

## SCIENTIFIC REVIEW

regarding participation in a competition for the academic position "Associate Professor"

by professional direction 7.1 Medicine,

scientific speciality "Epidemiology",

announced in State Newspaper no. 59 / 26.07.2022.

for the needs of the Faculty of Public Health, Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology at  
Varna Medical University

One candidate appears in the competition -

Ch. Assistant Professor Miglena Asenova Kolarova-Dimitrova, Ph.D.

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Teodora Todorova Dimitrova, MD

Deputy Dean of Academic Activities, Faculty of Public Health, Medical University "Prof. Dr  
Paraskev Stoyanov" Varna

Member of the Scientific Jury according to the order of the Rector of the University of Varna  
No. 109-382/26.09.2022,

The necessary documents prepared by the candidate follow the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its application at the MU-Varna. The deadline for submitting the documents has been met.

### **Biographical data and career development of Ch. Assistant Dr. Miglena Kolarova-Dimitrova, MD:**

Year of birth: 28.09.1972

Education: Higher education - Medical University - Varna (1990 - 1996).

Professional path: district therapist in the city of Shumen (1996 - 1997); resident physician Military Medical Academy and UMHAT "St. Marina", Medical center "Dr Emilova" (1997-2009); senior and chief inspector of the Varna Regional Health Inspection (2009 - 2015);

Assistant (2015-2020) and Principal Assistant (from 2020) in the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology;

Specialities: Internal Medicine - 2003 and Epidemiology since 2012.

Scientific degree: Protected scientific and educational degree "Doctor" on the topic:

"State and prospects of the epidemiological surveillance and control of HIV/AIDS in the Varna Region" (2019)

Membership in professional and scientific organizations: a member of the "Bulgarian Medical Union", "Bulgarian Scientific Society of Epidemiology", "Bulgarian Scientific Society of Public Health", EUPHA (European Society for Public Health).

### **Evaluation of quantitative and qualitative scientific indicators:**

The evaluation of the candidate for the academic position "Associate Professor" - Dr Miglena Kolarova-Dimitrova is complex and includes research, teaching and practical activities according to the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the Medical University "Prof. Dr Paraskev Stoyanov" Varna. It can be presented and analyzed as follows:

#### **1) Total number of scientific developments**

The total publication activity of the candidate contains 55 scientific works.

**Of them, in the current competition for academic position "Associate Professor",** Dr Kolarova is presented according to Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria from 2018 with:

- Dissertation work: 1 piece;
- Habilitation work: 1 pc.;
- Full-text articles: and 12 scientific papers, of which:

1. Full-text publications in scientific publications referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 5 nos.

in: Journal of IMAB (3), HIV Infection and Immunosuppressive Disorders (1) and Folia medica (1);

2. Full-text publications in collections of reports from scientific forums in Bulgaria - 2 nos.

in: Collection of reports from the national conference "New approaches in public health - and health practice" (1) and the annual conference of the Union of Scientists Varna (1);

3. Full-text publications in magazines - 5 nos.

in: Varna Medical Forum (3), Journal of the Eurasian Union of Scientists (2);

The two publications presented this way are outside the evidentiary material for fulfilling the minimum requirements for occupying JSC "Docent".

**The total number of points from the indicators (G5-9) is 215, which covers the mandatory minimum of 200 points.**

#### **2) Authorship:**

Of the actual publications in journals, anthologies and monographs under the competition for JSC "Docent", Dr Kolarova is the first or independent author in 11 (78.6%)/ articles, second author in 1 /7.1%/ articles and third and consecutive author in 2 /14.3%/ articles.

### **3) Citation:**

Dr Kolarova's scientific works have been cited 6 times in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes (4) and non-refereed peer-reviewed journals (2). The citation reference was prepared based on data from the MU-Varna library in the Web of Science, Scopus and Google Scholar databases.

Dr Kolarova has participated in 23 congresses and conferences with 45 scientific communications in the form of reports or posters.

Dr Miglena Kolarova has active scientific profiles in Google Scholar, Research Gate, ORCID and Scopus.

