



## STATE

From: Prof. Dr. Anna Naidenova Tolekova, MD

Director of the Medical College, Thracian University

Subject: competition for a **professor** in the scientific specialty "Pathophysiology", professional field 7.1. Medicine, field of higher education 7. Health and sports

### **Information about the competition**

The competition was announced for the needs of Asen Zlatarov University in SG no. 105/11. 12.2020

### **Brief information about the candidates in the competition**

In the competition for 'Professor', documents were submitted by the only candidate Prof. Dr. Ganka Yordanova Bekurova, MD.

#### **1. General presentation of the received materials**

The set of paper and electronic materials presented by Dr. Ganka Bekyarova is in accordance with the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for application of the law and the Regulations of Asen Zlatarov University - Burgas.

#### **2. Brief biographical data of the candidate**

Dr. Ganka Bekyarova completed her medical education at the Medical University, Sofia in 1977. Her career development as a lecturer began in 1980 at MU-Varna as an assistant professor of pathophysiology. In 1990 she defended her doctoral thesis on "Changes in the functional properties of erythrocytes associated with free radical oxidation in thermal trauma", and in 2014 she received the degree of "Doctor of Science", defending a dissertation on "Study of some possible mechanisms of liver damage associated with oxidative stress in the conditions of experimental thermal trauma and the role of melatonin in hepatoprotection". Prof. Bekyarova acquired the academic positions of "Associate Professor" in 1999 and "Professor" in 2016.

#### **3. General characteristics of the candidate's activity**

##### *Teaching activities*

Prof. Bekyarova is a co-author of two consecutive editions of the textbook "Fundamentals of Pathophysiology", from 2010 and 2012 for students of medicine and dentistry. She also participated in the writing of a textbook on "Pathological Physiology", 2011 for

students of dental medicine, pharmacy and medical colleges. Prof. Bekyarova's expertise as a long-term lecturer is reflected in the textbooks she wrote for Bulgarian- and English-speaking students. The candidate is the author of the curricula in pathophysiology for the master's programs at MU-Varna, as well as the programs for bachelors and professional bachelors studying this discipline.

Under the supervision of Prof. Bekyarova, Assoc. Prof. Kamelia Bratoeva and Dr. Minka Alexandrova have successfully defended their doctoral dissertations, and she is currently the head of Dr. Krassimir Hristov's doctoral dissertation, dedicated to the changes in hypobaric hypoxia and hyperbaric oxygenation.

*These data give me reason to appreciate the experience and potential of Prof. Bekyarova to develop training in pathophysiology at the Medical Faculty of the University "Assen Zlatarov".*

#### *Research activity*

The entire research activity of Prof. Bekyarova is dedicated to the topic of reactive oxidative species and the effects of melatonin in its role as a final antioxidant. Her research is based on original experimental models of thermal trauma and metabolic syndrome.

In my opinion, I will focus only on scientific papers after acquiring the academic position of "associate professor". Prof. Bekyarova presented for participation in the competition 50 publications in editions with ISSN and ISBN, of which 18 are in foreign journals and 10 in journals with impact factor. In 9 of the articles with an impact factor, she is the first author. If the classification of the publications is made in accordance with the LDAS of the Assen Zlatarov University, they could be divided into two groups, with 22 printed in sources referenced in world databases, and 28 in unreferenced journals and collections.

As the author noted in the description of her contributions, the undoubted merit of her research is the first established facts about the negative effects of melatonin on the expression of the transcription factor NF- $\kappa$ B, as well as its positive effect on Nrf2 and the activity of the enzyme chem. oxygen. These studies and the findings support the thesis of the anti-inflammatory, anti-apoptotic and antioxidant effects of melatonin and the possibility of its inclusion in therapeutic regimens. Also of interest are the candidate's studies on the effects of some probiotics in a model of liver failure and ethanol-induced ulcerogenesis.

The total impact factor of the candidate in the competition, calculated on the basis of full-text publications is 10,401, and of the abstracts printed in magazines with impact factor is 15,393. Prof. Bekyarova's H-factor in Scopus is 8, and in Google scholar it is 11.

Impressive is the number of citations of scientific works of Prof. Bekyarova and reviews in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes (WOS / Scopus) - 191, and in other



sources are 50 in number. This is proof of the recognizability of Prof. Bekyarova among the scientific community and the interest in her scientific output.

The candidate is the author of the monograph "Endothelial dysfunction, vascular oxidative stress and cardiometabolic disorders", which is gaining great relevance at the moment. It examines the cellular-molecular mechanisms of endothelial dysfunction, the role of free radicals and the role of homocysteine in a number of non-infectious epidemic diseases of great social significance.

*Scientific metrics for "professor"*

From the data presented to me about the scientific activity of Prof. Bekyarova it is clear that her overall scientific output exceeds the required points on a number of indicators.

*All the above facts give me reason to give a high assessment of the overall scientific assets of the candidate. Prof. Bekyarova is a prominent Bulgarian scientist and university lecturer in the field of pathophysiology.*

**Conclusion**

The candidate in the competition has submitted a **sufficient number** of scientific papers published after the first habilitation for "associate professor". In the scientific works of the candidate there are a number of contributions of scientific-applied and scientific-theoretical character.

Based on the above, I express my convinced opinion that Ganka Bekyarova meets all the requirements of LDASRD and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the University "Assen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

I propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to award the academic position "**PROFESSOR**" to Ganka Bekyarova, MD, in the scientific specialty "Pathophysiology", professional field 7.1. Medicine, field of higher education 7. Health and sports.

17. 04.2021

Stara Zagora

Prof. Dr. A. Tolekova, MD