



STATEMENT

by Prof. Dr. Dilyana Vicheva, MD, PhD

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Vice-Rector of International Relations and Project Activity, MU-Plovdiv

Member of the Scientific Jury according to Order No. R-109-365/21.09.2022 of the
Rector of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" — Varna

In relation to an open academic Professorship in the specialty "Otorhinolaryngology" (ENT - Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases, professional field 7.1. Medicine, in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports at the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Neurosurgery and ENT, according to an announcement in the State Gazette, no. 59/26.07.2022.

One applicant is participating in the competition, Associate Professor Nikolay Sapundzhiev, MD, PhD, Department "Neurosurgery and ENT Diseases", Faculty of Medicine, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna (MU – Varna).

The candidate has accurately submitted all necessary documents for participation in the competition, complying with the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University, Varna.

Career Profile of the Candidate

Associate Professor Nikolay Rumenov Sapundzhiev, MD, PhD was born in Varna in 1972. He graduated from Medical University - Varna in 1997. Additionally he graduated from Technical University - Varna in 1996. For the period 2002-2004, the candidate was a full-time doctoral student at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery at Philipps Universität, Germany. In 2005 he defended the scientific-

educational degree "Doctor of Medicine" at the Philipps Universität, Marburg, Germany, and the next year he was successfully confirmed with this degree by the Higher Attestation Commission of Bulgaria. He obtained a degree in ENT in 2003. He worked at the University General Hospital "Tsaritsa Yoanna", Sofia and in the University General Hospital "St. Marina", Varna. He successively held the academic positions of assistant, chief assistant and associate professor at the University of Varna. He has professional memberships in numerous organizations, including European laryngological society, European academy of sleep medicine, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Hals-Nasen-Ohren-Heilkunde, Kopf- und Hals-Chirurgie, European Rhinologic Society, European Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery, Union of the European Phoniaticians, European Airway Management Society, National Association of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, Bulgarian Rhinologic Society etc. Assoc. Prof. N. Sapundzhiev is fluent in English, German, Russian and French languages.

Characteristics of the candidate's research and scientific-applied activity

The scientific papers submitted for the competition for the occupation of the academic position "professor" in the specialty "Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases", professional field 7.1. Medicine, in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports at the Faculty of Medicine, Department of "Neurosurgery and ENT", are 42 in total, reflect the scientific research activity in the period 2013-2020 and include:

Habilitation work (equivalent publications - 10), dissertation work, a section in a textbook and one reference book, 29 publications outside the equivalent of a habilitation work. Here the candidate is only author in 2 and a co-author in 37 publications, of which he is the first author in 5, second author – in 11 publications, third author - in 8, fourth author - in 8 publications, fifth and consecutive author - in 7 publications. The largest number of publications is in the field of pediatric otorhinolaryngology. The main directions of the research activity and the resulting publication activity are related to the theoretical, applied and clinical aspects of otorhinolaryngology, its subspecialties, head and neck oncology, pediatric otorhinolaryngology, a number of socially significant and casuistic otorhinolaryngological diseases, some significant historical aspects of the specialty, as well as some current COVID-19 related issues and news.

Evaluation of the teaching activity of the candidate

Assoc. prof. Nikolay Sapundzhiev, MD, PhD has almost 20 years of experience in the specialty and 17 years of teaching experience at the MU Varna. This meets the regulatory requirements for the academic position of "professor". His teaching load is high (over 203 academic hours per year on average for the period 2018-2022) and significantly exceeds the required standard for teaching employment. He leads the courses in otorhinolaryngology and phoniatics for students of medicine and dentistry

Bulgarian and English language training, nurses, midwives and speech therapists. He is an examiner in the listed disciplines.

Over the years, Assoc. prof. N. Sapundzhiev initiated and established the series of courses Otorhinolaryngologia practica, as well as a marked interest in the history of otorhinolaryngology.

Compliance with the scientometric requirements of MU - Varna for the academic position "Professor"

The presented reference shows that Assoc. prof. Nikolay Sapundzhiev, MD, PhD covers, and in some groups of indicators significantly exceeds the scientometric requirements for occupying the academic position "professor", according to the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the MU - Varna. These are as follows: Dissertation work for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (A1) - 50 points (requested are 50); Full-text publications, equivalent to a habilitation thesis in journals that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information 141 points (requested are 100); Other publications and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information - 220 points (requested are 200); supervision of doctoral students as sole scientific supervisor – 180 points (requested are 100); Citations - 166 points (requested are 100).

Conclusion

To participate in this competition for a professorship Assoc. Prof. N. Sapundzhiev meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its Application and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

Assoc. prof. Nikolay Sapundzhiev, MD, PhD has built an appropriate career profile with a marked aspiration for innovation and a high potential for a mature clinical, teaching and scientific career. The applicant provides up-to-date, original scientific production of high quality, global significance, international recognition and significant potential for practical applicability. He has interdisciplinary qualification, interests and expertise, as well as significant organizational and management capacity. Assoc. Dr. Nikolay Sapundzhiev is a creative and clinically argued otorhinolaryngologist. As a surgeon, he strives to implement in his clinical experience new and modern operative techniques; follows with interest the modern recommendations for diagnosis and treatment of ear-nose-throat diseases; likes to teach and train interns and students; daily creates and seeks new challenges in medicine; fluent in German and English; shows persistence,

will and consistency in his scientific developments, which are rare for Bulgaria with a high scientific-metric evaluation in the world scientific rankings (H index-10).

The overall assessment of the professional development, the educational and teaching activity, the work with PhD students and young researchers, scientific appearances, contribution and international recognition, the expert potential, the organizational and managerial achievements and the established authority of the candidate provide the basis for a positive opinion and I would like to propose to the members of the Scientific Jury to choose Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Sapundzhiev, MD, PhD for the academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, Professional domain 7.1. Medicine, Specialty „Ear-nose-throat diseases“ for the needs of the Department of Neurosurgery and ENT Diseases of the Medical University of Varna.



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