

Scientific Review

By Prof. Dr. Petko Penkov Marinov, M.D.
Dean "Pharmacy" faculty, Medical University, Varna

Regarding: Competition for occupation of academic title "Professor", in the higher education area 7. „Healthcare and sport”, professional direction 7.1. "Medicine", "Pharmacology and pharmacotherapy (drug policy) major, announced in State Gazette 17/26.02.2021 for the needs of the "Pharmacy" faculty, department of pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacotherapy.

With order № P-109-203/26.04.2021, issued by the Rector of MU – Varna, I'm an elected member of the Scientific Jury (SJ), and according to Protocol №1 of the conducted first meeting of the SJ, I've been allocated the duty to prepare a scientific review according to the procedure of occupying the academic title "professor" of the "Pharmacology and pharmacotherapy (drug policy)" major. Assoc. prof. Albena Zlatareva, M.D. is the single candidate in the competition. The competition procedures are met and the candidate's documents are in accordance with the requirements of the Development of the academic staff law in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules of procedure for the development of the academic staff in Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna and the established in it criteria for occupation of academic title "professor".

Professional qualifications:

Assoc. prof. Albena Zlatareva is born in 1968 in the city of Plovdiv. She graduated Mathematics high school in Plovdiv in 1986. In 1992 graduated medicine in Plovdiv. In 1998 she acquired "Anaesthetics and reanimation" major. After preparing a dissertation work, she received educational and scientific title "doctor" of the scientific major "Pharmacology (including pharmaco-kinetics and chemotherapy)" in 2014.

The candidate possesses additional qualifications on "Treatment of chronic pain", "Good business practices", "Pharmaco-economics", "GCP certificate for investigator in clinical trials" and certificates for leadership skills; the art of negotiations, business practices, prevention of corrupt practices.

Assoc. prof. Albena Zlatareva has wide management experience. She has worked as a medical representative, manager "State institutions relations and Market Access", drug policy in several big pharmaceutical companies. She has worked in the Healthcare commission during the 40th and 41st National Assembly, respectively as a member of parliament's associate and adviser on drug policy. She has been a member of the "Commission on the Positive Drug List", deputy director drug policy and control of the NHIF, member of the MoH accreditation council. She has managed a medical center specialized in clinical trials.

Assoc. prof. Albena Zlatareva's cumulative experience in the "Medicine" professional major is 28 years, and her teaching experience is 9 years. She is elected for "Associate professor" of the "Clinical pharmacology and therapy" major in MU-Varna in 2016.

Assoc. prof. Zlatareva's main professional interests are in drug policy, development of a functioning European drug policy in Bulgaria, digital education in the drug policy area, drug policy and drug regulation, legislation in the drug sector, pharmaco-economic and financial aspects of the drug therapy, drug usage, clinical trials of drugs, good and innovative medical practices.

Teaching experience

Assoc. prof. Albena Zlatareva begins her teaching activities as an assistant in MU-Plovdiv in 1993. She is a honorary teacher in MU-Varna since 2014. Her teaching experience as an associate professor is 5 years in department "Economics and healthcare management". She actively participates in the education of students in the faculty of public health. The cumulative teaching workload is 50 tuition hours per year. She is a scientific officer of 3 successful PhD candidates:

Dr. Spartak Stoyanov Milev – informal learning PhD with dissertation work on "Application of fibrin glue in facelifting". Successfully defended in 2019.

Dr. Milko Iliev Kovachev – informal learning PhD with dissertation work on "Comparative analysis of the application of local anaesthetics in aesthetic breast operations". Successfully defended in 2019.

Dr. Branimir Ivanov Brankov - informal learning PhD with dissertation work on "European practices and standards for digital forms of continuing education of medical specialists in the drug policy area". Successfully defended in 2021.

Assoc. prof. Zlatareva has also been a scientific officer of 3 graduate students.

She has participated in a Scientific jury for acquiring of academic title in the "Asen Zlatarov" University – Burgas.

Scientific Activities:

For this competition Assoc. prof. Albena Zlatareva presents a total of 30 scientific works, on top of those presented for the occupation of the academic title "Associate professor", as well as participations in 14 international and national scientific and educational projects.

*Monography "Basics and tendencies of the drug policy in the European Union".

