

POSITION STATEMENT

By: Prof. Dr. Dimitrichka Bliznakova, MD, PhD
Faculty of Dental medicine – Varna
Medical university – Varna

By the virtue of Ordinance № P-109-168/03.06.20the Rector of the Medical University – Varna, concerning the competition for the Academic Position “Professor” in the Field of Higher Education “7. Healthcare and Medicine”, Direction “7.1. Medicine”, Scientific Specialty “Nephrology”, announced in State Newspaper 8/28.01.2020, with one candidate – **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas Ivanov Kundurdjiev, MD, PhD.**

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas Ivanov Kundurdjiev, MD, PhD was born on July 11, 1957 in the city of Dospat. He graduated from the Medical Academy – Faculty of Medicine – Sofia after studying Medicine for the period 1977 – 1983. In 2013 he defended his PhD thesos on “Cardio-renal syndrome – clinical-instrumental diagnosis and prognosis”. In 2017 he was elected “Associate Professor”. He has Master’s Degree in Health Management – at the Burgas University “Prof. Asen Zlatarov”, obtained in 2002.

Assoc. Prof. Atanas Kundurdjiev, MD, PhD has the following Specialties and Professional Skills:

- Nephrology – 1995, Medical University – Sofia;
- Cardiology – 1992, Medical University – Sofia;
- Internal Medicine – 1990, Medical University – Sofia;
- Abdominal Ultrasound – 1993, 1998, 2000, Medical University – Sofia;
- Doppler-Ultrasound – 1998, Medical University – Sofia;
- Thyroid Ultrasound – 2006, Medical University – Sofia;
- Echocardiography – 1996, Medical University – Sofia;

Certificates:

- Current problems in health management – 1998, Medical University – Sofia;
- Hospital and healthcare service management – 1998, 1999, Ministry of Healthcare, National Centre for Public Health – Educational Centre;
- Expert in Evaluation and accreditation of healthcare institutions for inpatient care and diagnostic-consultative centres – 2000, Ministry of healthcare, National Centre for Public Health – Educational Centre;
- GCP for Clinical investigators in Bulgaria – 2014, Bulgarian association for clinical trials.

Assoc. Prof. Atanas Kundurdjiev, MD, PhD, is Head of the Clinic of Nephrology at the University Hospital St. Ivan Rilski – Sofia – since 2017 (until present).

- 01.02.2017 - 04.05.2017 – ex-officio Deputy Minister of Healthcare;
- Since 04.2017 r. – until present – Deputy-Head of the Board of Directors of University Hospital St. Ivan Rilski – Sofia;
- For the period 18.09.2015 - 05.05.2017 – Head of the Nephrology Ward at the Clinic of Nephrology and Dialysis at University Hospital St. Ivan Rilski – Sofia;
- For the period 2014r. - 2017 – Member of the Board of Directors of University Hospital Alexandrovska – Sofia;
- 1995 - 2015 – Chief Assistant Professor at the Clinic of Nephrology at University Hospital Alexandrovska – Sofia;

- 2003 - 2007 – Municipal Councilor at the Sofia Municipality Council;
- 2002 - 2003 – Chief secretary of the Bulgarian Physicians' Union;
- 2001 - 2002 – Executive Director of University Hospital Alexandrovska – Sofia;
- 2000 - 2003 – Chief of the Council of Directors of Blagoevgrad Hospital;
- 2000 - 2001 – Chief of the Council of Directors of University Hospital Alexandrovska- Sofia;
- 2000 - 2001– Deputy Minister of Healthcare;
- 1993 - 1995– Senior Assistant Professor at the Clinic of Nephrology;
- 1992 - 1993 – Assistant at the Clinic of Nephrology;
- 1988 – 1992 – Assistant at the Clinic of Cardiology;
- 1985 – 1988 – Clinical Resident in Internal Medicine;
- 1983 -1985 – District Physician at the Village Healthcare Service – village of Hadjidimovo.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas Kundurdjiev, MD, PhD, is a member of the following medical organizations and associations:

