

O P I N I O N

By Prof. Dr. Emil Pavlov Kumchev, MD - Head of the Department of Nephrology, II Department of Internal Medicine, Medical University – Plovdiv regarding the competition to fill the academic position "**Professor**" in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty Internal Diseases, declared in **the Official Journal of Bulgaria, issue. 13/ 14.02.2020** (day, month, year)

The opinion is prepared in connection with the Order of the Rector of "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University Burgas No. RD-87 dated 19.03.2020 (day, month, year) and a report reg. No: 968 from 18.03.2020 by Prof. Dr. Hr. Bozov, MD, Dean of the EAGF.

One candidate has been admitted to the competition, announced in accordance with the accepted requirements, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iliya Dimitrov Popov - Department of Preclinical and Clinical Disciplines, Faculty of Health Sciences, EAGF at "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University Burgas. The competition procedure, as well as the documentation submitted by Assoc. Prof. Iliya Popov are in full compliance with the regulatory framework and scientometric requirements. After a

thorough examination of the materials submitted to me in the competition, I have determined the following:

I. Academic and professional development.

Assoc. Prof. Iliya Popov, MD completed graduate medical education at the Medical Academy - Sofia; diploma No. 005587, from 05.09.1985 (day, month, year). In 1991, he acquired the specialty Internal Diseases at Medical Academy Sofia - diploma № 36802 from 03.01.1991 (day, month, year), and in 1995, a specialty in Nephrology, Medical Academy Sofia, diploma № 44153 from 25.01.1995 (day, month, year.) In 1999, he graduated from the Department of Health Management at the Goethe International Institute - Sofia. In 2002, he worked at the Regional Health Inspection, Stara Zagora in the Health Management sector, meanwhile taking part in an international nephrology training in the same year in Budapest, Hungary. In 2006, he obtained a Doctoral degree in medicine as a doctoral student at the Department of Internal Medicine at the Medical University of Sofia; Diploma No. 30658 / 10.07.2006 (day, month, year.) In 2009, he specialized in the International Institute for Healthcare and Health Insurance in Sofia, and in 2011, Health Management at the Health Insurance Fund at the Medical University of Sofia. In 2005, he was appointed an Honorary Teaching Assistant of Internal Medicine at the Medical College of Thracian University Stara Zagora, and since 2012, has been an Honorary Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine at the Medical Faculty of Thracian University Stara Zagora. In 2016, he

became the Deputy Director of the Department of Medicine at the Thracian University Stara Zagora for educational and research activities. Since October 2016, he has been working at the College of Medicine and the Faculty of Public Health and Healthcare - "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov " University Burgas, as a lecturer with educational and research activity, while in the same year, he acquired the scientific title of "Associate Professor".

Assoc. Prof. Iliya Popov, MD began his professional career in 1986 as a resident, and later, as a senior nephrologist at the Department of Hemodialysis - Multiprofile Hospital "St. Kirkovich" Stara Zagora. During the period of 1998 - 2006, he worked as the Executive Director of the First Private Laboratory for the Production of Hemodialysis Solutions in Sliven. Meanwhile, in the period of 2000-2002, he was a product manager at Aventis Pharmaceuticals, Sofia. From 2003 to 2011, Assoc. Prof. Iliya Popov, MD was the owner and manager of the Medical Center "NEPHRO" Ltd. - Stara Zagora. In the period of 2005 - 2013, he was a regional manager at HOME - ZDRAVE LTD - Sofia. From March 2012 to 2016, he was employed as a nephrologist at the Internal Clinic, Department of Nephrology at the University Hospital "Prof. Dr. St. Kirkovich" LTD Stara Zagora; from 2005 until now, he is the Head of the Department of Hemodialysis at the Hospital "St. Petka Bulgarska" - Nova Zagora. From September 2016 until present, he is Head of Internal Clinic and Clinic of Nephrology and Hemodialysis at the University Hospital "Prof. Dr. St. Kirkovich" LTD Stara Zagora.

