

### Standpoint

By Prof. Dr. Vihra Milanova, MD,  
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of the submitted documents for the award of an academic position  
"Professor" in the scientific specialty "Psychiatry" in the department of  
"Health care" for the needs of the Faculty of Social Professions announced in the State  
Newspaper No. 7 of 17.06.2022.

By Order N:RD-260 of 15.09.2022 of the Rector of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, I have been elected as a member of the Scientific Jury under the procedure for acquiring the academic position "Professor", and by the Decision of the Chairman of the Scientific jury. I am appointed to prepare an opinion regarding the competition for the academic position "professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction Medicine, scientific specialty "Psychiatry" and Report with reg. Number 2034 of 28.07.2022. The only candidate in the competition is Associate Professor Dr. Georgi Panov Panov, MD.PhD. DSc

### Brief biographical data and professional development

After completing his higher education at the Medical University - Stara Zagora. Assoc Prof. Dr Panov began his professional career as a resident physician at the Radnevo Psychiatric Hospital. In 1993, after a competition, he became the head of the neurophysiological laboratory and consultant in psychiatry at the UMHAT "Prof. Dr. Stoyan Kirkovich" EAD, Stara Zagora. Since 2015, he has been the head of the psychiatric department at the same hospital. Since the beginning of 2015, he has been a consultant psychiatrist to the TELC committees of UMHAT Stara Zagora. In 2016, he was elected to the academic position "Associate Professir" at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas.

In 2004, he defended his dissertation on "Comparative clinical-neurophysiological and psychiatric assessment of patients with refractory and well-controlled epileptic seizures".

In 2022, he defended a second dissertation on the topic "Comparative clinical-neurophysiological and psychological assessment of patients with resistant schizophrenia", with which he obtained the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences".

In 1997, he received the specialty "Psychiatry", in 2016 - the specialty "Nervous Diseases", and from 2020 - "Health Management".

To date, associate professor Dr. Georgi Panov has completed 6 courses for postgraduate qualification abroad, of which 4 international trainings in the city of Munich, Germany in the field of epileptology, one course in the field of clinical psychiatry and neurophysiology in the city of Vienna, Austria, and training in Brussels related to the use of vagus nerve stimulation in the treatment of patients with affective disorders and epilepsy.

He regularly participates with scientific presentations in major international scientific forums abroad (the annual congresses of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology) and in Bulgaria (the congresses of the Bulgarian Psychiatric Association, College of Private Psychiatry, etc.).

The candidate is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, the Bulgarian Psychiatric Association, the Bulgarian Society of Neurology, the Bulgarian Society against Epilepsy, the Bulgarian Society of EEG, EMG and Clinical Neurophysiology. He speaks English and Russian.

Associate Professor Dr. Georgi Panov Panov has scientific interests and publications in the field of clinical psychiatry, epilepsy, clinical neurophysiology, psychoorganic disorders, psychosomatic medicine and counseling psychiatry.

#### **Scientific research activity (see table)**

Scientific publications	Number
Dissertation work	2
Monographs	3
Articles published in international journals with IF	6
Articles published in journals referenced in a large database without IF	4
Articles published in collections in Bulgaria with international participation	8
Articles published in Bulgarian journal	23

Assoc Prof. Dr Georgi Panov presents two dissertations with two abstracts, the second abstract is presented in Bulgarian and English.

Besides these two abstracts, Associate Professor Dr Panov's other scientific output includes articles, abstracts, delivered at congresses and conferences in total 80.



The candidate presents 3 monographs. Two of them are independent as Associate Professor Panov is the sole author. He participated in the third monograph with 7 chapters, of which he is the sole author.

There are 41 full-text articles published in journals

- Articles published in international journals with IF –6
- Articles published in journals referenced in a large database without IF –4
- Articles published in collections in Bulgaria with international participation - 8
- Articles published in Bulgarian magazines - 23

From a total of 41 publications in journals presented in full text, associate professor Dr Panov is the first author in 30 /73.2%/ of them. Second author of 4 /9.6 %/

The other scientific production presented by the candidate includes summaries and presentations at conferences and congresses - 34 issues

Abstracts presented at congresses - 7 in total

The abstracts were presented at poster sessions at international congresses outside Bulgaria- 6

Summary presented at a national conference on Psychiatry in Bulgaria- 1

of them, first author of 5 /71.4%/ and third author of the remaining 2 /28.5%/

Presentations at congresses and conferences - 25 (Assoc. Dr. Panov is the sole author of all): 1 at an international congress; 24 at national congresses and conferences

I can also express my personal impression that Associate Professor Panov is an active participant in psychiatric conferences and congresses, being an active participant in discussions and forums related to various psychiatric topics.

