EXPERT STATEMENT

By Prof. Dr. Magdalena Ivanova Leseva, dm

Regarding the participation of associate professor Dr. Petar Yordanov Atanasov in a competition for the academic position of "professor" in the scientific specialty "internal diseases" for the needs of the Clinic of Internal Diseases at UMBALSM "N.I. Pirogov" EAD.

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Brief biographical data: Dr. Petar Yordanov Atanasov was born on 27.05.1962 in the city of Sofia. He graduated from high school in the city of Kyustendil in 1980, and in 1988 he graduated from Higher Medical Education at the Medical Academy - Higher Medical Institute, Sofia. Dr. Atanasov has 35 years of continuous medical clinical work experience. He started working as a resident doctor in the 1st internal department of the ORB, Kyustendil, in 1988. From the beginning of 1991, he worked as the head of the Intensive Sector of the same department. From 1992 to 2013, he worked as an internist at the Clinic for Internal Diseases - UMBALSM "Pirogov", and from 2013 to 2014 as a hematologist at the Clinic for Transfusion Hematology and Immunology - UMBALSM "Pirogov". From February 2014, after a competition, he was appointed to the position of "Assistant" at the same clinic. From March 2014 to the present, he has been serving as the Head of Internal Medicine Clinic - Pirogov UMBALSM.

Prof. Atanasov has protected specialties in: Internal Medicine in 1993, Scientific Medical Information in 1988, Clinical Hematology in 2000, Management in 1989, Emergency Medicine in 2020. Since January 2016, he has been awarded the educational and scientific degree DOCTOR OF MEDICINE (scientific specialty Internal Medicine), after a successfully defended dissertation work. From 19.12.2016, after winning a competition, he was appointed to the academic position of "associate professor" of Internal Medicine at the KVB (Clinic of Internal Medicine).

Prof. Atanasov has participated in over 200 national and international scientific congresses and symposia. He is involved in a number of scientific projects, including

international ones. He is the scientific supervisor of four doctoral programs and seven specialist programs. He has been continuously teaching undergraduate and graduate programs since 2014.

For the current competition, Prof. Atanasov presents a total of 50 publications (13 – in Bulgarian and 37 – in foreign journals, all published after the defense of the doctoral dissertation) and 22 participations in scientific forums. Published a book based on the protected dissertation work "Main characteristics (incidence, prevalence, causes) of the anemic syndrome in patients over 80 years of age hospitalized in an emergency". There are chapters published in two Bulgarian textbooks.

Prof. Atanasov is the independent or first author of 9 (18.0%) of the peer-reviewed publications; second author - at 11 (22.0%) and third and subsequent author - at 30 (60.0%).

The total impact factor of the candidate, according to official memo No. 419/09.08.2023. from CMB at MU-Sofia is 82.91. At the time of submitting the documents for the competition, 141 citations were registered in the Scopus and Web of Science databases (self-citations are excluded), which proves the scientific significance of the author's work.

From all this, I conclude that the presented scientific production is sufficient in terms of volume and quality for participation in the competition.

Research activity: Prof. Atanasov is involved in two research projects: "Immunological memory in SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19: mechanisms, duration and cross-reactivity" and "Role of individual virus/host genomic features in the response to the infection with SARS-CoV-2" in the period 2021-2023.

These projects have been designated for funding on the basis of a COMPETITION FOR FUNDING FUNDAMENTAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON SOCIAL CHALLENGES RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC -2020 held by the "Scientific Research" Fund.

Teaching and learning activity: The classroom teaching load of Assoc. Prof. Atanasov, including conducting lectures and exercises, covers: 80 hours in 2020, 90 hours in 2021, 55 hours in 2022 and 75 hours in 2023. His non-auditory employment (participation in colloquiums, management of training modules) is, respectively, 30h/50 modules; 30h/40

modules; 20h/40 modules and 20h/20 modules. His teaching-methodical activity (development of lectures, editing of materials, chief researcher in clinical studies, conducting collegiums) includes 180 hours for 2021 and 160 hours, respectively, for 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Three main scientific directions in the scientific interests and work of Prof. Atanasov are outlined, as follows:

1. Studies in the field of internal medicine;

2. Studies in the field of clinical toxicology and clinical hematology

3. Studies in the field of pharmacology and pharmacy:

3.1. Chemical-pharmaceutical studies

3.2. Clinical-pharmacological and clinical-pharmaceutical studies

3.3. Pharmaceutical toxicology and pharmaceutical analysis.

The scientific works reflect the results of in-depth studies, most of which are pioneering for the country and related to determining the frequency, causes and severity of diseases, follow-ups, analyses, development of diagnostic and therapeutic algorithms, introduction of new methods in our country. The candidate's wide range of scientific interests is impressive.

