

**To
the chairman of the scientific jury
determined by Order № - 109-300/ 07.08.2020
of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna**

According to the Protocol №1/ from 20.08.2020

Attached is presented: STATEMENT

in a competition for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor",
in the field of scientific speciality PARASITOLOGY AND HELMINTHOLOGY
announced for the needs of MU-Varna, Department "Infectious diseases, parasitology and
dermatovenereology"
in State Gazette №53/12.06.2020

Member of the scientific jury: Assoc. Prof. Dr Rumen Nenkov Harizanov, MD, PhD -
Head Department of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine
Scientific speciality: PARASITOLOGY AND HELMINTHOLOGY
Institution: NATIONAL CENTER FOR INFECTIOUS AND PARASITIC DISEASES

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*The statement has been compiled in accordance
with the requirements of Law on the development
of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria
and Section III / Section IV of Implementing rules
of LDASRB – Terms and conditions for acquiring
the academic position of Associate
Professor/Professor.*

**I declare that I have no shared scientific papers with Chief Assistant Professor Dr
Kalina Stoyanova Pavlova.**

I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile

Chief Assistant Dr Kalina Stoyanova Pavlova was born in 1976. She graduated medicine at the MU-Varna in 2001 with excellent grades. Her professional route began as an assistant general practitioner in AIP-FMH "Dr Boyka Tuncheva". Since March 2001 she is employed in Department of Infectious diseases, parasitology and dermatovenereology of MU-Varna, continuously as an assistant, senior assistant, and chief assistant. She acquires the medical speciality "Medical parasitology" in 2006. Since 2006 she is head of the parasitological laboratory at SMDL "Exactlabor 2002", and since 2009 head of the parasitological laboratory at SMDL "Status". After successful defence of a dissertation in 2017 on the topic: "Epidemiological studies and analysis of risk factors for the distribution thesis of the intestinal parasitoses with person-to-person transmission in Varna district" she also acquired an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in Parasitology and helminthology. From 2018 to the present Dr Kalina Stoyanova Pavlova is chief assistant professor in the Department of Infectious diseases, parasitology and dermatovenereology of MU-Varna and continues her work as the head of the parasitological laboratory at SMDL "Status"-Varna. She has participated in many forms of continuing medical education at NCIPD - Sofia, MU-Varna, MU - Plovdiv and University of Cologne - Germany, which she has certified with documentation. Fluent in English and spoken Russian. She has excellent computer skills. Dr Stoyanova is a member of BMA, the Bulgarian Association of Medical Parasitology (BAMP) and the Bulgarian Parasitological Society (BPD). Since 2019 she is a member of the expert council in the medical speciality "Medical Parasitology" at the Ministry of Health.

II. General description of the submitted materials in the competition

Chief Assist. Dr Kalina Stoyanova Pavlova is the only candidate in the announced competition for an academic position Associate Professor of Parasitology and Helminthology for the needs of the Department of Infectious diseases, parasitology and dermatovenereology, at MU-Varna. The documents submitted by the candidate are formed in accordance with the requirements of the Law on 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 MU-Varna. For the current competition, Dr Stoyanova has presented a total of 37 publications in scientific journals, monographs, and full text collections. They can be systematized according to the following structure:

- Dissertation thesis for acquiring educational and scientific degree "Doctor";
- Monograph "Cryptosporidiosis - current aspects of taxonomy, clinical presentation, diagnosis, and treatment", which I accept for habilitation work under Article 24, paragraph 1, item 3 or Article 29, paragraph 1, item 3 of the LDASRB;
- Monograph "Cryptosporidiosis - epidemiology of a hidden parasitosis", which is not presented as a habilitation thesis;
- Monograph "Enterobiosis and giardiasis - current problems", which is not presented as a habilitation thesis;
- Published chapters from a book or a collective monograph - 2 issues;

- Scientific papers in publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases – 8 issues;
- Full-text publications in Bulgarian and international scientific journals with ISSN – 24 issues;
- Reports from participation in 32 scientific forums, 2 of which abroad;

III. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works for the overall academic development

The scientific activity of the candidate is presented in the following six main areas of medical parasitology (epidemiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of parasitic diseases in humans):

- Studies of the epidemiology, etiology, diagnosis, clinical course, treatment, and control of intestinal and some opportunistic parasitoses. Numerous scientific works and analyses, including the dissertation and independent monographs, are devoted to the modern characteristics of the etiology, diagnosis, clinical presentation, treatment, spread and control of socially significant intestinal parasitosis, such as enterobiosis, hymenolepiasis, giardiasis, blastocystosis and cryptosporidiosis.
- First large-scale clinical and epidemiological study of intestinal parasitosis in Northeastern Bulgaria and Varna region with the assessment of extensive indicators and analysis of the effect of several factors (age, sex, place of residence, seasonality, occupation, etc.) on the risk of invasion. Both current indicators and the trends of increase and decrease of those parameters for 12 years (2007-2019) have been established for the region and the country.
- Studies on the clinical features and pathological changes and epidemiological characteristics of some rare opportunistic parasitoses in our country, such as cryptosporidiosis. The first cases of cryptosporidiosis among people in the region of Northeastern Bulgaria have been registered and described. For the first time in the country, the extensive indicators of the disease were analysed both among the risk group of children aged 0-5 years and among other ages. The prevalence of clinically manifested cases and asymptomatic carriers were assessed as well.
- Studies of epidemiology, etiology, diagnosis, clinical presentation, treatment, and control of some zoonoses (toxocariasis and trichinellosis). The frequency of clinical manifestations of toxocariasis among children and adults with clinical complaints, the presence of occupational risk, and among the healthy population was studied. The first sanitary-parasitological examination of the environment from public places in the city of Varna was carried out. The clinical, diagnostic, and therapeutic aspects of several epidemic outbreaks of trichinellosis in the Varna region, as well as the problems related to the diagnostic clarification of these cases, have been studied.
- Studies on the epidemiology, etiology, diagnosis, clinical course, treatment, and control of malaria and other imported parasitosis (schistosomiasis).

