



## OPINION

by

**Prof. Dr. Plamen Marinov Gatsov, MD, D.M.Sc.**

Member of the Scientific Jury,

appointed by order № RD - 244/21.12.2020

of the Rector of

**PROF. DR. ASEN ZLATAROV UNIVERSITY, BURGAS**

Under the Competition for holding the academic position of  
“Associate Professor” under  
scientific specialty “Internal Medicine”, in the field of higher education  
education 7 “Healthcare and sports, professional field 7.1  
Medicine”, for the needs of the Medical Faculty at  
Prof. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas,  
announced in SG no. 90 / 20.10.2020  
with candidates (in alphabetical order):  
**Petya Kamenova Petkova, MD, PhD**  
**Svetlin Nedkov Tsonev, MD, PhD**

1. Career and thematic development of the candidates (in alphabetical order):

Dr. Petya Petkova graduated in medicine in 1984. Until 1986 she was a clinical resident at the Regional Hospital, Pirdop. Since 1986, after winning a competition, she has been an assistant, and later a senior and chief assistant at the Scientific Institute (later the Clinical Center) in Endocrinology and Gerontology at the Medical Academy (MA) – Sofia. Since 1990 she has been a specialist in internal medicine, and since 1992 in endocrinology and metabolic diseases. In 2003 she defended her dissertation for the acquisition of PhD’s Degree on the topic: “Insulin sensitivity and cardiovascular risk factors in type 2 diabetes mellitus.” She acquired it in 2004.

Dr. Svetlin Tsonev graduated in medicine in 2006. From 2006 to 2008 he was a medical representative in pharmaceutical companies. During the period 2008 to

2015 he was a full-time doctoral student and later an assistant doctor at the Cardiology Clinic at the Department of Propaedeutics at the Alexandrovska University Hospital, MU Sofia. From 2015 to 2019 he was a specialist in angiology and phlebology at the City Clinic University Hospital, Sofia. From 2019 to 2020 he is an intern and head of an invasive ward at the Second Hospital, Sofia. He is currently a cardiologist, interventional cardiologist and angiologist at the Alexandrovska University Hospital – Sofia. In 2015 he acquired Doctor's Degree for a dissertation on the topic: "Cardiac syndrome X in women – clinical, instrumental and laboratory characteristics." He has a degree in cardiology (2014), health management (2016) and angiology (2019), has a qualification for highly specialized activities "Invasive Vascular Medicine" and "Echocardiography – expert level".

## 2. Description of the scientific materials submitted by the candidates

Dr. P. Petkova has presented for the competition 95 publications and participation in scientific forums. Of these, 40 are publications in specialized scientific journals. The articles in peer-reviewed and refereed editions are 29, as 9 are with Impact factor. The total IF of the publications is 16,571, and the personal IF of the candidate is 7.05. The mentioned 1 monograph abroad does not have the qualities of such according to the generally accepted criteria. Independent author Dr. Petkova is on 20 of the publications, and on 12 she is the first author. 4 of the publications are related to her dissertation. Dr. Petkova has 45 participations with scientific communications at national (25) and international (20) scientific forums. The total IF of the journals, with published abstracts, is 13,064, and the individual 4.05. Total IF of all publications – 29,635, and individual IF is 11.1.

Dr. Sv. Tsonev has submitted 142 publications for the competition. 71 of them are dissertations, articles and monographs. 12 are related to his dissertation. The articles in international journals are 32 (27 with IF) and 34 – in Bulgarian journals. The total IF of his publications is 90.76 (individual not calculated). He



is the first author of 48.5% of the articles, the second author of 10.6%. Dr. Tsonev has participated in the presentation of 71 reports at national and international scientific forums. 49 of the reports are at Bulgarian scientific congresses, conferences and symposia, and 22 at international scientific events. 17 of them are related to his dissertation. He is the first author of 73.2% and the second author of 5.6% of the reports.

### 3. General characteristics of the scientific, scientific-applied and pedagogical activity of the candidates

Dr. Petkova has research interests mainly in diabetology, mainly in the field of insulin sensitivity and hyperinsulinemia, insulin resistance, metabolic syndrome as a precursor to type 2 diabetes, risk factors for CVD, the effect of metformin on metabolic factor C and menopause, as a risk factor for the development of diabetes mellitus, impaired insulin secretion and insulin resistance, etc.

Dr. Tsonev's main research interests are: cardiac syndrome X, microvascular function and dysfunction, arterial hypertension, risk factors for CVD, arterial and venous vascular disease, heart failure, rare cardiovascular diseases and imaging techniques in cardiology. In these areas are also the contributions of scientific and applied nature. For the period 2015-2019 Dr. Tsonev was the head of 3 trainees.

Both candidates have a rich teaching activity of medical students and postgraduates, including lectures in Bulgarian, English, exercises and seminars.

### 4. References of the scientific publications of the candidates in our and foreign literature

The presented reference shows that the works of Dr. Petkova are cited a total of 276 times in Bulgarian and international scientific journals.

According to the SCOPUS database, Dr. Tsonev's works have been cited 27 times, 16 of them in international and 11 in Bulgarian scientific journals.

#### 5. Demonstrated skills for conducting research

Dr. P. Petkova has reported participation in 4 international studies and is the author of 1 international educational project of the Ministry of Education and Science under the Tempus program, implemented at the Free University Hospital, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in 1995.

Dr. Sv. Tsonev has participated in a total of 7 research projects. Of these, 3 are international and 4 – national. He is a lead researcher on 2 of the national projects. Dr. Tsonev has received numerous awards from various scientific forums.

Both candidates are members of prestigious scientific organizations at home and abroad. They are more with Dr. St. Tsonev.

#### 6. Fulfilment of the requirements for minimum sum of points by groups of indicators for the different scientific degrees and academic positions

Both candidates meet and significantly exceed the criteria and necessary points for fulfilling the minimum requirements for “Associate Professor” in Annex 1 of the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas.

#### 7. Some critical notes

I have no critical remarks about the candidates.

#### 8. Conclusion

Both candidates have solid clinical experience. Their scientific publications, as well as the teaching load are sufficient for habilitation. However, the scientific output of Dr. Tsonev significantly exceeds that of Dr. Petkova and in addition to the articles, he has completed a habilitation thesis in the form of a monograph. Therefore, my ranking of candidates is as follows:

1. Dr. Svetlin Nedkov Tsonev, MD
2. Dr. Petya Kamenova Petkova, MD

I appeal to the esteemed jury to award the academic position of “Associate Professor” to Dr. Svetlin Tsonev.

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Prof. Dr. Plamen Gatsov, MD, D.M.Sc.  
Medical University – Pleven,  
Head of the Cardiology Clinic,  
II MHAT-EAD, Sofia