

# STATEMENT

**by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kalina Venelinova Drenska, MD,PhD**

**A member of the Scientific Jury for the competition, announced by the Medical University - Varna for the academic position of "Associated Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports; professional field 7.1. Medicine; specialty Nervous Diseases**

**Imperative № P-109-232 of 02.06.2021 of the Rector of MU – Varna**

**Subject:** the candidacy of **Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, MD,PhD**, in the competition, announced by the Medical University – Varna, for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" (State Gazette, issue 27 of 02.04.2021y.).

The review of the submitted documents of the only candidate Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, MD , PhD, shows that all the requirements of the Regulations for application of LDASRB and the Regulations for development of the Academic staff of MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov "- Varna.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, MD,PhD**, graduated with honors in medicine at the Medical University - Sofia in 1997 y. Since 1998 he began specialization in nervous diseases at the Neurological Clinic of the University Hospital "Alexandrovska" - Sofia. Since June 2001 y. she has been appointed an intern in the Neuroophthalmology Office of the University Hospital "Alexandrovska" - Sofia. In 2002 he acquired a clinical specialty in Nervous Diseases. Since November 2002 y. he has been successively assistant, senior assistant (since November 2004) and chief assistant (since March 2008) at the Clinic of Nervous Diseases of the University Hospital "Alexandrovska" - Sofia. From 07.2011y. was appointed a chief assistant at the Clinic of Nervous Diseases of the University Hospital "St. Ivan Rilski "- Sofia. She currently manages the Specialized Center for Research and Treatment of MS at the University Hospital "St. Ivan Rilski "- Sofia. In the period 2012 – 2013y. she was a doctoral student in independent training at the Department of Neurology and Psychiatry at the Thracian University. On 30.09.2013y., after successfully defending her dissertation, Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, MD, acquired the GED "PhD" in the scientific specialty Nervous Diseases.

## SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The research activity of Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, MD ,PhD, includes various fields of Neurology, covering mainly the following areas: immunology, clinic, differential diagnosis and therapy of MS; neuroophthalmology; neurooncology; casuistry.

The scientometric criteria specified in the Regulations for development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna. Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, MD, PhD, presents for the purposes of the competition 30 scientific papers, which include: 1 dissertation for the acquisition of educational and scientific degree "Doctor"; 1 monograph; 6 publications in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world databases with total impact factor 5 and 22 publications in publications from the National Reference List and edited collective works. For the purposes of the competition are presented 7 citations of the publications of Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, MD, PhD, in international journals, indexed in world databases (Scopus and Web of Knowledge).

Central in the scientific production of Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, MD, PhD, is occupied by research in the field of multiple sclerosis. The dissertation "Clinical and immunological correlations in patients with Multiple Sclerosis / profile of cytokines, chemokines and adhesion molecules - response to immunomodulatory therapy with Interferon- $\beta$  /", the published monograph on "Immunopathogenesis Immunopathogenesis" is focused in this area and a number of articles (6,7,21,22,23,25,26,27,28,29).

The main scientific and applied contributions of Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, MD, PhD, in the field of multiple sclerosis, can be systematized as follows:

1. A complex clinical - immunological study was conducted in a large contingent of patients (227 patients) with MS for the first time in Bulgaria. A systematic analysis of the immunopathogenesis of the disease was performed and representative data were found on the secretion of cytokines, chemokines and adhesion molecules in patients with multiple sclerosis in attack, in remission and with concomitant therapy with Interferon- $\beta$ ;
2. A comparative analysis of the clinical efficacy of Interferon- $\beta$ 1b compared to Interferon- $\beta$ 1a s.c. in patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis was performed for the first time in Bulgaria;
3. The first specialized therapeutic guide for MS in Bulgaria has been created, containing a detailed analytical review of modern immunomodulatory therapies, with its own critical analysis of therapeutic algorithms in the disease. The country's first specialized handbook for MS for patients and GPs has also been developed;
4. In an attached plan, the study of sICAM-1 as a biomarker for evaluating the therapeutic efficacy of Interferon- $\beta$  is proposed.
5. A case of Tropical spastic paraparesis (19) and probable PML in a patient with MS (23) has been described. Publications in the field of neuroophthalmology (2,3,8), neurorehabilitation (7) and neurological casuistry (4,5,17,18) are also of a contributing nature.

#### **TEACHING AND TEACHING ACTIVITY**

The teaching activity covers the requirements of the Regulations for development of the Academic staff of the Medical University - Varna. Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, MD, PhD, has over 19 years of experience in the specialty, over 18 years of teaching experience and an average workload of a total of 130 hours in the last five years. She is a co-author and editor of several Textbooks of Neurology for medical students and specialists.

Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, MD,PhD, fully meets all scientometric criteria according to the requirements of the Law and the Regulations for development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov "- Varna. She is an established and dedicated doctor and neurologist.

By adding to these arguments my personal impressions of the candidate, as an erudite and ethical colleague, gives me reason to give my positive opinion and to propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to **vote positively** Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, MD, PhD, to be given the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field of "Medicine" in the scientific specialty "Nervous Diseases".

**July 31, 2021**

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**/ Assoc. Dr. Kalina Venelinova Drenska, MD ,**