

STATEMENT

By Prof. Stoyanka Tsvyatkova Zheleva-Popova, MD, PhD, habilitated in Social medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy, an internal member of the Scientific Jury selected and voted by the Faculty Meeting of the Faculty of Public Health at Varna Medical University (Protocol № 182 /06/04. 2022) and appointed by an order of the Rector № P-109-162/14.04.2022; with the decision of the Scientific Jury first meeting (Protocol №1 /29.04.2022) (Protocol №1 /29.04.2022) I was appointed to prepare a Statement.

Re: Procedure for acquiring an academic position "Professor" in the area of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine; specialty "Social medicine and healthcare and pharmaceutical organization" for the needs of the department of "Social medicine and healthcare organization" at the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" Varna, promulgated in State Gazette 14 of 18.02.2022 r.

In the present competition there is only one candidate, Assoc. Prof. Klara Georgieva Dokova, M.D., PhD at the Dept. Social medicine and healthcare organization, Medical University of Varna "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov", Varna. The candidate presented all necessary documents as required by the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its application and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff – Medical University-Varna.

Career profile of the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Clara Dokova, Ph.D. graduated from MU-Varna with a master's degree in Medicine in 1994. In the period 1996-97. upgrades to a Master's degree in Public Health, University of Maastricht, the Netherlands, which largely determines the field of her professional development. In 2009 after successful defense of a dissertation she acquired the educational-scientific degree "Doctor". Since 1999 she has obtained specialty "Social medicine". Professional development: 1995 - 1996 Klara Dokova worked as a "physician-therapist", Municipal Hospital - Asparuhovo, and in the period 1999 - 2001 she was the coordinator of a research project at the Association "Public Health-99". In 2001 she began her academic career in the Department of Social Medicine at the Medical University of

Varna as an "assistant", "senior assistant", "chief assistant". In 2012 she held the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the same department, where her position continues today. In the period 2014-2020. was elected Deputy Dean and Dean of the faculty of Public Health, MU-Varna.

Fluent in written and spoken English and Russian.

Research activity of the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Clara Dokova participated in this competition with 93 titles of full-text publications, covering her overall research activities, including: Scientific production covering the minimum scientometric requirements for the academic position of "professor" (36 copies); Full-text publications in scientific journals, outside the minimum scientometric requirements for AD "Professor" (10 copies); full-text publications submitted for acquiring academic position "Associate Professor" (42 copies), publications submitted for acquisition of "Doctor" degree,(5 copies) and textbook - 1 issue.

The subject of review in this competition are 47 works published after 2012, distributed as follows:

1. Scientific production covering the minimum scientometric requirements for holding the academic position of "professor" in field 7. Health and sports by criteria - 36 pieces:

Criterion A. Indicator 1: Dissertation work for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor": "Awareness, treatment and control of blood pressure among the rural population.

Barriers to control" -1 issue; points: 50

Criterion B. Indicator 3: Habilitation work - monograph "Studies of the global disease burden. Sick load in Bulgaria 1990-2019. Varna: MU - Varna; 2022. ISBN 978-619-221-373-2

-1 issue; points: 100

Criterion G. Indicator 7: Publications and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information

- 15 issues; points: 113.73

Criterion G. Indicator 8: Publications and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes – 18 issues; points: 270

Criterion G. Indicator 9: Published chapter of a collective monograph - 1 issue; points: 6.67

2. Full-text publications in scientific journals and collections, outside the minimum scientometric requirements for borrowing JSC "Professor" - 10 copies

Full-text publications in scientific journals - 9 issues; points: 83.5

Full-text publication in a collection of reports - 1 issue; points: 7.5

3. Published university textbook "Medical Sociology", Varna: Steno; (ISBN 978-619-241-200-5) 2022. - 1 issue

Assoc. Prof. Dokova's scientific works have been published in authoritative international scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (15 issues, which is nearly 1/3 of all publications): *BMC Public Health, Eur J Public Health, Neuroepidemiology, Lancet Neurology, J Patient Experience, BMJ, Ophthalmic Epidemiol.*, as well as in various of our prestigious journals with scientific review (18 issues): *Social Medicine, Scripta Scientifica Salutis Publicae, Health Economics and Management, Varna Medical Forum, Journal of the Bulgarian Hypertension League, Asclepius, Black Sea Journal of Medicine and Public Health, Scripta Sc. Medica*. She published a chapter in a collective monograph, issued by the WHO: "*Health 2020 priority area four: creating supportive environments and resilient communities. A compendium of inspirational examples*".

All full-text publications are attached in electronic format to the competition materials.

Assoc. Prof. Dokova's **scientific activity** is expressed in the serious presentation in various scientific forums in the country (18 participations) and abroad (12 communications), which guarantees the promotion of her scientific production in the period 2013 - April 2022 (according to Appendix 1).

Klara Dokova presented a reference for 16 citations of her works in foreign journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, meeting the minimum requirements for AD "Professor. The actual citations according to the Web of Science are over 15,000 (Attached Academic Reference).

Impressive is the high overall Impact factor of the journals in which the candidate published: 1312,812 from 34 publications (respectively IF = 1307,034 from 31 publications after taking academic position "Associate Professor"). High citations and IF are proof of the quality of research and relevance of the topic, scientific recognition of the author.

