

REVIEW



Regarding the competitive procedure for filling the academic position of Associate Professor in 7. Healthcare and sports – higher education area, 7.1. Medicine – professional field; Pathology speciality opened for the needs of the **Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, Pathology, Latin language, Forensic Medicine and Deontology** at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas, published in the **State Gazette No. 43/17.05.2024**.

Applicant: Nedyalka Todorova Zgurova, MD, PhD

Reviewer: Prof. Yanina Georgieva Slavova-Marinova, MD, DSC, Head of the Department of General and Clinical Pathology at Medica University Hospital – Ruse, professor at the Department of Medical and Clinical Diagnostic Activities, Faculty of Public Health and Nursing Care, Angel Kanchev University of Ruse.

Based on Art. 4, para. 2 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria /LDASRB/, in connection with the competition announced by the University in SG, issue 43/17.05.2024 for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific speciality "Pathological Anatomy and Cytopathology", report with reg. № 1 072 from 28.03.2024, I have been appointed and approved as a Member of the Scientific Jury, according to the order of the Rector of the University "Prof. Asen Zlatarov" Prof. Dr. Hristo Bozov, MD *№ *RD- 237 from 15.07.2024.

I have been appointed a member of the Scientific Jury as per Rector's Order № 237/15.07.2024 of the Rector of Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas based on the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, Art. 4, para. 2. The Competition is regarding the procedure for holding the academic position of Associate Professor in 7. Healthcare and sports – higher education area, 7.1. Medicine – professional field; Pathologic anatomy and cytopathology speciality, published in the State Gazette No. 43/17.05.2024. The Rector Prof. Hristo Bozov, MD, PhD, complied his order for my appointment with the report with reg. № 1 072 from 28.03.2024.

The documentation for the competition has been submitted as paperwork and digital content by the only candidate Nedyalka Todorova Zgurova, MD, PhD. She is the chief assistant professor at the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, Pathology, Latin Language, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas. The submitted documentation complies with the requirements outlined in the Academic Staff Development Act, and the University's Rules and Regulations.

I. Brief biographical data, academic profile, and candidate's specialisations:

Dr. Zgurova was born on January 11th, 1987, in Smolyan. She graduated with a Master's degree in Medicine from the Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University of Varna in 2011, Master's degree certificate 001474 from 22.11.2011.

According to her work record book (copy with a Ref. No. 5/05.06.2024), Dr. Zgurova has a total work experience of 11 years, 9 months, and 23 days as of 05/06/2024. The work experience in her speciality is identical - **11 years, 9 months, and 23 days:**

From 01/02/2012 to 09/08/2012 she was a resident physician at the Clinic of General and Clinical Pathology at St. Marina University Hospital—Varna.

From 18/02/2013 to 24/04/2022 she worked as a physician, assistant professor and chief assistant professor at St. Marina University Hospital—Varna. From 26/04/2022 to 05/06/2024 and ongoing Dr. Zgurova is a physician in general and clinical pathology at the Doctors for Us Medical Centre – Burgas.

Nedyalka Zgurova, MD, PhD has **teaching experience at two universities** as follows: According to Certificate No. 099-1417/10.04.2024 issued by the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna, she was an assistant professor in the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology from 18/02/2013 to 21/06/2021, and as a chief assistant professor in the same department from 22/06/2021 to 24/04/2022. Her tutoring academic record shows 158 to 258 hours per academic year, at a standard of 220 hours.

According to Certificate No. 2105/21.06.2024 issued by Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas, Dr. Zgurova has been a regular faculty staff member as a chief assistant professor in the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, Pathology, Latin Language,

Forensic Medicine and Deontology, Faculty of Medicine at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas since 01/12/2022 till the present day.

Dr. Zgurova is a specialist in General and Clinical Pathology – a certificate for a **recognised speciality with registration number No. 020639/07.2017**, effective January 1, 2017.

