

## OPINION

by assoc. prof. Dr. Rumen Pavlov Nikolov, MD  
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Member of the scientific jury for AT “professor” (published in SG,ed. 17/26.04.2021), approved with order № P-109-203/26.04.2021 by the Rector, in the higher education area 7. „Healthcare and sport”, professional direction 7.1. “Medicine”, “Pharmacology and pharmacotherapy (drug policy) major – one, 0,25 post capacity for the needs of department “Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacotherapy”, “Pharmacy” faculty, MU – Varna, additional conditions of the competition: to not apply the requirement of a. 137, a. 1, p. 6 from the Rules of procedure for the development of the academic staff in Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna, and the sum of points for the indicators from p. 13 to p. 22 for area 7. Healthcare and sport to be one hundred, without applying the requirement for more than 80 points to be from indicator 14)

There is a single candidate in the competition – assoc. prof. Dr. Albena Zlatareva MD

### **I. Biographical data and career profile of the candidate**

Assoc. prof. Dr. Albena Todorova Zlatareva, MD is born in Plovdiv and graduates Mathematics high school – Plovdiv, 1986, “Programing, laser equipment, quantum mechanics and nuclear physics”.

In 1992 she graduates with medical degree in Military Medical Academy “N.P. Pavlov” – Plovdiv. In 1998 she acquires “Anaesthetics and reanimation” major. In 2014 successfully defends doctors dissertation for the scientific major “Pharmacology (including pharmacokinetics and chemotherapy)” in Medical University – Sofia, on topic “Funding of the pharmacotherapy of rare diseases”.

Since May 2016 the candidate has acquired scientific title “associate professor” of “Clinical pharmacology and therapy” from MU – Varna.

Assoc. prof. Albena Zlatareva has significant practical teaching activity in the area of the national drug policy and drug regulation, as she has consecutively been: associate of member of parliament in the Healthcare Commission of the national assembly during the period 2005-2009 with established practical experience for development and implementation of the legislation in the drug sector I Bulgaria; deputy director on drug policy and control in NHIF during the period 2009-2010; ; member of the Commission for the Positive Drug List during the same period; member of the accreditation council of the MoH in 2009-2010; methodical head, member and responsible for the implementation of work groups for legislation amendments in the drug sector during the period 2009-2010; advisor under the Program for prevention and control of HIV/SPIN in 2012 in the area of drug policy and application of good practices for improvement of the access to diagnostics and treatment among the affected communities. The candidate has over 17 years of experience in pharmaceutical companies in the drug policy area, drug regulation and market access.

Assoc. prof. Dr. Albena Zlatareva has over 10 years of teaching experience in medical universities in the area of anaesthetics and reanimation, pharmacotherapy, as well as drug

policy and pharmaco-economics. From 01.04.1993 to 30.11.1995 she is an assistant, Department of Anaesthetics, Reanimation and Intensive Therapy, MU – Plovdiv. During the period 2014-2016 she is a honorary teacher on Drug Policy, Faculty of Public Health, MU – Varna and the Masters program for Public healthcare and health management, part time education, with teaching Russian language under optional discipline “Comparative analysis of health systems”. Since 2016 until now the candidate work as an associate professor for MU – Varna. Assoc. prof. A. Zlatareva is scientific officer for 3 graduate students and 3 successful PhD candidates.

The candidate is a scientific referee in several international scientific journals: Balkan Medical Journal – 2015; International Journal of Educational Policy Research and Review, 2021 and Value in Health, 2021.

Assoc. prof. Zlatareva is a member of scientific jury for AT “associate professor” (published in ST, ed. 105/11.12.2020) approved with Rector’s order RD-29/05.02.2021 in the area of higher education 7. „Healthcare and sport”, professional direction 7.1. “Medicine” , “pharmacology” major for the needs of education in “Assistant pharmacist” major, department “Pharmacy”, MC – Burgas for Dr. Lubina Racheva Todorova, MD.

Assoc. prof. Dr. Albena Zlatareva is head of series of international projects: Western Balkans project – Coalition for Health, concerning the positioning of healthcare as a priority for the political structures of the countries from the Western Balkans – candidate members of the EU and Bulgaria, aiming at health reforms with progress (Assignment For Regional Lead), PEPP (Patient Engagement and Patient power) and “School for patients” – project, aiming at the improvement of the local health environments and increasing the role of the patient organizations as an equal partner of the institutions with focus on Bulgaria and the Western Balkan countries; Economist Intelligence Unit – Breathing in a new Era: a comparative analysis of lung cancer policies across Europe, Bulgaria – country Lung cancer profile; country lead for Bulgaria for the project: MSD for Mothers, covering Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia, concerning maternal health care among the vulnerable groups, including roma population, as well as author and lead of the project: MSD for Mothers, including 5 countries in the Western Balkans region in partnership with IPPF, aiming at preventing maternal mortality in the Western Balkan countries among the vulnerable groups, such as teenagers and roma population during crisis situation, including COVID -19.

