

OPINION

Per. № 3142 / 11. 11. 2022 г.

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Regarding the competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, specialty "Nervous diseases", for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine of "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University, Burgas, announced in State Gazette no. 45/17.06.2022 with candidate Dr. Ivan Nikolov Dimitrov.

I have been appointed member of the Scientific Jury in the aforementioned competition by Order No. RD - 272/15.09.2022 of the Rector of "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University, Burgas.

1. **Brief biographical data and career development of the candidate**

Dr. Ivan Dimitrov was born in 1977. He graduated from the Medical University of Varna. He has been a specialist in nervous diseases since 2007, and a "PhD" since 2009, after defending his thesis "Study of dementia and mild cognitive impairment among the population of the city of Varna". In 2017, he obtained his "Doctor of Sciences" degree. He has acquired professional qualifications in Clinical Neuropsychology, Clinical Electroencephalography, Evoked Potentials, Doppler Ultrasound, as well as a pedagogical qualification for trainers from medical institutions.

In the Department of Neurology of the Medical University - Varna, Faculty of Medicine, he has been a full-time doctoral student since 03.2003; since 10.2003 he has been an assistant professor, since 11.2006 - a senior assistant professor, from 02.2010 to 03.2013 he has been a chief assistant professor. From 03.2013 to 09.2015, he worked as an associate professor and Head of the Department of Nursing at the Sliven Affiliate of the Medical University of Varna, and from 09.2015 to 2021, he was the director of the Affiliate. From 2018 to 2021 he held the position of professor. From October 2003 to 2021, he worked at the First Clinic of Nervous Diseases, UMHAT "St. Marina" - Varna. From the beginning of 2022, he is Head of the

Department of Nervous Diseases at MHAT "Heart and Brain" - Burgas. His work experience and total teaching experience exceed 18 years.

2. Evaluation of scientific and applied activity

Dr. Ivan Dimitrov has a total of 148 scientific works. He submitted 83 for review: 1 monographic work, 1 author's abstract, 6 chapters of a collective monograph and 75 full-text articles (14 in refereed journals and 61 in peer-reviewed ones). They are distributed in the following 10 scientific directions:

- multiple sclerosis,
- cognitive disorders, dementias and neuropsychology,
- electroencephalography, epilepsy,
- extrapyramidal diseases,
- neuro-oncology and neurosurgery,
- cerebrovascular disease,
- syndromes and clinical cases,
- occupational diseases,
- quality of life,
- nursing.

Dr. Dimitrov is the first author of 12 (14.5%) of the works, and independent one of 4.

The publications submitted for participation in the competition are of indisputable quality and have contributions of an original and applied nature, fully meeting the requirements for occupying the academic position of "professor". The following contributions can be cited:

- Of original nature:
 - for the first time, a monograph is presented in Bulgarian, dealing with the different systems for evaluating the clock drawing test, for the benefit of various categories of specialists;
 - the KINDL[®] questionnaire for quality of life in childhood is translated, adapted into Bulgarian, and approved for use in the country;
 - an article has been published about the calculation of a total score for the CERAD neuropsychological battery using Chandler's method in a Bulgarian sample with a recommendation for routine use.
- Of scientific and applied nature:

- the manual for training in clinical electroencephalography is a contribution to the Bulgarian educational medical literature;
- several described rare and interesting clinical cases represent a contribution to the Bulgarian neurological literature and clinical practice;
- the risks of infection for practicing nurses and students when performing manipulations are examined, and strategies to reduce them are proposed;
- some problems in patients with neurological diseases have been identified and opportunities for healthcare professionals to be involved in solving them have been highlighted;
- the involvement of healthcare professionals with specific actions in the prevention of diabetes, obesity and reduced physical activity and in improving the lifestyle of school-aged children is motivated;
- emphasis is placed on the growing problem of sexual health in adolescence, highlighting the need for timely training and stimulating measures for its implementation, with the involvement of healthcare professionals;
- guidelines are proposed to overcome some shortcomings of communication with the patient, leading to insufficient information regarding the treatment process and satisfaction with hospital-based healthcare, with a view to increasing the quality of care.

The scientometric report submitted by the applicant fully complies with the regulatory requirements, as can be seen from the table 1. As for the indicators concerning publication activity, citations, etc., the minimum requirements are significantly exceeded.

Table 1. Scientometric report

Group of metrics	Content	Professor (number of points)	Candidate (number of points)
A	Indicator 1	50	50
C	Indicators 3 or 4	100	100
D	Sum of indicators 5 to 9	250	656.49
E	Sum of indicators from 10 to 12	150	615
F	Sum of indicators from 13 to the end (E14 at least 60 points)	120	251.8 (E14 = 80 points)
Total		670	1673.29

3. Assessment of teaching activities

Dr. Dimitrov has participated in lecture and practical training in neurology for students of medicine and dentistry in Bulgarian and English, in practical training in neurology for Nursing and Midwifery students, in lecture and practical training of specialists in neurology and general medicine, in neurobiology teaching of medical students and also in teaching PhD students. He received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Association of Medical Students in Bulgaria for conducting English language training for students at the Medical University of Varna. Dr. Dimitrov supervised three successful doctoral students. The teaching activity is sufficient according to the criteria.

4. **Assessment of the diagnostic and therapeutic activity**

Dr. Dimitrov worked from the beginning of his career until 2021 at the I Clinic for Nervous Diseases, UMHAT "St. Marina" - Varna. During a significant part of this period, he was a member of commissions for the treatment of neurological diseases under the programs of the NHIF and a consultant in neurology for North-Eastern Bulgaria. The quality of Dr. Dimitrov's diagnostic and therapeutic work has been highly rated by his colleagues at "St. Marina" - Varna and he enjoys undoubted authority. This has also contributed to his appointment, as of the beginning of 2022, as Head of the Department of Nervous Diseases of MHAT "Heart and Brain" - Burgas.

CONCLUSION

Analyzing the overall information provided for participation in this competition, I can confidently give a positive opinion and suggest to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to also vote positively for Dr. Ivan Nikolov Dimitrov to be awarded the academic position of "Professor" in the professional field of Medicine, specialty "Nervous Diseases", for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine, "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University, Burgas.

Varna

08.11.2022

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