

OPINION STATEMENT

**BY PROF. TIHOMIRA ZLATANOVA, MD, DSc
UNIVERSITY "PROF. Dr. ASEN ZLATAROV"**

Regarding: Competition for the occupation of the academic position "associate professor", in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "General Medicine", University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, announced in the State Gazette, no. 55 of 28.06.2024 with a single candidate Nevena Georgieva Ivanova, PhD.

According to Order No. RD-260/30.08.2024 of the Rector of the University
"prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" Burgas

I have been appointed as an internal member of the Scientific Jury

Those presented by Nevena Georgieva Ivanova, assistant professor, documents, according to the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff and the Regulations of the University "prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" Burgas city for its implementation, have been approved by the Admissions Committee for the competition.

General characteristics of the candidate

Nevena Georgieva Ivanova was born on 12/09/1974. In 1998, she obtained a master's degree in medicine, a doctor at the Medical University of Plovdiv. Nevena Ivanova has 3 recognized specialties: "Internal Diseases" /2004/, "Cardiology" /2007/ and "General Medicine" /2018/. In 2015, at MU Plovdiv, he acquired the Doctor of General Medicine degree after defending a dissertation on the topic "Professional-behavioral and motivational profile of general practitioners".

The professional path of Nevena Ivanova, MD began as a resident in the cardiology department of the First Municipal Hospital in the city of Plovdiv /1998-2000/. From 2000 to 2004 he was a specialist in internal medicine at the same hospital, and in the period 2004-2006 he was a specialist in cardiology, Cardiology Clinic, UMBAL "St. Georgi", the city of Plovdiv. The academic development of Nevena Ivanova is as follows: since 05.2000 she has been an assistant in the Department of General Medicine and chief assistant in the Department of Urology and General Medicine, Medical University, Plovdiv. From 2011 to the present, Dr. Ivanova also worked as a cardiologist at the "Caridad" Medical Center and the "St. Caridad" city of Plovdiv, and since 2024 he is a general medicine doctor in an outpatient clinic for individual practice for primary medical care" LTD, city of Plovdiv.

Nevena Ivanova, MD is the national representative of Bulgaria in the European Organization of Teachers of General/Family Medicine (EURACT) in the period 2010-2012; national representative of Bulgaria in the World Assembly "Smoking Against Health" WATCH, 2004-2008; member of the European General Practice Research Network (EGPRN); member of the Society of Cardiologists in Bulgaria (DKB); member of the National Association of General Practitioners in Bulgaria (NSOPLB); member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria (SUB); member of the Bulgarian Medical Union (BLS); member of The Scientific Research Honor Society Sigma Xi.

He is fluent in written and spoken English and Russian.

She has communication skills when working with students, interns, patients and colleagues, correspondence with project partners (national and international), publishers of Bulgarian and foreign scientific journals, which she applies in her positions.

Research activity

Nevena Georgieva Ivanova, MD participated in the competition with a total number of scientific works of 100. Of which:

- ✓ Habilitation thesis-monograph (indicator group B, item 3) – 1 issue.
- ✓ Published monograph, which is not presented as the main habilitation work (indicator group D, item 5) - 3 copies.
- ✓ Published book based on a protected dissertation work for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" (indicator group D, item 6) - 1 issue.
- ✓ Publications and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (indicator group D, item 7) – 33 items, of which:
 - Full-text - 23 issues - 10 issues with Impact Factor (total 14,919), 13 issues in Scopus, standalone - 10 issues, of which 5 issues with Impact Factor and 5 issues in Scopus.
 - Reports - 10 issues in journals with an Impact factor (total 11,511), of which first author - 3 issues.

Total Impact factor of rooms and reports 26.43. H-index – 3.

- ✓ Publications and reports published in refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes (indicator group D, item 8) - 40, of which independent - 10 and first author - 6.
- ✓ Published chapter of a collective monograph (indicator group D, item 9) - 2 issues.
- ✓ Published university textbook (indicator group E, item 20) – 8 copies.
- ✓ Published university textbook (indicator group E, item 21) – 12 copies, of which 8 copies independently.

The leading participation of the candidate in the scientific works is a definite proof of the strong authorial presence and competence in the field of general medicine, cardiology and genetics, as they consider significant issues in the indicated areas.

The presented works are summarized results of a number of scientific studies and evaluations in 10 areas: general medicine, cardiology, internal medicine, epidemiology and infectious diseases, oncology, vascular medicine, palliative care, public health, medical education and genetics.

Nevena Ivanova, MD, PhD presented a reference of a total of 88 citations in Bulgarian sources and 53 in international sources, distributed as follows: referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes - 53 in foreign and 15 in Bulgarian publications that are referenced in global databases. Citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review - 23. Citations in non-refereed journals with scientific review - 50. The presented citations are proof of her recognition in scientific circles.

The majority of real publications in terms of content are in the field of the announced competition in general medicine.

