

**To the Chairman of Scientific Jury,
determined by Order No. R-109-381/26.09.2022
of the Rector of the Medical University – Varna**

REVIEW OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Zlatimir Gospodinov Kolarov, MD

Rheumatology Clinic, UMBAL "St. Iv. Rilski"-Sofia, specialist in Internal Diseases and
Cardiorheumatology, regarding a competition for the academic position of "associate
professor" in the scientific specialty "Clinical Laboratory",
announced in the State Gazette number: 59/26.07.2022, for the needs of MU-Varna ,
Department of Clinical Laboratory

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The basis for the opinion is a competition for awarding the academic position
"Associate Professor" in the field of High Education 7. Health care and sport, professional
direction 7.1. Medicine, in the scientific specialty Clinical Laboratory, announced in State
Gazette number: 59/26.07.2022 and in the website of MU – Varna.

One candidate participates in the competition – Dr. Irena Dimitrova Ivanova, MD, PhD,
Head of Clinical Laboratory of University Hospital "St. Iv. Rilski" - Sofia.

The opinion has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Law on
Development of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations for its
Implementation and Regulations of MU - Varna.

I. Candidate's career profile

1. Education and qualification

Dr. Irena Ivanova has graduated from Mathematical High School "Baba Tonka" - Ruse with excellent results. In 2003, she has graduated with a master's degree in "medicine" and a professional qualification "Medical doctor - master" at Medical University - Plovdiv. During 2005-2009, she has specialized in Clinical Laboratory at Medical University - Sofia and acquired the post-graduated specialty. In 2014, she has been enrolled as a doctoral student of self-preparation at the same department. In 2016, she has completed successfully PhD thesis on the topic "Copper status - laboratory aspects and clinical application in some pathological conditions" for awarding the scientific and educational degree "Doctor". In 2018, she has obtained her master's degree in Public Health and Health Management.

2. Work experience and specializations

During 2003 - 2005, Dr. Ivanova has worked as a resident at Third Internal Department of "Pazardzhik" General Hospital, Pazardzhik; 2005-2009 as a specialising doctor in clinical laboratory at Clinical Laboratory of University Hospital "St. Iv. Rilski" – Sofia; 2009 - 2010 already as a post-graduated specialist and since 2010 until now as Head of the same laboratory.

As of 22.07.2022, Dr. Ivanova's work experience is for 18 years, 8 months and 25 days, of which 13 years, 1 month and 27 days in Clinical Laboratory, according to the administrative report of University Hospital "St. Iv. Rilski" - Sofia.

3. Teaching activity

Dr. Irena Ivanova's academic development includes the academic position of "part-time assistant" with teaching in Bulgarian and English language at Department of Clinical Laboratory, Medical University – Sofia during the period 2016 - 2021, since 2016 until now she is a part-time lecturer in the specialties of Medicinal Chemistry and Clinical

Practicum at Department of Chemistry Faculty of Science and Mathematics - Southwest University "Neofit Rilski" – Blagoevgrad and since 2021 until now she is a part-time lecturer on the matter of the specialty of Clinical Chemistry at Department of Analytical chemistry of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" - Sofia.

The official references, presented by the cited universities, prove that Dr. Ivanova's auditory engagement over the past almost seven years is significant and reflects good teaching experience and mastered teaching skills as an assistant and lecturer.

4. Administrative - academic activity

The administrative-academic activity of the candidate is reflected in detail in the previous sections of the opinion.

II. Materials, presented for the competition

The materials for the competition are submitted in electronic form, photocopies of the summaries of publications and published monography and book chapter in accordance with the requirements of Regulations of Medical University - Varna.

III. Evaluation of the scientific works of the candidate for the overall academic development.

1. Characteristics of the scientific production

To participate in the competition, the candidate presents 12 articles published in 5 national and 7 international scientific publications, referenced and indexed in globally recognized databases with scientific information Scopus and Web of Science, 8 publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes, one dissertation for the award of the scientific and educational degree "Doctor", one monography and one chapter in a book, also participation in 26 scientific forums and 9 scientific projects. The metric individual evaluation of the

publication activity of Dr. Ivanova h-index 4 (as productivity and as a number of citations) is a testifying of the significant impact of her academic work.

2. Scientific activity

Most of the publications are since the last 5 years. This reflects the candidate's activity to do research on modern and relevant scientific topics in clinical laboratory and clinical chemistry. As stated above, Dr. Ivanova has participated in 9 scientific projects with results, published in well-known Bulgarian and international journals.

3. Scientific and creative achievements.

I support the scientific and creative achievements of the candidate, reflected in details and objectively in "Reference on the contributions of the scientific works", presented in University website, therefore I will not repeat them.

I will point out one more publication fact, clearly deliberately left out of the list of documents for the competition, which also characterizes another artistic and creative side of the possibilities and activities of Dr. Ivanova - she is an author of two collections of poems, which she has illustrated with her paintings and drawings; they are extremely well received by the book's editors and readers. This gives a reason for Union of Medical Writers in Bulgaria "Dimitar Dimov" and a section of International Union of Medical Writers UMEM to accept her as a member.

4. Evaluation of the monographic work

The topic of the monograph "Copper exchange - physiological mechanisms and clinical applications" is current, modern, significant, with indisputable scientific, theoretical and practical value from clinical - laboratory and general medical points of view, as a logical theoretical continuation with fundamental and practical applicability of the candidate's dissertation work, supplemented with new recent theoretical data. It is written in clear,

concise and good Bulgarian language. The bibliographic reference is up-to-date, includes titles from the last ten years.

5. Citation of the candidate's publications in the national and international literature

According to data of National Library "St. St. Cyril and Methodius", 11 of Dr. Ivanova's scientific works have been cited 42 times - 5 in national and 37 in international journals. This exceeds many times those indicated in the reference of Medical University - Varna for the citations of Dr. Ivanova's scientific works.

V. Complex, qualitative assessment of educational - methodical and teaching activity

Undoubtedly, Dr. Ivanova is a clinical laboratory specialist with significant experience in the specialty as a regular member and head of the unit in which she works, with significant publications in the field of specialty and a large number of citations of her scientific works. She has loaded the necessary pedagogical skills and experience necessary for a full-time teaching activity, mastered during almost seven years of her work as a part-time teacher in three universities of the country. Awarding her the academic position of Associate Professor will be a logical consequence of the accumulated experience, scientific production, publication activity and teaching experience.

VI. Critical notes and recommendations

I have no critical comments and recommendations, I do not find any procedural violations and documentary gaps in the submitted materials for the competition.

VII. Applicant's compliance with the mandatory conditions and mandatory quantitative criteria according to the University's regulations

I believe that Dr. Irena Ivanova fulfills the requirements of Regulations at MU - Varna - completion of high medical education, acquired specialties, educational and scientific

degree "Doctor" and covering the mandatory scientific metric criteria for awarding the academic position "Associate Professor" with requirements for 410 according to Regulations of University, and the candidate scores 435,55 points.

VIII. Conclusion

Based on the cited data, the requirements of Law on Development of Academic Staff and Regulations of Activities at MU - Varna, I recommend to the respected members of the Scientific Jury, appointed by Order No. R-109-381/26.09.2022 of the Rector of the University to vote awarding the academic position of "Associate Professor" to Dr. Irena Dimitrova Ivanova for the needs of Department of Clinical Laboratory at Medical University of Varna.

Prof. Zl. Kolarov, MD,

Sofia

31.10. 2022

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