

ACADEMIC REVIEW

By Prof. Dr. Ivaylo Stefanov Stefanov, DMSc, Faculty of Medicine, University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov"-Burgas,

Chairman of the Scientific Jury, appointed by Order No RD-207, 23.06.2025 by the Rector of Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov," to conduct the competition for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports," professional direction 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Anatomy, Histology and Cytology".

The competition was announced in the State Gazette, Issue No. 34 / 22.04.2025.

This review has been prepared in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Application of LDASRB, and the Regulations for the Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Academic Positions at the Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov".

For this competition, one applicant submitted documents: chief assistant prof. Antoaneta Vasileva Fasova, MD, PhD.

The submitted application materials comply with Article 67, Paragraph 2 of the Regulations for the Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Academic Positions at the Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" Burgas.

1. Analysis of the career profile of the candidate.

Dr. Antoaneta Fasova graduated in Medicine at MU-Plovdiv in 2001 with excellent scores. In 2006, after passing a competitive exam, she took the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology at the Medical University -Plovdiv. In 2011, Dr. Fasova acquired a specialty in Anatomy, Histology and Cytology. From 2020 - 2024 she holds an additional position of Administrative assistant.

In 2023, she successfully defended her dissertation and obtained a Ph.D. degree on the topic: "Anthropometric and anthroposcopic characteristics of humerus in the Bulgarian population and its application as a sex predictor", at the Medical University - Plovdiv. Since 2024 she has occupied the position of chief assistant professor.

Dr. Fasova is fluent in English (Cambridge Certificate in English, Level B2) and Russian. She is a member of the Bulgarian Anatomical Society, the Bulgarian Anthropological Society, the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Medical Union. Over the years Dr. Fasova has completed numerous courses to increase her professional qualifications - a course in Imaging Diagnostics (2007), course for improving the pedagogical qualifications of teachers (2007),

upgrading specialized courses in English (2007, 2010, 2012, 2022, 2023 г.), a course in Medical statistics (2013), specialized courses in Forensic Anthropology (2013, 2021), courses on virtual microscopy and virtual autopsy (2017, 2021, 2024), etc. Dr. Fasova is a certified internal auditor under the ISO 9001:2015 system.

2. Assessment of the candidate's scientific works for overall academic development.

A. Fasova has applied evidence for 33 original articles and 2 teaching materials, including 14 articles, which were publicized in Scopus and/or Web of Science as 6 of them are with IF - an overall impact factor of 5.819, articles in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review or in edited collective volumes. Of the total number of publications in Scopus and/or Web of Science, 10 are presented as a habilitation work. Her work with students has led to the publication of 6 articles.

Dr. Fasova is part of the author team of two University teaching materials – tests on Topographic Anatomy for medical and dental students, in Bulgarian and tests on Anatomy for dental students, in English.

Along with the documents, Dr. Fasova has submitted a very well-prepared report on the contributions of her scientific works, which accurately reflects her achievements in the individual scientific fields. The candidate's publication activity and original scientific contributions can be summarized as follows in sections:

- Contributions related to the analysis of anatomic variations.

Dr. Fasova participates in teams from the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, together with students, actively studying different types of anatomical variations. The variations are directly related to clinical practice, in particular surgery and imaging diagnostics, leading to a reduction in iatrogenic errors. Variations of vessels, muscles, nerves and organs have been studied, the knowledge of which is important for the future clinicians.

- Contributions related to anthropology.

Sex determination from humerus in the modern Bulgarian population is the topic of Dr. Fasova's dissertation. Identification of skeletal remains continues after obtaining the PhD with the study on the bone sex predictors in skeletal remains in the field of forensic anthropology. The studies are upgraded using modern research methods such as three-dimensional (3D) laser scanning of skeletal remains with a significant scientific and practical contribution to anthropological practice for the creation of a quantitative method for anthroposcopic examination of bones.

- Surveys with other medical specialties.

Dr. Fasova participates in interdisciplinary scientific publications with specialists from forensic medicine, psychiatry, and surgery. This type of research is laborious and responsible, requiring good collaboration, data processing, in-depth analysis and discussion of cases.

In the field of psychiatry, dermatoglyphic characteristics have been studied in patients with schizophrenia and bipolar I disorder and healthy controls, while anthropological characteristics of the individuals studied have been performed. The results assume that gender differences in the epidemiology of schizophrenia are deeper and more comprehensive than it was thought.

Publications in the field of forensic medicine are related to traumatology and violence against children and adults. Dr. Fasova contributes to the anatomical weight of the analysis and interpretation of data. The following topics have been studied: the severity of injuries depending on the anthropometric characteristics of the patient; basic clinical signs that can help any clinician recognize the child abuse syndrome; risk factors related to violence against adults, etc.

The candidate's participation in scientific projects thematically related to the areas studied is indicative of her professional qualities and scientific interests.

3. Assessment of the habilitation work or equivalent publications submitted for participation in the competition.

The scientific activity presented in the habilitation work is in the form of 10 scientific publications in journals refereed and indexed in world-class scientific databases (Scopus and/or Web of Science), as 3 of them are in journals with a JCR impact factor.

In the submitted publications, the candidate participates in teams from other departments and contributes anatomical weight to the analysis and interpretation of data. The author participated in all stages of the studies and contributed to the final results and the successful publication of the articles. The scientific activity was carried out in three sections: identification of skeletal remains, traumatology and interdisciplinary studies. New formulas and scales specific to the modern Bulgarian population for sex determination using anthropometric and scopic femoral anthropological points have been created. Different types of injuries have been studied depending on the mechanism of production, as well as different anomalies in adults in relation to their treatment. Of the 10 publications submitted, 3 are with the participation of students.