Significance of scientific and scientific-applied contributions:

I. IN THE FIELD OF INTERNAL MEDICINE:

1. For the first time in Bulgaria, a study was conducted and diagnostic and therapeutic algorithms were developed for elderly patients (1, 4);

2. Studies and developments have been carried out in internal medicine emergencies related to atypical viral infections and parasitic invasions (2, 3, 5);

3. Detailed pioneering studies on various aspects of complicated coronavirus infection (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11), in the post-Covid period (12, 13, 14), in smokers compared to non-smokers (15, 16).

II. IN THE FIELD OF CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY AND CLINICAL HEMATOLOGY:

1. Pioneering studies for the country on intoxication with heavy metals (1, 2), household intoxications (3, 4), intoxications from medicinal preparations (5);

2. Pioneering studies related to hepato-protective therapy and hematological changes and complications during and after moderate and severe coronavirus infection (6, 8, 9, 10, 11).

III. SCIENTIFIC AND APPLIED CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF PHARMACOLOGY AND PHARMACY. CHEMICAL-PHARMACEUTICAL STUDIES:

1. For the first time in our country, detailed studies of the properties of coumarins and the chemical structure/activity relationship between them and other substances with biological activity were carried out (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6);

2. Analyzes were performed and methods were introduced (such as HPLC, TLC-densitometry, etc.) to determine a number of components with biological and antioxidant activity, included in food supplements (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13) , including those used for the prevention and treatment of socially significant diseases.

IV. IN THE FIELD OF CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY AND CLINICAL PHARMACY:

1. For the first time in the country, the effect of newly synthesized active substances on cell cultures is being studied (1, 2);

2. Pioneering studies for the country on the amino acid composition in nutritional supplements (3, 4);

3. Studies on the role and influence of regular intake of omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (5, 6);

4. In-depth studies on the clinical application of zartans (7, 8, 9);

5. Valuable studies on the role and importance of essential oils, including for the prevention and treatment of coronavirus infection (10, 11, 12);

6. Extremely valuable pioneering studies on the clinical effect and immune response on patients treated with original preparations containing anti-SARS-CoV2 monoclonal antibodies (13, 14, 15).

V. IN THE FIELD OF PHARMACEUTICAL TOXICOLOGY AND PHARMACEUTICAL ANALYSIS:

Research has been conducted on beta-lactam antibiotics and nutritional supplements regarding their composition, the active substance in them and the risks of their use.

VI. CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATIONAL AND TEACHING ACTIVITY:

Research, analysis, development and implementation of curricula for the training of Bulgarian health professionals from various fields have been carried out in medical colleges and practical training bases in the field of emergency medicine.

I agree with the contributions indicated by the candidate.

Conclusion: Associate Professor Petar Yordanov Atanasov is a thorough scientist with analytical thinking, whose achievements in the various fields in which he worked are of great importance for our country. It is highly valued by physicians with various clinical specialties, as evidenced by its numerous citations. His contribution related to detailed studies, developments, analyzes of the Coronavirus pandemic, which recently struck both Bulgaria and the whole world, is particularly great. As a result of his dedicated activity in the fight against it, he not only saved hundreds of human lives, but also made valuable analyzes and developed unique schemes and algorithms for the diagnosis and treatment of this until recently unknown and unstudied infectious disease with life-threatening potential. Prof. Atanasov is an accomplished teacher, an accomplished scientist, with extensive clinical experience in his field, a sought-after consultant in all clinical specialties of the general hospital. The value of his scientific developments is expressed in the extremely high impact factor of his publications. The reference for scientometric indicators shows that the candidate not only meets, but also exceeds both the national requirements and those of UMBALSM «N.I. Pirogov". Accepting and appreciating the scientific contributions of his publications, his teaching talent and extensive clinical experience, I confidently propose to the Scientific Jury to support and propose to the National Assembly of UMBALSM "N. I. Pirogov" the election of Associate Professor Petar Yordanov Atanasov for the academic position of "Professor" for the needs of the Internal Medicine Clinic.

15.11.2023 ....

Sofia (Prof. Dr. Magdalena Ivanova Leseva, PhD)