural analysis of suicide attitudes". This covers the required 50 points in a group of indicators A1.

The author's monographic work "Forensic Psychiatric Expertise in Family Law" has a total volume of 200 pages, issued in 2019, covering the required 100 points in a group of indicators B3.

The submitted publications to meet minimum state requirements under the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University –Varna in a group of indicators G are a total of 19. Among them one book on the basis of a PhD thesis, 3 publications published in scientific journals, abstracted and indexed in world-famous scientific information databases, 15 publications in non-refereed scientific peer-reviewed journals. The total number of points in Group G is 258 points, which exceeds the minimum required 200 points.

The Academic Citation Reference shows 4 citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases, and 17 citations in non-refereed scientific peer-reviewed journals. The total number of points in group D is 145 with a minimum of 50 required.

Highlights and contributions

The research activity of Dr. Svetlin Varbanov's is in several major areas:

Forensic psychiatry

An essential part in this area occupies the monograph "Forensic Psychiatric Expertise in Family Law", presented as a habilitation work. The monograph is a thorough examination of the current issues and challenges to forensic psychiatric expertise in the field of family law. The impact of the most common psychiatric disorders on parenting and family is discussed in detail. The forensic psychiatric aspects of exercising parental rights are discussed in detail. Separate

chapters are devoted to the topic of child abuse, including child murder, as well as the popularly known "parental alienation syndrome". The monograph is highly interdisciplinary in nature, accessible and of interest to a wide range of specialists.

As contributions to the field, it should be acknowledged that for the first time in Bulgaria a thorough analysis of the psychiatric aspects of parenting and family law has been carried out, examples of good and bad practices have been resented and proposals have been introduced for the optimization of expert work, a critical analysis has been made on the theory of "parental alienation syndrome" and its use in Bulgarian judicial and expert practice.

In the field of forensic psychiatry, there are three more publications covering the topics of malingering in expert practice, child abuse and the expert evaluation of parental alienation.

Suicide

The topic of suicide is widely represented in the research activities of Dr. Varbanov. Publications in this area include a thesis on "Cross-Cultural Aspects of Attitudes Toward Suicide," as well as 10 full-text publications. The contributions in the area are of scientific and applied nature and include:

- Approval and validation of a new methodology for assessing suicidal attitudes in Bulgarian and English speaking 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 examining suicidal attitudes, allowing comparisons of suicidal attitudes across groups and communities
- Studying the specificity of the cultural patterns of the suicidal attitude and establishing similarities and differences between Bulgarian and foreign samples
- Defining adverse life events and situations that could most likely provoke suicidal behavior
- Defining relationship and influence between anxiety and depression and suicidal ideation
- Defining and influence between anxiety and depression and suicidal ideation
- Investigation of car accidents as a method of suicide.

Other thematic areas in Dr. Varbanov's research activities are: Depression, Anxiety, Stress; Schizophrenia; Alcohol and illegal drugs use in children and adolescents; Neurocognitive impairment in HIV patients.

Dr. Varbanov has been involved with reports at the BPA Annual Conference, as well as in the 114-th and 115-th Congress of the Japan Association of Psychiatry and Neurology. He has been awarded JSPN Fellowship Award from the Japan Association for Psychiatry and Neuroscience for his work in the field of suicide in 2017 in Nagoya, Japan. He has been a participant and leader of multinational teams for the study of cross-cultural aspects of suicide.

Assessment of teaching activities

Dr. Svetlin Varbanov has been working as Assistant in Forensic Psychiatry at the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology at the Medical University - Varna from 2016 to 2018. Since 2018, Dr. Varbanov is a Chief Assistant in Forensic Psychiatry at the same Department. The record of teaching experience shows an average workload of 253 hours per school years, with 75% of the teaching being in English. Dr. Varbanov teaches psychiatry, forensic psychiatry and medical psychology to students in medicine, dental medicine, pharmacy and healthcare professionals.

Assessment of diagnostic-therapeutic and expert activity

Dr. Varbanov is a medical doctor with eight years of clinical psychiatric experience at the First Clinic of Psychiatry at the University Hospital "St. Marina", Varna. He builds excellent relationships with colleagues. He works purposefully to improve his professional qualification by striving to enrich his theoretical and practical knowledge, follow the global trends and share his experience in his scientific development and in the educational process. Dr. Varbanov has over 40 independent and complex forensic psychiatric expertise in civil and criminal cases.

Conclusion

Dr. Svetlin Varbanov Varbanov, M.D., PhD is an established specialist in psychiatry and forensic psychiatry, a researcher and a teacher. He fully meets the requirements of the Law Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Academic Staff of Development in the Medical University of Varna for the occupation of Academic position "**Associate professor**" at the Medical University-Varna.

This gives me the full conviction to give a positive opinion and to offer the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the award of the academic position "**Associate Professor**" on "**Forensic Psychiatry**" of Dr. Svetlin Varbanov Varbanov, M.D., PhD for the needs of the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology at the Medical University of Varna and the First Clinic of Psychiatry at the UMHAT "St. Marina" - Varna.

06.Dec.2019

Varna

Signature:

/ Prof. Dr. Mariana Arnaudova, MD, PhD/