- The research activity of the candidate includes several multidisciplinary works in partnership with scientific teams from different medical specialities - infectious diseases, epidemiology, hygiene, social medicine. Research in this area is focused mainly on social factors that determine the spread of infectious diseases.

The scientific works of Dr K. Stoyanova are thematically in the field of the competition. They are proof of the author's competence in the field of etiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, epidemiology, therapy, surveillance, control, and prevention of the parasitic diseases and their causes among humans and the environment.

IV. Evaluation of the monographic thesis or equivalent publications submitted for participation in the competition for "Associate Professor" by the candidate

Dr Kalina Stoyanova Pavlova is the sole author of the monographic work "Cryptosporidiosis - current aspects of taxonomy, clinical presentation, diagnosis, and treatment". The monograph presents the contemporary scientific concepts about cryptosporidiosis in humans and the etiological cause of the disease. The clinical presentation, the diagnostic, therapeutic approaches, and the prevention of this disease are presented in detail. An in-depth analysis of all aspects of this parasitosis was performed, based on the most up-to-date literature data, as it was supported by the results of the candidate's own research and illustrated by numerous author's figures and photomicrographic images. Two established scientists reviewed the monograph. It fully corresponds to the scientific speciality of the announced competition and has an international publishing number ISBN from a reputable publishing house.

V. Reflection (citation) of the candidate's publications in the national and foreign literature (publication image)

The applicant has submitted an official reference for 59 citations in scientific journals, monographs, collective volumes and patents, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information, 25 of which are sufficient for the minimum scientometric requirements of the current competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

VI. Complex, qualitative assessment of the teaching-methodical and educational activity, incl. scientific guidance of students and postgraduates

From the attached documents for the competition, it can be seen that Dr Stoyanova has a significant teaching activity in the Department of Infectious diseases, parasitology and dermatovenereology at MU-Varna, expressed in 1567 hours of lectures and exercises for the last five years, as the average study load of Dr Stoyanova is 313.4 teaching hours per year. Dr Kalina Stoyanova Pavlova educates students in the specialities of "medicine", "nurse", "midwife", "medical laboratory assistant" and "public health inspector". Creates, develops and supports the courses for supplementary e-learning in "Medical Parasitology" for all listed specialities in the electronic system Blackboard Learn+ of the MU-Varna, the structures in Sliven, Shumen and V. Tarnovo, and Medical College - Varna, including the necessary teaching and exam materials in all the disciplines in connection with the distance learning

format for the summer semester of the academic year 2019/2020. Besides, Dr Stoyanova has implemented the scientific guidance of a specialist who successfully acquired the medical speciality "Medical Parasitology" in 2019.

VII. Critical remarks and recommendations

Due to the high quality of the scientific production, I believe that Dr Kalina Stoyanova Pavlova could increase her publishing activity in terms of realization of more publications in international journals with impact factor.

VIII. Overall assessment of the applicant's compliance with the requirements of the Law on 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 MU-Varna

According to the regulations for the application of LDASRB for the minimum required points by groups of indicators for the different scientific degrees and academic positions in Professional field 4.3. Biological Sciences, Ch. Assistant Professor Dr Kalina Stoyanova Pavlova meets the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor".

Distributed by groups of indicators, the point asset is the following:

Criterion A. Dissertation thesis - 50 points

Criterion B. Monograph - habilitation thesis - 100 points

Criterion C. - 205 points:

- Monographs that are not presented as the main habilitation work - (2 volumes x 30 points) - **60 points**
- Published chapter of a book or collective monograph - (2 issues x 15 points) - **30 points**
- Scientific publication in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (Web of Science и Scopus) - (8 papers) – **115 points**

Criterion D. Citation in scientific journals, monographs, collective volumes, and patents, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information (Web of Science и Scopus) - (25 x 2 points) – 50 points

Total – 405 points

In addition, it should be emphasized that Dr Kalina Stoyanova Pavlova is the sole or first author in 22 (59.4%) of the presented 37 scientific papers. Which eloquently shows the significant scientific potential of the candidate. Two of the publications are in authoritative journals with a total impact factor of 3,287. The citations of the candidate's scientific production are much more than those presented for the competition (a total of 108 of the presented academic transcripts for original scientific contributions), which unequivocally proves the scientific value of Dr Pavlova's research. The candidate has participated in two research projects, one of which is a leader, and the other is internationally funded.

IX. Conclusion

After analyzing the materials presented in the competition, I believe that Chief Assistant Professor Dr Kalina Stoyanova Pavlova, Doctor of Parasitology and Helminthology has developed scientific qualities and significant experience in academic teaching and fully meets the requirements of LDASRB and the Regulations for its application of MU-Varna. Therefore, I confidently give my positive assessment for the rewarding of the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field: 4.3. Biological sciences; Scientific specialty "Parasitology and helminthology", for the needs of MU-Varna, Department "Infectious diseases, parasitology and dermatovenereology".

04.09.2020

Statement's author:

Assoc. Prof. Dr Rumen Harizanov, MD, PhD

