



## OPINION

from

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Regarding a competition for the academic position of Professor in Neurology, for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas, announced in State Gazette No. 45/17.06.2022

### **I. Brief biographical and career facts**

Dr. Ivan Nikolov Dimitrov was born on 26/04/1977. He completed his secondary education at the French Language High School in the city of Varna, being fluent in French and English. He obtained a master's degree in medicine at the Medical University - Varna in 2002. He has been a specialist in neurology since 2007. He was awarded a PhD degree in 2009 by the Higher attestation committee for his dissertation "Study of Dementia and mild cognitive impairment among the population of the city of Varna", the study being the first in the country. Since May 2017, he has a recognized "Doctor of Sciences" scientific degree with a dissertation on "Brain volumetric parameters and cognitive status in relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis".

Since 2003, he has been successively a full-time doctoral student, assistant, senior assistant, and chief assistant professor at the Department of Neurology of the Medical University of Varna, Faculty of Medicine. From 2013 to 2015 he was associate professor, head of the Department of Nursing at the Sliven Affiliate of Medical University, Varna, and until November 2021 he was the director of the unit. From 2018 to 2021, he was professor at the same university.

Dr. Dimitrov worked for most of his career as a neurologist at the First Clinic for Nervous Diseases, UMHAT "St. Marina", Varna, and since the beginning of 2022 he has been the Head of the Nervous diseases ward of the "Heart and Brain" hospital, Burgas. He has worked in specialized commissions for the treatment of neurological diseases under the programs of the National health insurance fund. He has certificates for professional qualification in Clinical neuropsychology, Clinical electroencephalography, Evoked potentials, Neurosonography. He has attended training courses in the country and abroad.

## **II. Scientific and applied activity and contributions**

For the competition, Dr. Dimitrov presents a complete set of administrative and scientific documents that comply with the requirements of the RSARB, the Regulations for its application and the Regulations of Asen Zlatarov University - Burgas.

Eighty-three of his total of 148 scientific works are submitted for review: 1 monographic work, 1 author's abstract of a dissertation, 6 chapters of a collective monograph and 75 articles (14 in refereed editions, 61 in journals with peer review). They are divided into 10 scientific areas: multiple sclerosis, cognitive disorders, dementias and neuropsychology, electroencephalography, epilepsy, extrapyramidal diseases, neurooncology and neurosurgery, cerebrovascular disease, syndromes and clinical cases, occupational diseases, quality of life and healthcare. Dr. Dimitrov is the first author of 12 (14.5%) of the papers, and he is the sole author of 4 of them.

### *Main scientific-theoretical and applied contributions*

#### *Contributions of original value:*

1. For the first time, a monograph is presented in Bulgarian, dealing with the different systems for evaluating the clock drawing test, with a practical part, useful for various specialists
2. The KINDL<sup>R</sup> quality of life questionnaire in childhood has been translated and adapted into Bulgarian for the first time. It is approved for use in Bulgarian for research as well as in pediatric patients
3. For the first time, Chandler's method for calculating a total score for the CERAD neuropsychological battery was applied to a Bulgarian cohort

#### *Contributions of scientific and applied value:*

1. The handbook for training in clinical electroencephalography is a contribution to Bulgarian educational medical literature.
2. The described clinical cases of Keratoconus personality, spinal syphilitic meningitis, Parry-Romberg syndrome, psychopathological dynamics of a disaster victim, and anti-NMDAR encephalitis represent a contribution to the Bulgarian neurological literature and clinical practice.

3. The risks of infection when performing manipulations by practicing nurses and students in the specialty were examined, and strategies for their reduction were proposed.
4. Some problems in patients with neurological diseases (pregnancy in epilepsy, quality of life and level of awareness in multiple sclerosis) have been recognized and opportunities for healthcare professionals to be involved in solving them have been highlighted.
5. The involvement of healthcare specialists with specific actions in the prevention of diabetes, obesity and reduced physical activity, and in improving the lifestyle of school-aged children is motivated.
6. Emphasis is placed on the growing problem of sexual health in adolescence, highlighting the need for timely education with the participation of healthcare professionals.
7. Guidelines are proposed to overcome some shortcomings of the communication with the patient, leading to insufficient information regarding the treatment process and to dissatisfaction with in-hospital care.

### III. Scientific impact of the publications

Dr. Dimitrov presents a detailed report on scientometric indices. It shows that the legal requirements, as well as those of Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas, have been met. The results for indicator groups D, E and F are particularly high.

Group	Contents	Professor (required points)	Dr. Dimitrov
A	Parameter 1	50	50
B	Parameter 2	-	-
C	Parameter 3 or 4	100	100
D	Sum of parameters 5 to 9	250	656.49
E	Sum of parameters 10 to 12	150	615
F	Sum of parameters 13 to the end (F14 at least 60 points)	120	251.8 (F14 = 80 points)
<b>Total</b>		670	1673.29

### IV. Evaluation of teaching activity

Dr. Dimitrov has lead lecture and practical training in neurology for medical and dental medicine students in Bulgarian and English, lecture and practical training in neuroscience for medical students in English, practical training in neurology for students majoring in Nursing

and Midwifery, lecture and practical training of specialists in neurology and general medicine. He is the scientific supervisor of three PhD students who have successfully obtained their degrees. For his teaching in English, he was awarded a certificate of appreciation by the Association of Medical Students in Bulgaria. He participated in an examination committee for a state exam in neurology.

### **Conclusion**

As a result of all stated above, I confirm that the candidate meets the mandatory and specific conditions for occupying the academic position and I would strongly recommend the Honorable Scientific Jury to vote for awarding Dr. Ivan Nikolov Dimitrov with the academic position of Professor, for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas.

3.11.2022

Signature

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