- Head of the Council for quality standards and efficacy of the therapeutic and prophylactic activities at the Ministry of Healthcare – 2000 – 2001;
- Head of the Council of the Associations of the University Hospitals in Bulgaria – 2001 - 2003;
- Member of the Supreme medical council at the Ministry of Healthcare- 2002 – 2003;
- Member of the Supreme accreditation council at the Ministry of Healthcare – 2002 -2003;
- Head of the Sofia Municipality Privatization Fund – 2003- 2004;
- Chairman of the Regional council on narcotic substances – Sofia – 2007 – 2012;
- External expert at the Committee for prices and reimbursement of medications at the Ministry of Healthcare – 2012 – until present;
- External expert at the Expert Committee for regional health insurance fund representations for medications in the Protocol for prescribing medications covered by the National health insurance fund / Regional health insurance fund – 2014 – until present;
- External expert at the Committee for evaluation of healthcare technologies at the Ministry of Healthcare, in accordance with Art. 10, line 1 of Ordinance No. 9;
- Chairman of the Transparency Committee at the Council of Ministers;
- Chairman of the Accreditation Council at the Ministry of Healthcare;
- Chairman of the Branch Council in Healthcare;
- Member of the Higher Council of Pharmacy at the Ministry of Healthcare;
- Member of the National Council of Tourism at the Council of Ministers;
- Representative of the Ministry of Healthcare in the Committee for Observation of the Partnership Agreement in the Republic of Bulgaria;
- Chairman of the Work group for Update of Ordinance No. 1 for Specialization;
- Chairman of the Committee for Acknowledgement of Organizations for Protection of Patients, for Representative Organizations;
- Member of the national Consultative Council for Youth;
- Member of the Central Committee against Antisocial Deeds of Juveniles and Minors at the Council of Ministers;
- Member of the National Council for Child Protection;
- Member of the Inter-Authority Committee for Rehabilitation and Help at the Council of Ministers;
- Member of the Inter-Authority Committee for Defense Industry and Delivery Security;
- Member of the National Operative Headquarters for Risk and Threat Management;
- Member of the Coordination Council for Climate Changes;
- Member of the Bulgarian Physicians' Union;

- Member of the Bulgarian Society of Nephrology, Dialysis and Transplantation;
- Member of the Bulgarian Society of Cardiology;
- Member of the Balkan Association of Nephrology, Dialysis and Transplantation;
- Member of the Bulgarian Association of Ultrasound in Medicine;
- Member of the “Physicians’ League in Bulgaria – Best Doctors”. Darik Radio Ranking – 2012 and 2016;
- Member of the Editorial Board of “Annual reports in Hospital Pharmacy”;
- Scientific Council at University Hospital St. Ivan Rilski – Deputy-Chairman – since 23.09.2018 – until present;
- National Health Insurance Fund – Expertize Committee for Art.78, p. 2 of the Law for Health-insured subjects in the National Health Insurance Fund – National Framework Agreement 14 – 48/20.02.2020 – External Expert.

Fluent in English and Russian languages.

SCIENCE METRICS.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas Kundurdjiev, MD, PhD participates in the competition with 67 scientific publications, developed after he was elected for the Academic position “Associate Professor”, 30 of the manuscripts are full-text, 12 are published abroad, 1 is in press.

The scientific works are divided in the following groups:

- Monograph for the acquisition of the Academic Position “Professor” - 1
- Participation in books, educational books and educational materials: 1

Full-text publications in scientific journals and collections:

- In national (Bulgarian) medical journals – 17
- In international medical journals – 12

Real publications in journals and collections, where Assoc. Prof. Kundurdjiev is:

- First or single author – 11
- Second author – 13
- Third and subsequent author – 6

The published summaries/abstracts of scientific works can be divided as:

- First or single author – 19
- Second author – 16
- Third and subsequent author – 2

Citations: overall 304, of which 63 in Bulgarian and 241 in foreign sources.

