

STATEMENT

By Prof. MARIA MILANOVA, MD, DSc.

Subject: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in scientific specialty "Neurology" for the needs of the Department of Neurology at UMHATEM "N.I. Pirogov" EAD – Sofia has been announced.

According to Protocol UN-02-21 / 28.04.2021. and Order №RD-26-1166 / 05.05.2021 of the Executive Director of UMHATEM "N.I. Pirogov" EAD - Sofia, I have been appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury in a procedure for appointing a physician for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of Higher Education 7. Healthcare and Sports, Professional Field 7.1. Medicine and Scientific specialty "Neurology" for the needs of the Department of Neurology - competition, announced in SG, issue 19 of 5.03. 2021. At the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, held on May 10, I was appointed to prepare a statement.

One candidate participates in the competition - Dr. Maria Ivanova Dimitrova, MD, PhD.

All necessary documents for fulfillment of the conditions are specified in art. 55, para 1 and in accordance with the information from the inquiries under art. 56, para. 1 and para. 2 of the Regulations for development of the academic staff of UMHATEM "N.I. Pirogov" EAD - Sofia were provided to me on electronic medium. They comply with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation.

For the needs of the current procedure, Dr. Dimitrova has provided a list of publications, participations with reports at scientific forums, reference for scientific and teaching activities, reference for scientific contributions, all necessary diplomas and certificates, etc. No plagiarism was detected.

I. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Dr. Maria Dimitrova completed her medical education in 2007 and acquired specialty "Nervous Diseases" in 2013, as well as a certificate of highly specialized activity in "Neurosonology" in 2014.

Dr. Maria Dimitrova started her medical career in 2008, when she enrolled in the residency program in nervous diseases in the form of clinical residency training at the Military Medical Academy - Sofia after successful participation in nation-wide competition. In 2013 she acquired a degree in nervous diseases and successively held the positions of resident and Assistant Professor at the Clinic of Nervous Diseases of Military Medical Academy – Sofia, Bulgaria. Since 2016, she has been an officer in the Bulgarian Armed Forces. In 2018 she defended her PhD dissertation on "Neuropsychological disorders in obstructive sleep apnea." Since 2018 she has been the head of the Department of Nervous Diseases at University Hospital "N.I. Pirogov".

Dr. Dimitrova has a take part in a number of courses and specializations in neuropsychology and neurosonology. She also holds a Master's degree in Public Health and Health Management from Medical University of Sofia.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CANDIDATE'S SCIENTIFIC PAPERS

Dr. Maria Dimitrova is the author and co-author of 79 scientific papers, including a dissertation (with abstract) and an monograph. In 34 of the scientific papers the candidate is the first author. According to the official report, the works have been cited 18 times in Bulgaria. The total impact factor of the actual publications is 56.78.

According to the attached reference for fulfillment of the minimum required scientific metric criteria, Dr. Maria Ivanova Dimitrova covers the minimum requirements for scientific and teaching activities for academic positions accepted by the Scientific Council of UMHATEM "N.I. Pirogov".

Dr. Maria Dimitrova has been the principal investigator and co-researcher in a number of international clinical trials. She is certified by the Angels Stroke Academy, as well as for the assessment of patients with stroke according to NIHSS and patients with multiple sclerosis according to EDSS. She is a member of the Bulgarian Society of Neurology, the Bulgarian Society of Neurosonology and Cerebral Hemodynamics, the Bulgarian Society of Somnology, the European Society of Neurosonology and Cerebral Hemodynamics, the Bulgarian Medical Union.

II. CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENTIFIC PAPERS AND QUOTATIONS

The candidate has significant scientific and applied contributions, with a proven professional level, developed and reflected in renowned publications and international forums. They can be divided into several main areas as follows:

Obstructive sleep apnea

Multiple sclerosis:

Cerebrovascular diseases

Spinal pathology

Neuropsychological research in neurological diseases

COVID-19

The science metric indicators of Dr. Maria Dimitrova are in accordance with the minimum requirements set by the Regulations for the development of the academic staff (Appendix 1) of UMHATEM "NI Pirogov". The candidate has defended a PhD dissertation and is the independent author of a habilitation thesis "Diagnostic and therapeutic approaches in cryptogenic stroke", ISBN 978-619-7321-16-6. According to indicator D Publications and participation in forums with a minimum number of 200 points according to the national requirements, the candidate presents 915.25, which significantly exceeds the minimal required number. The presentation also shows collected above the minimum required and according to the criteria of UMBALSM "NI Pirogov". She meets the requirements for the number of citations. Her teaching activity includes scientific guidance to seven residents in Nervous Diseases, currently being trained at the department that she heads.

Type of scientific activity	Total number	First author	Another position
Total number of publications	79	34	
Dissertation work	1		
Monographs	1	Independent author	
Publications in magazines	35	14	21
• with IF	6		
• others	29		
Participation in national forums	21	9	12
Participation in international forums	21	9	12
• with IF	15		
• others	6		
Citation	18		

III. CONCLUSION

After familiarizing with the documents and materials presented in the competition, I believe that they meet all the requirements of ZRASRB, its Rules for implementation and the Rules for development of the academic staff of UMHATEM "N.I. Pirogov" - Sofia. Dr. Maria Dimitrova's application contains a sufficient number of publications and reports presented at international forums, which add points on scientific metrics and surpass the requirements. The scientific body of work of Dr. Dimitrova shows original theoretical and applied knowledge.

For the above reasons, I find it justified to give my **positive** assessment and invite the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote **positively** for the election of Dr. Maria Ivanova Dimitrova, MD, PhD for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Higher Education 7. Health and Sports , Professional field 7.1. Medicine and the scientific specialty "Neurology" for the needs of the Department of Nervous Diseases of UMBALSM "N.I. Pirogov" EAD - Sofia, competition, announced in SG, issue 19 of 5.03. 2021

City. Sofia