



To

The Chairperson of the Scientific Jury
appointed by Order No. RD 257/15.09.2022
of the Rector of University "Professor Asen
Zlatarov", Burgas

REVIEW

By Prof. Dr. Dilyana Vicheva Vicheva, PhD

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A member of the Scientific Jury defined by Order № RD 257/15.09.2022
of the Rector of University "Professor Asen Zlatarov", Burgas

Subject: Competition for attaining the academic position of "Associate Professor", higher education field 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty of Otorhinolaryngology, for the needs of Faculty of public health and healthcare, University "Professor Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, promulgated in State Gazette, issue 45 of 17.06.2022.

General comments on the procedure

By order No. RD 257/ 15.09.2022 of the Rector of University "Professor Asen Zlatarov" – Burgas – Prof. D-r Magdalena Mitkova, PhD, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the above-mentioned competition.

At the first absentee meeting, held on 05.10.2022, I was appointed to prepare a review.

One candidate was admitted to participate in the competition - Dr. Atanas Nachev Vlaykov, PhD.

The deadlines and the procedure for holding the competition are fully respected according to the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for the Implementation of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for the terms and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions in University "Professor Asen Zlatarov", Burgas.

The documents, presented by Dr. Atanas Vlaykov, PhD, also comply with the requirements of the aforementioned regulatory framework.

Biographical data - professional and academic development of the candidate

Dr. Atanas Nachev Vlaykov, PhD was born on August 20, 1986. He is a graduate of Faculty of Medicine, Trakia University, Stara Zagora, where he graduated with honors in 2012. His professional path began in the same year as a resident doctor in Otorhinolaryngology at the University Hospital "Prof. Dr. Stoyan Kirkovitch" – Stara Zagora. He acquires a specialty in 2016. Parallel to the candidate's professional growth, his very successful academic development also takes place. In the period 2013 - 2017, Dr. Vlaykov was a full-time PhD student at the Department of "Otorhinolaryngology" in Faculty of Medicine, Trakia University, Stara Zagora. The topic of the thesis, developed and defended by him, is "Effect of local and systemic immune response on nasal congestion and quality of life in patients with allergic rhinosinusitis". He attained the degree of Doctor of Medicine (PhD) on December 18, 2019. In 2016 Dr. Atanas Vlaykov became an Assistant in the same department, and from 2020 until now he is a Chief Assistant.

Dr. Vlaykov's aspiration for continuous professional growth and improvement is evidenced by the numerous courses and specializations for postgraduate training, both in the country and in leading centers abroad (Germany, Italy, Croatia). Most of them are in the field of rhinology and otology, diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the nasal and paranasal sinuses. Dr. Vlaykov's good foreign language training is also of indisputable importance for the acquisition of maximum practical benefit and theoretical knowledge from these courses. He speaks very well English and also speaks French and Croatian.

Evidence of Dr. Atanas Vlaykov's personal and professional qualities are the many awards and fellowships he has won:

- Award from the Rector of Trakia University for "Contribution to the scientific research activity of TrU", St. Zagora, 2012
- Award from the Student Council at the Trakia University for "High contribution to the research activity at the university", St. Zagora, 2012
- Award from the Bulgarian Medical Association for "Excellent graduate", 2012
- Award of the participants at the "III Scientific Conference on Otorhinolaryngology for Students and Young Scientists", for the best report, 04-05.11.2011
- Award of the Bulgarian Rhinological Association for "Rhinological scientific work of a young scientist", 2013
- Scholarship of "Bulgarian Medical Association's program for supporting doctoral students and specialists in the Republic of Bulgaria" for 2014
- Scholarship of "Bulgarian Medical Association's program for supporting doctoral students and specialists in the Republic of Bulgaria" for 2015
- Scholarship of "Bulgarian Medical Association's program for supporting doctoral students and specialists in the Republic of Bulgaria" for 2016.

The candidate in the current competition is a member of the following Bulgarian and international scientific organizations:

- European Rhinologic Society
- European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology
- Bulgarian Rhinologic Society
- Association of otorhinolaryngologists in south-eastern Bulgaria
- Bulgarian Medical Association

Scientific output

In addition to the above-mentioned dissertation. Dr. Atanas Vlaykov, PhD participates in the current competition with scientific output, including 16 titles, summarized as follows:

- Monograph – with the topic “Allergic rhinitis and quality of life”
- Publications in full text, printed in foreign and Bulgarian journals, refereed and indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science - 2
- Publications in foreign and Bulgarian non-refereed journals with scientific review or in edited collections with full-text publications (with ISSN) - 13.

Dr. Vlaykov is the first author in 11 of the scientific works, the second - in 2 of them, and the third and consecutive author in 2. He has participated with presentations in 24 national and international scientific forums.

