



**TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY  
DETERMINED BY ORDER № RD – 244/21.12.2020  
OF THE UNIVERSITY RECTOR  
„Prof. Dr. ASEN ZLATAROV,, - BURGAS**

### STATEMENT

**From Prof. Dr. Snezhanka Tomova Tisheva – Gospodinova, DMS, FESC  
Head of Department „Cardiology, pulmonology and endocrinology,,  
in MF of MU - Pleven**

**ABOUT: Competition for an „Associate Professor" academic position in a scientific specialty „Internal diseases", in the field of higher education 7. „Healthcare and sport, professional direction 7.1 Medicine", for Medical Faculty's needs in „Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas University, published in a SN 90/20.10.2020**

In execution of the Protocol № 1/ 30.12.2020 decisions from scientific jury meeting and in my capacity of a member, I was entrusted to present a statement about my choice of an „Associate Professor" academic position in a scientific specialty „INTERNAL DISEASES". The statement is in accordance with the requirements of the academic development staff law in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADSLRB), the relative implementing regulation (IRADSLRB) and Regulation of the “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov” - Burgas University academic development staff.

Two candidates are participating in the announced course:

- 1. Dr. Svetlin Nedkov Tsonev, MD - cardiologist, intervention cardiologist, angiologist in „Aleksandrovska“ University Hospital**
- 2. Dr. Petia Kamenova Petkova, MD – Chief Assistant in Diabetology Clinic, Endocrinology Department – MU- Sofia**

I have no conflict of interests in this competition. I have found any evidence of plagiarism.

#### **Professional activity and qualification:**

1. Dr. Svetlin Tsonev graduated in medicine in Medical University - Sofia, Medical Faculty - Master's degree - D 13841/10.11.2006. In 2012 he has defended Educational and Scientific Degree “Doctor”. In 2014 he has acquired a Master's degree in Health Management in MU - Sofia, Faculty of Public Health.

His professional career starts in 2008 in MU – Sofia, Department of Propedeutics of Internal Diseases „Prof. St. Kirkovitch”, Cardiology Clinic and between 2009-2013 he practice cardiology in the same clinic as full-time doctoral student in Cardiology. After a competition he took a position of assistant and Chief Assistant. Between 2015 and 2018 he was specializing angiology and phlebology in „City Clinic“ University Hospital, Sofia. Since January 2019 he works as cardiologist, intervention cardiologist, angiologist in Aleksandrovska University Hospital.

He knows English, German and Russian – both written and spoken.

2. Dr. Petia Kamenova has graduated in 1984 in Medical Faculty in Medical University – Sofia. Winning a competition she was took a place as an Assistant in Endocrinology Clinic, MU-Sofia. Between 2000-2004 develops a dissertation and in 2004 she has acquired Educational and Scientific Degree “Doctor”.

From 1st of February 1985 to 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1986 she was resident at Pirdop Hospital. After a



competition in 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1986 she has been an Assistant in Diabetology Clinic, Medical Academy - Sofia. She has acquired a degree in internal diseases and endocrinology and metabolic diseases. Consistently she has taken a positions as Assistant and Chief Assistant in the same clinic she works today.

She knows English and Russian – both written and spoken.

### **SPECIALIZATIONS:**

#### **Dr. Tsonev:**

- Certificate of an Expert level in Echocardiography
- Certificate of Ultrasound Vascular diagnostics
- Certificate of Intervention vascular medicine
- He has specialized in the following countries: The Netherlands, Slovakia, Romania, Italy, Germany, Spain.

#### **Dr. Kamenova:**

- Postgraduate qualification course in a higher medical education of pedagogy in Medical Academy (MA) - 1987
- Postgraduate qualification course in basics of dietetics in MA – 1990
- European Association for the Study of Diabetes golden certificate for education of general practitioners, nurses and the type 2 diabetes patients problems – 2007
- Postgraduate qualification course in medical pedagogy in MU-Sofia, Faculty of Public Health – 2014
- She has specialized in the Netherlands, Amsterdam University.

### **PROJECTS:**

#### **Dr. Tsonev:**

Member of three international projects groups, Manager of two national projects and participant in another 2 national projects (one of them as part of Scientific Research Fund of Ministry of Education and Science).

