

RECENSION

for occupancy of academic position “Professor”

according to announced in State gazette contest in issue №99 from 13.12.2022

in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sport,

professional direction 7.1. Medicine,

on the academic specialty “Immunopathology and allergology”,

from Prof. Valentin Hristophorov Ikonov, MD, PhD, DMSc

The recension of materials, presented for the contest, is based on the requirements of the Act on development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulation for its application and the Regulation for conditions and order of acquiring academic degrees and occupying academic positions in University “Prof. D-r Asen Zlatarov” – Burgas.

For the announced contest of occupying academic position “Professor” of the academic specialty “Immunopathology and allergology” documents have presented Assoc. Prof. Svetlan Mihov Dermendzhiev, MD, PhD, DMSc, MHM.

Biographical data, professional and academic development of the candidate:

Assoc. Prof. Svetlan Mihov Dermendzhiev was born on 26.02.1962 in the city of Elhovo. He graduated in medicine in 1988 at the Higher Medical Institute - Plovdiv. He worked for 2 years as an occupational therapist in Doctor’s Health Center – Combine for Tractors, Karlovo (12.1988 - 12.1990). Since 01.1991 and at present he works in Medical University - Plovdiv successively as assistant professor (1991 - 1996) and chief assistant professor (1996 – 2010 y.). Since 2010 he is Head of the Department of Occupational Diseases with activity in Clinical allergology, and since 2021 is Head of Clinic of Clinical Toxicology at University Hospital "St. George" JSC-Plovdiv. In 2010 he also acquired qualification of Master in Health Management. Member of the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University - Plovdiv (2009-2010). Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev is Head of the Section of Occupational Diseases and Toxicology at the Second Department of Internal Diseases of the Medical Faculty of Medical University - Plovdiv and member of the Faculty Committee on Quality. After a competition in 2014 he holds the academic position of Associate Professor at the Second Department of Internal Diseases, Section of Occupational Diseases and Toxicology of Medical University - Plovdiv.

Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev has acquired 4 clinical specialties: internal medicine (1994); clinical toxicology (1996); clinical allergology (2006) and occupational diseases (2008).

Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev is the President of the Bulgarian Scientific Society of Occupational Diseases and a member of the editorial board of the journal "Rare Diseases and Orphan Drugs". He is a member of 5 national and 3 international scientific organizations: Bulgarian Medical Association; Bulgarian Society of Allergology; Bulgarian Society of Clinical Toxicology; Bulgarian Scientific Society of Occupational Diseases; Bulgarian Medical Homeopathic Organization; European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI), World Allergy Organization (WAO), International Association of Rare Diseases (ICORD). For the competition procedure Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev has enclosed documents of acquired skills and legal capacity to perform specialized and highly specialized medical activities in accordance with the requirements of the medical standards in "Clinical Allergology" and "Occupational Diseases". Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev is a member of the National Expert Medical Board in "Clinical Allergology".

Throughout his career as a physician, teacher and scientist, Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev maintained and improved his professional qualification, which is evidenced by the attached certificates and attestations of his participation in specialized courses in his acquired clinical and scientific specialties - "Alternating dynamometry ; "Capillaroscopy"; "Cold test" "Rheodermometry" (2011); Technology of scientific activity" "Abdominal ultrasound diagnostics for beginners (2010);" Homeopathic therapy" (2010-2012); Clinical and X-ray functional characterization of dust-induced occupational lung diseases. International X-ray classification of pneumoconioses (2007); Auditory-sensory system research in occupational pathology (2006); Clinical course and differential diagnosis of pulmonary diseases with allergic etiopathogenesis" (2005); "Modern methods for the diagnosis of allergic and autoimmune diseases"; "New developments in the treatment of allergic rhinitis and bronchial asthma" and Problems of immunological diagnosis of internal diseases at Medical University - Sofia (2004).

Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev has defended 2 dissertations –

- In 2012 he defended his dissertation entitled: "Comparative analysis of allergic diseases of general and occupational nature for a 10-year period in Plovdiv region", for which he was awarded with scientific degree "Doctor" in Social Medicine and Organization of Health Care and Pharmacy;
- In 2020, after successful defense of his dissertation on "Angioneurotic edema - epidemiology, etiology, pathogenesis, forms, clinical course, diagnostic and differential diagnostic criteria, therapeutic approaches", he obtained the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in the scientific specialty "Immunopathology and Allergology".

