

Statement

By Prof. Assen Georgiev Baltov, M.D., PhD

Member of Academic Jury, appointed in accordance to

Order № PK-26 - 1166/05.05.2021

Regarding: Competition for obtaining the academic position „Associate Professor in higher education section 7“ - “Healthcare and sport” in professional field 7.1.Medicine and scientific specialty “Neurology”, as promulgated in The State Gazette, issue 19 from 05.03.2021.

The competition is held under the conditions of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Sofia.

The statement is made in reference to the Decision of the Academic council and Protocol №1/10.05.2021 r. There are no violations of the procedure.

Maria Ivanova Dimitrova, MD, PhD - Head of Neurology Department at UMHATEM “N.I. Pirogov” is the sole candidate, who has submitted documents for the competition.

As I a member of the Academic council, I declare that:

- I have no conflict of interests
- The documents meet the minimum of requirements, defined by the Law for Development of Academic Staff and Decree for the development of the academic staff of UMHATEM “N. I. Pirogov” EAD - Sofia;
- I do not find any plagiarism in the scientific works, that Dr. Dimitrova has submitted in the process of participation in the competition.
- I have not found any violations in the undergoing competition and I do not have any remarks on the given scientific works for the statement.

Presentation of the candidate.

Dr. Dimitrova received Medical degree from Medical University - Sofia, Bulgaria in 2007. She started her professional career as a Neurology resident at the Military Medical Academy – Sofia, following successful participation in nation-wide competition. In 2013, Dr. Dimitrova acquired Neurology Specialty. She has been an Assistant Professor in Neurology until 2018 and has successfully defended her PhD dissertation on “Neuropsychological impairments in patients with obstructive sleep apnea”. Therefore, she covers the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff for this position of „**Associate Professor**“.

In June 2018, she became the Head of Neurology department at UMHATEM "N.I. Pirogov" Sofia, position that she still currently holds.

The candidate has profound professional and scientific expertise in the field of Neurology.

Evaluation of the research activity.

In this competition, Dr. Dimitrova presents her own monograph, 35 full-text publications (in 14 of them, she is a lead author), 21 reports in national forums and 18 reports in international forums. According to the provided information the candidate's total impact factor for the publications (18) in the indexed journals is 56.788. The official reference for citations, made by Central Medical Library, shows 18 citations in Bulgarian references.

The provided scientific work is sufficient in quality and quantity for participation in the competition and exceeds the requirements, approved by the academic council of UMHATEM "N. I. Pirogov" EAD, as well as the national minimal requirements.

Research fields of the publications and contributions:

1. Obstructive sleep apnea
 - Psychological impairments
 - Cognitive impairments
 - Exploring the anatomical substrate for the impairments
 - Anthropometric profile of patients
 - Risk factors analysis
2. Multiple sclerosis:
 - Neuropsychology and behavior impairments
 - New therapeutic possibilities
3. Cerebrovascular diseases
 - Risk factors
 - Ischemic strokes with unknown genesis
 - Treatment of cerebrovascular disorders
4. Spinal pathology
5. Neuropsychological evaluations in neurology disorders
6. COVID-19
7. Another
8. Dissertation work

The monograph "Diagnostic and therapeutic approaches in cryptogenic stroke" by Dr. Dimitrova, plays an important role in the decision-making in regards to the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor". It consists of 9 chapters and 175 pages in total, and includes two reviews, made by professors. The subject is: definition, epidemiology, differential diagnosis and therapeutic recommendations for stroke of unknown origin. It also contains case reports of patients with stroke due to rare causes. The monograph includes many etiology and pathogenic factors, causing stroke in different age groups. Some of the presented causes are very rare, but their exploration will lead to better diagnosis of the cryptogenic stroke. The monograph is an useful book

for specialists in Neurology, Rheumatology, Cardiology, Genetics, as well as for medical students. **The monograph has theoretical and research contribution for the Neurology in Bulgaria.**

Evaluation of the scientific and academic activity

1. Lecturing “Emergency medicine” for 6th year medical students in Medical University - Sofia.
2. Participation as a lecturer in the program „Practical introduction in the treatment of emergency conditions“.
3. Leading the scientific activity and creating a plan for development of the residents’ research activity and organizing the accreditation for doctoral program in Neurology at UMHATEM “N.I. Pirogov” Sofia.
4. Successful organization of the accreditation procedure for neurology residents’ education and resident recruitment.
5. Editing the Emergency medicine journal, as well as in many international journals with high reference value.
6. Participation in examination boards and organization of collegiums and colloquiums

Conclusion

Based on the provided evidence I declare that Maria Ivanova Dimitrova, M.D. fully meets the mandatory quantitative research criteria, accepted by the Law for the Development of Academic Staff of UMHATEM “N. I. Pirogov”EAD, in the Republic of Bulgaria, Sofia. The work with which the candidate participates on the basis of the required point system of Academic council of the Hospital, as well as on the national requirements, is analyzed in the chart below:

Group of indexes	Content	Associate-professor Minimal points according to the national requirements	Associate-professor Available points	Associate-professor Points according to the requirements of UMHATEM “N.I. Pirogov” EAD, Sofia
A	Index 1	50	50	50
B	Index 2	-	-	
C	Indexes 3 and 4	100	100	100
D	Sum of indexes from 5 to 9	200	915.25	1890
E	Sum of indexes from 10 to 12	50	95	95
F	Sum of indexes from 13 to the last index		70	70
G	IF (only for the requirements of UMHATEM “N. I. Pirogov”)	-	-	Personal IF 22.08

Given the stated arguments, I confidently give a positive vote and recommend to the esteemed members of Academic council that they elect **Maria Ivanova Dimitrova, MD, PhD** for the academic position “Associate professor” in scientific specialty „Neurology“.

03.06.2021

Prof. Assen Baltov, MD, PhD

Sofia