

OPINION

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Internal member of the Scientific Jury, according to Order No. RD-260/30.08.2024. of the Rector of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas

Regarding: Conducting a competition for the appointment of the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional direction 7.1. **Medicine**, scientific specialty "General Medicine," Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas (competition announced in the State Gazette, issue No. 55/June 28, 2024).

The sole candidate in the Competition is Senior Assistant professor Dr. Nevena Georgieva Ivanova, Ph.D.

The candidate has submitted all necessary documents for participation in the competition, in compliance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), its Implementing Regulations, and the Regulations for the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" - Burgas. The submitted documents have been approved by the Admission Commission.

I. Biographical Data and Career Profile of the Candidate

Dr. Nevena Ivanova was born on September 12, 1974. She received her primary education in Tripoli, Libya, and later graduated with honors from the "Patriarch Evtimiy" Secondary School in Plovdiv, specializing in English. In 1998, she graduated with honors as a Master of Medicine from the Medical University of Plovdiv. Dr. Ivanova holds recognized specialties in Internal Medicine (2004), Cardiology (2006), and General Medicine (2018). In 2015, she obtained her PhD in General Medicine.

She began her professional career in 1998 as a physician in the cardiology department of the First Municipal Hospital in Plovdiv and became a resident in internal medicine at the same hospital in 2000. From 2004 to 2006, Dr. Ivanova specialized in cardiology at the Cardiology Clinic of the University Hospital "St. George" in Plovdiv.

Currently, Dr. Nevena Ivanova works as a senior assistant in the Department of Urology and General Medicine at the Medical University of Plovdiv (assistant since 2000), a cardiologist at the Diagnostic and Consultative Center "Karidad" and the "St. Karidad" General Hospital in Plovdiv (since 2011), and a general medicine practitioner at "Dr. Ivan Nastev 2015 – Outpatient Practice for Primary Medical Care" Ltd. in Plovdiv (since 2024).

Dr. Ivanova has participated in two projects of the Medical University of Plovdiv and has more than 100 participations in international and national congresses, conferences, and scientific meetings, with over 60 scientific reports; she has delivered over 40 presentations at national and international congresses.

Her work has been recognized with numerous awards and honors. Dr. Ivanova was the national representative of Bulgaria in the European Organization of Teachers of General/Family Medicine (EURACT) from 2010-2012 and in the World Assembly "Tobacco or Health" (WATCH) from 2004-2008.

She is a member of the European General Practice Research Network (EGPRN), the Bulgarian Society of Cardiology (BSC), the National Association of General Practitioners in Bulgaria (NAGPB), the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria (USB), the Bulgarian Medical Association (BMA), among others.

She is proficient in written and spoken English and Russian.

II. General Description of the Submitted Materials for the Competition

Dr. Nevena Georgieva Ivanova has submitted comprehensive documentation, including detailed lists, references, summaries, full-text copies of scientific works – all published after earning her PhD and appointment as an assistant, as well as diplomas, citation records, and a declaration of originality and authenticity of the submitted documents. The documentation is detailed and well-organized.

For review, 100 scientific works have been presented, including a habilitation work (monograph), a published book based on a defended dissertation for the PhD degree, three monographs not submitted as the main habilitation work, published chapters in two collective monographs, publications, reports, university textbooks, and teaching aids. In 28 of the publications, the candidate is the sole author, and in nine, the first author. Twenty of the works are published in journals with an Impact Factor, and 13 in Scopus-indexed journals.

1. Evaluation of the Candidate's Scientific Works for Overall Academic Development

The publication activity of Dr. Ivanova is evenly distributed over the years, indicating an active, systematic, and consistently conducted research practice. The main areas of her scientific work include general medicine, cardiology, internal medicine, epidemiology and infectious diseases, oncology, vascular medicine, palliative care, public health, medical education, and genetics.

Her scientific interests and contributions can be categorized into ten main areas:

- 1. Research on primary healthcare reform and access to primary medical services in Bulgaria;*
- 2. Studies and publications on cardiovascular diseases, risk factors, complications, and management in primary care and the community;*

3. *Research on the complications of COVID-19 and their management in primary care;*
4. *Studies on professional stress and burnout among general practitioners;*
5. *Research on screening and prevention in primary care and the community;*
6. *Development of educational materials (textbooks and teaching aids) and assessment tools for medical students and general practitioners;*
7. *Studies on the quality of general medical care, evidence-based practices in primary care;*
8. *Research on specific patient groups (elderly, adolescents);*
9. *Clinical cases of rare or complex medical conditions;*
10. *Studies on health policy, healthcare organization, management, and resources.*

2. Evaluation of the Habilitation Monographic Work

The candidate has presented one independent monographic work for review titled "*Arterial Hypertension – A Current Perspective. Part 1,*" published in 2019. The monograph is highly interesting and of great practical relevance as it presents contemporary perspectives on hypertension treatment for specific patient groups, including updates in line with the recommendations of the European Society of Cardiology/European Society of Hypertension from 2018. The monograph reflects the author's extensive practical and teaching experience. It is written in accessible language and is useful for a wide range of specialists, including cardiologists, general practitioners, residents, and students.

3. Impact of the Candidate's Publications

The citation report shows 88 citations in Bulgarian scientific sources and 53 in international sources, including 28 citations in Scopus (Elsevier) and 25 in the Web of Science (Clarivate).

III. Evaluation of the Candidate's Research Activity – Quantitative and Qualitative Indicators

The submitted documents contain the necessary information for conducting a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the candidate's overall academic development, **fully meeting the requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor,"** as per the Regulations of the University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" - Burgas, ZRASRB, and its implementation rules. The submitted works align with the area and scope of the competition.

The scientific output **significantly exceeds the minimum requirements** set by the University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" - Burgas for the "Associate Professor" academic position (Table 1).

Table 1. Summary Table of Dr. N. Ivanova's Results According to the Minimum Required Points for the "Associate Professor" Position by Indicator Groups.

Group of Indicators	Description	Minimum University Requirements for Associate Professor	Fulfillment by Senior Assistant Dr. Nevena Ivanova
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-
C	Indicator 3 or 4	100	100
D	Sum of Indicators 5 to 9	220	1828,2
E	Sum of indicators 10 to 12	60	1500
F	Sum of indicators 13 to 24	20	574,86
	Total	450	4053,06

Conclusion:

Based on the materials submitted for the competition, I am firmly convinced that **Dr. Nevena Georgieva Ivanova fully meets the national criteria for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor," significantly exceeding all indicators** established by the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and its Implementation Rules, as well as the regulations of the University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

My overall impression of the candidate is that she possesses all the professional qualities necessary for holding a higher academic position, namely: thoroughness, systematic approach, responsibility, and consistency in seeking innovations in her chosen field of research.

Based on the submitted documentation and stated contributions, I provide a **positive assessment and confidently recommend to the members of the Academic Committee to support the selection of Dr. Nevena Georgieva Ivanova for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education/ 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "General Medicine,"** announced for the needs of the University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

05.11.2024 Burgas

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galinka Pavlova, PhD/

