

To the Chairperson of the Scientific Jury
Appointed by Order No. 260 of 30.08.2024
of the Rector of "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" University – Burgas

OPINION

For the competition for the academic position **Associate Professor**
In the scientific field **General Medicine**
Announced for the needs of "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" University – Burgas,
Higher Education Field: 7. Healthcare and Sports
Professional Direction: 7.1 Medicine
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Opinion Prepared by:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hasan Aliev Burnusuzov, PhD

Scientific Specialties:

1. Pediatrics
2. Clinical Immunology

Institution: Medical University – Plovdiv, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics

General Overview of the Procedure

The competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "General Medicine" has been duly announced in accordance with the decision of the Academic Council and the Order of the Rector of "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" University – Burgas. All required documents for the competition have been provided.

The review of the materials is based on the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for its implementation, and the Internal Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" University – Burgas.

One applicant has applied for the competition: **Dr. Nevena Georgieva Ivanova, PhD**, Senior Assistant at the Department of Urology and General Medicine at the Medical University – Plovdiv, and a practicing cardiologist at "Caridad" Medical Center and "St. Caridad" Hospital in Plovdiv, as well as a General Practitioner at "Dr. Ivan Nastev 2015 – Ambulatory for Primary Medical Care," Plovdiv.

The procedure for appointing the Scientific Jury has been followed, as per Order No. 260/30.08.2024 of the Rector of "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" University – Burgas.

1. Assessment of the Applicant's Compliance with Scientometric Criteria

Career Development Assessment of Dr. Nevena Ivanova, PhD

Dr. Nevena Ivanova was born on September 12, 1974, in Plovdiv. She graduated with honors from the "Patriarch Evtimii" Secondary School, Plovdiv, in 1992, specializing in English, and obtained her medical degree with honors in 1998 from the Medical University of Plovdiv.

She started her career in 1998 as a resident in the Cardiology Department of the First Municipal Hospital, Plovdiv. Over the years, she acquired specialties in Internal Medicine (2004), Cardiology (2006), and General Medicine (2018). In 2015, she successfully defended her dissertation on "Professional-Behavioral and Motivational Profile of General Practitioners," earning her PhD at the Medical University of Plovdiv.

Currently, she holds the position of Senior Assistant in the Department of Urology and General Medicine at the Medical University – Plovdiv. She is also a practicing cardiologist and general practitioner.

She has completed over 100 qualification courses (both theoretical and practical) in Bulgaria and abroad, covering topics in general medicine, cardiology, and healthcare management in primary care.

Her habilitation work, presented to a specialized audience of cardiologists and general practitioners, is titled: "Arterial Hypertension – A Current Perspective. Part 1," Plovdiv, 2019, ISBN 978-954-90806-3-6. She has also authored a second monograph, not submitted as a habilitation work: "Arterial Hypertension – A Current Perspective. Part 2," Plovdiv, 2020, ISBN 978-954-90806-4-3, along with contributions to two other monographs.

Dr. Ivanova has been a reviewer for internationally renowned journals indexed in leading scientific databases (Springer Nature Netherlands, Springer New York).

Dr. Ivanova is a member of numerous prestigious national and international scientific organizations – she served as Bulgaria's National Representative in the European Academy of Teachers in General Practice/Family Medicine (EURACT) from 2010 to 2012 and in the World Assembly "WATCH" (Tobacco or Health) from 2004 to 2008. She is also a member of the European General Practice Research Network (EGPRN), the Bulgarian Society of Cardiology (BSC), the National Association of General Practitioners in Bulgaria (NAGPB), the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria (USB), the Bulgarian Medical Association (BMA), and The Scientific Research Honor Society Sigma Xi.

She is fluent in English and proficient in Russian. She possesses excellent computer skills, as well as numerous specialized technical abilities directly related to her work as a clinician and educator.

Dr. Ivanova actively participates in treating patients with a wide range of pathologies, focusing on cardiological cases, including screening, diagnostics, therapy, and follow-up care. As a senior assistant, she is involved in the education of medical students and residents specializing in general medicine.

