

## **POSITION**

Of Assoc Prof Kamen Yankov Yankov

Associate Professor Department of Internal Medicine, MU Varna

### *Information about the procedure:*

In the competition "associate professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports, professional direction 7.1 Medicine, specialty "Pneumology and phthisiology" at the Faculty of Medicine, the first department of Internal Diseases, the Department of Pulmonary Diseases and Allergology, the clinic of Pneumology and phthisiology in UMBAL "Saint Marina" - Varna, announced in the state journal, number 61 of 07/23/2021 participates one candidate-Dr. Pavlina Angelova Peneva. The competition is in compliance with the new requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the regulations to it and the Regulations for development of the academic staff of MU Varna.

The deadline for submitting the documents has been met.

*Biographical data related to the scientific and practical activity of the candidate:* Dr. Peneva graduated from the University of Medicine in 2001 in Varna. Initially she worked as a resident doctor in various medical centers, and in 2009 she was appointed a resident doctor at the University Hospital "St. Marina" Varna. Until 2012 she worked as a doctor, and after acquiring the specialty of Internal Medicine in 2010 - a doctor of internal medicine. Since 2014 she has been a doctor pulmonologist.

Dr. Peneva was awarded specialties in Internal Medicine and Pneumology and Phthisiology in 2010 and 2014. In 2019, she obtained an educational and scientific degree "Doctor". In 2008 she specialized in the Erasmus program in Bari Italy in a clinic of nephrology, hemodialysis and transplantation.

*Analysis of scientific production and contributions:* In this competition Dr. Peneva has presented 13 scientific papers plus three not included in the scientometric study, of which dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" and habilitation thesis - monograph. Two of the articles have been published in scientific journals referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information and nine publications have been published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes. Along with the citations, the habilitation thesis and the dissertation, the candidate covers and even significantly exceeds the requirements for holding the position of "Associate Professor". In addition to the required minimum of publications, Dr. Peneva presented 3 more articles outside the minimum scientometric requirements.

*General characteristics of the scientific and pedagogical activity of the candidate.* The scientific and pedagogical activity of the candidate cover problems, which are united in the following directions:

- selection or development of new approaches and methods in clinical medicine used as therapeutic and diagnostic innovations. A characteristic positive feature of the candidate's scientific achievements is that they are directly related to the further development of the known ones or is a combination of them.
- In general, it can be noted that Dr. Peneva is a realized university scientist, supervisor and manager, lecturer and good practitioner in the field of internal medicine. The candidate has contributions in various fields of internal medicine: pulmonology, nephrology, nutrition, vitamin intake and problems related to their deficiency, viral infections and vaccinations. Four of the articles address contemporary aspects of the mass flu and COVID-19 epidemics.
- From her habilitation work it becomes apparent her ability to solve practically useful scientific problems, choosing appropriate approaches, methods, algorithms and methodologies in the field of clinical laboratory and clinical medicine. The application of the delta neutrophil index for the first time in Bulgaria is an example in this regard.
- An important advantage of the candidate's scientific developments is their focus on solving practically useful tasks.

The main directions in Dr. Peneva's scientific research, closely related to her daily work in the intensive care unit, are the problems of severe life-threatening infections and sepsis. On this topic are 5 of the presented scientific papers, including the dissertation and the monograph. In this direction are the main contributions of the candidate distributed in the following areas: Early diagnosis and treatment of lung infections - bacterial and viral, problems with sepsis, early diagnosis, timely treatment and prevention of the infections.

The scientific publications selected in direction 1 reflect the candidate's contribution in the field of early diagnosis of lung infections, namely the development of sepsis - its early detection and initiation of treatment, complications during treatment related to the infection itself or hospital stay.

Guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable lung diseases is another area in the candidate's research. Here the emphasis is on important non-infectious diseases such as bronchial asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and systemic diseases affecting the lungs. The problems that the candidate deals with are related to difficulties in diagnosis, ineffective treatment in certain patients, new directions for therapy.

Part of Dr. Peneva's research is related to kidney disease and diet therapy in kidney patients. Important pathological mechanisms in glomerulonephritis are discussed, as well as "Nutrition in the most common kidney diseases - modern strategies" joint monograph with a nutritionist, which expands our knowledge in the field of modern nutrition in Bulgarian patients.

Another emphasis in d-r Peneva research is on public health, the health of the human population in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Two articles address the problems of diagnosis and treatment of patients with COVID-19 and at the same time deal with important issues related to the comorbidities of these people. Extremely important emphasis is placed on people with cancer.

It is evident from the academic reference that the candidate has been cited 7 times, which covers the minimum requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor".

*Teaching activity:* Dr. Peneva carry out practical exercises and lectures on lung diseases to fourth-year students. The average annual workload - 177 hours for the last 5 years (244 for last year) and teaching experience meet the requirements for habilitation.

*Evaluation of the diagnostic and treatment activity:* Dr. Peneva actively participates in the treatment activity of the pulmonary department. She has many years of experience in the Intensive Care Unit at the clinic. She is an excellent master of all diagnostic and therapeutic methods, including non-invasive and invasive lung ventilation.

*Conclusion* Taking into account the overall clinical, expert and teaching activities of the candidate, which includes the scientific results achieved by her, as well as my opinion that she is a fully established researcher, practitioner and expert, all this gives me reason to say with conviction that Dr. Peneva has the necessary qualities established by the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as by the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University of Varna to acquire the academic position of "Associate Professor".

Therefore, I propose to the selected scientific jury to award the academic position "Associate Professor" to Dr. Pavlina Angelova Peneva for the needs of the Department of Internal Medicine MU Varna.

02.12.2021

Assoc Prof Kamen Yankov