General description of submitted materials for the contest:

The documents relating to the competitive procedure have been drawn up and submitted in accordance with Article 67, para. 2 of the Regulations on the Structure and Activities of "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University" Burgas, as follows:

- 1.-Application to the Rector of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas for participation in a contest for the academic position "Professor" in a field of higher education 7. Health and Sport, professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Immunopathology and Allergology". SG 99 of 13.12.2022
- 2.-Copy of the advertisement in State Gazette No. 99 of 13.12.2022
- 3.-Identification documents :
- 5.-Documents to prove years of employment under Article 73, para. 1(2) and (3)
- 6.-Copies of scientific works
- 7.-Teaching and educational activities
- 8.-Professional and doctoral students supervised by the candidate
- 9.-Project work
10. -Document of implemented research project
- 11.-Participation in scientific forums and membership in scientific organizations and communities
- 12.-Reviews of the candidate's work from other organisations - no documents have been submitted that correspond to the text in the Regulations for occupation of an academic position
- 13.-Report on fulfilment of the minimum requirements set out in Annex 1 of the Regulations on the conditions and procedure for the acquisition of scientific degrees and holding of academic positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov"- Burgas and the author's report on the scientific contributions
- 14.-Reference of citations of the candidate's publications
- 15.1-Complete list of publications
- 15.-List of publications for participation in the contest
- 16.- Declaration of compliance with paragraph 15 of the Regulations
- 17.-Other documents relating to the procedure

Scientific and research activities:

The full lists of publications (15.1) and publications after obtaining the academic position of "Associate Professor" and the scientific degree of "Doctor of Science" (Point 15) submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev are as follows:

- dissertation and scientific abstract for the award of the scientific degree "Doctor" (16-1,2)
- dissertation and scientific abstracts (in Bulgarian and English) for the award of of the scientific degree "Doctor of Science", (16-3,4,5)
- 6 monographs, one of which based on a defended habilitation thesis (15.1.1)
- 1 published chapter of a collective monograph (15.1.2)
- participation in 2 published university textbooks and 5 university manuals (7.1)
- 22 publications in refereed Bulgarian and international journals, 9 of them with IF (40.90%), in 12 publications - first author (54.55%), in 5 publications - second author (22.73%), in 5 publications - third author (22.73%) (15.2)
- 48 publications in non-refereed journals, in 9 publications he was the sole author (18.75%), in 16 publications - first author (33.33%), in 19 - second author (39.58%), in 4 publications - third and following author (8.33%) (15.3)

Cited references from Central Library of Medicine, NACID and 1 updated cited reference in www.scopus.com and www.webofscience.com, were also submitted by the candidate (14.1.,14.2,14.3)

- 30 citations in international license databases (14.3)
- 26 citations in non-refereed journals

Citations found in other sources are not included.

Scientific contributions of Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev from overall publication activity in refereed and non-refereed journals:

- The scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied contributions of the dissertation thesis defended by Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev before the Scientific Jury in 2012 for the acquisition of the scientific degree "Doctor" on the topic: "Comparative Analysis of General and Occupational allergosis for a 10-year Period in the Plovdiv Region" in the field of epidemiology, etiology, clinical picture, diagnosis, treatment and expert evaluation of general and occupational allergic diseases are :

1. The results of the conducted study are confirmatory for the increase of allergic diseases on national, European and world scale.

2. The results of the dissertation work for the acquisition of the scientific degree "Doctor" demonstrate an increase in the detection rate of bronchial asthma with suspected or proven occupational etiology.

3. Clinically, the results of the investigation suggest an improved model for the interpretation of occupational allergosis, which encompasses in specific clinical panels the manifestations of the three most common allergic diseases - asthma, rhinitis and dermatoses.

4. The performed study contributes to the diagnosis of allergic diseases with occupational etiology by delineating algorithms of clinical and paraclinical criteria.

- The scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied contributions of the defended by Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev before the Scientific Jury in 2020 dissertation thesis for the acquisition of scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" on the topic "Angioneurotic edema-epidemiology, etiology, pathogenesis, forms, clinical course, diagnostic and differential diagnostic criteria, therapeutic approaches" are as follows:

1. For the first time in our country the problem of angioneurotic edema is elaborated in its comprehensiveness and diversity, and in addition to the clinico-diagnostics, indicators related to the socio-demographic characteristics of the examined contingent are also studied and analyzed.

2. The original contribution of the dissertation is the study design with its panels of epidemiological, etiological and clinico-diagnostic and laboratory diagnostic criteria.