In 2020, Dr. Zgurova obtained the scientific and educational degree “Philosophy Doctor” in Pathology and Cytopathology. She defended her doctoral thesis on the subject of "Comparative morphological and immunohistochemical analysis of benign and malignant epithelial tumours of the colon" on August 10th, 2020. Her PhD certificate was issued by the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna, certificate No. 396 from 29.12.2020.

2020 – 2022 – A Master's in Health Management and Medical and Social Care.

English language level B1, Computer skills, working with Windows Vista 7, MS Word, MS Excel.

She is a member of the Bulgarian Pathology Association. Her research interests are in the field of colorectal pathology and myeloproliferative neoplasms.

II. General description of the documentation submitted for the competition:

Dr. Zgurova participates in this competition for associate professor with the following paperwork presented according to the list:

Monographs – 1 monographic work as a single author – "**Colorectal carcinoma - risk and prognostic factors**". Publisher: Central Medical Library at Medical University Sofia, 2024. Reviewers: Prof. Yanina Slavova-Marinova, MD, DSC, Assoc. Prof. Antonina Gegova, MD, PhD.

Papers: a total of 15papers, grouped as follows: publications in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world scientific databases **WoS/Scopus – 5 pcs., of which one has an IF of 0.4**; and publications published non-refereed peer-reviewed journals – 10 pcs.

Citations: 4 publications have been cited – 8 citations by Bulgarian authors, 7 citations in international sources (Web of Science), and 18 citations in other open-access international online sources. A total of 33 positive citations.

Scientific projects – 1 project. Dr. Zgurova participated as a team member in a project under contract No. FNI-12/11/20.12.2017 for "Scholastic simulation models in medicine, social sciences and dynamic systems". The research project of the Scientific Research Fund was housed by the Technical University – Sofia, in 2017. The project was successfully completed with protocol No. 100113/22.23.05.2022.

The quantitative characteristics of Dr. Zgurova's scientific research output meet the requirements for the academic position of associate professor.

III. Qualitative assessment of Dr. Zgurova's research output and contributions

The candidate's scientific contributions are grouped in the following main areas:

1. CHRONIC MYELOPROLIFERATIVE NEOPLASMS: STUDIES ON CHRONIC MYELOPROLIFERATIVE NEOPLASMS (G 7.1 and G 8.1)

Myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs) represent a heterogeneous group of haematological monoclonal diseases characterised by a primary disorder of the haematopoietic stem cells with subsequent excessive production of mature cells from the erythroid, granulocytic, and megakaryocytic lineages.

In this context, a thorough analysis of bone marrow angiogenesis has been conducted using immunohistochemical markers and their correlation to the neoplastic evolution of chronic myeloproliferative neoplasms. The correlations between the degree of angiogenesis, bone marrow fibrosis, and the mutational burden of *JAK2V617F* have been studied in detail.

The results show a correlation between the angiogenesis and the *JAK2V617F* mutation, especially in cases of polycythemia vera and primary myelofibrosis (G 8.1).

The interdependence of angiogenesis and fibrosis at immunohistochemical and plasma levels is demonstrated, along with its significance in newly diagnosed patients with chronic

myeloproliferative neoplasms with *JAK2V617F* mutation and patients with primary myelofibrosis (G 7.1).

The correlation between the immunohistochemical examination of increased microvascular density (G8.1) and the development of bone marrow fibrosis characteristic of MPNs is verified. These results identify the presence of the *JAK2V617F* mutation as an important prognostic factor in these neoplasms.

