

STANDPOINT

*on the competition for Professor of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas, in the scientific specialty "Internal medicine", announced by the University of Burgas in the "State newspaper - Durjaven vestnik", issue 13, from February 14, 2020.
from professor Iskren Kotzev, MD, PhD, Professor in Clinic of Gastroenterology, University Hospital "St "Marina", Medical University, Varna*

By order no. RD-87/March 19, 2020 of the Rector of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas, I was included as an external member of the scientific jury for the competition, and with the decision from the meeting of the scientific jury, I was appointed to compile the standpoint. About the competition of the Professor of the scientific specialty "Internal diseases", announced by the University of Burgas in the "State newspaper", issue 13, from February 14, 2020, one candidate submitted regular documents on time - associate Professor Ilia Dimitrov Popov, MD.

The assessment and final opinion are based on the requirements of the law on the development of academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria since may 21, 2010, the Rules of its application, 2011, and the Rules on the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the University "Professor. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas.

Assoc. Prof. Ilia Dimitrov Popov, MD has a scientific and educational degree "Doctor" after successfully defending his thesis in 2006 on the topic "Participation of Helicobacter pylori infection in gastric pathology in patients with chronic renal insufficiency on hemodialysis," in speciality of nephrology (03.01.15), with diploma no. 30658/10. 07. 2006. and major contributions:

- It is established endogenous intoxication and Helicobacter pylori infection as damaging factors for the gastric mucosa
- Eradication therapy is performed at the same dose and duration as in patients without renal pathology

Since 2016 he was awarded the academic position of associate Professor of internal medicine (Nephrology).

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ilia Dimitrov Popov has a 34-year length of medical service. In 1985 he graduated from the medical Academy in Sofia and started working as a doctor in the hemodialysis Department at Stara Zagora hospital. In the period 1998-2006, he worked as the General Director for the production of hemodialysis solutions. Until 2011, he was the Governor of the Stara Zagora Nephrology center. Until 2013, he is the regional Manager of the "House of health" JSC, Sofia. In the period 2012-2016 Assoc. Prof. Popov is an apart time lecturer of internal medicine at the faculty of medicine of the Thracian University. Since 2016, he is an associate Professor at the University of Burgas and head of the clinic in University Hospital "Kirkovich", Stara Zagora.

Since 1991 he had a diplom for specialty in Internal diseases, and since 1995 he had a diplom for speciality in Nephrology. He had a professional qualification "specialist in the field of health management" from the Regional center for Helth, Stara Zagora in 2002, from the International Institute of health in 2009 and from the Medical University, Sofia in 2011.

Research activities

Assoc. Prof. Popov has 1 dissertation, 31 scientific publications *in extenso* and 2 monographs, created after his habilitation - "Chronic kidney disease and microbiota" from I. Popov, and "Osteoporosis - the spread and prevention" from Kirilova and I. Popov.

15 scientific papers have been published in scientific journals, abstracted and indexed in the world database of scientific information (Scopus and Web of Science), and 11 of them are in Latin. 16 scientific papers have been published in non-peer reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes, with 5 in Latin. All submitted research papers were published after the habilitation of associate professor, which talks about his activity and scientific productivity.

In all 33 scientific papers submitted for review, associate Professor Popov is an autonomous or first author in 7 publications, second author in 1 publication, and third and next author in 25.

Scientific papers are in the field of various sections of internal medicine - mainly in Nephrology, but also in Rheumatology, Gastroenterology, Geriatrics, Osteoporosis, etc. There are also publications related to medical training that indicates his interest in this academic topic. The distribution of publications by year (without dissertation work) is shown in the following table and shows its growing scientific activity:

Type publ./year	2017	2018	2019	Общо
Monographs	-	-	2	2
In reference books	1	1	13	15
In non-reference books	9	1	6	16
Total	10	2	21	33

Assoc. Popov has published in scientific journals: "Bulgarian Nephrology", "Bulgarian Rheumatology", "Rheumatology", "Nephrology, dialysis and transplantation", "Aviation, marine and space medicine", academic journal "Management and education".

