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Рег.№ 1186 20-04 20 22.

#### OPINION

by Professor Maria Anastasova Semerdzhieva, MD, Ph.D. Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University – Plovdiv

<u>SUBJECT:</u> Competition for the academic position "Professor" in the professional field 7.4. Public Health, scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Organization of Health and Pharmacy", announced for the needs of the Medical Faculty at University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" Burgas in the State Gazette, issue 1 of 04.01.2022

The only candidate in the competition is Vladimir Hristov Gonchev, MD, PhD, Associate Professor at University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas.

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

Associate Professor Vladimir Gonchev graduated in medicine in 1987 at the Higher Medical Institute - Plovdiv with excellent results, and in 2005 with a master's degree in public administration at the University of National and World Economy - Sofia. There are three specialties - internal medicine (1993), health management and medical informatics (2001) and health economics (2011). In February 2009 he successfully completed his dissertation on "Formation and professional development of health managers in the context of health reform" at the FPH at MU - Sofia and received a PhD degree in "Social Medicine and Organization of Health and Pharmacy". He has completed a number of specializations in the United States and Israel in the field of health management and public health.

He started his professional career in the regional hospital in Haskovo. He holds a number of managerial and expert positions - Director of the Regional Health Center - Haskovo, Manager of DCC-St. George Haskovo and MC "Prof. Stoyan Kirkovich" Stara Zagora; external expert for technical expertise of project proposals under the cross-border cooperation programs INTERREG V-A Romania - Bulgaria and Greece - Bulgaria; expert at the University Hospital Burgas in the field of scientific development of the medical staff of the medical institution University Hospital Burgas. Assoc. Prof. Gonchev was a member of the Board of Directors of Haskovo Hospital; of the Supreme Medical Council as a

representative of the Bulgarian Medical Union; of the Management Board of the National Association for Health Policy and Management.

Since 2017 he has been appointed Associate Professor at the University of Burgas "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov", and since 2020 he has been elected Head of the Department of Internal Medicine, Pharmacology, Pediatrics, Social Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Computer Technology, Latin at the Faculty of Medicine at the same university.

He is a member of nine international scientific organizations and a number of national - National Association of Health Policy and Health Management, Bulgarian Association of Public Health (BAHO), Scientific Society of Cardiologists, BMA.

Participates in scientific and academic boards of a number of journals: "Management and Education", "Black Sea Journal of Medicine and Public Health", "International Journal of Science Annals", "Cient Periodique" and others.

He is fluent in spoken and written English, French and Russian.

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

The candidate has submitted all documents for borrowing of academic position "Professor" in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation. The materials of the competition provide in full the necessary information for quantitative and qualitative assessment of the overall academic development of Associate Professor Gonchev. The necessary evidence is presented.

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

The materials provided by the candidate to meet the mandatory scientometric criteria include a total of 35 titles, of which: one abstract, 3 monographs, 5 publications in refereed and indexed scientific journals, 24 publications in non-refereed journals and collections and two scientific papers.

There are 18 (47%) articles in which he is an independent or first author.

The scientific applied activity of the candidate is related to the participation in 2 projects - one international and one national. Assoc. Prof. Gonchev's competencies in project management are highly valued, which is why he was appointed Chairman of the Commission

for organizing, conducting rankings and accepting project reports at the Faculty of Public Health and Health Care, Faculty of Medicine and Medical College at Burgas University.

The main directions of the research activity of Associate Professor Gonchev can be generally systematized as follows:

## 1. Modern aspects and applications of digital technologies in medicine and healthcare.

Theoretical research and practical developments in the field of digital technologies have been made, which would help increase the sustainability of the health system, improve the relationship between health professionals and patients and provide cheaper and more effective management solutions. An independent monograph is presented in this direction.

## 2. Public health problems

A number of health inequalities in access to primary health care, smoking and alcohol consumption on a European and national scale have been studied. Some contemporary aspects of palliative care have also been studied. Some socially significant diseases are considered through the perspective of social medicine and public health. Studies of the public health system as part of the national security system have been made. The historical chronology of public health education in Europe, the USA and for the first time in Bulgaria is considered in the framework of a whole monograph.

## 3. Modern aspects of healthcare management

Theoretically, the problem of patient satisfaction is analyzed as feedback and evaluation of users for medical care, as well as as a marketing tool. Questionnaires were tested to study the opinion of patients and the issues were identified, thanks to which the most important information has been obtained. A systematic review of current views and documents of the WHO and the EC on the issue of human resources in health care has been made.

#### IV. Evaluation of monographic work or equivalent publications

Associate Professor Gonchev presented 3 monographs for review, two independent and one co-authored.

## V. Reflection (citation) of the candidate's publications

Significant for the influence of scientific and applied results is their reflection in the works of other researchers. According to the list provided to me, the candidate has 57 positive citations from Bulgarian authors: one in a referenced and indexed edition in world-famous

databases, 36 in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review and 20 in non-referenced journals with scientific review.

## VI. Complex, qualitative assessment of teaching and teaching activities

Associate Professor V. Gonchev actively participates in the teaching of 10 subjects to students of "Master", "Bachelor" and "Professional Bachelor" at the Faculty of Public Health and Health Care, Faculty of Medicine and Medical College at Burgas University. Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov ". Conducts training in postgraduate qualification courses. Participates in the development and updating of curricula, abstracts and tests for students and graduates, including in electronic format. He has provided scientific guidance to 2 trainees. Associate Professor V. Gonchev has a very high average annual classroom employment of 684 hours.

#### VII. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks on the scientific and teaching activities of the candidate.

VIII. Overall assessment of the applicant's compliance with the mandatory conditions and the mandatory quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators

Group of indicat ors	Contents	Minimum requirements for a professor according to the law	Minimum Requirements for professor in University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov "Burgas	Assoc. Prof. V. Gonchev, Ph.D.
A	Indicator 1	50	50	50 т.
Б	Indicator 2			
В	Indicator 3, 4	100	100	100 т.
Γ	Sum of indicators from 5 - 9	200	250	788,3 т.
Д	Sum of indicators from 10 - 12	100	150	485 т.
Е	Sum of indicators from 13 to the end	100	120	260 т.

The volume of the presented scientific production exceeds many times the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position "Professor" according to the Law on Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the requirements of the Regulations on the conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the University. Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov "Burgas.

#### IX. Conclusion

Associate Professor Vladimir Gonchev is an established and authoritative specialist with a wide range of professional and scientific interests. His research activity has a wide thematic scope and focuses on current medical and social issues.

Based on the presented scientific papers, their contributions and the overall assessment of the teaching activity, I propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to choose Vladimir Gonchev as "Professor" in scientific specialty "Social medicine and organization of health and pharmacy" at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov "Burgas.

April	15	2022	
April	10,	2022	

Plovdiv

/ Prof. Dr. M. Semerdzhieva, MD, PhD /