#### **Dr. Kamenova:**

Manager of two international projects and participant in another 2 projects – both with the Netherlands. She participated as co-researcher in several multicenter clinical researches.

### **Scientific Research Activity:**

1. Dr. Svetlin Nedkov Tsonev has acquired an Educational and Scientific Degree Doctor of cardiology in 2012 after a successful dissertation defense with the title: „Cardiac Syndrome X - clinical, instrumental and laboratory characteristics“. 50 points

2. Dr. Petia Kamenova Petkova has acquired an Educational and Scientific Degree Doctor of endocrinology in 2003 after a successful dissertation defense with the title: “Insulin resistance and cardiovascular risk in diabetes type 2 patients”. 50 point

**1. As a participant in the current course Svetlin Tsonev present** a list of 142 scientific works: 71 of them are publications, one of which is a dissertation and 7 articles are connected with Educational and Scientific Degree “Doctor” and they are not subject of review, and 63 of them are after the competition for ESD „Doctor“. Printed are 5 of 63 (which is 7,9%):

**Habilitation work**, as a scientific publications (at least 10) in scientific editions, referenced or indexed by world-known data base: in a full text – 12 full-text articles (1 printed), respectively II.2.3 (Scopus), II.2.4 (ICI), II.2.5 (Scopus, WOS), II.2.6 (ICI), IV.2.2 (Scopus), IV.2.3 (IC), IV.2.4 (Scopus), IV.2.5. (ICI), V.2.6 (WOS), V.2.10 (WOS), V.2.12 (WOS), V.2.18 (WOS). **226,59 points as total; summarized/individual IF 10,759/0,81 for the same articles**

More than the half of these scientific publications are in referenced and indexed in world-known databases editions with scientific information (Scopus and Web of Science). Dr. Tsonev’s participation in the reviewed scientific works is as follow: **1st author: 32 from 66 (48.5%), 2nd author: 7 from 66**



(10.6%), 3rd and every next author: 27 from 67 (40.9%)

**Publications:**

To meet the minimum government requirements of the academic development staff law in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADSLRB) since 2018 and the Regulator for term and conditions for scientific degree acquisition and taking an academic position in academic staff development in „Prof. Asen Zlatarov“- Burgas University/ 26.09.2019

- A published book (with ISBN) on a base of dissertation defense for ESD „Doctor“ I.2 - **40 points**
- In attachments of referenced or indexed by world-known databases editions – 20 Pieces - total **269,25 points, total/individual IF 78,661/15,155**
- In referenced magazines with scientific reviews or published in edited collective volumes– 11 (1 in print), V - total **255,57 points**
- A chapter from a collective monograph – 3 pieces (in print) – I.3.1-I.3.3; total **1,67 points**
- In a non-reviewed magazines without indexation – 15:

According G criteria of ADSLRB`s Regulator - total **566,49 points**

**Total/Individual IF - 84.579/14.988**

Participation in international, national and regional scientific activities – 71. 15 of them are connected with ESD „Doctor“, and 56 are later and are subject of review, 42 of the are in Bulgarian scientific forums, and 14 are in international forums. He was invited as a lecture in 2 international forums in Croatia and Northern Macedonia.

Number of citations: 11 in Bulgarian editions, including 4 dissertation works, and 27 international referenced or indexed by world-known databases articles, including 3 dissertations; total **500 points**  
53/71 (74,6%) of all the publications and 56/71 (78%) of all the participation are made in last 10 years (2011-2020).

The importance of Dr. Tsonev`s scientific and research activities results could be esteemed by the increased interest and quotation by others authors, as in the attached report from Central Medicine Library in MU- Sofia we could see that the publications has total impact-factor **84.579/14.988** and known 11 quotations in Bulgarian sources, while citations results in world-known databases with scientific information are as follow: 27 citations are marked in **Scopus database**.

