

OPINION

by

Prof. Dr. Yoto Trifonov Yotov, Ph.D.

Educational Sector Cardiology, First Department of Internal Medicine,
Faculty of Medicine, Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov”, Varna

Member of the Scientific Jury, designated by Order No. R-109-166 / June 03, 2020 by Prof. Dr. Valentin Ignatov, MD, PhD - Rector of Medical University Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov, Varna.

Subject: Competition for the occupation of the academic position Associate Professor in the field of higher education Health and Sports, in the professional field Medicine and scientific specialty "Rheumatology" for the needs of the First Department of Internal Diseases, Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University of Varna and for the Clinic of Rheumatology at the University Hospital "St. Marina" - Varna.

Brief information about the competition

By order No. R-109-239/03.06.20202 of the Rector of the Medical University-Varna I was appointed to prepare an opinion. The competition was announced in the State Gazette No. 8/28 Jan 2020. Dr. Tania Kirilova Shivacheva is the only candidate. The procedure for announcing the competition is in accordance with the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria / 05.05.2018 and with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Medical University-Varna / 29.10.2018.

Short details of the applicant

Dr. Tania Shivacheva completed her higher education in medicine in 1982 at the High Medical Institute, Varna. She started working as an intern at DPHSC in Varna in 1982, and in 1987 started her career first as a resident in Rheumo-Cardiology Ward of HMI in Varna. Since 1989 she was consecutively assistant professor, senior assistant Professor, chief assistant professor in HMI, Varna, and physician-assistant professor in Medical University and MHAT St Marina. Dr. Shivacheva can work with English and German languages.

Specialties acquired and postgraduate qualifications

Dr. Tania Shivacheva has acquired specialties in Internal Medicine - 1989 and Rheumatology - 1997.

Specializations:

Qualification for ultrasound diagnostics of musculoskeletal system. Qualifications in pedagogical training, different teaching methods, methodology of research work and formation of research teams, etc.

Projects:

She has also participated in clinical trials in rheumatology.

Professional Experience

Dr. Tania Shivacheva has devoted her interest for a long time in the internal medicine and rheumatology in particular, and she has now more than 37 years dedicated to treating patients with rheumatic and heart diseases. In terms of professional qualification, she fulfills the requirements for habilitation.

Research activity

Dr. Tania Shivacheva received her PhD degree in 2019 after successfully defending her dissertation on the topic: "Study of clinical activity of rheumatoid arthritis in patients treated with biological medications".

In this competition, the applicant presented the following scientific data (62 publications in total):

- a monography work with a total volume of 188 pages on the topic: "the patient with rheumatoid arthritis – present and future " - 2020, 100 points.

- Publications:

- A. To cover the minimum state requirements by the Law from 2018 and the Rules of MU-Varna / 2018: 212 points.

- o In scientific publications, abstracted or indexed by world famous databases WOS or Scopus: in full text - 7.

- o In non-refereed scientific peer-reviewed journals or in published collective volumes: 0.

- o Chapter in a collective monograph - 0.

- B. Articles in non-refereed journals with scientific review beyond the required minimum state requirements - 7.

- Participation in international, national and regional scientific events - 47.

Number of citations: 5 in abstracted or indexed by world famous databases scientific journals, 75 points in total.

Dr. Shivacheva is an individual author in 3 publications, first author in 16, second author in 12 and third and subsequent in 31 of all scientific papers.

Thus, the publication activity on this indicator fulfills the minimum state requirements of the Law and of the Regulations of the Medical University of Varna for acquiring the academic position of Associate Professor.

Scientific achievements and contributions

Dr. Shivacheva's main scientific interests are in the field of inflammatory joint diseases and especially in rheumatoid arthritis.

She develops a treatment algorithm for assessing the activity of patients with RA on the basis of international standards and on her own experience in their therapy with biological drugs, as well as establishing markers for favorable or worse prognosis. There is an interest in the diagnosis of RA, both in various laboratory and imaging modalities. Many of the studies are devoted to different aspects of RA treatment - from the use of NSAIDs to the most up-to-date therapy.

Another main focus of Dr. Shivacheva's work is the diagnosis of reactive arthritis. In collaboration with the Department of Microbiology, she studied the clinical profile of a number of bacterial arthritides, mostly caused by *Yersinia* and *Chlamydia*.

The candidate has a comprehensive view on the treatment of degenerative joint diseases - with Nimesulide, Meloxicam, DONA and others.

Her interest in establishing cardiovascular complications in rheumatic diseases is natural - cardiac function in lupus erythematosus and systemic sclerosis, coronary artery disease changes in rheumatic diseases, conduction disorders in RA, and others.

As an internist she has worked on the role of apheresis and plasmapheresis.

Dr. Shivacheva stands as a reviewer for the International Journal of Rheumatology, IF 2,025.

Educational and teaching activities:

Dr. Tania Shivacheva was selected as a full-time assistant Professor at the Department of Internal Medicine of the High Medical Institute of Varna, in 1989, and since December 2019 she is chairing the Training Sector in Rheumatology of the First Department of Internal Diseases, MU-Varna. In 2019 she was a free PhD student in the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine.

A record of teaching workload over the last 5 years indicates between 240 and 258 hours of practical training with Bulgarian-language medical students. She has participated in the theoretical training of 32 specializing physicians in Rheumatology and in the practical training of 19 specializing physicians. For the period since 1998 until now 21 specializing physicians have acquired a specialty.

According to this indicator, Dr. Shivacheva fulfills and exceeds the required minimum according to the Law and the Regulations for Academic Development of MU-Varna.

Conclusions:

Dr. Tania Shivacheva is an established professional in the field of internal diseases and rheumatology, with extensive knowledge and skills especially in the field of inflammatory joint diseases, with excellent professional training and proven skills. She has accumulated teaching experience and is loved and respected by her students and colleagues. Her scientific output is sufficient in volume, covers more than the minimum state requirements and shows a variety of interests, publications are in different journals. It complies with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for the Academic Staff Development in the Medical University of Varna. This gives me reason to recommend to the honorable members of the scientific jury to vote positively for of the academic position of Associate Professor to Dr. Tania Shivacheva, MD.

11.08.2020



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/Prof. Dr Yoto Trifonov Yotov, PhD/