

## **Statement of opinion**

prepared by

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Regarding

A competition for holding the academic position ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in the professional subfield of 03.01.17 “Pulmonary Diseases” at the First Department of Internal Diseases, ES Pulmonary Diseases and Allergology, which was announced in Issue 61/23 July 2021 of the State Gazette with a single applicant: Dr. Pavlina Angelova Peneva, MD, PhD.

In connection with the competition for holding the academic position “Associate Professor” announced by Order No. P-109-397/20 September 2021 of the Rector of the Medical University – Varna and after a meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine, Protocol No. 49 dated 9 September 2021, I have been appointed to prepare a statement of opinion.

### **Brief details about career development and qualifications.**

Dr. Pavlina Angelova Peneva was born on 8 June 1973. She completed her higher education at the Medical University – Varna in 2001. After her graduation, she has worked consecutively in the field of outpatient care at the Outpatient Practice Clinic for Primary Medical Assistance “Dr. A. Denev” in Aksakovo, the Outpatient Practice Clinic for Primary Medical Assistance in Varna, the “Sirius” Medical Centre in Varna, the “Equita” Medical Centre in Varna, the “Pulse” Sole Proprietor in Varna, and since 2009, she has been working at the UMHAT “St. Marina” – initially, at the Clinic of Nephrology and Dialysis, and currently, at the Clinic of Pneumology and Phthysiatry with the Unit for Intensive Care and Non-Invasive Ventilation. Since 2016, she has worked as an assistant professor, and since 2020, she has worked as a chief assistant professor at the ES Pulmonary Diseases, First Department of Internal Diseases at the Medical University – Varna. She has acquired two specialities: one in “Internal Medicine” in 2010 and one in “Pulmonary Diseases” in 2014. In the period between 2006 and 2009, she was a PhD student at the Clinic of Nephrology and Dialysis at the UMHAT “St. Marina” – Varna, she conducted a training session under the “Erasmus” program at the Clinic of Nephrology, Dialysis and Transplantation at the Medical University in Bari, Italy, and she took qualification courses covering the following topics: Pulmonary Tuberculosis, “Difficult Management of the Respiratory Tract”, Training in Spirometry, “Endothelial Function and Dysfunction” and “Fibrinolytic Therapy”, which were organised by the Bulgarian Society of Pulmonary Diseases.

In 2019, she acquired the scientific degree of “Doctor” with a dissertation on the topic: “Prognostic Markers for Clinical and Laboratory Evaluation of Patients with Sepsis”. She is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, the Bulgarian Society of Pulmonary Diseases and the European Respiratory Society. She is fluent in English and Russian – both written and spoken.

**Scientometric indicators presented in the competition for holding the academic position “Associate Professor” in the field of 7. Healthcare and sport**

The applicant has presented the materials for her participation in the competition in compliance with the requirements under the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Medical University – Varna. The full list testifying to her scientific activity contains 14 items.

**Of the aforementioned 14 items:**

**For fulfilment of the minimal state requirements under The Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria from 2018 and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Medical University – Varna from 2021: a total of 280 points.**

**A1. A dissertation for conferment of the academic degree of Doctor of Science in the scientific speciality of “Pulmonary Diseases” – 50 points.**

**C3. A monographic habilitation thesis “Sepsis – familiar and dangerously unfamiliar. Varna: Medical University – Varna; 2020. ISSN 978-619-221-269-8 A total of 100 points.**

**D7. Papers published in scientific editions, which are referenced or indexed in the WOS or Scopus world-famous databases – 2 papers, of which Dr. Peneva is the first author – 80 points.**

**D8. Publications in unreferenced journals with scientific reviewing or full-text publications in edited collective volumes – 9 articles, of which one written in English – 200 points.**

**D9. Chapter of a collective monograph – 1 chapter – 23 independently written pages of the monograph “Kidney Diseases and Diet Therapy – Contemporary Strategies”, “Gea-Print” Publishing House – Varna, 2000.**

**Articles in unreferenced journals with scientific reviewing besides those required as per the minimal state requirements – 3 articles equalling a total of 23.33 points.**

Publications and participations in scientific forums submitted in previous competitions, which are not subjected to review – 4 publications/participations

**Participations in international events – 1, in national and regional scientific events – 3**

**Citations reflecting the scientific activity of the applicant.**

**Number of citations – 6 in monographic theses (two of which in a monograph co-authored by the applicant, which are not to be subjected to review), 1 in an unreferenced journal with scientific reviewing – 50 points.**

The scientific activity of the applicant fulfils the minimal state requirements under The Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Acquisition of the Academic Position “Associate Professor” of Medical University – Varna.