Dr. Tsonev`s contribution in scientific publications and works could be systematized in the following main thematic directions:

1. **Cardiac Syndrome X** – total number of publications - **8, one of which is dissertation**
2. **Micro-vascular function and dysfunction** - **10 publications, one of which is a monograph and one cheater of a book.**
3. **Arterial Hypertension** – total number of publications - **8**
4. **Risk factors** - total number of publications- total number or publications **17**
5. **Arterial and venous vascular diseases** - **total number or publications 10**
6. **Heart failure** - **total number or publications 10**
7. **Rare cardiovascular diseases** - total number of publications - total number or publications **2**
8. **Imaging modalities in cardiology** - total number of publications **3**

**The scientific contributions of an original scientific content are related to:**

1. Comparative analysis of endothelial dysfunction and myocardial ischemia specific markers in a comparison of patients with Cardiac Syndrome X and those with Ischemic heart disease.
2. Comparative analysis of gene expression of  $\alpha$ ER and serum levels of  $17\beta$ -estradiol in a comparison of patients with Cardiac Syndrome X and those with Ischemic heart disease.



3. A method for application of the deformation Echocardiography techniques has been validated when assessing the left atrium (strain и strain rate).

**The contributions with scientifically applied character are related to:**

1. Algorithm of diagnosis and treatment of patients with micro-vascular angina.
2. New biochemical markers have been introduced for differentiation of patients with micro-vascular and epicardial coronary disease (VEGF, alfa ER, ET1).
3. A clinical approach has been developed in patients with multi-focal atherosclerosis with endovascular and vascular surgery therapy opportunity.
4. The latest ultrasound techniques for assessing myocardial deformity in patients with rare diseases have been introduced (Fabry, Pompe), heart failure, pregnancy, diabetes.

Dr. Tsonev is reviewer and an editorial board member in JACC - case reports- emerging editorial consultant; Heart Failure Reviews - reviewer; Journal of Functional Morphology and Kinesiology - reviewer; Bulgarian cardiology – reviewer and section editor; Bulgarian Journal of Cardiology - advisory board; Praemedicus since 1925 - Deputy editor; Continuous Research Online Library - editorial board member; Medicine editor of Credoweb.

A member of National agency of assessment and accreditation as an expert.

Dr. Svetlin Tsonev also is a member of expert panel: Echocardiography: masses and sources of emboli. 23rd Annual Congress of the EACVI. [www.escardio.org/EACVI](http://www.escardio.org/EACVI); Heart Imagers of Tomorrow (HIT) Clinical Case Poster session 2. 23rd Annual Congress of the EACVI. [www.escardio.org/EACVI](http://www.escardio.org/EACVI); CARDIOMYOPATHY AND PERICARDIAL DISEASES. World Echocongress 2018 y. A member of organizational committee and a Secretary of XXIV World Congress of Echocardiography and Cardiovascular Imaging, 17-20 May, 2018y.

He is a member of professional organizations and working groups: Bulgarian Society of Cardiology, Since 2014 and up to now he is a chairman of the working group of „Valve diseases“ part of the Bulgarian Society of Cardiology (BSC), a member of working group of BSC: „Women and cardiovascular risk“ ; Bulgarian Society of Angiology; Bulgarian Society of Intervention cardiology; Scientific Society in Bulgaria, member of the management board of Association of Non-Invasive Imaging in Cardiology; Scientific circle of Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine, MU-Sofia; Heart Imager of Tomorrow of European Society of Cardiovascular Imaging, where he is a Bulgarian ambassador ; Working group on Hypertension and Sexual dysfunction of ESC.

He has 10 awards and nominations for scientific achievements.

- 2. As a participant in the current course Petia Kamenova present a list of 93 scientific works:**  
49 of them are publications - 1 dissertation and 4 articles related to ESD „Doctor“ which are not subject of review, 44 of the publications are not related to the previous ESD “Doctor”, 1 article is in print:

**Habilitation work**, as scientific publications (at least 10) in scientific editions, referenced or indexed by a world-known database – there are presented total 18, 16 of them are real: 11 are indexed editions in Scopus, 1 of them is in Scopus & WOS, 3 are in ICI & Publon (WOS Group), and one is in ICI & EBSCO.

**Total points: 650; Total IF 8,954.**

Two of the presented publications are neither referenced, nor indexed (B4.3 и B4.12) and they are in reviewed collective volumes with ISSN. The article B4.12 repeats the title, the authors collective, the research group, the method and the content of the article B4.11, but the last one is extended and there is more information in it. This is why I accept only B4.11 article for a review according the above statement.