Assoc. Prof. Dokova is active in project activities, and only in the period 2013 - April 2022 she was the leader of 3 research projects, one of which was the head of the Bulgarian team in an international project; participant in 4 significant international research projects, as well as in 2 national ones.

Assoc. Prof. Dokova is the supervisor and co-supervisor of 5 successfully defended doctoral theses. He has active scientific profiles in: Google Scholar, Scopus ID, ORCID, Web of Science, ResearchGate.

Assoc. Prof. Dokova is a member of prestigious scientific and professional organizations: European Public Health Association, International Epidemiological Association, European Stroke Organization, Bulgarian Medical Union, BAOZ, BNDOZ. He is active as a contributor to the Global Burden of Disease Study; as Focal Point for the Varna Region to the WHO Network "Regions for Health" and a member of the Board of Directors of the Association "Public Health - 99". He is a member of the editorial boards of: the journals "Social Medicine" and "Scripta Scientifica Salutis Publicae". Winner of the prestigious Prize "Pythagor" - Women in Science '2020.

Evaluation of the research and applied research activities of the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dokova's scientific output covers a wide range of significant socio-medical issues, and scientific, practical-applied and methodological contributions can be systematized in the following main thematic areas:

The main direction in Dokova's research activity with a large volume of publications is the assessment of public health and health inequalities, with emphasis on a comprehensive assessment of the disease burden in Bulgaria and the role of the main risk factors for the health of the Bulgarian population, reflected in the monograph "Studies of the global disease burden. Sick load in Bulgaria 1990-2019" and a number of other publications in refereed and indexed international journals.

The epidemiology of chronic diseases and in particular cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, which have an exceptional impact on the disease burden in the Bulgarian population and health inequalities in Europe are the focus of research by Assoc. Prof. Dokova. Priorities important for the development of health policy in Bulgaria have been proposed.

I would like to draw special attention to the efforts of Clara Dokova to study the international experience in creating registries of chronic diseases and her personal contribution to the establishment of a national registry of diabetic retinopathy and diabetes.

The **scientific works in the field of "Prevention and promotion of health"** focus on new for our country concepts and ideas in this field, both theoretically and practically (places for health promotion, models of impact on behavior), which I evaluate as contribution to stimulating the development of the theory of health promotion and its practical implementation in our country.

As a university lecturer, Assoc. Prof. Dokova does not missed to study **the educational aspects of health specialties**, which are presented in 12 publications. They are aimed mainly at synchronizing Bulgarian education with European recommendations, as well as at clarifying the social status, professional realization and satisfaction of health professionals.

With her textbook "Medical Sociology", presented for participation in the competition, Assoc. Prof. Dokova fills a niche concerning the application of basic sociological theories in the field of medicine and health care, knowledge and application of which is part of the education of students of all specialties.

In addition to these contributions of an original nature, those that enrich existing knowledge scientific and applied nature, the works of Assoc. Prof. Dokova also contain contributions to research methodology (eg methodological features in the study of global disease burden).

Assessment of the pedagogical capacity and activity of the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Clara Dokova is an established and respected lecturer in the field of public health with over 20 years of teaching experience. Conducts lecture courses for students of various specialties and educational degrees (including English language training) in 7 disciplines: Introduction to Epidemiology, Applied Epidemiology and Health Promotion, Medical Sociology, Sociology of Health and Disease, Medico-Social Aspects of Disability, Indicators and Assessment of Public Health, Introduction to Public Health, as well as exercises in 5 disciplines. The annual teaching load according to the academic report for the last five years is between 320 and 550 hours, which exceeds the accepted norm. Assoc. Prof. Dokova leads courses in PDE. He works with doctoral students from the doctoral programs in "Social Medicine and Organization of Health and Pharmacy" and "Public Health

Management", leads graduates in master's programs. He is the author of a modern textbook "Medical Sociology" and the Manual of Biostatistics for English-speaking students.

Compliance with the requirements of MU - Varna, for holding the AP "Professor"

Group of indicators	Required number of points	Points achieved by Assoc. Prof. Clara Dokova, Ph.D.
A 1	50	50
B 3	100	100
G (5-9)	200	411.05
D (10-15)	100	240
E (13-22)	100	450

Conclusion: The presented Academic reference, prepared by the Library of MU-Varna shows that the scientometric indicators of Assoc. Prof. Clara Dokova significantly exceed the criteria set out in the Regulations of MU-Varna for holding the AD "Professor".

I have known Clara Dokova since she has started her work in the Department of Social Medicine and her development as a highly erudite, innovative thinker, competent specialist and lecturer in the field of public health. An in-depth researcher with serious scientific interests and precision, Assoc. Prof. Dokova is a sought-after partner in authoritative research teams with significant scientific achievements, published in prestigious international publications with high IF. Extremely ethical and correct in her attitude towards colleagues and students.

Based on the positive assessment of the overall teaching, research, organizational and expert activities, I find it reasonable to **propose Assoc. Prof. Klara Georgieva Dokova Ph.D. to take the academic position "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Organization of Health care and Pharmacy" for the needs of the Department of Social Medicine and Healthcare Organization at the Faculty of Public Health - Medical University of Varna.**

Signed:



/Prof. St. Popova, MD, PhD/

30.05.2022