

OPINION

**by competitive procedure
for holding the academic position "Professor"
in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports,
professional field 7.4. Public health,
scientific specialty Social medicine and organization of health
announced in State Gazette, no. 1 / 04.01.2022**

By order of the Rector of the University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" RD 55 / 01.03.2022 I was appointed a member of the Scientific Jury, I was elected to prepares an opinion on a competitive procedure for holding the academic position "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Organization of Health and Pharmacy", professional field 7.4. Public health, field of higher education 7. Health and sports.

The only candidate in the competition is Associate Professor Vladimir Hristov Gonchev, MD, habilitated in the scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Organization of Health and Pharmacy", professional field 7.4. Public health

Brief biographical data and career development of the candidate. He was born on June 10, 1963 in Haskovo. *Education:* In 1981 he graduated from the Mathematical High School in his hometown with a gold medal, in 1987 at the Higher Medical Institute in Plovdiv he graduated with honors as a master doctor. Acquired the following specialties: Internal Medicine - 1993, Health Management and Medical Informatics - 2001, Health Economics - 2011. Second Master's degree in Public Administration graduated from UNWE - Sofia in 2005. Specializations abroad: 1995 - one month in the USA for organization and management of a private medical institution; in 2002/03 at Georgetown and George Washington Universities. Specializes in health management and public health within a 7-month course and defense of a thesis; in 2009 he completed a one-month specialization in Israel. In February 2009, after defending a dissertation on "Formation and professional development of health managers in the context of health reform" received ONS "Doctor". From 18.04.2017 he was elected associate professor at the University "Prof. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas in the professional field 7.4. Public health and scientific specialty social medicine and organization of health and pharmacy. From 01.2020 he is the head of the Department of Internal Medicine, Pharmacology, Pediatrics, Social Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Computer Technology, Latin at the same university. His *professional work experience* began in MHAT-Haskovo, where he worked for almost 10 years as a doctor in the Internal Medicine Department, followed by 12 years and 8 months. Director of RHC - Haskovo. He has consistently worked as a manager of DCC "St. Georgi" at the Ministry of Defense (2010-2015) and manager of the Medical Center "Prof. St. Kirkovich" - St. Zagora (2016). In 2017 is a member of the Board of Directors of MHAT - Haskovo. From 10.05.2021 he is also an expert in postgraduate training and scientific development of the medical staff of the

University Hospital - Burgas. Assoc. Prof. Gonchev is an activist of the BMA-Secretary of the Board of the Medical College of the BMA in Haskovo, a member of the Supreme Medical Council as a representative of the BMA since 2018, awarded a badge and diploma for contribution to development and recognition of the authority of the professional organization BLS. The significant social and socio-scientific activity of the candidate, without going into details, can be systematized in the following areas:

- Participation of international networks and scientific societies: Fellow and Professor in New Westminster College - Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada and subsequent project for strategic cooperation of the institution with Bulgarian universities, member of the Bulgarian and European Public Health Associations and 7 other international scientific societies;
- Participation in the development of strategic documents, both at local and national level;
- Scientific services to public and business organizations: external expert on cross-border cooperation projects INTERREG (Romania, Bulgaria and Greece) and telemedicine consultant in a project of inter-municipal cross-border cooperation;
- Long-term participation in clinical trials, to which his clinical specialty also contributes.
- Fluent in English, French and Russian.

Summary. Assoc. Prof. Gonchev has a solid education and professional experience in the field of public health and health management, striving for professional development, proven by his persistent research, long before he was in academia. Participates in national and international projects. He has wide international contacts and recognition for his great public engagement.

There is a coincidence between the scientific specialty of his first habilitation and the one required by the competition.

Research, scientometric criteria and scientific contributions.

Quantitative characteristics.

To participate in the competition for academic position "Professor" the candidate submits a list of 35 publications:

1. Monographs and chapter from monograph - 3;
2. Publications and reports in unrefereed journals and collections of scientific forums with scientific review - 30
3. Participation in scientific forums with reports, posters - 2

According to the place of the candidate in the author teams the publications are distributed: independent author in 15, first author -1, second author -8, third author-10 and after third place-1. There is both high independence and opportunities for teamwork.

Outside the list for participation in the competition, the candidate presents a complete list of his scientific publications, a total of 31 (including 4 for the dissertation), which give an idea of his scientific development. The chronological characteristics of this part of his scientific work show a fairly high intensity from 2010 to 2014, a time when he was not yet part of an academic institution.

Compliance of the total number of points by groups of indicators of the candidate with the minimum requirements for a professor of The Law for Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Rules of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov "Burgas:

Group of indicators. Contents	Reported points	Minimum required points for a professor according to the LAW	Minimum required points for a professor at of University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" Burgas
Indicator 1	50	50	50
Indicator 2	0		
Indicator 3	100	100	100
Indicator 4	0		
Sum of indicators from 5 - 9	788,3	200	250
Sum of indicators from 10 - 12	485	100	150
Sum of indicators from 13 to the end	260	100	120
Total	1683,3	550	670

For each of the conditions is presented official evidence. The comparison of the data of Assoc. Prof. Gonchev with the scientometric criteria set in and with the specific requirements to the announced competition shows not only full compliance, but his achieved and reported points significantly exceed the minimum requirements.