**Publications:**



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- Published studio with total volume of 45 pages (who owned ISBN), and not a monograph work according ADSLRB - **30 points**
- In referenced or indexed world-known databases editions – Presented 7 numbers, I accept 5 of them (Г7.21, Г7.22, Г7.23, Г7.24 и Г.26). I accept Г7.26 as a publication, but will give any points for it, as it is hardly difficult to assess the Dr. Kamenova`s individual contribution among a clinical trial of a multinational group. в многонационален колектив в клинично проучване. Г7.25 is an interview with the author of B.5 article and it is not a scientific publication. **Total recalculate 94 points, total IF 6,718**
- In reviewed journals with scientific reviews or published in editorial collective toms – 11 (B4.3, Г8.27-Г8.36); **Total 311,83 points**
- In non-reviewed journal – 8 articles.

Participation in international, national and regional scientific activities – 45. 7 of the are related to ESD “Doctor”, and 38 are after that and the are subject of review, 22 are in Bulgarian scientific forums, 16 – international forums. **Total IF 11,284.**

#### **Total IF– 29,956**

Number of quotations: in the Scientific database there are 276 citations. 171 of them are from multi central project mentioned above Г7.26, in which the assessment of individual authors contributions could not be accurate. As a consequence we accept only **105; total 1575 points**

16/42 (**38,1%**) of all the publications and 12/38 (**31,6%**) of the participations are made the last 10 years (2011-2020).

More than the half of these scientific publications are in referenced and indexed in world-known databases editions with scientific information (Scopus and Web of Science). Dr. Kamenova`s participation in the reviewed scientific works and publications is as follow: **1st author: 29 from 36 (80%)**. Part of the Bulgarian journals publications are related to medicament post-marketing monitoring.

#### **Scientific interest and contributions:**

The main scientific interest of Dr. Petia Kamenova are in the field of endocrinology:

1. **Determination of insulin resistance indices, respectively insulin sensitivity as substitutes for the "gold" standard hyperinsulinemic euglycemic clamp technique.**
2. **Therapeutic effect of insulin resistance outside the established means of treatment of Diabetes Type 2**
3. **Determination of the frequency and characteristics of cardiometabolic risk factors of the metabolic syndrome in patients with Diabetes Type 2**
4. **Association between two established cardiovascular risk markers – intima and media thickness of the carotid artery and insulin sensitivity in patients Diabetes type 2**
5. **Determination of the effect of metformin on cardiometabolic risk factors of the metabolic syndrome.**

#### **Dr. Kamenova`s main scientific contributions are:**

- Major insulin sensitivity indices do not correlate well with indices such as HOMA-IR, FIRI and insulin / glucose relation.
- The distinctive level of insulin resistance with overweight and obesity has been determined. The role of waist measurements as an independent indicator of insulin sensitivity in women with Types 2 Diabetes is emphasized.



- Algorithms have been developed to determine insulin sensitivity by waist measurements and diastolic blood pressure in diabetics to prevent cardiovascular risk.
- The alpha-lipoic acid treatment is established to improve insulin sensitivity
- Cardiometabolic risk factors of the metabolic syndrome in patients with type 2 Diabetes specific to our country have been defined, as well as the applicability of the definition of IDF metabolic syndrome in our country, as well as the frequency and characteristics of the metabolic syndrome in patients with type 2 diabetes.
- Metformin has been shown to restore the physiological dynamics of insulin secretion in individuals with metabolic syndrome without causing hypoglycaemia. The drug can affect body weight and waist circumference, as well as other cardiometabolic risk factors for Cardiovascular diseases (CVD).

She is a member of some national organizations: The Bulgarian Endocrinology Society, Bulgarian Diabetes Association, European Association for Diabetes research. In 2009 she was included in anniversary edition of „Who is Who in the field of science and technology“.

Dr. Kamenova's scientific and research activity is has a practice direction, the evidence for this is her participation in 4 international scientific-research projects, she was author in two of them. She has participated with reports and presentations in 20 international scientific forums, which confirms her scientific and research activity

**The comparative analysis of the volume and content of the scientific production of the two candidates demonstrates a Dr. Tsonev's significantly higher scientific production. The publications of Dr. Svetlin Tsonev are in more varies fields of internal diseases, which demonstrates his greater knowledge in the field of internal diseases. Dr. Kamenova's publications are concentrated only in the narrow field of Diabetes, concerning the influence of insulin resistance, the association with risk factors and their assessment in the prognosis of cardiovascular pathology.**