The reference of citations shows 13 in foreign and Bulgarian sources.

Scientometric indicators

The attestation report for the fulfillment of the national requirements for the academic position of “Associate Professor”, as per the requirements specified in the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria proves a total of 547 scores for all scientometric indicators, which exceeds the set minimum criteria of 450 scores.

Group	Associate Professor		
	Contents	Academic position of Associate Professor (Scores)	Minimal requirements of University “Professor Asen Zlatarov”
A Indicator 1	50	50	50
B Indicator 2	-	-	-
C Indicator 3 or 4	100	100	100
D Sum of Indicators 5 - 9	232	200	220
E Sum of Indicators 10 - 12	65	50	60
F Sum of Indicators 13 to end	100	-	20
Total	547		450

Scientific and practical contributions

The candidate's scientific output is of an original nature. No duplication of evidentiary material was found, and no plagiarism data was found.

The topic of the scientific works submitted for review and participation in scientific forums of Dr. Atanas Vlaykov, PhD is primarily in the domain of rhinology. The areas and directions in which he conducted studies and research can be summarized in the following groups:

Study of the concentration of some regulatory interleukins (IL-4, IL-5 and IL-13) as well as IgE in nasal lavage and blood serum of patients with allergic rhinitis.

The cases of patients with allergic pathology and in particular with allergic rhinitis are increasing in frequency in Europe and worldwide. The need for up-to-date information and research on the subtle regulatory mechanisms for the occurrence and clinical manifestation of the symptoms of allergic rhinitis gives reason and motivation for Dr. Vlaykov and colleagues to conduct a study on the role of the above-mentioned regulatory molecules. Clinical, clinical-epidemiological and immunoenzyme techniques were used, as a result of which a number of conclusions with scientific and scientific-practical potential were drawn. Research on the topic is extremely innovative for the specialty "Otorhinolaryngology" in our country.

Quality of life studies in patients with allergic rhinosinusitis.

In modern otorhinolaryngology and allergology, the question of the severity of the clinical expression of the symptoms of atopic diseases is widely discussed, and allergic rhinosinusitis (AR) is an attractive topic for scientific developments related to innovative and more advanced diagnostic methods for the study of pathogenetic mechanisms, clinical and morphological features in the evolution of allergic inflammation. In this context, the topic of scientific analysis is undoubtedly relevant. In his works, Dr. Vlaykov shows considerable awareness and competence in analyzing the factors and conditions leading to temporary and permanent worsening of symptoms and, as a consequence, the quality of life of the patients. A number of lifestyle conditions considered risky and able to influence the clinical course of allergic nasal diseases are reviewed and analyzed.

Rare clinical cases.

In this group, Dr. Vlaykov's publications can be mentioned, describing a number

of clinically interesting and practically useful case studies.

Dr. Vlaykov is an active participant and researcher in conducting several scientific projects:

- №4/2010 "Dendritic cells and colorectal carcinoma". Research supervisor, Assoc. prof. Maya Galabova, PhD
- №34/2014 "Influence of physiotherapy on local immunity, clinical course and quality of life in patients with allergic rhinosinusitis". Academic supervisor: Associate Professor Valentin Stoyanov, Ph.D.
- №11/2014 "Influence of local immunity on the intranasal vascular bed, clinical course and quality of life in patients with allergic rhinosinusitis". Research supervisor: Associate Professor Tanyo Kavrakov, Ph.D.
- №2/2021 Scientific conference with international participation "35 years of academic education in otorhinolaryngology in Stara Zagora", October 01-02, 2021.

Teaching activity

The academic workload of the Chief Assistant Dr. Atanas Vlaykov, PhD for 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 academic years is 343, 344 and 457 equivalent hours, respectively, or a total of 1144 equivalent hours for the entire period (Certificate No. 1248/08.07.2022, issued by Faculty of Medicine, Stara Zagora). This academic workload is realized by giving lectures, conducting practical exercises and seminars, teaching trainee doctors and participating in examination boards in both Bulgarian and English language.

Conclusion

Based on the diverse and purposeful diagnostic-therapeutic, scientific-research and teaching activities, my comprehensive assessment of Dr. Atanas Nachev Vlaykov, PhD is that he is fully formed as a specialist, scientist and teacher and enjoys authority among his colleagues, patients and students.

The candidate's scientific output is of an original nature and contains contributions of a scientific and scientific-applied nature.

The requirements for attaining the academic position of "Associate Professor"

laid down in the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria have been met.

Due to all of the above, I allow myself to recommend to the Honorable Scientific Jury to award Dr. Atanas Nachev Vlaykov, PhD the academic position of "Associate Professor", for which I confidently vote "Positively".

21.10.2022

Plovdiv

Reviewer:

/Prof. Dr. Dilyana Vicheva, PhD/