The citation reference was performed by the Central Medical Library, based on a request for citation reference №23/30.01.2020. The scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Kundurdjiev, MD, PhD have been cited 304 times – 63 in Bulgarian and 241 in foreign scientific works.

Impact factor: Total - 111,442;

IF of the full-text articles - 11,452;

IF of the summaries/abstracts published in journals with impact factor - 99,814.

The impact factor reference was performed by the Central Medical Library at the Medical University – Sofia. The overall impact factor from all the publications by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas Kundurdjiev, MD, PhD is 11,452.

SUMMARY.

Assoc. prod. Dr. Atanas Ivanov Kundurdjiev, MD, PhD has wide clinical, administrative and management experience in the fields of Nephrology and Healthcare. The presenter metric parameters for the evaluation of his scientific works reveal not only his competence, but the in-depth analyses performed by the author in his works.

Of notion is his participation in scientific projects. All the cited projects are in important fields of medicine and are directed towards the early diagnostics of cardiovascular diseases that is crucial in patients with type 2 diabetes. His participation in the Project on “Uromodulin – a marker of early diagnostics in chronic kidney disease” is of particular interest. Another very interesting project is the one on “Echocardiographic changes in patients with acromegaly”.

His monograph on the cardiorenal syndrome (published in 2019 by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas Kundurdjiev, MD, PhD as a sole author) he presents the current knowledge on this condition – both from the medical literature and his own experience during his long-time work with such patients. He has studied the renal, cardiac and vascular changes with the age and has performed a detailed investigation of these alterations in patients with different grades of CKD.

He has performed the first complex sonographic evaluation of cardiorenal syndrome – the design and the course of the study are aimed at complex hemodynamic evaluation with non-invasive methods that give the opportunity for fast estimation of the hemodynamic risk, even in patients in severely impaired general condition.

He has studied the cardiovascular risk in gout. An original contribution of this study is the evaluation of the connection of gout with some interleukins.

His studies in some diseases are of particular interest – systemic lupus in males, renal diseases in iron-storage diseases, some rare conditions, such as mesenteric panniculitis, systemic lupus presenting with Guillain-Barre syndrome, renal scleroderma crisis, etc.

I would like to cite Prof. Dr. Nina Gocheva, MD, DSc, who underlined that his monograph is very interesting and presented in an original way, based not only on the literature data, but also on his own experience. Moreover, his monograph is the only accomplished scientific project on the cardiorenal syndrome.

Assoc. Prof. Atanas Kundurdjiev, MD, PhD, has taken part in the development of a large number of law projects and other enactments that determine the performance and the work of healthcare facilities, health insurance, continuing medical education, accreditation, medical standards, etc.

he has taken part in many national programs, adopted by the decision of the Council of Ministers, including:

- National program against cardiovascular diseases in the Republic of Bulgaria.
- National program for prophylactic oncological screening in the Republic of Bulgaria.
- National program for the prophylaxis of hereditary diseases, predispositions and congenital anomalies.
- National program for prophylaxis, early diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis.
- National program for HIV and STD prophylaxis for 2001-2007.
- National program for suicidoprohylaxis.
- National program “Medical Standards”.

He has been Chairman of the Sofia Municipality Council and has guided the development of Municipal strategy against dependencies.

Based on the presented metric parameters for the evaluation of the scientific activity, multiple congress and conference presentations in Bulgaria and abroad, the in-depth analyses in multiple projects, scientific works and the development of a scientific and practical monograph on the Cardiorenal syndrome, the in-depth knowledge of the leading strategies, projects and programs in the field health policies and the efficacy of medical services, I would strongly recommend the POSITIVE vote to the honorable Scientific Jury for the election of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas Ivanov Kundurdjiev, MD, PhD, for the Academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education "7. Healthcare and Sports", Professional Direction "7.1. Medicine", Scientific Specialty "Nephrology".

June 22, 2020
City of Varna

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. D. Biznakova, MD, PhD