The candidate is a head of projects of national character, such as: Awareness of the population regarding the national vaccination policy in comparison with the European. Sharing of good practices. Development of new Cervical cancer strategy; Project for implementation of a national cancer plan and others, and is a member of the “Take a Breath” project, devoted to lung cancer, 2019, 2020; COVID-19 Alliance, organized by NPO and others.

The candidate is a member of organizations with significant public impact, such as ArPharm, CEIB, AmCham, and actively participates in healthcare committees, prepares documents and proposals for implementation of the European drug policy in Bulgaria.

## **II. General description of the submitted materials for the competition**

Assoc. prof. Albena Zlatareva has submitted a full set of documents, in accordance with the Rules of procedure of Medical University – Varna: application to the Rector of Medical university – Varna, for admission to participate in the competition with description of the documents; author autobiography in European format; diplomas for graduated university education (diplomas for graduated medicine education, for acquired Anaesthetics major from MU – Plovdiv, diploma for acquired scientific and academic title “doctor” in 2014 from MU – Plovdiv, diploma for acquired AT “associate professor” from Medical University – Varna), certificate for practical experience in the respective major and a reference for the occupied academic titles until now, references for attendance of projects and certificates for leadership skills; the art of negotiations; business practices; fighting corrupt practices. The documents are submitted on paper and digitally.

## **III. Assessment of the scientific works of the candidate for the entire academic development**

Assoc. prof. Dr. Albena Zlatareva has a significant publishing activity.

She is an author of 2 monographies, 1 book (bilingual), education tool (digital edition), 54 articles, as well as summaries, posters for scientific events in the area of drug policy, health and pharmaceutical management.

The candidate participates in the competition with a total of 58 scientific works, as follows:

- Monography on: Basics and tendencies of the drug policy in the European Union, which is presented as a main approved recognition work – 216 pages.
- Presented 5 publications in indexed journals, in world renowned databases with scientific information (Scopus and Web of Science) according to the Academic reference for minimum requirements, 6 publications in indexed journals, in world renowned databases with scientific information (Scopus and Web of Science) after acquired AT “Associate professor” and 9 publications in indexed journals, in world renowned databases with scientific information (Scopus and Web of Science) before candidacy for AT “Associate professor”.
- Presented 35 publications in unreferenced journals with scientific review or published in revised collective tomes, as 22 of them are presented together with the candidacy for occupation of AT “professor” and 13 before the candidacy for AT “Associate professor”;

In 41 of the presented articles assoc. prof. Dr. Albena Zlatareva is first or sole author. During her self-evaluating, the candidate has separated the due points for each presented

scientific work, proportionate to the number of co-authors, as the points of the candidate given the groups of indicators, which I confirm are as follows: indicator A – 50 p, indicator C – 100 p and indicator D – 550 p.

#### **IV. Assessment of the monography work or equivalent publications, presented for participation in the competition**

The candidate has presented a monography work, analysing the drug policy issues on topic: Basics and tendencies of the drug policy in the European Union. The monography touches upon the different aspects of drug policy in the European union and focuses on its specific features for the Bulgarian health system. The goal of the monography work is to aid the process of development of working European drug policy in Bulgaria. A main conclusion is that the health expenditures should be viewed through the prism of investments, and the development of policies for healthcare funding would have direct impact on the economy, leading to improvement of the economic indicators, concerning the improvement of the nation's vital indicators.

The monography work of the candidate holds an important practical and scientific meaning.

The areas of scientific-research interest for Assoc.prof. Dr. Albena Zlatareva, MD and contributions to them can be summarized in the following directions:

##### **Digital education in the area of drug policy**

The candidate has 3 publications on the topic – all in international journals, two of which referenced in international databases. The publications are with definitive practical-science contributions. The need of establishing and development of digital forms of continuing education for medical specialists in the drug policy area is demonstrated.