(G.7.1.) Gercheva L, Zhelyazkova A, Micheva I, **Zgurova N**, Tzaneva M, Balatzenko G. Correlation between *JAK2V617F* mutation burden and the degree of angiogenesis in the bone marrow of BCR-ABL negative myeloproliferative neoplasms. Journal of IMAB – Annual Proceeding (Scientific Papers). 2014; 20(4):526-30;

(G.8.1.) Tzaneva M, **Zgurova N**, Gercheva L, Zhelyazkova A. Bone marrow microvascular density in patients with chronic myeloproliferative neoplasms with or without *JAK2* mutations. Acta morphologica et anthropologica (19). 2012; 9:215-19

2. BASAL CELL CARCINOMA – RISK FACTORS AND HISTOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS (G 7.5 and G 8.10.)

A detailed analysis of basal cell carcinoma – risk factors and histological features, has been conducted, with each risk factor described along with its corresponding mechanism leading to carcinogenesis. A case, in which UV rays with a wavelength of (290-320 nm) directly damage cellular DNA and RNA due to the covalent bond between adjacent pyrimidines and the formation of mutagenic by-products has been described. Conversely, they form toxic reactive oxygen species, also related to carcinogenesis (by suppressing the skin's immune system). Based on epidemiological data, the mathematical model presents information that regular use of sun protection factor 15+ will reduce the risk of BCC development by 78%.

The role of nitrosamines as a factor in carcinogenesis is emphasised and highlighted. It is noted that even regulatory bodies such as EMA and FDA are actively involved in limiting nitrosamines. Other risk factors are described and analysed, such as exposure to arsenic, paraffin, coal, tar, dark hair dyes, solarium (banned in most European countries), burn areas, discoid lupus, and radiotherapy. Coffee consumption (more than 6 cups per day) increases potential apoptosis by inhibiting the ATR-Chk1 pathway.

Risk groups for developing basal cell carcinoma have been thoroughly studied, which is crucial for its earlier diagnosis and appropriate surgical treatment. It is emphasised that in patients with AIDS and kidney transplantation, the risk is 10 times higher than in the control group.

The most common histological subtypes are presented with their localisation and morphological characteristics (G 8.10.). Particular attention is paid to infiltrative and micronodular basal cell carcinoma with a high risk of recurrence and involvement of the subcutaneous fatty tissue. The conclusion is substantiated that the wide variety of histological subtypes of basal cell carcinoma should be considered in differential diagnosis, as it can sometimes be indistinguishable from an adnexal tumour. It is concluded that histological variants are important to be known and acknowledged in the morphological result because they relate to the local aggressiveness of basal cell carcinoma, and even to the metastatic potential in these tumors.

(G. 7.5) **Zgurova N.** Basal cell carcinoma – social epidemiology and risk factors. *Medical Review.* 2023; 59(6): 3-12.

(G 8.10). **Zgurova N.** Histological features of basal cell carcinoma. *Black Sea Journal of Medicine and Public Health.* 2024; 1:24-32.

3. ADENOCARCINOMA OF THE COLON. STUDY OF THE EXPRESSION OF SOME PROTEINS IN CONNECTION WITH THE TUMOUR PROCESS (G 8.8 and G 8.9)

To prevent the occurrence of colorectal carcinoma, it is necessary to clarify the main types of genome damage related to carcinogenesis. The pathways of colorectal carcinogenesis are diverse and can include chromosomal or microsatellite instability and epigenetic disorders in the hypermethylation of promoter regions of various genes. In this context, an analysis of two of the main genes (APC and BRAF) and their immunohistochemical expression in colorectal carcinomas has been conducted.

Colorectal carcinomas and synchronous/metachronous adenomas were studied for a correlation between expression and clinical-morphological characteristics. Using the logistic regression method, a directly proportional correlation was established between the expression of APC protein and the presence of lymph node metastases. Furthermore, it was concluded that the expression of BRAF protein is relevant and can be used as a prognostic marker for the

risk of metastases. This is supported by the fact that in most CRCs with BRAF gene mutation, survival is lower. It is further outlined that all these results prove the importance of immunohistochemical markers as predictive markers for targeted therapy.

