

## OPINION

**From Prof. Antoniya Yordanova Yanakieva, Ph.D.  
Member of the scientific jury, appointed by Order № RD-55 / 01.03.2022 of  
the Rector of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov "- Burgas**

Subject: Competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports", in the professional field 7.4. "Public Health", scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Organization of Health and Pharmacy", University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov "- Burgas, announced in SG no. 1 of 04.01.2022

By Order of the Rector of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov "- Burgas I have been appointed a member of the Scientific Jury under the 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 and Pharmacy" and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Medicine with reg. № 460 / 17.02.2022.

### **I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile**

Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Hristov Gonchev graduated from the Medical Institute in Plovdiv with excellent results in 1987. Acquired a degree in Internal Medicine in 1993. From 1997 to 2010 holds the position of director of the Regional Health Center - Haskovo. He has various specializations in health management and public health in Bulgaria and abroad, and in 2002/2003 he took part in a seven-month course in Georgetown and George Washington in Washington, USA.

In 2001 graduated in "Health Management and Medical Informatics" at the Medical University - Sofia, and in 2005 Master's degree in Public Administration. In 2009 he obtained a PH degree in 03.01.53 - Social Medicine and Organization of Health and Pharmacy on "Formation and professional development of health managers in terms of health reform" at the PHC at MU - Sofia. Since 2011 he has a specialty in Health Economics. Assoc. Prof. Gonchev has many years of experience as a Manager and a member of the Board of Directors in DCC, MC and MHAT.

Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Gonchev has been a lecturer at the University "Professor Dr. Asen Zlatarov" Burgas since 2017. Since 2020 he has been Head of the Department of Internal Medicine, Pharmacology, Pediatrics, Social

Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Computer Technology, Latin University "Professor Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas. Since April 2019 he has been a Member of the Management Board of the Bulgarian Scientific Society of Public Health.

Fluent in English, French and Russian.

## **II. General description of the materials submitted in the competition**

For participation in the competition Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Hristov Gonchev presents scientific products that exceed in volume and quality the minimum required scientometric indicators for "Professor" according to the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

In this competition the candidate participates with a total of 33 scientific papers. The candidate for professor presents 30 scientific publications, published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information. Assoc. Prof. Gonchev participated with 2 monographs and 1 participation in the Study Guide as a co-author. The total number of citations of the presented scientific papers after the competition for "associate professor" is 58. The chronological characteristics of the publishing activity show uniformity over the years.

## **III. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works for the overall academic development**

### **✓ General characteristics of the scientific production and publishing activity**

The scientific publications of Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Hristov Gonchev are characterized by depth, specificity and analyticalness. The main areas that can be identified according to the nature of research and implemented innovations are related to the formation of professional development of health managers in Bulgaria, satisfaction with qualifications and career development for growth in the professional management hierarchy in the health system, public health as part of national security, inequality issues, patient safety and palliative care, and digitalisation and innovation in health governance.

The scientific papers presented by the candidate reflect current problems, patterns, trends and innovative approaches in the field of management and organization of health care, as well as the socio-medical approach applied in clinical practice.

### **✓ Scientific activity - dissemination and application of the scientific and practical achievements of the candidate among the scientific community**

Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Hristov Gonchev takes part in a number of international and national scientific forums, where he annually presents his results in scientific journals and journals with an impact factor.

### ✓ Evaluation of research activity

Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Hristov Gonchev presented a list of publications in specialized scientific journals:

- Publications referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information;
- Publications in unrefereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes;
- Monographs;
- Training materials in the author's team;
- Citations in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review, in non-refereed publications with scientific review.