Quality feature.

The presented scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Gonchev is on the topic of the competition. It is characterized by topicality. in many cases innovation and focus on healthcare practice in Bulgaria. In this respect, they deserve it special mention of the two monographs with which the candidate appears in the competition. The real monograph "A Review of Some Modern Applications of Digital Technologies in Medicine and Healthcare" (2021), despite the widespread discussion of new technologies in the public sphere, is a novelty for PH. A theoretical study and practical developments in the field of the fastest growing share of modern medicine - digital health

Especially valuable is the forecast made by VI. Gonchev how these technologies will affect and change the future of a number of medical specialties, health care and certain areas of health. Along with systematization and interpretation of contemporary literary sources, it also contains the author's own experience in the use of telemedicine and digital health. In addition to being a source of new information,

it can be used for training and self-training of healthcare managers who will need accelerated training in this rapidly evolving field of application.

The other book "Professional development of health managers in the reforming health system of the Republic of Bulgaria" (2019), although it contains the extremely popular phrase "health managers" is distinguished by the volume and depth of the study and the problems addressed in our literature is rarely or not at all affected: specific training in health management and satisfaction with it, satisfaction with the managerial position, socio-ethical issues and the future development of the profession. On this basis, policies are proposed to optimize the selection, training and retention of professional development of health managers. The recommendations made, based on analysis, for optimization of the training on PH and HM continue to be valid.

The candidate has divided his scientific work in the following thematic areas:

1. Public health and health management-training and professional realization of professionals in health management
2. Modern aspects of health management
3. Public health as part of the national security system
4. Public health issues with a focus on health inequalities, and patient safety and palliative care
5. Developments and studies in the field of clinical medicine considered from the aspect of social medicine
6. Modern aspects and applications of digital technologies in medicine and healthcare
7. History of healthcare

I agree with the presented contributions in the individual areas. The contributions are both theoretical and cognitive, as well as methodological and practical. The dissemination of the results of the candidate's research work is carried out through participation in international, national and regional scientific forums and a diverse range of journals in which he publishes. The 58 citations noted are proof that the candidate's research achievements are well known to the target audience.

Evaluation of the teaching activity of the candidate.

Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Gonchev has 5 years of full-time teaching experience. His workload is constantly above the norm - for the last 4 years, his average annual workload is 507 hours at the norm of 360 hours. medicine, nurses, midwives, medical assistants, rehabilitators. She teaches social medicine, medical sociology, biostatistics, health promotion, medical ethics, hygiene and ecology, stress and health, primary health care, communications, public relations, and masters in health management and global trends in public health. The number of subjects taught is too large, probably due to the period of establishment of the new Faculty of Medicine and the still shortage of staff. For all taught disciplines and in the individual specialties Assoc. Prof. Gonchev has developed curricula and lectures in electronic form. Since 2019, annually conducts SDO in health management and fourth degree of professional qualification for transportation of injured and sick people, providing first aid and assisting the doctor in emergency care, according to Ordinance 1 / 07.04.2016 for paramedics.

Summary: Associate Professor Gonchev has gained extensive experience in teaching a wide range of disciplines in the field of public health. In the electronic environment are already available developed by him specified for different specialties students' study materials in the same disciplines, which is a serious personal achievement, but also a good attestation for FOPHHC and MF of the University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" -Burgas.

Personal impressions. Ever since his doctoral studies, Vladimir Gonchev has been distinguished by depth, a broad view of public health and a strong desire to pursue science. Over the years, he has shown increasing publishing activity and expanded the areas of his research activities. My participation in the current NJ convinced me of the great progress he has made as a researcher and teacher. His academic development is an example of the strength of intrinsic motivation, training and moral values that can overcome small and large difficulties on the way to high goals. He has proved. that he can work for noble causes. I have no doubt that with his achievements so far, public authority and personality, he has the potential to be useful to the academic institution for which he works.

Conclusion

The analysis of the overall research and teaching activity of Associate Professor Vladimir Gonchev, MD, PhD shows that he has significant contributions of a cognitive and applied nature and is a modern lecturer. It meets the criteria of the Law and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" Burgas for holding the academic position "Professor". The new academic position will provide an opportunity to develop his knowledge and skills and use his extensive professional and social experience. All this is a reason for my positive assessment and with conviction to recommend to members of the Scientific Jury also vote Associate Professor Vladimir Hristov Gonchev MD, PhD to be appointed to academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports, professional field 7.4. Public health, specialty "Social medicine and organization of health and pharmacy".

Member of Scientific Jury:

18 April 2022

Associate Professor N. Feschieva, MD, PhD