

SCIENTIFIC OPINION

By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mariana Ivanova Goycheva, PhD

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member of the scientific jury by order of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna with no. 109-398/20.09.2021r.

Subject: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the specialty "Rheumatology", professional field 7.1. Medicine, field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports - one, 0.5 full-time position for the needs of the Rheumatology Educational Sector of First Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and 0.5 full-time position for the Rheumatology Clinic at St. Marina University Hospital - EAD, Varna, published in State Newspaper No. 61 / 23.07.2021.

Dr. Tsvetoslav Antonov Georgiev, PhD is the only candidate in the competition.

With Protocol 1 of a meeting of the scientific jury, determined by order No. P-109-398 / 20.09.2021. of the Rector of the Medical University – Varna, I have been appointed to prepare a scientific opinion.

The opinion is based on the requirements of the “Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria” and the Regulations for its implementation, including “The Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University of Varna”.

Brief data on the candidate's career development

Dr. Tsvetoslav Georgiev graduated in medicine at the Medical University of Sofia in 2012. In the same year he was appointed as a junior specialist and later junior expert in the Executive Agency for Transplantation, Sofia. From 04.2013 to 04.2018, he has conducted a full-time doctorate at the Department of Internal Medicine, Medical University - Sofia, Section of Rheumatology, completed with acquired educational and scientific degree "Doctor" after successful defense of a dissertation on "Clinical, serological and imaging studies in patients with

knee osteoarthritis treated with various therapeutic agents" (25.06.2018). He acquired the specialty of Rheumatology on June 1, 2018. From 01.2019 to 07.2019, he has worked as a doctor - rheumatologist in MHAT "Serdika" EAD, Sofia. Since 07.2019, he holds the position of doctor - rheumatology in the Clinic of Rheumatology at the University Hospital "St. Marina" Varna. He is a part-time assistant in the 2019/2020 academic year, and since 07.2020, he has been a chief assistant at the First Department of Internal Medicine at the Medical University of Varna.

Dr. Georgiev has an additional qualification in musculoskeletal ultrasound - intermediate level, with training conducted by EULAR, BSR, BAMSU, in capillaroscopy, imaging in rheumatology, osteodensitometry, review and editing of scientific literature.

He is fluent in written and spoken English and German. He is a member of the Bulgarian Society of Rheumatology, the Bulgarian Medical Society of Osteoporosis and Osteoarthritis, BMA, a subcommittee of EMEUNET to the European Alliance of Rheumatology Associations. He is an associate editor of the journal Rheumatology International (IF₂₀₂₀ – 2.631) since 01.2019. He is a member of the editorial board of the international journals World Journal of Clinical Cases (IF - 1.337) and SN Comprehensive Clinical Medicine and is the editor responsible for the research integrity and social media of the journal Rheumatology (Scopus) - the official scientific journal of BSR. He has awards from Publons (Web of Science Group) and the Korean Journal of Medical Science for review and a certificate of distinction - recognition for professional and editorial activity from the journal Rheumatology International, as well as the award "Doctor whom Bulgarians trust" for 2019 of the newspaper "24 hours".

Scientific activity of the candidate

In the current competition, Dr. Tsvetoslav Georgiev, PhD participates with a total of 25 scientific papers, of which:

- dissertation work for acquiring educational and scientific degree "Doctor"
- habilitation thesis - monograph "Knee osteoarthritis", 2019, ISBN 978-619-7168-07-5
- publications and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information (Rheumatology International, World Journal of Clinical Cases, Acta Reumatológica Portuguesa, Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases, Rheumatology) - 9 publications.
- publications in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review - 4 issues

- full-text publications in scientific journals, outside the minimum scientometric requirements for borrowing JSC "Associate Professor" (Rheumatology International, Clinical Rheumatology, Rheumatology) - 10 issues
- publications submitted for acquisition of ONS "Doctor" - 4 issues
- citations in international sources - 10 issues

He is a participant in 2 research projects. Apart from those presented in the competition, the candidate has 9 participations in international scientific events and 19 in national scientific events.

Table 1. Minimum requirements for points by groups of indicators for the academic position "Associate Professor" at the Medical University of Varna

Group of indicators	AP "Associate professor"	Presented by Dr. Ts. Georgiev
A PhD thesis for ESD "Doctor"	50	50
B Habilitation thesis - monograph	100	100
Г Publications	200	289.5 + 214 = 503.5
Д Citations	50	150

The scientometric indicators meet the minimum requirements for the scientific activity of the candidate for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in accordance with the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"- Varna.

