

EXPERT OPINION

**by Prof. Dr. Sevdalin Slavov Nachev, D.Med.Sc.
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"St. Ivan Rilski" - Sofia**

on a competitive procedure for awarding an academic position of

"ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR"

**in the field of higher education 7. Health and sport, professional department 7.1.
Medicine, in the scientific specialty "Neurological Diseases"
(Declared in SG, vol. 27/02.04.2021)**

Candidate: Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, PhD

On the basis of an order of the Rector of the Medical University – Varna, No P- 109-232/02.06.2021 and of the scientific jury meeting on 15.06.2021, I am appointed to prepare an opinion on the competitive procedure.

The only candidate in the competition is Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, PhD.

All required documents are presented according to the law and regulations of the Medical University of Varna.

1./ Short biographical data, academic development and specializations of the applicant

Dr. Detelina Stoilova graduated in medicine from Medical University - Medical Faculty, Sofia in 1997. From 1998 up to 2001 she specializes in Neurology Diseases at University Hospital (UMHAT) "Alexandrovska". From 2002 to 2011 she worked at the Neurological Clinic of "Alexandrovska" University Hospital, where she was successively selected as an assistant (11.2002), senior assistant (11.2004) and chief assistant (03.2008). Since 07.2011 she has been appointed as Chief Assistant in the Neurology Clinic of University Hospital (UMHAT) "St. Ivan Rilski.

In 2002 she received a clinical specialty in Neurology.

In 2013 he received the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (PhD).

She specializes in neuro-ophthalmology, ultrasound diagnostics and evoked potentials. She participates actively in scientific congresses and conferences on neurology in Bulgaria. She has participations in international neurological forums such as WCN, ECF, ECTRIMS, EAN.

2./ Quantitative and qualitative assessment of scientific and research activities

The quantitative and qualitative feature of the scientific and research work of Dr. Detelina Stoilova **meets the requirements** for taking up the academic position "Associate Professor" according to the Rules for Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Varna.

Dr. Detelina Stoilova participates in the current competition for associate professor with the presented documents:

Monographs, studies:

1. Immunopathogenesis and treatment of multiple sclerosis (2019), 248 pp.
2. Multiple Sclerosis – Patient Book (2012), 40 pp.

Articles and participations in collective works:

1. **Total of 29 full-text publications**, including the author's doctoral dissertation thesis under the title: "Clinico - immunological correlations in patients with multiple sclerosis /profile of cytokines, chemokines and adhesion molecules – influence of interferon-beta immunomodulatory treatment/", 2012.

2. Of these papers - **6 articles** published in international referenced journals with IF.

3. **Participates** as a co-author in the **Textbook of Neurology** (2001), **Neurology** (2004; 2010; 2015 – English edition).

4. Presents a list of **7 citations** in international reviewed journals.

The scientific production of Dr. Stoilova covers various areas of neurology, most of them devoted to significant topics such as multiple sclerosis, tumors of the nervous system, neuro-infections.

Dr. Stoilova's scientific works are dedicated to the **following topics**:

A – Multiple sclerosis

Publications No 1 (author's doctoral dissertation thesis) and related topic:

№№: 6, 7, 16, 21, 22, 23, 25 – 29

Dr. Stoilova's other scientific papers cover the following topics:

B – Neuro-ophthalmology

Publications №№: 2, 3, 11, 12

C – Systematic topics (brain neoplasms, neuroprotection, neuro-infections, Parkinson's disease)

Publications №№: 4, 8, 10, 13, 14, 19

D – Casuistic

Publications №№: 5, 17, 18

E – Neurology training

Publications №№: 9, 15, 20, 24

She has presented a report for her scientific contributions, which I fully share. I will note only the following:

Dr. Stoilova studies systematically the **immune pathogenesis** of multiple sclerosis. Based on immunological studies of cytokines, chemokines and adhesion molecules, she compares the various types of treatment and their effectiveness. She offers a biomarker for the evaluation of therapy, as well as algorithms for the treatment and neurorehabilitation of patients suffering from multiple sclerosis.

She has written a specialized therapeutic guide for multiple sclerosis with an original analysis of the interrelation between immunopathogenesis - immunotherapy of the disease and a manual for multiple sclerosis, designed for patients and general practitioners.

3./ Assessment of the educational and teaching activities

The quantitative indicators of the educational and teaching activity of Dr. Detelina Stoilova **fully correspond** to the criteria for acquisition of academic position "Associate Professor". Dr. Stoilova is a long-time lecturer of medical students and specialized physicians as an assistant, senior assistant and chief assistant at "Alexandrovska" University Hospital and at University Hospital "St. Ivan Rilski", Sofia. The report on her workload for the period from 2015 to 2020 indicates an annual workload of 130 hours, which includes exercises and lectures.

Personal impressions

I have excellent impressions of the work of Dr. Detelina Stoilova in the Neurology Clinic with the leader Prof. Dr. P. Shotekov, at University Hospital "St. Ivan Rilski".

4./ Conclusion

After my full acquaintance with the materials provided by the applicant and after i have carried out a comprehensive review of the research and educational/teaching activities of the participant in this competition, **my overall assessment of the applicant's compliance with the mandatory conditions, the mandatory quantitative criteria and scientific-**

metric indicators reflected in the Law on The Development of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and according to the Rules for Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University – Varna, Chapter III, Section III "Appointment of Academic position "Associate Professor" and of Appendix No1, is that Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, PhD, **meets** all the requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty Neurological diseases.

Proposal for awarding a position

On the basis of the above considerations and taking into account the applicant's full compliance with the mandatory scientific criteria in qualitative terms, according to the requirements of the LDASRB and of the Regulation for the awarding of academic position "Associate Professor" at the University of Varna, I give categorically and convincingly **my positive assessment** and propose to the other members of this esteemed Scientific Jury to vote positively for the award of **Dr. Detelina Stoilova Zhelyazkova, PhD**, the academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Neurological Diseases".

Date: 21 Jul 2021

Reviewer:

(Prof. Dr. Sevdalin Nachev, D Med Sc)