3. For the first time in our country, a comprehensive analysis of the etiology of the disease has been made by examining and analyzing a wide range of factors triggering and provoking the manifestation of angioedema - drugs, foods, insects, trauma, invasive manipulations, factors related to the work environment, etc.

4. A special place in the study of the etiology of the disease is devoted to the study and clarification of familial predisposition and burden, as well as the role of concomitant diseases as triggering factors of edema.

5. For the study of the disease, of great importance is our finding of the leading role of medication and trauma as triggers of angioedema.

6. Contributions of an original nature can be attributed to the study of the examined individuals according to criteria related to hospital treatment, which is the only one of its kind on a regional and national scale.

7. The results and conclusions obtained from the screening can be used to phenotype the disease.

- Contributions of articles published in journals refereed and indexed in international databases www.scopus.com and www.webofscience.com (attached in list under 15.1.4 of the application) can be divided into the following groups:

I. Contributions of scientific-theoretical and applied-scientific nature in the scientific specialty of immunopathology and allergology:

1. On topics and problems related to bronchial asthma (publications № 2,5,9,10,28,32 from the attached list under 15.1.4)

2. On topics and problems related to angioneurotic edema, including hereditary angioedema (publications № 3,4,6,7,8,9,11,12,13,16,17,18,19,23,27,31,33 from the attached list under 15.1.4)

3. On topics and issues related to urticaria (publications № 4,23,29,30 from the attached list under 15.1.4)

4. Combined pathology, rare diseases and description of clinical cases, with original contributions to the theory and practice of immunopathology and allergology (publications № 3,4,5,9,13,14,16,17,18,20,23,27,30,31,33 from the attached list under 15.1.4)

II. Contributions of scientific-theoretical and applied-scientific nature in the field of occupational diseases:

1. On topics and problems related to occupational allergic diseases (publications № 4,9,10,17,27,29,33 from the attached list under 15.1.4)

2. On topics and problems related to other occupational diseases - of the peripheral nervous system, musculoskeletal system, etc. (publications № 15,22,26,28,34 of the annexed list under 15.1.4)

3. Rare diseases and immunoallergic pathology associated with occupational diseases description of clinical cases (publications № 4,5,9,14,20,23 of the attached list under 15.1.4)

III. Contributions of scientific and theoretical nature in the field of social medicine, healthcare organization, health economics and health management:

Publications № 1,21,25 from the attached list under 15.1.4

IV. Contributions of scientific and theoretical nature in other fields of medicine:
Publications № 24,26 from the attached list under 15.1.4

- The contributions of the articles published in non-refereed journals (attached list under 15.1.5 of the application) can be divided into the following groups:

I. Contributions of scientific-theoretical and applied-scientific nature in the scientific specialty of immunopathology and allergology

1. On topics and problems related to bronchial asthma, including professional asthma (publications № 3,10,14,20,23,25,26,29,63 from the attached list under 15.1.5)

2. On topics and problems related to angioneurotic oedema, including hereditary angioedema (publications № 2,7,8,11,16,21,23,27,40,42,44,46,47,48,49,51,58 from the attached list under 15.1.5)

3. On topics and problems related to allergic rhinitis (publications № 17,19,22 from the attached list under 15.1.5)
 4. On topics and problems related to urticaria (publications № 1,2,33,38,53,58 of the annexed list under 15.1.5)
 5. On topics and issues related to food allergy (publications № 36 from the attached list under 15.1.5)
 6. On topics and issues related to hypersensitivity pneumonitis and immunoallergic vasculitis (publication № 43 and 45 from the attached list under 15.1.5)
 7. On topics and problems related to drug allergy (publication № 21 of the annexed list under 15.1.5)
 8. On topics and problems related to the therapy of allergic diseases (publication №63 of the annexed list under 15.1.5)
 9. Combined pathology, rare diseases and description of clinical cases with original contributions to the theory and practice of immunopathology and allergology (publications № 1,2,5,6,9,10,13,15,21,22,32,36,38,41,44,45,47,52,54,56,57,58,61,62 from the attached list under 15.1.5)
- II. Contributions of theoretical and applied nature in the field of professional diseases
1. On topics and problems related to occupational allergic diseases (publications № 1,10,13,14,18,20,21,22,23,25,26,29,38,41,53, from the attached list under 15.1.5)
 2. On topics and problems related to other occupational diseases - pulmonary, peripheral nervous system, musculoskeletal, etc. (publications № 6,9,15,18,24,30,31,64 from the attached list under 15.1.5)
 3. Rare diseases and occupational disease associated immunoallergic pathology - description of clinical cases (publications № 1,2,4,5,6,9,15,21,26,38,41,44,45,47,52,58,61,62 from the attached list under 15.1.5)
- III. Contributions of both scientific and applied nature in the field of social medicine, health care organization, health economics and health management
- Publications №14,17,18,24,25,29 from the attached list under 15.1.5
- IV. Contributions of scientific and applied nature in the field of clinical toxicology
1. Contributions to the theory and practice of drug intoxications (publications № 12,32, 65 from the attached list under 15.1.5)
 2. Contributions to the theory and practice of pesticide intoxications (publications № 50 and 60 of the attached list under 15.1.5)
 3. Contributions to the theory and practice of toxoallergic reactions with cutaneous-mucosal toxoallergic syndrome (publications № 27,39,56,57 of the attached list under 15.1.5)