### **Scientific research and scientific-applied activity of the candidate**

The main scientific topics in Dr Kolarova's publications are related to the Epidemiology of infectious diseases, sex-related infections, zoonoses and healthcare-associated infections. In the personal report on the contribution nature of Dr Kolarova's works attached to the competition documents, 15 main scientific and practical contributions of her works are formulated, distributed by scientific directions and as such with an original scientific character and scientific contributions with a scientific-applied and methodical character that I fully support:

In the first direction sexually transmitted infections (STI) - HIV/AIDS, the anti-epidemic actions for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS are analyzed. Gaps in the educational system of medical specialists have been identified. The persistent leading role of stigma and discrimination in patient care is indicated. The study of the effectiveness of the currently active HIV/AIDS prevention and control programs showed that, despite the large scope, there are gaps in terms of risk groups, which necessitates taking measures to improve comprehensiveness. A number of shortcomings in the system for epidemiological surveillance and control of HIV/AIDS are identified, which, together with the lack of epidemiologists and the end of funding from the Global Fund, will most likely lead to difficult control of HIV infection in Bulgaria at a later stage and Varna region.

In direction 2. Zoonoses. Rabies studies and achievements of some scientists who worked in diagnostics, prevention and combating the spread of rabies are examined in depth and detail. An analysis of the available documents was conducted, and a comparison was made with the performed actions for the prevention of the disease and the effectiveness of the applied measures, according to the currently active programs.

In direction 3: EPIDEMIOLOGY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, Dr Kolarova presents a comparative analysis of the registered STIs in the Varna region for 2008-2017. Official statistical data from RHI, medical institutions and laboratories on the territory of Varna and ECDC were used.

It is concluded that efforts to reduce the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) must be directed at overcoming the main barriers: lack of public awareness and long-standing, widespread stigma regarding STIs, and difficult contact tracing.

In addition, the registered epidemic outbreaks of Salmonellosis on the territory of Varna and the region in organized children's collectives for 2014-2018 were studied. Materials provided by the Regional Health Inspectorate (RHI) - Varna, Regional Directorate for Food Safety, were used.. Publications in scientific databases, PubMed, Scopus, Medline, and Google Scholar.

The focus of track 4: HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS (HCAI). PROFESSIONAL RISK is placed on the dynamics of registered nosocomial infections in medical facilities on the territory of Varna and the conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, the data on the most frequently isolated nosocomial pathogenic microorganisms and the most frequent localization of HCAI and their distribution by treatment structures were retrospectively analyzed. A comparative analysis was also conducted between different medical specialists on their readiness to serve patients with proven infections.

#### **4) Educational and teaching activity:**

Dr Miglena Kolarova-Dimitrova has been an assistant and chief assistant in the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology for seven years. She leads lectures, practical exercises, seminars with trainee doctors, theoretical lecture courses for Hospital Hygiene specialists, and participates in several postgraduate training courses.

In the presented certificate for the realized academic workload of the candidate at the MU-Varna for the period of the last 5 consecutive years, it shows the following: 2016/2017 - classroom employment - 349 hours; 2017/2018 - auditorium occupancy - 392 hours; 2018/2019 - classroom occupancy - 477 hours; 2019/2020 - classroom occupancy - 447 hours; 2020/2021 - classroom use - 400 hours , i.e. for the last five years, her classroom study load amounted to an average of 413 study hours with a norm of 360 studies. h. (115% workload of the norm for academic workload) and is completely sufficient for her participation in the current competition.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the competition materials provided, I believe that the scientific production of Ch. Assistant Professor Miglena Kolarova-Dimitrova, Ph.D. and the presented evidence meet the requirements of the Law on 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 composition at Medical University of Varna and the criteria laid down in it for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor". That is why I give my *positive* assessment for the selection of Ch. Assistant Professor Miglena Kolarova-Dimitrova, Ph.D. for "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" in the scientific speciality "Epidemiology" for the needs of the Faculty of "Public Health", Department of "Hygiene and Epidemiology" at Varna Medical University.

06/12/2022

City of. Varna

Reviewer:

(Prof. Dr. Teodora Todorova Dimitrova, MD, PhD)