(G 8.8) **Zgurova N.** BRAF protein expression and morphological indicators in colorectal epithelial neoplasms. Black Sea Journal of Medicine and Public Health. 2024; 1: 10-14

(G 8.9). **Zgurova N.** APC protein expression and clinical and morphological indicators in colorectal carcinoma. Black Sea Journal of Medicine and Public Health. 2024; 1: 15-19.

4. PAROTID GLAND LESIONS, CYTOLOGICAL EXAMINATION (FNA biopsy) OF LESIONS IN THE NECK AREA (G 8.3. and G 8.5)

In publications (G 8.3, G 8.5), fine-needle aspiration biopsy in space-occupying lesions in the parotid gland and lymph nodes in the neck area was thoroughly investigated to verify the type of metastasis or lymphoproliferative process. The correlation between FNA biopsy and histological results was evaluated, by studying 114 patients with subsequent surgical intervention. It was found that the sensitivity and diagnostic accuracy of this method of investigation were 92.6% and 79%, respectively. The most common false-negative results were found in lymphomas. The study proves that FNA biopsy is a specific diagnostic tool for suspected cervical metastases and can have a leading place in the diagnostic-treatment algorithm. The focus was on the reasons for non-diagnostic materials in FNA biopsy – aspiration of centrally located cystic fluid, fibrous lesions leading to difficult aspiration, and large amounts of blood and necrosis. The study also found that all metastases were correctly interpreted as malignant (100% sensitivity) and that the overall sensitivity for malignant processes was high – 92.6%. Conversely, it was observed that fine-needle aspiration cytology was associated with fewer complications than excisional lymph node biopsy, with the latter having a complication rate of 5% to 10%.

The findings are complemented and further developed with D 8.5 – focusing on FNA biopsy and volume-occupying processes in the parotid gland. FNA biopsy was validated again as a preoperative method for diagnosis and a means of differentiating benign from malignant lesions of the parotid gland. The diagnostic value was evaluated through the assessment of 135 patients. The patients were divided into two groups: negative for the malignant process or positive for the malignant process. Based on the analysis of the most common benign lesions

in the parotid gland and the malignant ones, respectively, the FNA biopsy method was found to have a sensitivity of 86.2% and a diagnostic accuracy of 85.5%. The conclusion that FNA biopsy can reduce surgical interventions in parotid gland neoplasms by 35% and in submandibular gland neoplasms by 65% is justified. It has been demonstrated that the preliminary information from FNA biopsy determines the type of treatment – conservative or surgical, and in many cases determines the volume of the latter. Moreover, the information obtained from FNA biopsy creates prerequisites for improving the quality of life in elderly patients – in some cases avoiding surgical intervention.

It is worth mentioning that this is the first study in Bulgaria, performed on representative clinical material on the use of FNA biopsy in the diagnosis of neoplasms in the head and neck. Moreover, for the first time in Bulgaria, based on clinical-morphological and statistical analyses proving the high specificity and sensitivity of FNA biopsy, a therapeutic-diagnostic algorithm for head and neck neoplasms was established. The role of FNA biopsy as a method providing a sparing diagnostic and therapeutic approach in paediatric patients is also highlighted.

(G 8.3). Dzhabalyan K, Tonchev T, **Zgurova N**, Krasnaliev I. Diagnostic value of fine needle aspiration biopsy in lymphadenopathy of the head and neck. *International Bulletin of Otorhinolaryngology*. 2015; 3:45-49.

(G 8.5). Dzhabalyan K, Georgiev T, **Zgurova N**, Kanazirev H, Karadzhova N, Doichinova M, Krasnaliev I, Tonchev C. Diagnostic value of fine-needle aspiration biopsy of soft tissue volume-occupying processes in the head and neck region. *Varna Medical Forum*. 2016; 1(5): 32-37.