##### **Drug policy and drug regulation**

This direction is laid down in all publications. Under consideration is the national drug policy, tasks in front of the regulatory and pharmaceutical industry, legislation in the drug sector, benefits for the society. The practical contribution of these publications is manifested in clarification of the implemented drug policy and in the comparison of the good practices around the world.

The related with this direction articles include: regional drug policy (2 articles in Bulgarian journals), vaccination policy (3 articles), oncological drug policy (projects and scientific publications), rights in healthcare (2 publications), patients as a partner in developing a working drug policy (projects and scientific publications) and the right for health, including the vulnerable groups, and during crisis situations (projects and scientific publications).

The book “Drug policy and innovations” has contribution for aiding the process of developing a working European drug policy in Bulgaria.

#### **Good and innovative medical practices**

This topic is present in 8 publications, 6 of which are in journals under scientific review and 2 in Bulgarian referenced and indexed in Scopus edition. Under consideration are issues, regarding the non-pharmacological influence of rosacea, issues in the area of aesthetic surgery and pain relieving during such procedures.

#### **Legislation in the drug sector**

Analysis of the legislation, including in historical aspect, not only in Bulgaria, but also in European countries is made in 5 scientific publications in journals with scientific review and in 7 Bulgarian scientific journals. The conducted analysis in these publications includes pharmaco-economic and financial aspects of the drug therapy, drug usage and clinical trials of drugs.

### **V. Quotation of the candidate’s publications in national and international literature.**

The candidate covers the legislative requirements for quotations of the scientific works (110 p. according to the academic reference). She has presented an additional list with quoted publications (120 p. according to the academic reference).

### **VI. Assessment of the teaching activities.**

The candidate has the required teaching experience, beginning as an assistant in Medical University – Plovdiv from 1993 to 1996 in “Anaesthetics and reanimation”. During the 2014/2015 and 2017/2018 school year is a honorary teacher in the masters program on public healthcare and health management, part time learning form with teaching Russian language under optional discipline “Comparative analysis of health systems” in MU – Varna. Since 2016 until now the candidate occupies the title “associate professor” in Medical University – Varna, where she conducts lecture courses on drug policy, seminar and practical sessions for students, doctoral students and specializing students of drug policy.

Assoc. prof. Dr. Albena Zlatareva is a scientific office of three doctoral students (Dr. Milko Kovachev, Dr. Spartak Milev, D-r Branimir Brankov), all of whom successfully defended dissertation works.

### **VII. Critical notes and recommendations**

I have no critical notes to the candidate. My recommendation is to continue her publishing activity.

**VIII. General assessment of the accordance of the candidate regarding the mandatory requirements and mandatory quantity criteria and science-metric indicators as in the Rules of procedure for occupation of academic titles in Medical University – Varna**

Area of higher education 7. „Healthcare and sport”, professional direction 7.1. “Medicine”, “Pharmacology and pharmacotherapy (**Drug Policy**)” for the needs of department “Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmaco-therapy”, faculty “Pharmacy” MU Varna

<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Professor</b>	<b>Assoc. prof. Dr. Albena Zlatareva, MD</b>
A	Indicator 1	50	<b>50</b>
B	Indicator 2	-	
C	Indicators 3 or 4	100	<b>100</b>
D	Sum of indicators 5 to 9	200	<b>550:</b> <b>230 (in the main list) + 320 (in the additional list),</b>
E	Sum of indicators 10 to 12	100	<b>230</b>
F	Sum of indicators 13 to last	100	<b>341.43</b>

**IX. Conclusion**

My complex assessment for the teaching, scientific and expert activity of assoc. prof. Dr. Albena Zlatareva is positive. The candidate meets the mandatory and specific requirements and the science-metric criteria in the Law for Development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules of procedure of Medical University – Varna, for the occupation of academic title “professor”.

The presented by the candidate materials for the competition, show that assoc. prof. Dr. Albena Zlatareva meets the requirements for occupation of academic title “Professor”, according to the Law for Development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules of procedure for its implementation and the Rules of procedure of Medical University – Varna. The presented scientific works and evidences for scientific activity meet the quantity and quality criteria and show high level of contribution.

I give my positive assessment for assoc. prof. Dr. Albena Zlatareva in the competition and propose to the honorable member of the Scientific jury to vote for assoc. prof. Dr. Albena Zlatareva, MD to occupy the academic title “Professor” in the area of higher education 7.

„Healthcare and sport”, professional direction 7.1. “Medicine”, “Pharmacology and pharmacotherapy (**Drug Policy**)”.

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Prepared by: ...*Rumenov*....

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