

OPINION

From Assoc. Dr. Milena Krasimirova Bozhkova, MD, PhD

Department of Microbiology and Virology

MU-Varna

Subject: Participation for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education: 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional field 4.3. Biological Sciences, specialty "Virology" for the needs of the Department of Microbiology and Virology at the Faculty of Medicine, MU-Varna.

Normative grounds of the opinion

Based on Order NoR-109-276/25.05.2023. of the Rector of MU-Varna I was elected a member of the scientific jury in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette No. 28 /28.03.2023. I am informed that the only candidate in the competition is Dr. Denitsa Todorova Tsaneva - Damyanova, MD, Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Microbiology and Virology at MU-Varna

Professional biography of the candidate

Dr. Denitsa Tsaneva-Damyanova was born on 27.02.1983. in Varna. In 2007 she was graduated with a Master's degree in Medicine from the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna. She started her professional development as a medical doctor at the Center for Emergency Medical Care in Varna, and after acquiring a specialty in virology she worked as a part-time assistant at the Department of Microbiology and Virology at MU-Varna. After successfully held competitions, since 2016 until now she has worked consecutively as an "Assistant profesor" and "Chief assistant profesor" at the Department of Microbiology and Virology at MU-Varna. Since 2012 until now, she works as a virologist at Medical Diagnostic Laboratory "Status" – Varna, where she is currently Head of Virological Laboratory. Dr. Tsaneva-Damyanova has a specialty in virology since 2012, and in 2019 she successfully defended a PhD thesis "Clinical and laboratory study on the spread of viral hepatitis B and D in the general population and in patients with chronic liver diseases in Northeastern Bulgaria. Duration of HBV – post-vaccinal immune response in vaccinated individuals". From 2021 Dr. Tsaneva has a Master's degree in Health Management and Medical and Social Care, graduated from Medical University – Varna. The monography of Dr. Denitsa Tsaneva-Damyanova is on the topic "Hepatitis D virus (HDV) - a satellite in the orbit of the chronic hepatitis B virus - a review and own data" published in 2022.

Regulatory documentation for participation in the competition

The candidate has submitted all documents legally required for participation in the competition: CV, diploma for educational and scientific degree "Doctor", diploma for acquired medical specialty, list and copies of scientific publications, list and evidence of participation in scientific forums in Bulgaria and abroad, list of citations of scientific publications, certified by the library

of MU-Varna, as well as author's reference for contributions of published scientific publications.

Scientific production of the candidate

Dr. Tsaneva-Damyanova presents an author's reference for scientific publications, distributed as follows: PhD thesis on the topic: "Clinical and laboratory study on the spread of viral hepatitis B and D in the general population and in patients with chronic liver diseases in northeastern Bulgaria. Duration of HBV – post-vaccine immune response in vaccinated persons", one published monography on topic "Hepatitis D virus (HDV) - satellite in the orbit of the chronic hepatitis B virus". full-text scientific articles a total of 23 issues with a total volume of 97 pages. The participation in scientific forums in Bulgaria and abroad of the candidate is in total 39 during the period 2012-2022, and the participation in national research projects in the period 2016-2021 – 4.

Compliance with the requirements for awarding an academic position "Associate Professor" to the applicant according to the minimum national requirements and according to the mandatory requirements at the Medical University – Varna.

For her participation in this competition Dr. Denitsa Tsaneva-Damyanova presents:

- Dissertation for acquiring PhD degree on the topic: "Clinical and laboratory study on the spread of viral hepatitis B and D in the general population and in patients with chronic liver diseases in northeastern Bulgaria. Duration of HBV – post-vaccine immune response in vaccinated persons" (criterion A – **50 pts.**)
- Habilitation work – monography on the topic "Hepatitis D virus (HDV) - satellite in the orbit of the chronic hepatitis B virus" (criterion B – **100 pts.**)
- Scientific publications in editions referenced and indexed in world-famous databases (Web of Science / Scopus) - a total of 14 pieces according to G7 criterion - **192 pts.**
- Published chapter of a book on criterion G8 – **15pts.**

A total of **207 points** are presented under the criteria group G with 200 required.

- Citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases (Web of Science / Scopus) according to criterion D – **26 citations, equivalent to 52 pts.**
- Full-text scientific publications beyond the minimum scientific-metric requirements for aquisition of academic position "Associate Professor" – a total of 3, one of which is referenced and indexed in Web of Science – 1, equivalent to **12 pts.**

The contributions of the scientific works of Dr. Denitsa Tsaneva are summarized in the following main directions:

- Hepatitis viruses - HBV (hepatitis B) and HDV (hepatitis D), HCV (hepatitis C).
- Herpes viruses - EBV (Epstein-Barr virus), CMV (cytomegalovirus).
- Viral infections in transplanted and immunocompromised individuals.
- SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).

The in-depth study of the presented problems, the analytical presentation of a large volume of informative data, resulting from the candidate's own researches, the introduction of modern

molecular genetic methods for research in routine diagnostic algorithms in clinical virology are among the main contributions in these directions. For each of them, Dr. Tsaneva presents clearly substantiated evidence, reflected in her publication activity.

Teaching activities

Dr. Tsaneva is among the leading lecturers at the Department of Microbiology and Virology at MU-Varna, who passed successfully through competitions through the positions of "Assistant professor" and "Chief assistant professor". She actively participates in the teaching activities of the Department in conducting practical seminars, lectures and individual forms of education (in Bulgarian and English) of students in medicine, dental medicine and pharmacy. Dr. Tsaneva's in-class employment reflected in the attached reports significantly exceeds the minimum regulatory requirements of MU-Varna.

Personal impressions

I have known Dr. Tsaneva personally since the beginning of her professional career at the Department of Microbiology and Virology. I believe that she is a highly qualified doctor and an excellent specialist in the field of clinical virology. Throughout the period of her professional development, she undoubtedly demonstrated high professionalism and expertise.

Conclusion

The professional qualification, research and teaching activities of Dr. Denitsa Todorova Tsaneva-Damyanova fully meet the requirements for acquiring scientific degrees and for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"-Varna. The scientific publications submitted for participation in the competition fully comply with the quantitative criteria for occupying this position. I declare that I will vote positively for the selection of Dr. Tsaneva to occupy the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Virology" and call on the other members of the scientific jury to do the same.

20 July 2023

Varna

Sincerely:

Assoc. Prof. Milena Bozhkova, MD, PhD