4. Contributions to the theory and practice of occupational intoxications and household poisonings (publications № 37 and 55 from the attached list under 15.1.5)

5. Combined pathology, rare diseases and clinical case reports with original contributions to the theory and practice of clinical toxicology (publications № 12,21,32, 41,53 from the attached list under 15.1.5)

V. Contributions of a scientific-theoretical and applied nature in other fields of medicine Publications № 31,34,35,42 from the attached list under 15.1.5

The analysis of the publication evidence attached to the competition procedure gives me grounds to give a high evaluation of the candidate's overall scientific development. The variety and quality of Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev's scientific output defines him as a unique multidisciplinary scientist, with significant contributions to theory and practice in a number of fields of medicine. Apart from the significant contributions in the field of immunopathology and allergology, the publications of Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev have contributed to the development of scientific knowledge in the theory and practice of occupational diseases, clinical toxicology, social medicine, health care organization and health management. The published by Assoc. Dermendzhiev's monographs are unique in their content, systematization and updating of the scientific knowledge on the relevant problems, and some of the published original cases from clinical practice are without analogue in the specialized medical literature. My assessment of the general scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev is positive, and that of the field of immunopathology and allergology is very high.

Participation in project implementation and management:

Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev submitted documents for participation in the following scientific projects:

- manager of 2 international projects, funded, implemented and reported (9.1);
- author and manager of 12 national projects funded, implemented and reported (9.2);
- author and lead researcher of 1 intra-university project ranked 1st by The committee and also implemented
- author, supervisor and lead researcher of 1 intramural project ranked, without (approved) funding (9.3).

The research and clinical experience of Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev, as well as his acquired high professional qualification, are the reasons for his appointment as a member of the committee for replacement therapy in patients with inherited immunodeficiency conditions (10.1).

Educational and teaching activities:

Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev is an established teacher and lecturer. He is the author and co-author of the following curricula and doctoral programs:

- author of the training program for medical students in "Clinical Allergology";
- author of the curriculum on "Food Toxicology" for students from the Medical College in the specialty of "Dietetic Nutrition Instructor";
- co-author of the curriculum for the training of students of the specialty "Medicine" in "Occupational diseases and toxicology";
- co-author of the curriculum in Occupational Diseases for the training of students of the specialty "Dental Medicine" at the Faculty of Dental Medicine of Medical University - Plovdiv;
- co-author of the curriculum of "Occupational Diseases with Toxicology" for the training of students from the Medical College in the specialty "Public Health Inspector";
- author of tests for practical exercises with students of specialty "Medicine" III year; specialty "Dental medicine" V year; specialty "Public Health Inspector" and "Dietetic Nutrition Instructor" II year at the Medical College;
- author of the doctoral programme for obtaining scientific specialty "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Immunopathology and Allergology" at Medical University Plovdiv, which is accredited by The National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency.

Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev has published 4 textbooks and 5 educational handbooks in Bulgarian and English (15.1.3.). The teaching load of Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev significantly exceeds the minimum hourly requirements (academic transcript - 7.2).

Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev teaches medical students at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University of Plovdiv in the disciplines "Occupational Diseases and Toxicology" and "Clinical Allergology", students of the Medical College in the disciplines "Public Health Inspector" and "Dietetic Nutrition Instructor". He has supervised the theoretical and practical training of 7 postgraduate students in Clinical Allergology, 4 of whom have obtained a specialty, has provided training in the modules Allergology and Occupational Diseases to specialist doctors, has supervised two PhD students and has been a scientific advisor to 1 PhD student (8.1, 8.2). Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev is the chairman of the colloquium committees and is a member of the examination committees for the state examination for the specialty in "Clinical Allergology", "Clinical Toxicology" and "Occupational Diseases".