II. Research Activity.

For his participation in this competition, Assoc. Prof. Iliya Popov has presented a dissertation for the acquisition of an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" on the topic "Participation of Helicobacter pylori Infection in Gastric Pathology in Patients with CKD for Hemodialysis," 03.01.15 (day, month, year) - Nephrology, Medicine, Diploma No. 30658 / 10.07.2006 (day, month, year) and a habilitation work-monograph - "Chronic Kidney Disease and Microbiota" - Litera Print LTD, Stara Zagora, 2019, ISBN: 978-954-487-166-6, in a volume of 120 pages. Separately, Assoc. Prof. Iliya Popov has published a monograph in co-authorship, which has not been presented, as a major habilitation work - E. Kirilova, I. Popov "Osteoporosis - Prevalence and Prevention." TRACIA Ltd., 2019 ISBN: 978-954-9374-14-8." The publication activity of Assoc. Prof. I. Popov also includes 15 scientific articles, 2 as a first author, and 13 as a co-author, published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous scientific information databases (Scopus; Web of Science). In addition, 16 scientific articles and reports were presented and published in non-refereed scientific peer-reviewed journals, or in published collective volumes. Assoc. Prof. Iliya Popov participated in 3 National Scientific or Educational Projects in 2016, respectively: "Implementation of a Complex of Activities for Improving the Collaboration of the Medical College at the Thracian University of Stara Zagora with Educational and Practical Facilities" - University Project of the Department of Medicine under the

leadership of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitar Sivrev, MD - 2016; "Prevention and Prophylactics of Problems Related to the Musculoskeletal System in Children, Hypodynamia and Overweight" - project of Rotary Club, Stara Zagora Municipality - 2016; Project for financing a scientific forum on the topic: "10 years Medical Laboratory Assistant Specialty at the Medical College - Stara Zagora" 2016. Head Assoc. Prof. Dr. V. Tsoneva, Ph.D.

The primary theme in most of the scientific works of Assoc. Prof. I. Popov is related to Nephrology and Gastroenterology, including the candidate's dissertation. Studies on diabetic nephropathy, as well as the possibility of diagnostic evaluation of osteoporosis by radio frequency ultrasound multi-spectrometry, also play a significant role. His many years of professional experience as a nephrologist and the serious scientific, practical, and theoretical knowledge make it possible to apply innovative methods in the diagnosis and treatment of chronic kidney pathology and lead to significant achievements in their realization.

The scientific activity of Assoc. Prof. Iliya Popov, MD is also associated with his participation in more than 20 scientific forums, the organization of several scientific conferences, and his participation as a principal investigator in 3 scientific research studies.

Assoc. Prof. I. Popov, MD has provided references for 26 citations, 11 of which are in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous scientific information databases or in monographs and collective volumes.

Assoc. Prof. I. Popov, MD is a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Private Medical Institutions in Bulgaria, Bulgarian Nephrological Society, ERA - EDTA, Rotary Club - Stara Zagora. He is a member of the University-wide Commission for Scientific Research at Thracian University Stara Zagora.

III. Teaching Activity.

Assoc. Prof. Iliya Popov, MD is an established lecturer who enjoys respect and authority among his students and post-graduate students. His teaching career began in 2005 as a part-time lecturer at the College of Medicine and the Faculty of Medicine at the Thracian University Stara Zagora in the disciplines of Internal Medicine and Paramedic Care in the specialties of rehabilitation, medical laboratory, geriatric care, paramedic. Assoc. Prof. Popov has developed 9 education syllabuses for training in Internal Diseases, Nursing in Somatic Diseases, Geriatrics for the specialties offered at the Faculty of Public Health and Health Care at "Prof. Dr. A. Zlatarov" Univeristy Burgas, and 2 study programs for training in "Internal diseases" and "Paramedic Care" at the Medical College of the Thracian University Stara Zagora. He has overseen two Nephrology fellows. Since 2016, he has been habilitated lecturer "Associate Professor" in Internal Medicine at the Faculty of Public Health and Health Care of "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University Burgas.

Conclusion:

Based on everything above, I believe that the presented research and teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Iliya Popov, MD meets fully the quantitative and qualitative criteria and requirements of the competition, which gives me the reason to vote "**positive**" and to recommend to the members of the distinguished jury to give their positive vote for the election of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iliya Dimitrov Popov, MD for the academic position of "Professor" in the scientific specialty Internal diseases in the Professional area 7.1. Medicine, Higher Education Area 7. Health and Sports at the Faculty of Public Health and Health Care of the "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University Burgas.

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