

## STATEMENT

**of Prof. Dr. Hristo Stoyanov Bozov, DM, MD**

Dean of the *Social health and healthcare* Faculty,

Internal member of the scientific commission, organized with Act РД 243/ 21.12.2020  
of the Rector of University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov", town of Burgas

Concerning: Competition for taking an academic position „Associate professor“ in the sphere of the Higher Education 7. Healthcare and sports, professional direction, 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty „Internal Medicine“ for the needs of the Faculty Social health and healthcare, published in the Government paper, issue № 90/ 20.10.2020.

In order to formulate this statement, I have been given a set of documents in paper and electronic format. The documents are compliant with the requirements for participation in the competition.

Only one candidate has deposited their papers in the defined by the law timelines –  
**Dr. Assia Andrianova Konsoulova-Kirova, DM.**

Dr. Assia Konsoulova-Kirova has organized the documents properly and they are conformant with the requirements of the Law for development of the Academic staff in Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulation for the terms and conditions for acquisition of scientific degrees and taking an academic position in the University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov", town of Burgas.

### **I. Professional path and career development of the applicant**

Dr. Assia Andrianova Konsoulova-Kirova graduated from Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" Varna as a Master in Medicine with professional qualification - physician, diploma № 3343 / 2003. She worked at the Medical Oncology Clinic at the Multidisciplinary Hospital for Active Treatment "Sveta Marina"- Varna for the period 2004 – 2019. Since January 2019 until present she is working at the Medical Oncology Department at the Complex Oncological Center - Burgas.

She defended a PhD thesis at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" - Varna on „*Expression of some plasma and tissue biomarkers as potential predictors for antiangiogenic treatment with bevacizumab in metastatic colon cancer*“.

Dr. Konsoulova specializes *Internal Medicine* for the period 2004 – 2010 at the *Introduction to the Internal medicine* ward at the Department *Introduction to the Internal medicine* of the Medical University - Varna, as well as 1 year (2006 / 2007) at the Cancer Institute *Jules Bordet*, Brussels, Belgium and the Free Brussels University with a scholarship of the EU. She has two specialties: *Internal Medicine* with Diploma № 3065 / 2011 and *Medical Oncology*, acquired in December 2015 - diploma № 3640 / 2016.

Dr. Konsoulova is a holder of many international specializations and scholarships,

amongst which are: Educational grant of the College of the European school of Oncology (ESCO) for 2021, scholarship by the Open Medical Institute (OMI) in Salzburg (2019), Austria, scholarship of the European school of Oncology (ESO) in the Champalimad Clinical Center, Lisbon, Portugal (2018), CECOG scholarship in Medical Oncology at AKH Vienna, Austria, EU scholarship in 2006, scholarship of the Free Brussels University ULB for 2006-2007 and ESMO (2010) for work Institute *Jules Bordet*, Brussels, Belgium and many others. She holds the Annual scholarship for significant contribution to the Bulgarian Clinical Oncology MORE-Darzalas for 2016. As a part of the CME she attends multiple scientific events and courses, organized by ESO, the European society for Medical Oncology (ESMO), European cancer organization (ECCO). She regularly attends specialized international educational courses as: ESMO Preceptorship, Gastric cancer, Barcelona, Spain (2019), CECOG Immunotherapy Academy, Vienna, Austria (2017), Dermatooncology and Immunology educational course, Kiel, Germany (2017), Specialized educational course for diagnosis and treatment of neuroendocrine tumors, Upsala, Sweden (2015), EXCEMED Masterclass in Molecular Oncology, Prague, Czech republic (2015) and many others.

## **II. Scientific work and research.**

From the document „*List of publications for participation in the competition*“ is clear that 39 scientific full-text publication are listed in order to participate in this competition. 15 of them are editions with reference and indexation in world scientific information databases *Web of science* and *Scopus*. 18 of the publications are in English, 21 are in Bulgarian. 3 of them are chapters of National peer-review scientific books and oncological guidelines and 2 of them are in co-authorship in international peer-review works.

14 publications are listed as a habilitation work and they are peer-review publications in group „Index B“. They summarize the scientific research that Dr. Konsoulova has undertaken. Besides the scientific interest, the publications are related to the real-world management in the very difficult clinical scenario of rare tumors. I entirely support the achievements, listed in the document „*Personal list of scientific achievements instead of a habilitation work*“. The analyses and the results until present are extremely useful for structuring of a maximally clear conceptual understanding of the staging, surgery and the management, treatment and follow-up of the different rare tumors and conditions.