Beyond her medical and academic work within the Department of Urology and General Medicine, Dr. Ivanova participates in preparing accreditation documents for primary outpatient care practices used for training medical students and general medicine residents.

She has contributed to the development of doctoral programs in "Geriatrics" and "Palliative Medicine" under a project by the Medical University of Plovdiv.

She organizes and conducts exercises and demonstrations in the Medical Simulation Training Center at MU-Plovdiv, in both Bulgarian and English.

Dr. Ivanova has participated in over 100 national and international congresses, conferences, and scientific meetings, presenting more than 60 scientific reports. She has also contributed to two projects by the Medical University of Plovdiv: "COVID-19 HUB: Information, Innovations, and Implementation of Integrative Scientific Developments" and "OMNIA."

Dr. Ivanova has received several prestigious recognitions:

- Recognition from Harvard Medical School for the significance of a scientific discovery (2024).
- Recognition from Sigma Xi, one of the oldest and most prestigious scientific societies globally, for scientific achievements and contributions to advancing knowledge (2024).
- Acknowledgment from indexed journals in global databases for her high-quality authorship and contributions to science (2024).
- A certificate for the best scientific development and presentation at the Fourth World Congress on Tobacco or Health in Delhi, India (2005).
- Recognition from the Ministry of Health of Bulgaria for her "Contribution to Health Policy and the Modernization of Bulgaria's Healthcare System" in the "White Paper on Value-Based Healthcare."
- Numerous certificates and plaques from National Congresses and Conferences on General Medicine (2014, 2016).

These accomplishments highlight Dr. Nevena Ivanova's upward professional development and her dedication to expanding her expertise in various fields, including general medicine, internal diseases, cardiology, genetics, and others.

2. General Description of the Submitted Materials

As a participant in the competition, Dr. Nevena Ivanova has submitted all the required documents outlined in the regulations for the academic position of "Associate Professor" as per the rules for the structure and activity of "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" University – Burgas, the regulations for the respective academic position, and the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB).

These are supported by comprehensive evidence, organized according to the established requirements.

3. Evaluation of Dr. Nevena Ivanova's Scientific Works for Her Overall Academic Development

General Characteristics of the Scientific Production

Dr. Ivanova participates in the competition for the position of "Associate Professor" with the following works:

- 1 dissertation;
- 1 monograph;
- 1 monograph not presented as the main habilitation work;
- Contributions to two additional monographs;
- 1 book based on the defended dissertation for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor."

She has co-authored eight textbooks and authored or co-authored 12 university teaching aids, eight of which are sole works.

Total number of publications: Dr. Ivanova is the author or co-author of 73 articles and reports in periodicals, of which:

- 33 are published in journals indexed in globally recognized scientific databases (Scopus, Web of Science);
- 23 of these are full-text articles, including 10 with an Impact Factor (total IF: 14.919) and 13 indexed in Scopus;
- She is the sole author of 10 publications, including five with an Impact Factor and five indexed in Scopus;
- 10 reports published in journals with an Impact Factor (total IF: 11.511), where she is the first author in three;
- Total IF from articles and reports: 26.43; H-index: 3;
- 40 publications in refereed journals or edited collective volumes;
- 52 publications in conference proceedings of national and international congresses, conferences, and other scientific events.

Evaluation of the Scientific Contributions

Dr. Ivanova's scientific work demonstrates originality and high quality. Her contributions are significant and applicable in both research and clinical practice.

Main Areas and Achievements in Dr. Ivanova's Scientific Research:

1. General Medicine
2. Cardiology
3. Internal Medicine
4. Public Health and Health Policy
5. Palliative Care
6. Genetics

Publication Activity:

Dr. Nevena Ivanova publishes her work in both national and international specialized scientific journals, successfully disseminating the directions of her scientific pursuits and the results achieved to the broader scientific community.

Participation, Implementation, and Leadership in Projects:

Dr. Ivanova has participated in two projects at the Medical University of Plovdiv:

- **"COVID-19 HUB: Information, Innovations, and Implementation of Integrative Scientific Developments"**
- **"OMNIA"**

Some of the publications listed in the earlier section are the results of Dr. Ivanova's project-related activities.