The evidence presented by the candidate gives me reason to rate highly the achievements of Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev in teaching and methodical activities and to define him as one of the leading university lecturers in Clinical Allergology, Occupational Diseases and Clinical Toxicology.

Overall assessment of the candidate's compliance with the mandatory conditions and the mandatory quantitative criteria and scientific-metric indicators according to the Academic Staff Development Act and the Regulations of „Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov“ University - Burgas for filling academic positions:

Table 1 Minimum required score by Indicator groups				
Indicators group	Table of Contents	Professor	Documents for the current contest invitation	Number of points for this contest
A	Indicator 1	50		50
B	Indicator 2			100
C	Indicator 3 and 4	100		
D	Sum of indicators 5 to 9	250		1525.3
E	Sum of indicators 10 to 12	150		580
F	Sum of indicators from 13 to the end. For a Professor, the minimum number of points for E14 = 60	120		1321.7

Table 2 Score by indicators				
Indicators group	Indicators	Number of points	Documents for the current contest invitation	Number of points for this contest
A	1.Dissertation for the award of PhD	50		50
B	2.Dissertation for the award of Doctor of Sciences	100		100
C	3.Habilitation thesis - a monography	100		
	4.Habilitation work - monographs /not less than 10/, in scientific publications that are refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information	60/n for every publication		
D	5.Published monography, which is not submitted as a habilitation thesis	100	6 monographs, 1 collective and 1 based on a collective work	425
	6.Published book on the basis of a defended dissertation for the award of PhD or NS PhD	40	1 monograph, based on a thesis for the degree of Doctor of Science	40
	7.Publications and reports published in scientific journals,	60/n or allocated	22 articles, 9 of them with IF(40.90%), in 12	403,3

	refereed and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information	on the basis of a contribution protocol	articles-first author (54.55%) in 5 articles-second author (22.73%), in 5-following third author (22.73%)	
	8.Publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes	30/n or allocated on the basis of a contribution protocol	48 articles, in 9 single author (18.75%) in 16 -first author (33.33%) in 19-second author (39.58%) in 4-third and following author (8.33%)	652
	9.Published chapter in a collective monograph	20/n	1 published chapter in a collective monograph	5
E	10.Quotations or reviews published in scientific journals, refereed or indexed in world-known databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes	15	30 citations in licensing databases	450
	11.Citations in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes	10		
	12.Citations or reviews in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals	5	29 citations in Bulgarian publications, 26 of them in non-refereed publications	130
F	13.Acquired scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences"	40		40
	14.Supervision of a PhD student /n is the number of supervisors of the respective PhD student/ or of graduate student	40/n	2 PhD students-2 scientific supervisors,1 scientific consultant, 7 postgraduate students	320
	15.Acquired medical specialty	40	acquired specialities 4	160
	16.Participation in a national scientific or educational project	15	12 national projects	180
	17.Participation in an international scientific or educational project	20	2 international projects	40
	18.Management of a national scientific or educational project	30	12 national projects as author or manager	360
	19.Management of an international scientific or educational project	40	2 international projects as project manager	80
	20.Published university textbook, or a textbook used in a school system	40/n	Published 2 university textbooks	26.7

	21. Published university textbook or teaching manual used in the school system	20/n	Published 5 university guidebooks	85
	22. Education of interns, graduate students and PhD students /seminars and practical classes/	30		30
	23. Awards from national sports competitions /for Professional field 7.6 Sport/	10		
	24. Awards from international sports competitions /for Professional field 7.6 Sport/	20		

The scores reflected in the tables by groups of indicators show that Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev fulfils the mandatory quantitative criteria and the scientific metrics according to Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations of „Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University“ - Burgas for holding the academic position "Professor".

Conclusion:

The documents presented in the competition procedure reflect objectively the professional and academic development of the candidate and give me grounds to give a good assessment of his achievements in the respective scientific specialty.

Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev fully meets the criteria and requirements for the academic position of "Professor" in the scientific specialty of "Immunopathology and Allergology", on the basis of the advertisement published in issue No. 99 of the State Gazette of 13.12.2022.

I confidently propose to the Scientific Jury the candidature of Assoc. Prof. Dermendzhiev for the award of the academic position of "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Immunopathology and Allergology".

27.03.2023

Varna

Reviewed by:

Prof. Valentin Hristophorov Ikonov, MD, PhD, DMSc