His research focuses on various aspects of clinical rheumatology - osteoarthritis, inflammatory joint diseases, rheumatic diseases and COVID-19, which emphasizes his extensive interests and knowledge. The leading direction is the research on osteoarthritis of the knee joint, in order to study the corrective risk factors, the efficacy of the various therapeutic regimens, the profile of the serum markers for cartilage degeneration. In this regard, the team, he worked with, studied the serum levels of COMP, MMP-3 in association with disease characteristics and structural damage, assessed by magnetic resonance and ultrasound, the clinical efficacy of intra-articular hyaluronic derivatives in knee osteoarthritis. The association of osteoarthritis with

polycystic ovary syndrome was analyzed through a number of clinical, serological and imaging parameters. The results have been published in prestigious journals and cited in the international scientific literature, which is proof of their significant contribution value. Most of the publications are innovative. Studies on the prevalence and type of rheumatic manifestations of COVID-19, as well as the factors influencing the safety and efficacy of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines in patients with autoimmune inflammatory diseases, are also highly valued in the global scientific database. Serological studies of COMP, MMP-3 and VEGF in psoriatic arthritis have been performed and published. With his active participation, the morphological changes in the paravertebral muscles in patients with axial spondyloarthritis and chronic pain in the lumbosacral spine were assessed by magnetic resonance imaging. He has participated in teams conducting pharmacoeconomic analyzes in rheumatoid arthritis. In a review published in the journal Rheumatology International, Dr. Georgiev summarizes the scientific activity of the Bulgarian Society of Rheumatology, which is essential for its promotion.

Dr. Georgiev demonstrates good collaboration and enviable knowledge both in clinical work and in research teams with specialists from the same and other specialties. He has participated as a researcher in 2 research projects funded by MU - Sofia.

Dr. Tsvetoslav Georgiev has presented numerous papers at national scientific forums and presented posters at international congresses in rheumatology organized by EULAR.

Total IF = 17.468; h-index = 5 according to Web of Science.

Teaching activity of the candidate

Dr. Tsvetoslav Georgiev is a lecturer with experience in various levels of teaching. As a full-time doctoral student, he participated in the training of medical students at the Medical Faculty, Medical University of Sofia. He conducts practical classes for students and participates in individual trainings. As a part-time lecturer in the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine, the Faculty of Medicine for the academic year 2019/2020 had a study load of 140 hours for students with English language training. He presents a certificate of 1 year of experience as a senior assistant in the First Department of Internal Medicine, Department of Rheumatology at the Faculty of Medicine at Medical University - Varna.

Diagnostic and therapeutic activity of the candidate

According to the presented certificate, Dr. Tsvetoslav Georgiev has a total work experience of 7 years and 5 months and work experience as a specialist in rheumatology of 2 years and 6 months. He is a well-established clinician - rheumatologist. He works competently with patients in daily clinical practice, prescribing therapy. He has the necessary competence to perform musculoskeletal ultrasound, capillaroscopy and the application of other imaging methods in rheumatology. Dr. Georgiev actively participates in the treatment-diagnostic and consulting activities of the Rheumatology Clinic of the University Hospital "St. Marina", Varna. He has participated as a co-researcher in several clinical trials of investigational products for the treatment of rheumatic diseases at the Clinic of Rheumatology, University Hospital "St. Ivan Rilski ", Sofia.

Conclusion

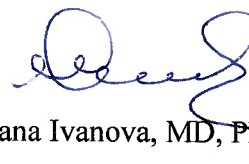
The candidate participating in this competition fulfills the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University – Varna for the academic position "Associate Professor".

Based on the above, I give a **positive** assessment to Dr. Tsvetoslav Antonov Georgiev, PhD and propose to the Scientific Jury to approve his election to hold the academic position of "Associate Professor" in "Rheumatology", professional field 7.1. Medicine, field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports - one, 0.5 full-time position for the needs of the Rheumatology Educational Sector, First Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and 0.5 full-time position for the Rheumatology Clinic at St. Marina University Hospital - EAD, Varna.

23. Oct. 2021r.

Sofia

Signature:



/Assoc. Prof. Mariana Ivanova, MD, PhD/