4. Evaluation of the Monographic Work

Dr. Ivanova's habilitation work, **"Arterial Hypertension – A Current Perspective. Part I"**, Plovdiv, 2019, ISBN 978-954-90806-3-6, is highly valuable. It is part of a two-volume publication dedicated to addressing contemporary issues surrounding this socially significant disease, which affects an increasing number of people globally and represents a multifaceted global problem.

The work provides a systematic, concise yet thorough presentation of the topic. It is written in an accessible manner for a wide range of specialists, including cardiologists, general practitioners, residents, and medical students. Dr. Ivanova explores modern definitions of arterial hypertension, its diagnosis, and treatment in the context of current medical advancements, as well as reasons for treatment failures, requiring appropriate corrective actions.

The monograph is based on over twenty years of clinical and teaching experience. Its goal is to clearly and succinctly present modern guidelines for the management of arterial hypertension, enabling easy application in everyday medical practice.

The monograph is written in a comprehensible scientific language and style. The content is easy to follow, and the volume of information is optimal, avoiding unnecessary detail for its specialized audience. For these reasons, I consider the monograph to have successfully achieved its objectives.

5. Citations of the Candidate's Publications in National and International Literature

The citations of Dr. Ivanova's publications are as follows:

1. In scientific journals, indexed in globally recognized scientific databases or in monographs and collective volumes: **15** citations.
2. In monographs and collective volumes with peer review: **10** citations.
3. In non-indexed journals with peer review or reviews: **5** citations.

6. Comprehensive and Qualitative Assessment of Teaching and Methodological Activities, Including Supervision of Students, Trainee Doctors, and Residents

Based on the official report provided by the Academic Office of the Medical University – Plovdiv, Dr. Nevena Ivanova's teaching workload (lecture hours, scientific work, and extracurricular activities) for the years 2020–2022 significantly exceeds the required minimum for the Medical University – Plovdiv. The documented hours are:

- **2020–2021 academic year:** 419 hours.
- **2021–2022 academic year:** 514 hours.

Her academic activities include:

- Preparing articles.
- Participating in national research projects.
- Attending national and international scientific forums.

Her extracurricular activities include:

- Preparing teaching materials.
- Supervising students and residents.

7. Critical Remarks and Recommendations

I have no critical remarks.

8. Overall Evaluation of the Candidate's Compliance with Minimum National Requirements under Article 2b, Paragraphs 2 and 3, as well as the Requirements under Article 2b, Paragraph 5 of the LDASRB and the Internal Rules for Academic Development at "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" University – Burgas

Dr. Nevena Ivanova has included in her documentation a self-assessment table of her compliance with the National Minimum Scientometric Criteria and the requirements of "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" University – Burgas for the professional field of Medicine.

In my opinion, the points calculated according to the approved methodology exceed all the criteria for evaluation and the minimum requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor."

With a **required minimum of 450 points**, the correctly calculated points for the candidate based on scientometric criteria amount to **4053.06 points**.

9. CONCLUSION

The research, diagnostic and therapeutic activities, organizational and methodological contributions, teaching, and publication efforts of Dr. Nevena Georgieva Ivanova, PhD, establish her as an exceptionally accomplished professional, researcher, clinician, and dedicated university lecturer. Her scientific work is original, thorough, precisely executed, reliable, and applicable in clinical practice.

The qualities listed above give me the confidence and pleasure to unequivocally vote "YES" for the candidacy of Dr. Nevena Georgieva Ivanova, PhD, and I recommend that the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury vote in favor of her appointment to the academic position of Associate Professor in General Medicine.

Date: 21.11.2024

Opinion Prepared by:
/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hasan Aliev Burnusuzov, PhD/

Address and Contact Information:

Postal Address: 4000 Plovdiv, 15A "Vasil Aprilov" Blvd.
Department of Pediatrics, Medical University – Plovdiv
Email: hasan.burnusuzov@mu-plovdiv.bg
Phone: +359 892 979 279

