

STATEMENT

From

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Member of the Scientific Jury based on the Order № 237/15.07.2024 of the
Rector of Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas.

I have been appointed a member of the Scientific Jury as per Order № 237/15.07.2024 of the Rector of Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas, regarding the procedure for holding the academic position of Associate Professor in 7. Healthcare and sports – higher education area, 7.1. Medicine – professional field; Pathology speciality, published in the State Gazette No. 43/17.05.2024.

Nedyalka Zgurova, MD, PhD, is the single and has submitted the materials for the competition electronically. The documentation includes all the necessary items outlined in the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Regulations for its implementation, and the Rules and Regulations of Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas, for academic staff development.

I. Biographical data and analysis of the career development of Nedyalka Todorova Zgurova, MD, PhD

The candidate Nedyalka Todorova Zgurova, MD, PhD, was born on January 11th, 1987. In 2011, she graduated with a Master's in Medicine from the Medical University of Varna. In 2017, she obtained her Certificate of Completion of Special Training in General and Clinical Pathology. She successfully defended her doctoral thesis in 2020 and obtained the scientific and educational degree "Philosophy Doctor" in Pathology and Cytopathology. Her doctoral thesis at the Medical University of Varna was on "Comparative morphological and immunohistochemical analysis of benign and malignant epithelial tumours of the colon".

The applicant has accumulated 11 years and 9 months of academic and professional experience (as of September 2024). Simultaneously, she combined her teaching and professional activities as a physician at St. Marina University Hospital – Varna, and assistant professor (later senior assistant professor) at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at the Medical University of Varna.

In summary, Dr. Zgurova has progressed through all the required levels of academic and professional advancement.

II. Evaluation of the scientometric indicators of Nedyalka Todorova Zgurova, MD, PhD

The evaluation is based on the candidate's scientific publications in Bulgarian and international journals and full-text reports in scientific proceedings, as well as the submitted monographs and lists of citations, together with the supporting material.

Dr. Nedyalka Zgurova has presented publications, reports and communications (not repeating those submitted for the award of the PhD degree) as follows:

- 5 publications in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world databases of scientific information;
- 10 publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes;
- 33 citations in refereed and non-refereed peer-reviewed journals;
- 3 scientific communications from national forums.

The analysis shows that Dr. Nedyalka Zgurova is the first author in four (4) publications listed in the reference, of which one (1) is in a refereed and indexed international journal. Thirty-three (33) citations were tracked, of which seven (7) were in publications in refereed and indexed international journals. The above data manifests that the candidate's research output has been highly recognised internationally.

In addition, Dr. Nedyalka Zgurova has submitted a Reference for participation in one (1) research project of the Scientific Research Fund on stochastic simulation models.

In summary, the presented publications, participation in forums, projects and citations provide detailed and thorough information on the necessary criteria in this area.

III. Evaluation of the research activity and contributions of Nedyalka Todorova Zgurova, MD, PhD

The scientific profile of the candidate is a well-defined multifaceted one. It is evident that her focus is on a career in the practical field of general and clinical pathology, with contributions in:

- STUDIES ON CHRONIC MYELOPROLIFERATIVE NEOPLASMS;

- RISK FACTORS AND HISTOLOGICAL FEATURES OF BASAL CELL CARCINOMA;
- STUDY OF THE EXPRESSION OF CERTAIN PROTEINS IN COLON ADENOCARCINOMA;
- CYTOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF LESIONS IN THE NECK AREA;
- BONE REPAIR MATERIALS AND BONE REGENERATION RATES.

IV. Evaluation of the teaching and academic activity of Nedyalka Todorova Zgurova, MD, PhD

Dr. Nedyalka Zgurova has extensive experience teaching as an assistant professor engaged in the practical exercises in General and Clinical Pathology of medical students in both Bulgarian and English-speaking training.

The presented Academic Reference shows that her teaching workload is 220 teaching hours on average, which falls under the regulation standard. In addition, Dr. Zgurova provided a reference for the curricula and lecture course she has developed on this discipline at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas.

In summary, Nedyalka Zgurova, MD, PhD, has sufficient experience in teaching and organizing hands-on training in the discipline. The consistency and attention to detail she displays in her academic pursuits are fundamental prerequisites for her future success and advancement in this specific field.

V. Assessment of the candidate's compliance with mandatory quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators

By the Regulations for filling academic positions at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas, and Resolution No. 122/29.06.2018 amending and supplementing the implementation requirements of the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, adopted by Resolution No. 202 of the Council of Ministers of 2010 (SG No.75 of 2010; amended and supplemented, issue No.19 of 2011, art. 9 of 2012, No. 62 of 2013, No. 60 of 2014 and No. 57 of 2015) for the minimum required scores in the groups of indicators for the academic position of Associate Professor, the candidate Nedyalka Todorova Zgurova, MD, PhD, has achieved and provided the following results:

Group of indicators	Contents	Associate Professor (points)	Nedyalka Zgurova (points)
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-
C	Indicators 3 or 4	100	100
D	Sum of indicators 5 to 9	220	245,35
E	Sum of indicators 10 to 12	50	235
F	Sum of indicators from 13 to the end	40	55
Total		460	685,35

The candidate meets the conditions for the academic position of Associate Professor by:

- Holds a Master's in medicine;
- Has acquired a speciality in General and Clinical Pathology;
- Has PhD degree in the scientific speciality Pathology and Cytopathology;
- Meets the required quantitative scientometric indicators.

VI. Personal impressions

I know the candidate on a personal level because of our collaborative teaching work at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at the Medical University of Varna. Throughout this time, she consistently showed a high level of responsiveness, honesty, and ethical behaviour when interacting with her colleagues.

VIII. Conclusion

Taking into account the above, it can be summarized that, considering the submitted documents, the candidate Nedyalka Todorova Zgurova, MD, PhD, is a proficient scientist, educator, and physician, skilled at harmonising precise diagnostic work with teaching and research.

The candidate's scientific, publishing and academic activities meet the requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor. Therefore, I give my positive opinion and will confidently vote affirmative for electing Nedyalka Todorova Zgurova, MD, PhD, to the academic position of Associate Professor at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas.

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Assoc. Prof. Svitlana Yurievna Bachurska, MD, PhD