5. IMPLANTOLOGY: BONE REPAIR MATERIALS AND BONE REGENERATION RATES (G 8.4.)

The main focus is on implantology and the vertical bone deficit in the distal maxilla. The formation of new natural bone with synthetic bone regenerative material and, consequently, the possibility of implant placement is monitored by biopsy. This allows the creation of an original methodology for elevating the maxillary sinus floor with a lateral approach, in which collagen fusion is used to isolate the bone-repair material from the sinus mucosa. More specifically, the need for maxillary sinus floor elevation with lateral access has been shown to

be almost equally prevalent in both sexes of the national population. It has also been shown that the sex and age of the patient do not affect the quantity and quality of newly formed bone when the floor of the maxillary sinus is elevated with a lateral approach. The importance of the application of Goldner's Masson trichrome staining to differentiate mature mineralized bone tissue from newly formed unmineralised bone (osteoid).

(G 8.4) Papanchev G, Georgiev T, Peev S, Arnautska N, **Zgurova N**, Borisova-Papancheva T, Dzhongova E. Comparison of the rates of bone regeneration in sinus lift grafting with a calcium phosphate paste between the 6th and the 9th month. A clinical case. *Scripta Scientifica Medicinae Dentalis*. 2015; 1(1):43-51

6. CLINICAL CASES AND LITERATURE REVIEW

Candidate's engagement in clinical cases to broaden understanding of different diagnoses.

In article G 8.6, the causes of liver abscess, in this case, retrograde intestinal bacterial contamination of the bile ducts during choledochoduodenal anastomosis, are discussed in detail and comprehensively. Again, histology remains the gold standard for determining the type of process in the liver (in this case, microbiology is negative). Paper G 7.2. discusses 27 autopsy cases of patients with proven COVID-19 infection. The changes in the lungs and their dynamics over time in these patients are described. The characteristic viral tropism to the epithelial cells, the correlation to post-cavitary complications, and the time course of viral dynamics are studied in depth. Alterations of the endothelial cells of the vascular wall, which can lead to pulmonary vascular hyalinosis, pulmonary hypertension and iron lung are described. Papers G 7.3 and G 7.4 present rare cases of arrhythmogenic right ventricular hyperplasia and schwannoma (malignant psammomatous melanotic schwannoma) in childhood. This is important because they should be considered as nosological entities in differential diagnosis.

In the study of the expression of gastric mucins: MUC1, MUC5AC and MUC6 in gastric carcinoma (G 8.2.), it was shown that the process of neoplastic transformation in the stomach is associated with a reduction of gastric mucins: MUC 5AC and MUC6. Increased expression of MUC1 in tumour tissue of all gastric carcinomas was found. The results suggest that overexpression of MUC1 could be seen as a contributing factor in the transformation of gastric epithelial cells.

In an article (G 8.7.), the cardioprotective effect of lipid emulsions (LEs) was investigated for the first time in our country in experimental animals (rats) treated with an overdose of Verapamil. The large therapeutic modality of LEs in a single administration was determined. Different dose regimens were established at different severities of acute exogenous intoxications.

(G 7.2). Stoyanov G, Yanulova N, Stoev L, **Zgurova N**, Mihaylova V, Dzhenkov D. Temporal patterns of COVID-19-associated pulmonary pathology: an autopsy study. *Cureus* 2021; 13(12):e20522.

(G 7.3). Zlatarov A1, Drenakova P, Mihaylov S, **Zgurova N**, Petkova L, Ivanov K. Malignant psammomatous melanotic schwannoma mimicking adrenal cyst: a case report. *Annals of Pediatric Surgery*. 2022; 18(1):51

(G 7.4). Kaisheva E, Gospodinova D, **Zgurova N**. Arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia – a case of sudden death in children. *Cardiovascular disease*. 2022; 53(1): 63-8.

(G 8.2.). Tzaneva M, **Zgurova N**, Tzvetkova V. Expression of MUC1, MUC2, MUC5AC and MUC6 in Gastric Carcinoma. *Acta morphologica et anthropologica* (19). 201 2 9:220-24.