### **Citations of articles by Associate Professor G. Panov, MD, PhD, DSc**

A total of 62 citations

Of them in three textbooks, two monographs and articles

Associate Professor Panov has participated in committees for the acquisition of the scientific and educational degrees "doctor", "principal assistant" and "associate professor":

- in 6 scientific commissions for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor"
- in two scientific juries for awarding the scientific degree "chief assistant"
- in 2 scientific commissions for awarding the scientific degree "associate professor"

Reviewer is:

- of a published manual on electroencephalography
- of 3 publications in refereed journals with an impact factor (presented in the table with minimum requirements).

### **Analysis of the scientific output of Associate Professor Dr Panov**

The analysis of the scientific developments presented by the candidate shows diverse interests in different fields of neurology and psychiatry. The main highlights that can be noted are the studies in patients with epilepsy with an emphasis on resistance and mental disorders in them. The author devoted his first dissertation to this topic, which he later developed with numerous publications related to the described highlights. The author has tried from all sides to look at the problem of resistance and associated psychiatric comorbidity.

In general, it traces the described changes as consequences of the development of neurodegenerative processes and progression associated with epileptiform paroxysmal discharges. He found that a certain group of them showed a gradient change in mental status, behavior and social maladjustment.

And in the second dissertation ("Comparative clinical-neurophysiological and psychological assessment of patients with resistant schizophrenia", with which he obtained the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences"), in an analogous way to the first, he examines the problem of resistance by considering the factors that are the basis of the development of resistance in patients with schizophrenia.

In the articles (1-5) from the second section of the list of scientific publications (Publications in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with an impact factor), dedicated to the same topic - resistance in schizophrenia, Assoc Prof. Dr Panov further develops his theses and presents scientific developments that have clinical practical value. The relationship of the high scale of dissociation in patients with schizophrenia /calling into question some established views on the problem/ the assessment of which would allow an earlier preparation for the shaping of future refractoriness (section 3, publication 1).

A high depression scale, which in older studies has always been considered a good prognostic marker, shows that subclinical depressive symptoms are not associated with a good prognosis



(section 3, publication 4). The effectiveness of the application of the first antipsychotic medication is indicative and is analogous to studies showing the same result in patients with epilepsy. His results in the analysis of the lateralization of brain processes in patients with schizophrenia are also an interesting provocation (section 3, publication 2).

The scientific activity of the candidate also affects other areas such as the assessment of sexuality, addiction to gambling, psychological factors in the analysis of psychopathology as well as expert work in psychiatry.

### **Teaching activity**

From 2006 to the present, associate professor Dr Panov leads the full lecture course on the disciplines "psychiatry" and "medical psychology" in the medical college of the city of Haskovo.

Since 2016, he has been teaching the full course of study in psychiatry and medical psychology at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" in Burgas as well as in the medical college in Burgas.

### **Professional impressions**

I have known associate professor Dr. Georgi Panov for many years. He is already a well-rounded professional, with a broad and deep clinical mindset. Demonstrates innovativeness and a responsible professional attitude towards research, teaching and clinical activities. His field of professional and scientific expression, which covers psychiatry, neurology and the border areas between them, represents a serious potential for his future scientific and professional development.

### **CONCLUSION**

Associate Professor Dr Georgi Panov Panov shows scientifically theoretical and scientifically applied results that represent a contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) as well as the rules for acquiring academic positions and titles of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

With this opinion, I express my deep conviction that the scientific production, teaching activity, professional realization of Associate Professor Dr Georgi Panov, MD, PhD, DSc fully meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for its Application, and the Rules for the Acquisition of Academic Positions and Titles of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

I recommend to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to award Associate Professor Doctor Georgi Panov the academic title of "Professor" in professional field 7.1 Medicine, scientific specialty "Psychiatry".

28.10.2022

Sofia

**Prof. Dr. Vihra Milanova MD, PhD, DSci**