Scientific research on primary medical care reform and access to primary medical care in Bulgaria is important for improving the health system. They provide the basis for informed decision-making, optimization of resources and sustainable improvement of the quality of medical services, while ensuring equal access to health care for all citizens.

Nevena Ivanova's scientific research on cardiovascular diseases, risk factors and their management in primary care is of utmost importance, both for improving the individual health of patients and for optimizing the health system as a whole. They provide valuable information and tools for early detection, prevention and effective management of cardiovascular disease in primary care.

Nevena Ivanova also presents a number of scientific studies on the complications of COVID-19 and their management in primary care. They are essential to understanding and dealing with the consequences of the pandemic. These studies provide information and guidance that assist healthcare professionals in the optimal management of patients with COVID-19 and their complications within the primary care setting.

Nevena Ivanova's research on occupational stress and burnout among general practitioners is important for understanding and managing these problems in the health care system. These studies provide information and guidance to improve the working conditions and mental health of medical professionals, ultimately leading to better quality of health care services provided.

Nevena Ivanova also presents a number of scientific studies on screening and prevention in primary care, which play a key role in improving public health

and the efficiency of the health system. They provide valuable information and guidance for early diagnosis, prevention and effective management of disease, leading to better health outcomes and reduced morbidity and mortality. These studies assist healthcare professionals in providing high-quality care and patient management, while optimizing the use of healthcare resources in general practice.

Research on quality of care and evidence-based practice in primary care plays a key role in improving health services and population health. They provide information and guidance for implementing evidence into clinical practice, improving the quality of care and increasing the efficiency of health services. These studies assist healthcare professionals and healthcare administrators in developing and implementing strategies to optimize healthcare services, leading to better healthcare outcomes and patient satisfaction.

For the purposes of the competition, Nevena Ivanova presents publications and materials covering a wide range of topics related to general practice, with a particular emphasis on reforms, quality, organization and management of primary care, medical education (training of students and specialists in general medicine), cardiovascular diseases and their complications, contemporary problems related to the new disease COVID-19 and the role of the general practitioner. Their contributions involve a combination of original research, clinical case descriptions, development of educational materials (university textbooks and handbooks) and articles on primary care policy and management.

The works of Nevena Ivanova contain indisputable scientific contributions to general medicine as science and practice, which is why I give a positive assessment of her entire scientific output.

Nevena Ivanova is submitting documents for participation in 2 research projects.

Teaching and learning activity

The academic workload of Nevena Gefrgieva Ivanova, assistant professor, is sufficient for the academic position of "associate professor" for the needs of the University "prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" Burgas, proof of which is the certificate presented by the Medical University - Plovdiv for her participation in teaching in 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.

Dr. Nevena Ivanova participated in the development of the curriculum in "General Medicine".

The educational workload of Dr. Nevena Ivanova by years is as follows:

- ✓ for the academic year 2020/2021 – 373 hours.
- ✓ for the academic year 2021/2022 – 354 hours.

These data show that the study load of Nevena Georgieva Ivanova covers the 360 hours accepted for the university for a qualified teacher.

Evidence of fulfillment of the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the University "prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" Burgas for the academic position of "associate professor", in the field of higher education 7. "Health care and sports, by professional direction 7.1. Medicine.

Group of indicators Content	Fulfillment of requirements for associate professor by Nevena Ivanova	Min. required points for associate professor in PURPNSZAD of University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" Burgas
A Indicator 1	50	50
B Indicator 2	0	0
C Indicators 3 or 4	100	100
D Sum of indicators 5 to 9	1828,2	220
E Sum of indicators from 10 to 12	1500	60
G Sum of the indicators from 13 to the end	574,86	20

It can be seen from the table that the publication activity ch. assistant professor Nevena Georgieva Ivanova, PhD (presented in point D) exceeds 8 times the required for holding the AD "associate professor", as well as the citations of scientific works (presented in point D) are also several times more. The documents presented by Dr. Nevena Georgieva Ivanova fully meet and exceed the minimum national requirements at the University "prof. Asen. Zlatarov, Ph.D., Burgas for the academic position of "associate professor".

Conclusion

Nevena Georgieva Ivanova presents herself in the competition as a well-established and competent researcher and teacher in the field of general medicine and has a sufficient volume of teaching activity, experience and publications, which should be evaluated by the Scientific Jury.

I believe that the research and teaching activities of Nevena Georgieva Ivanova fully meet the minimum national requirements for the occupation of the academic position "associate professor", defined in the Regulations for the terms and conditions for the acquisition of scientific degrees and the occupation of academic positions at a University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" Burgas.

Taking into account the candidate's professional development and scientific achievements, I give my positive assessment of her selection as an "associate professor" and strongly recommend the members of the Scientific Jury to award Nevena Georgieva Ivanova the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sport, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, specialty "General Medicine" for the needs of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

04.10.2024

Изготвил становището:

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