The candidate provided a link to 26 citations, 11 of which are in scientific publications that have been reviewed and indexed in the world database.

Assoc. Prof. Popov also has 2 published monographs. His 120-page habilitation work with the sole author, Ilia Popov, is a monograph "Chronic kidney disease and microbiota", published by the Litera print, Stara Zagora, 2019, ISBN: 978-954-487-

166-6. He summarized his experience as a high competent internist and nephrologist, and includes modern ideas about the role of the intestinal microbiome in patients with chronic kidney diseases. Own research is also included. Modern possibilities and trends in the field of microbiotics with application in nephrology and dialysis are considered.

His second monograph, co-authored with Dr Kirilova, entitled "Osteoporosis - distribution and prevention", "Trakia", 2019 ISBN: 978-954-9374-14-8. The authors summarized the epidemiology, etiology, and prevention of osteoporosis. The assessment of fracture risk, clinical practice, prevention, and nonmedicinal therapy was reviewed. It also includes their own research.

Scientific interests of Assoc. Prof. Popov is mainly in the field of internal medicine, nephrology, hemodialysis, gastroenterology, intestinal microbiome, osteoporosis and other sections of internal medicine.

Assoc. Prof. Popov has important contributions to the field of internal medicine nephrology and chemodialysis, to the role and treatment of Helicobacter pylori infection in patients with kidney problems and to the human microbiome. Its scientific products are original with clinical applications.

Assoc. Prof. Popov supervised the training of two postgraduate physicians in Nephrology.

Scientific activity

Assoc. Popov has 5 participations in scientific congresses, conferences and symposiums. We allow ourselves to recommend him for the participation in international scientific forums.

Educational and teaching activities

Assoc. Prof. Popov has developed 9 training programs for teaching "Internal diseases", "Nursing for somatic diseases", "Geriatrics" for specialties at the Faculty of public health and health nursing in the University "Prof. Dr. A. Zlatarov", Burgas and 2 training programs for "Internal diseases" and "First aid" at the Medical College of the Thracian University, Stara Zagora for second and third year of students-rehabilitators, medical laboratory assistants, specialists in geriatric care and paramedics.

He gave thematic lectures and actively participated in the training of nephrologists.

Diagnostic and treatment activities

Assoc. Prof. Popov actively practices all types of activities related to modern internal medicine, nephrology and hemodialysis. Since 2016. he is the head of the First internal clinic and the Nephrology and Hemodialysis clinic in University Hospital "Stoyan Kirkovich", Stara Zagora. He is also an active teacher at the Medical College and the Faculty of public health and health nursing of the University of Burgas "Prof."

Dr. Asen Zlatarov". He specialized in nephrology courses in Medical University, Sofia and Budapest.

Assoc. Prof. Ilia Popov is a successful clinician, internist and nephrologist, with contributions in modern internal medicine, nephrology, and hemodialysis.

Assoc. Popov enjoys a high reputation among his colleagues, students, and patients. It is well known and valuable in the cities of Stara Zagora and Burgas, as well as among the nephrological and hemodialysis medical community.

Assoc. Prof. Popov is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Union, member of the Bulgarian nephrological society and member of the European Renal Association-European Dialysis and Transplant-ERA-EDTA.

Conclusion

Assoc. Prof. Ilia Dimitrov Popov is a recognized clinician, internist and nephrologist, an emphasized physician with publication activity, with scientific and practical contributions in many sectors of internal medicine, nephrology, and gastroenterology. He is a successful lecturer, teacher, and health administrator. Upon a detailed review of his entire activity, it is clear that Assoc. Prof. Popov meets the basic requirements for habilitation as "professor" according to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its implementation and the Rules for the conditions and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and occupation of academic positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov ", Burgas. Considering the research activities, teaching experience, publication and research activities, diagnostic and therapeutic activities and contributions of the candidate, I suggest that the academic position of "Professor" be awarded to Assoc. Prof. Ilia Dimitrov Popov, MD.

Professor Iskren Kotzev, MD, PhD