(G 8.6). Lisnichkov A, Chernopolski P, Chaushev **B**, **Zgurova N**, Bozhkov V, Plachkov I, Ivanov T, Chaushev D, Stefanov Y, Draganova V, Klisarova A, Tsaneva M, Madjov R. Pyogenic liver abscess in a patient with pre-existing biliary carcinoma. *Varna Medical Forum*. 2017; 6(2):26-30.

(G 8.7). Kehayova G, Zlateva S, **Zgurova N**. Biochemical and histological analysis of rats treated with verapamil overdose and resuscitated with lipid emulsion. *East-European Scientific Journal*. 2019; 10(62).4-8.

7. MONOGRAPHY – 1 monographic work as a single author – "**Colorectal carcinoma - risk and prognostic factors**". Publisher: Central Medical Library at Medical University Sofia, 2024.

Dr. Zgurova's monographic is of sufficient size and possesses the basic components of a monographic study. It consists of 110 pages in total and is illustrated with 25 figures and 13 tables. It is structured in a very suitable manner. It contains: Used abbreviation in Cyrillic and Latin – 2 pages; I. Introduction – 2 pages; II. Epidemiology of colorectal carcinoma (CRC) – 9 pages, III. Genetic disorders – 3 pages, IV. Risk factors –16 pages, V. Phases of

carcinogenesis – 3 pages, VI. Tumorigenesis and CRC –10 pages, VII. Types of signalling in CRC – 2 pages, VIII. Major genes involved in colorectal carcinogenesis – 5 pages, IX. Morphological characterisation and staging of CRC – 6 pages, X. Prognostic factors – 27 pages, XI. Predictive and prognostic biomarkers – 8 pages, XII. References – 18 pages, 223 references, of which 3 in Bulgarian, the rest in Latin. Sixty-two of the literary sources are from the last 10 years.

The monographic work is structured according to all modern requirements for a monograph study concerning the complex understanding of colorectal cancer – risk and prognostic factors. Focus has been directed towards modern methods applied in the study of CRC. The latest modern theories on genetic disorders, phases of CRC carcinogenesis and tumorigenesis, types of signaling, major genes, morphological characteristics and staging of CRC, risk and prognostic factors, and the most current predictive and prognostic biomarkers are presented. A comprehensive breakdown of the data is provided in tables and figures. The microimages are of excellent quality, demonstrative, and accurately reflect the text description.

This monographic work presents extensively the risk and prognostic factors and concludes with the most up-to-date predictive and prognostic biomarkers. The research holds both theoretical and practical importance. The up-to-date information in this work will be useful to gastroenterologists, abdominal surgeons, oncologists, molecular biologists and pathologists, given the multidisciplinary approach in both the prevention and diagnosis of CRC and in the management of this disease. The study is of great relevance to the clinical medical practice. It contributes to adequate prevention, accurate diagnosis of the disease, and personalised therapy of CRC patients in Bulgaria.

Dr. Zgurova's research output covers various fields of medicine, some of them in the most significant areas, such as tumour pathology, inflammation, rare paediatric diseases, bone regeneration, etc.

IV. Description of candidate's scientometric indicators

A thesis for the award of the scientific and educational degree "Philosophy Doctor" – 1.

A monograph – monographic work as a single author – 1.

Publications in international journals with impact factor – 1.

Publications in refereed Bulgarian and international journals without impact factor — 4.

Publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals – 10.

Scientific presentations at national and international forums in the country – 2.

Participation in Projects – 1.

Citations: 4 publications cited – 8 citations by Bulgarian authors; 7 citations in international foreign sources (Web of Science); 18 citations in other international open-access sources. Total of 33 positive citations. Total publications: 15 papers and one monographic work as a single author.