### **There are no presented data regarding the impact factor of the applicant**

#### **Educational and teaching activity**

Dr. Pavlina Peneva has presented an academic reference regarding her teaching workload from Medical University – Varna (Outgoing No. 112-393/26.08.2021).

The applicant participates in the teaching process for the students of “Medicine” from the Training Program conducted in English for 2021, as well as in the teaching process for the students of “Medicine” from the Training Program conducted in Bulgarian, by teaching seminars, and since 2021 – by teaching lectures to students of “Medicine” in English, as well. She participates in semester exams on the discipline of “Internal Diseases” for 4th-year students from the Training Program conducted in English. Her average annual teaching workload for the last 5 years equals 177.2 teaching hours.

#### **Scientific achievements and contributions**

Dr. Pavlina Peneva's main scientific interests are aimed at the fields of

1. Early diagnosis and treatment of lung infections – bacterial and viral, problems in the condition of sepsis, guidelines, timely treatment and prophylaxis. The applicant's dissertation and monographic thesis reflect her scientific research in this field. The monograph “Sepsis – familiar and dangerously unfamiliar” presents a detailed review and summarises the currently available findings about this severe clinical syndrome. It raises questions about the early treatment as a predictor and a prevention of the lethal outcome, as well as about the reduction of the risk of long-term consequences. The use of DNI and the calculation of the criteria for SIRS, qSOFA and SOFA in the algorithm for behaviour proposed in the applicant's scientific work on this topic have a scientifically practical significance with a view to the early coverage of the patients with sepsis and the initiation of their early treatment.

2. Guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of non-infectious lung diseases. The applicant's publications that follow this scientific direction include several review articles concerning some contemporary trends for diagnosis and treatment of bronchial asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and systemic diseases involving the lungs. The applicant presents a reading of some updated guidelines for diagnosis and treatment, which raise the awareness regarding the contemporary algorithms for diagnosis and therapy.

3. Difficulties in the diagnosis and treatment of chronic kidney diseases and diet therapy in kidney disease patients. The monographic thesis entitled “Nutrition in the Most Common Kidney Diseases – Contemporary Strategies”, which was published in 2020, complements the literature within the field related to the contemporary nutrition of the Bulgarian patients.

4. Other scientific directions related to the general health condition of the separate individual and important questions related to the field of public healthcare. Two of the applicant's articles discuss the problems related to the diagnosis and treatment of the patients with COVID-19 and address some important comorbidity-related issues.

### **Personal impressions**

I know Dr. Peneva as a well-trained and established doctor, clinician and lecturer. I am convinced that in addition to her good and professional training, her aforementioned qualities would be a guarantee for the higher academic position for which she is applying.

### **Recommendations**

The scientific publications and reports presented for participation in the current competition, which formally fulfil the minimal state requirements under The Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria from 2018 and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Medical University – Varna from 2021, are predominantly review articles. Out of the presented 14 full-text articles, the original reports are 2. One scientific report concerning sepsis has been presented at a scientific forum in Bulgaria and one has been presented abroad. It would be appropriate for Dr. Peneva to focus her efforts on presenting original scientific results both in Bulgaria and abroad by studying and presenting the previous Bulgarian experience in the discussed scientific directions.

### **Conclusion**

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Pavlina Peneva, MD, PhD, presents in the competition with scientometric indicators, which fulfil the minimal national requirements under the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Medical University – Varna. She is the author of a scientific production that constitutes a scientific, theoretical and practically applicable contribution. She meets the criteria of The Act and The Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Medical University – Varna to hold the academic position “Associate Professor”.

All of these facts provide me with the grounds to vote for the election of the applicant and to suggest to the esteemed academic jury to elect Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Pavlina Angelova Peneva, MD, PhD, to hold the academic position “Associate Professor” for the needs of Medical University – Varna.



20 December 2021

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Diana Petkova, MD, PhD