**The academic position for which the two candidates apply for supposes more diverse information in the field of the major of „Internal Diseases“.**

#### **Teaching activity:**

1. Dr. Svetlin Tsonev has been chosen for Assistant at the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine in 2012 and till 2015 he was teaching III course students of Medicine both on Bulgarian and English with an average class load 240, 345 and 395 hours. Since 2015 till 2019, as a honorary assistant in MF in SU „Sv. Kliment Ohridski“, has a total of 391 teaching hours of practical exercises for students of III and IV course EQD Master of Medicine and EQD Bachelor of Nursing and Medical Rehabilitation. During the 2019/2020 academic year, as a honorary assistant in the Department of ID of the Ministry of Finance of MU-Sofia, he has 240 teaching hours in both languages - Bulgarian and English.  
He participates in the practical training of 3 specialists in Cardiology. For the period from 2015-2019, it has a total of 924 teaching hours. The report on the workload shows the average workload as an assistant in the Department of „Propaedeutics at ID,“- MU- Sofia in – 2013 – 2015 he has 250 hours as a honorary assistant. In 2016-2017 - 310 academic hours; In 2017 -2018 -32 academic hours; in 2018-2019 – 20 academic hours; in 2019 - 2020 – 240 academic hours / 54 AEO
2. Dr. Kamenova start her teaching activity as assistant in 1986 and through all the years she was teaching students, doctoral students and specialists in endocrinology.  
Dr. Kamenova develops a training program for teaching students in endocrinology and also test for diabetology exam. She prepares and lectures for postgraduate studies in endocrinology – total 18. She gives lectures at forums of general practitioners (GPs) and endocrinologists on endocrinology topics.  
The average study load is as follows:  
2017/2018 – 222 hours - 120 hours with students and 102 hours with student of postgraduate training



2018/2019 - 202 hours - 90 hours with students and 112 hours with student of postgraduate training  
 2019/2020 - 190 hours - 90 hours with students and 100 hours with student of postgraduate training

According to the indicator of teaching activity, both candidates fulfill the required minimum according to IRADSLRB and the Regulator for term and conditions for scientific degree acquisition and taking an academic position in academic staff development in „Prof. Asen Zlatarov“- Burgas University

<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Associate Professor (minimum required points)</b>	<b>Personal number of points – Dr. Tsonev</b>	<b>Personal number of points - Dr. Kamenova</b>
A	Indicator 1	50	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-		
C	Indicators 3 or 4	100	226,59	650
D	Sum of indicators from 5 to 9	400	566,49	311,83
E	Sum of indicators from 10 to 12	300	500 points	1575 points
F	Sum of indicators from 13 to the end	80	245	230
G	Teaching activity			
	<b>TOTAL points</b>		<b>1588,08</b>	<b>2816,83</b>

#### **IN CONCLUSION:**

Dr. Svetlin Tsonev and Dr. Petia Kamenova are candidates, who meet the requirements for holding the administrative position of "Associate Professor". Both of them are graduate professionals in some areas of internal diseases. Dr. Tsonev has deep knowledge and skills especially in the field of cardiovascular diseases, diagnostic imaging and prevention and Dr. Kamenova in the field of endocrinology. Dr. Kamenova has many years of teaching experience, students workload and participates in the creation of teaching program, tests and lecture courses. The advantages of Dr. Tsonev is that he worked as a doctoral student in the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine-MU-Sofia, which has traditions in the teaching and training of students and doctoral students in the broad specialty "Internal Medicine". Dr. Tsonev's scientific production is more voluminous and more diverse - three-quarters of the evidences are from the last 10 years. This shows the systematic nature of the scientific work and the relevance of the developed problems. His activity and leading positions in scientific

societies and even in The National Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation (NAEA), despite his relatively young age, prove his perseverance in his scientific interests.

Both candidates meet the requirements of the academic development staff law in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADSLRB) and of the Regulator for term and conditions for scientific degree acquisition and taking an academic position in academic staff development in „Prof. Asen Zlatarov“- Burgas University. Based on the above analysis, I give my positive assessment and strongly recommend to the esteemed members of the scientific jury to vote positively for the award of the academic position of "Associate Professor" to Dr. Svetlin Nedkov Tsonev, md.

16.02.2021  
Pleven

Signature:  
Prof. D-r Snezhana Tisheva, dms