4. Reflection (citation) of the candidate's publications in national and foreign literature (publication image).

In the competition documentation, the candidate has submitted: 14 citations in refereed journals (Scopus and/or Web of Science), as 7 of them are in journals with a JCR impact factor; and 3 reviews in refereed journal with JCR impact factor. The citation report provided is exclusive to self-citations of the applicant's publications. Dr. Fasova's Hirsch-index is 4 /Scopus/.

The points that these citations and reviews carry exceed the required number in group D (60 points needed, 255 points available).

5. Comprehensive, qualitative assessment of the educational, methodological and teaching activities.

Dr. Fasova has taught anatomy, histology and cytology classes in Bulgarian and English to medical and dental students and is a scientific advisor to one doctoral student. She took part in preparation of both the curricula and the semester programs in Cytology, Histology and Embryology for medical and dental students in English.

Dr. Fasova has participated in two national scientific research projects, demonstrating her qualifications and ability to work in a team. The first project is funded by Medical University - Plovdiv (No. 11 MIU/2012 / 30.11.2012 - 29.06.2014), and the other is funded by the European Union under the Program for Accelerating Economic Recovery and Transformation through Science and Innovation from the "Innovative Bulgaria" component of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (Project No. 667 / 01.04.2024, which is ongoing.

Over the years, Dr. Fasova has participated in the organization of two national scientific congresses - in 2015 and 2025, held at Medical University -Plovdiv. A list of 54 participations in national and international scientific forums is also attached, 9 of which involved students.

6. An overall assessment of the candidate's compliance with the mandatory conditions and mandatory quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators.

Undoubtedly, Dr. Fasova, MD, is a well-established specialist in anatomy, histology and cytology, a long-time lecturer, possessing the necessary pedagogical skills, experience and training for full-fledged teaching activities.

After getting acquainted with and analyzing the materials presented in the competition and based on the presented reference-self-assessment for the implementation of the National Minimum Scientometric Indicators, I conclude that Dr Antoaneta Fasova meets these requirements and in completeness meets the criteria for holding the AP "Associate professor" according to the the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Application of LDASRB, and the Regulations for the Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Academic Positions at the Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" (two tables of compliance are attached).

| Indicator group | Content | Minimum University requirements | Dr Fasova |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|------------------|
| A | Indicator 1 | 50 | 50 |
| B | Indicator 2 | - | - |
| C | Indicators 3 and 4 | 100 | 104 |
| D | Sum of indicators 5 to 9 | 220 | 223 |
| E | Sum of indicators 10 to 12 | 60 | 255 |
| F | Sum of indicators 13 to the end | 20 | 76 |
| Total | | 450 | 708 |

| Indicator group | Indicator | Value | Dr Fasova |
|-----------------|---|--|-----------|
| A | 1. PhD thesis | 50 | 50 |
| B | 2. DMSc thesis | 100 | - |
| C | 3. Habilitation work - monograph | 100 | - |
| | 4. Habilitation work – scientific publications (no less than 10) in refereed journals indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information | 60/n for each publication | 104 |
| D | 5. Monograph, which is not presented as a main habilitation work | 100 | - |
| | 6. Published book based on a defended dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" or for the award of the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" | 40 | - |
| | 7. Publications and reports published in scientific journals refereed and indexed in world- renowned scientific databases | 60/n or distributed in proportion based on the contribution protocol | 80 |
| | 8. Publications and reports published in non-refereed journals with scholarly review or published in edited volumes | 30/n or distributed in proportion based on the contribution protocol | 143 |
| | 9. Published chapter of a collective monograph | 20/n | - |
| E | 10. Citations or reviews in scientific publications, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes | 15 | 255 |

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|---|---|------|----|
| | 11. Citations in monographs and edited collections with peer review | 10 | - |
| | 12. Citations and reviews in non-refereed journals with peer review | 5 | - |
| F | 13. DMSc degree | 40 | - |
| | 14. Supervision of a successfully defended doctoral student (n is the number of co-supervisors of the respective doctoral student) or of a postgraduate student | 40/n | - |
| | 15. Acquired medical specialty | 40 | 40 |
| | 16. Participation in a national scientific or educational project | 15 | 30 |
| | 17. Participation in an international scientific or educational project | 20 | - |
| | 18. Management of a national scientific or educational project | 30 | - |
| | 19. Management of an international scientific or educational project | 40 | - |
| | 20. A published university textbook or textbook used in the school network | 40/n | - |
| | 21. Published teaching materials or teaching materials used in the school network | 20/n | 6 |
| | 22. Training of interns, postgraduates and doctoral students (seminars and practical classes) | 30 | - |

7. Conclusion

The comparison of scientometric indicators with the mandatory minimum national indicators shows that Dr. Antoaneta Fasova covers the required number of points. The candidate has submitted a sufficient number of scientific papers. According to the submitted materials and the assessment of the candidate's scientific, teaching and publication data, I give a positive assessment to the candidacy of Dr. Antoaneta Fasova, MD for awarding the title of Associate Professor in Anatomy, Histology and Cytology.

Based on the cited data and taking into account the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Application of LDASRB, and the Regulations for the Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Academic Positions at the Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" I recommend to the esteemed Scientific Jury to vote positively for Dr. Antoaneta Fasova to be awarded the academic position of "Associate Professor" for the needs of the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at the Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov".

Date: 25.08.2025.

Reviewer:

/Prof. Dr. Ivaylo Stefanov Stefanov, DMSc/