The research activity of the candidate is focused on the following thematic areas:

The first in importance and in-depth analysis is the direction "**Public health and health management-training and professional realization of professionals in health management**", as the most important contributions of scientific-theoretical nature and scientific-applied nature are related to:

- The first targeted, in-depth, comprehensive study was conducted in Bulgaria, which examines the opinion of medical and non-medical professionals at different management levels in the hierarchy of the health system, trained and qualified in health management. Proposals have been made to optimize the selection, training and retention of professional development of health managers.
- A survey of career satisfaction in the professional management hierarchy in the health system was conducted; the state, problems and weaknesses of the health management training system and the ways to improve and avoid it in the future practice in their training are emphasized.
- The analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the training in health and safety in Bulgaria provides an opportunity to make recommendations for optimizing the training in health and safety.

Second place goes to research in the field of modern aspects of health management. The following contributions of the candidate can be deduced here:

- The problem of patient satisfaction is considered as feedback and evaluation of users for medical care, as well as as a marketing tool.

Questionnaires were tested to survey patients' opinions and the most important information-bearing issues were identified.

- A systematic review of the latest views and documents of the WHO and the EC on the issue of human resources, confirming their importance for the development of modern health systems. Some opinions are expressed on the state of the problem in the national aspect

In the third place is the area related to **Public Health as part of the national security system**. The most important scientific and practical contributions are the following:

- In the context of the modern development of society, studies of the public health system as part of the national security system have been conducted.
- It proves its growing relevance, as well as the need for such a view on the activities and challenges to the PA.

#### **Other areas**

Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Hristov Gonchev makes research and scientific publications in the following areas: **Public health problems with a focus on inequalities in health care and patient safety and palliative care; clinical medicine considered from the aspect of social medicine; modern aspects and applications of digital technologies in medicine and healthcare; history of healthcare.**

**IV. Evaluation of monographic works or equivalent publications submitted for participation in the competition for "Professor" by the candidate.**

The candidate presents his participation in the monograph of the Habilitation Paper "Review of some modern applications of digital technologies in medicine and health care", published in 2021 and the monograph "Professional development of health managers in the reforming health system in Bulgaria", published in 2019 d. The candidate's publishing activity exceeds the minimum requirements for holding the position of "Professor".

**V. Complex, qualitative assessment of the teaching-methodical and teaching activity, incl. scientific guidance of students, doctoral students, postgraduates**

The candidate for the academic position "Professor" conducts lecture courses in three faculties at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas in

the following disciplines: "Social Medicine", "Social Medicine and Health Promotion", "Biostatistics", "Medical Ethics", "Stress and Health", "Medical Sociology", "Hygiene and Ecology", "Stress and Health", "Communication and Public Relations", "Social Medicine", "Medical Ethics", "Stress and Health", "Medical Sociology", "Hygiene and Ecology", "Stress and Health", "Communication and Public Relations", "Social Medicine", "Medical Ethics", "Global Trends in Public Health" in specialties "Nurse", "Midwife", "Medical Assistant", "Medicine", "Rehabilitator" and "Health Management" ACS "Master".

#### **VI. Critical remarks and recommendations**

There is no.

#### **VII. General assessment of the candidate's compliance with the mandatory conditions and the mandatory quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators according to Art. Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.**

The presented documentation on the competition, the scientific performances of the candidate, public activity and commitment, including the study load, give grounds to note that Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Hristov Gonchev fully meets the requirements for holding the academic position "Professor" according to the Regulations and the procedure for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, The Law for Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation.

#### **VIII. Conclusion**

In conclusion, I believe that the research work of Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Hristov Gonchev has a great scientific contribution in theoretical and applied terms, demonstrates relevance, innovation and visibility. Scientific contributions show consistent developments in the management and organization of health care, the educational process of health managers and practical applications for solving specific problems in public health, as well as in the field of digital applications in medicine.

Apart from the scientometric parameters, which are convincing enough, and given the above, I give a high overall assessment of the candidate, voting positively for the election of Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Hristov Gonchev to hold the academic position "Professor" in higher education 7. "Health and Sports", professional field

7.4. "Public Health" and scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Organization of Health and Pharmacy".

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Prof. Antonia Yanakieva, PhD

April 6, 2022

Sofia city