The rest of the publications for participation in the competition are on topics, covering different areas of the Internal medicine and the clinical oncology. 2 of them are a part of different collaborative groups at prestigious scientific societies as the European respiratory society (ERS) and the European network for teenagers and young adults with cancer (ENTYAC). Dr. Konsoulova is the national representative for Bulgaria and she has equal contribution in these publications, which speaks for her scientific presence, collaboration and international recognition. The publications in CME papers confirm her activity in this academic area.



The distribution of the publications by years is as follows:

Type of publication / year	≤ 2017	2018	2019	2020
Peer-review journals with IF	3	0	3	10
Peer-review journals without IF	15	3	4	1
Total	18	3	7	11

Dr. Konsoulova is a member of the team of project on „Assessment of the atherosclerotic changes in the peripheral vessels in patients with diabetes“ at the University “Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov”, town of Burgas, which emphasizes on her clinical and scientific presence in different areas of the Internal medicine. In concordance with the presented documentation, she participates in multidisciplinary teams of national and international projects, which defines her as active and working researcher.

### **III. Publication activity and indexation**

At present, Dr. Konsoulova has 72 scientific publications, 26 of them are book chapters, 22 are scientific publications in international editions and 24 are publications in Bulgarian journals. She is actively present in national and international scientific forums on different topics from the diagnostic and treatment process in clinical oncology and the associated particularities, predictive biomarkers and potential algorithms for diagnosis, treatment and assessment of treatment response. The fact that 13 scientific reports are presented during the last 3 years is impressive (2018-2020).

The total impact factor (IF) of the listed for habilitation scientific articles of the applicant is 13.803 and SJR index is 8.132. IF of the abstracts from different scientific forums is 45.19 (SJR 19.135).

Dr. Konsoulova has prepared a Citation overview for 61 citations of her scientific work and all of them are in peer-review journals with IF and indexation the world scientific information database. 25 of them are listed in order to participate in this competition.

All of the above is a proof of the scientific achievements of the applicant.

### **IV. Teaching and lecturing activity**

Dr. Konsoulova worked as a part-time assistant at the Medical university – Varna for the period 2007/2008 and from 2010 until 2014. After that until April 2018 she is a regular assistant at the Introduction to the Internal Medicine department, Medicine Faculty at the Medical University - Varna. She is a lecturer in English language since 2011. This proves with more than the needed, the teaching and lecturing experience that Dr. Konsoulova need to take the academic position „associate professor“. She worked as physician in the Multidisciplinary Hospital for active treatment “Sveta Marina” – Varna for the period 09.10.2007 until 05.08.2011. Further on, from 05.08.2011 to 01.04.2014 she works as physician – Internal Medicine in the same hospital. She continues working as a physician and assistant in Internal Medicine from 01.04.2014 until 01.03.2016, and after that from 01.03.2016 until 31.01.2019 she was at the position of assistant in Medical Oncology.

Besides the routine teaching and lecturing through the years, she is a holder of a reward that has no scientific meaning but is a sign of recognition and value: the prize „Favorite lecturer of the English-speaking students 2013/2014“ at Medical University - Varna.

Dr. Konsoulova is a lecturer at University “Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov”, town of Burgas in the course of post-graduation qualification „Emergency care assistance“ for the fourth degree of professional qualification for the specialty 7230303 „transportation of injured and ill people, first aid and assistance to the physician in the emergency care“.

### **Conclusion**

Dr. Assia Konsoulova is a qualified and refined internal medicine specialist and a medical oncologist. She is recognized as a physician and a researcher with significant contribution to the contemporary internal medicine and medical oncology. She has a high recognition in Bulgaria and Europe not only as a researcher, but also in the society of professional physicians. She is a member of national, European and other international scientific organizations and she takes leading positions in some of them. She is an editor in some prestigious journals and congresses as *Frontiers in Oncology*, *Breathe*, the congresses of the ERS, etc.

After inspection of the documentation, I am definite that Dr. Konsoulova meets all criteria and exceeds the minimal requirements for obtaining an academic degree „Associate professor“ in the scientific specialty „Internal medicine“ as per the Law for development of the academic staff in the republic of Bulgaria, the Regulation for its execution, the Regulation for the terms and conditions for acquisition of an academic position at the University “Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov”, town of Burgas.

In view of all of the above, I vote **positively** Dr. Assia Andrianova Konsoulova-Kirova, DM to take the academic position „Associate professor“ in the scientific specialty „Internal Medicine“.

12.02.2021

**Professor Dr. Hristo Bozov, DM**