V. Teaching and academic activity, evaluation of the candidate's participation in the teaching activity

Dr. Zgurova and the faculty team collaborate in teaching 3rd and 4th-year medical students general and clinical pathology. According to Certificate N 099-1417/1 0.04.2024 issued by the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna she has lectured at the same university in the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology as an assistant professor from 18/02/2013 to 21/06/2021, and as a chief assistant professor from 22/06/2021 to 24/04/2022. Her teaching experience in this University is **9 years, 2 months and 6 days**. The tutoring workload reference shows up to 258 hours per academic year, at a standard of 220 hours.

According to the certificate with reg. No 3-2105/21.06.2024 issued by Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas, Dr. Zgurova has worked full-time as a senior assistant professor at the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, Pathology, Latin, Forensic Medicine and Deontology, Faculty of Medicine at Burgas University from Dec 1st 2022 and ongoing. **Her total teaching experience in both universities exceeds 10 years and 9 months**. In 2022, as a senior assistant in the same Department, she was involved in developing a curriculum in Clinical Pathology for teaching pathology to medical students in Bulgarian for the speciality Medicine, 7.1. Medicine – professional field for the Master's degree program, form of study full-time, professional qualification "Physician".

The quantitative and qualitative indicators of the candidate's teaching activity fully comply with the criteria for the academic position of Associate Professor.

VI. Conclusion

My overall assessment of the candidate's compliance with the mandatory requirements and the compulsory quantitative criteria and scientometrics outlined in the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, and the Rules and Regulations of Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas, for academic staff development, is as follows:

The requirements are

1. To have the educational and scientific degree Philosophy Doctor – Certificate № 396 from 29/12/2020, issued by the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna.
2. A monographic work – 1 monographic work has been submitted.
3. Publications – 15 publications, 5 of them in refereed Bulgarian and international journals have been submitted.
4. A continuous and thriving professional trajectory – assistant professor, chief assistant professor, more than 10 years and 9 months of teaching experience. The reference from the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna for her teaching workload shows that it corresponds to the required standard.
5. A recognised speciality – a certificate of a recognised speciality in General and Clinical Pathology with **registration number No. 020639/ 07.2017 as of January 1st, 2017** has been presented.

Table presenting the minimum required points by groups of indicators for the academic position of Associate Professor in in 7. Healthcare and sports – higher education area, 7.1. Medicine – professional field, and the number of points by groups of indicators for Dr. Zgurova:

Group of indicators	Associate Professor (required points)	Nedyalka Zgurova (points)
A	50	50
B	0	0
C	100	100
D	220	245,35
E	60	235
F	20	55

The career profile of the candidate, her scientometric indicators, the acquired scientific and educational degree Philosophy Doctor after successfully defending a thesis, the monographic work "Colorectal carcinoma – risk and prognostic factors" prepared as a single author, her research output contributions and active involvement educational process, comply with the requirements set forth in the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, and the Rules and Regulations of Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas, for holding the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific speciality Pathology and Cytopathology. Therefore, based on my in-depth review of the submitted documentation and my assessment of the participant's overall scientific research and teaching contributions, I affirm definitively that the candidate **fully meets** the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act and the Regulations of Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas for holding the academic position of Associate Professor.

VII. Proposal for filling the position:

In relation to the above and in line with the candidate's thorough compliance with the mandatory quantitative and qualitative scientometric criteria according to the requirements outlined in the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Rules and Regulation of Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas for filling the academic position of Associate Professor, I confidently and unequivocally share my positive assessment and take the liberty to recommend to the other members of the esteemed Scientific Jury to vote positive for awarding the academic position of Associate Professor to

Nedyalka Todorova Zgurova, MD, PhD

After the vote, she should be proposed to the Scientific Council for election and to the Academic Council for confirmation for the position of Associate Professor in the professional field 7.1 Medicine, scientific speciality of Pathology and Cytopathology.

24/09/2024

Reviewer:

Ruse

(Prof. Yanina Slavova-Marinova, MD, PhD)