

STATEMENT



From Prof. Valentin Konstantinov Vassilev, MD, PhD

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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 opened for the needs of the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov – Burgas, published in the State Gazette No. 43/17.05.2024.

I have been appointed a member of the Scientific Jury at a meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine and by the Rector's Order of Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas. I was tasked to prepare a statement regarding the procedure for electing an Associate Professor in the speciality of Pathology (Minutes Meeting N1 of the Scientific Jury meeting).

In the announced competition for Associate Professor a single candidate has been admitted – Nedyalka Zgurova, MD, currently Senior Assistant Professor at the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas.

Following the regulations, the candidate has submitted all the necessary documentation for participation in the competition. The documentation is in compliance with national requirements 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.

Brief biographical data and career profile of the candidate

Dr. Nedyalka Todorova Zgurova was born on November 1st, 1987, in Smolyan. She graduated from the Natural Sciences and Mathematics High School in Smolyan, with a major in Biology and Chemistry (2005).

In 2011 she graduated with a Master's degree in Medicine at MU-Varna. In the period 2012 – 2022, she worked as a resident physician in the Clinic of General and Clinical Pathology at St. Marina University Hospital – Varna. Since 2013 /after a competition/ Dr. Zgurova has become a member of the faculty as an assistant professor at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at the Medical University-Varna.

She obtained her Certificate of completion of special training in General and Clinical Pathology in December 2016.

Since 2016, Dr. Zgurova has been a full-time doctoral student developing a thesis on "Comparative morphological and immunohistochemical analysis of benign and malignant epithelial tumours of the colon". She successfully defended her doctoral thesis in 2020 and obtained the scientific and educational degree "Philosophy Doctor" in Pathology and Cytopathology (diploma number 396/29.12.2020).

To master and improve her qualifications in diagnostic pathology Dr. Zgurova has attended various courses, seminars and other forms of postgraduate training over the years.

Currently, Dr. Zgurova holds the position of Senior Assistant Professor at the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas.

Evaluation of quantitative and qualitative scientific indicators

The candidate has presented a sufficient number of scientific publications featuring original and applied contributions. In particular, Dr. Nedyalka Zgurova has submitted for evaluation a total of 15 full-text publications in Bulgarian and English, distributed as follows:

- A monographic work “Colorectal cancer – risk and prognostic factors”, S.,2024. The main scientific contributions in the monograph are associated with the attempt to clarify the risk and prognostic factors in colorectal carcinoma, genetic alterations, phases of carcinogenesis and major genes involved in tumourigenesis, which allows the identification of adequate predictive and prognostic biomarkers.
- 5 publications published in refereed and indexed in world-renowned scientific databases;
- 10 publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals;

In four of the publications, Dr. Nedyalka Zgurova is a single author.

I endorse the provided Reference about the candidate's scientific contributions without any remarks.

Dr. Zgurova has also submitted a Reference duly prepared by the Central Medical Library (CML) confirming a total of 33 citations: 7 in refereed scientific journals (Web of Science), 8 in Bulgarian sources from the CML library collection and 18 in international sources available online.

Indicators	Required points	Dr. Zgurova
A	50	50
B	0	0
C	100	100
D	220	245,35
E	60	235
F	20	55

Taking these aspects into consideration, I am convinced that the candidate fully meets the requirements for holding the academic position of Associate Professor according to the requirements of the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, and the Rules and Regulations of Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas, for academic staff development in 7. Healthcare and sports – higher education area, 7.1. Medicine – professional field.

The above comparative table confirms that the regulatory requirements have been fulfilled in terms of quantity and quality.

CONCLUSION

Examining the materials for the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor submitted by Dr. Nedyalka Zgurova, Senior Assistant Professor, reveals that the regulatory requirements of 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, have been met/or exceed the individual indicators.

In conclusion, I give a positive assessment of the research and academic activity of Dr. Nedyalka Zgurova. I vote in favour, pleading with the respected Scientific

Jury members to cast a positive vote as well for her election to the academic position of Associate Professor in 7. Healthcare and sports – higher education area, 7.1. Medicine – professional field; Pathology speciality opened for the needs of the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov – Burgas.

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