* **10** scientific publications, covering the minimum science-metric requirements for the occupation of academic title "professor". 6 of them are published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information and 4 are published in unreferenced journals with scientific review or published in revised collective tomes.

* **18** full-text publications in scientific journals and collections, outside the minimum science-metric requirements for occupation of academic title "professor".

* **1** published university learning tool – "Drug policy and market access of drugs".

* **14** international and national science and educational projects. Assoc. prof. Zlatareva is manager of 5 international and 2 national scientific and educational

projects and an attendee of 5 international and 2 national scientific and educational projects.

***16** scientific attendances in the last 2 years, almost all of them in international events – 13 in 2020 and 3 in 2021.

In the published full-text scientific publications in journals and collections, assoc. prof. Zlatareva is:

- First and sole author in 16
- Second author in 9
- Third and consecutive author in 3

The total sum of points of the published articles is 550.

The quotations of Assoc. prof. Zlatareva's published articles, covering the minimum requirements for occupation of academic title "professor" are 10. The candidate presents a list with 12 quotations on top of the minimum requirements for occupation of academic title "professor".

Evaluation of the scientific contribution:

The author searches of assoc. prof. Zlatareva are directed towards solving important practical issues.

The monography touches upon main issues in the drug policy area – legislation in healthcare as a main goal of the drug legislation in particular is to guarantee the safety, efficacy, quality of the drugs, manufactured and distributed on a certain territory; health systems – funding models, pricing, reimbursement of medical products, means of funding of healthcare in the European Union, control of the pharmaceutical system, drug policy impact on innovations in drug manufacturing and the patient access to innovative treatment; drug policy and rare diseases; vaccines policy and its importance for protecting the public health; distribution of medical products; drug information and advertisement of medical products; drug policy and its importance for the economics and prosperity.

The published articles can be allocated in the following directions:

DIRECTION – 1 Digital education in the drug policy area. The digital forms of continuing education for medical specialists in the drug policy area are analysed. The development of communications, digital, medical and drug technologies, and more recently the epidemiological situation, forced an accelerated digitalization of the health sector and sharply increased the need of fast changes in the health drug policy, as well as constant link and education of the specialists.

DIRECTION – 2 Drug policy and drug regulation. The national drug policy, the tasks of the regulatory and pharmaceutical industry, legislation in the drug sector, the benefits for the society as a whole are under consideration. Comparisons are made and the uniqueness of the processes of each country is pointed out.

DIRECTION – 3 Good and innovative medical practices. Issues concerning rosacea and its non-pharmacological treatment, as well as issues in the area of aesthetics surgery and pain relieving during surgical interventions are under consideration.

DIRECTION – 4 Legislation in the drug sector. The legislation is analysed, including in historical aspect, not only in Bulgaria, but also in the most European countries, as well as the impact of these legislation pieces on the drug sector, the single patients and the society as a whole.

DIRECTION - 5 Pharmaco-economic and financial aspects of the drug therapies. Under analysis are the expenditures for pharmaco-therapy for a variety of diseases, including the most resource-intensive, and under consideration are also expenditures, made by public health funds in Bulgaria and other European countries.

Direction – 6 Drug usage. The drug usage on macro and micro-level is being explored. The main directions are in the rare diseases area and their pharmacotherapy, the oncological diseases and vaccine-prophylaxis.

DIRECTION – 7 Clinical trials of drugs. The motives, benefits and risks of conducting clinical trials on all levels of participants, involved in this process.

I consider that the scientific works of assoc. prof. Albena Zlatareva possess modern scientific-applicable qualities and have original contribution in the area of the announced competition for professor of “Pharmacology and pharmacotherapy (drug policy)”.

Conclusion:

Based on the materials presented to me for the competition and on my personal impressions of assoc. prof. Dr. Albena Zlatareva, I’m convinced that she fully meets the requirements of the Development of the academic staff law in the Republic of Bulgaria, The rules of procedure for its implementation and the Rules of procedure for the development of the academic staff in Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna and the laid down criteria for the occupation of academic title “professor”. This is why I give my positive assessment for the selection of assoc. prof. Zlatareva for professor and recommend to the honorable members of the Scientific jury to vote positively for her selection.

17.06.2021

Varna

Prof. Dr. Petko Penkov Marinov, M.D.