

To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury,

Determined by Order No. RD - 272/15.09.2022
Of the Rector of Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas

I present to the Honorable Jury my opinion,
Regarding the competition for the academic position of **Professor** in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty **Nervous diseases** for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine, announced in State Gazette, no. 45/17.06.2022

With one candidate: Dr. Ivan Nikolov Dimitrov, MD, PhD, DSc.

О P I N I O N

By Prof. Dr. Valentin Kostov Stoyanov, MD, PhD
Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas
Member of the scientific jury / Order No. RD – 272/15.09.2022
Of the Rector of Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas
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The opinion has been written in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Section III/Section IV of the Regulations for its application, Conditions and procedure for occupying the academic position of Professor and in accordance with the regulations of Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas.

I. Professional development of the candidate.

Dr. Ivan Nikolov Dimitrov, MD, PhD, DSc was born on April 26, 1977. He graduated in medicine in 2002 at Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov Medical University, Varna. Immediately after graduation, he was appointed assistant-professor at the Department of Neurology of the university, later being successively elected senior and chief assistant-professor. He began his clinical career at the Neurology clinic of St. Marina hospital in Varna. From the beginning, he showed a marked affinity for scientific work, and in 2009 he successfully completed his doctoral dissertation entitled "Study of dementia and mild cognitive impairment among the population of the city of Varna", obtaining the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" in professional direction 7.1 Medicine. However, his scientific pursuits did not stop there. After numerous specializations in Bulgaria and abroad (France, Italy, Spain) and accumulation of extensive practical experience, in 2017 he completed his second dissertation entitled "Brain volumetric parameters and cognitive status in relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis" and obtained the scientific degree "Doctor of sciences". All this did not go unnoticed, and Dr. Dimitrov was successively attributed the degrees of Associate professor and Professor at Varna medical university. In the last year and until now, he has been teaching

at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas, as can be seen from the presented evidence. In parallel with these commitments, he works as Head of the Neurology Clinic at Heart and Brain hospital, Burgas.

Dr. Ivan Nikolov Dimitrov has multiple specializations related to neuroepidemiology, neuroimmunology, dementias, electrophysiology, neuroprotection, etc., actively participating in training programs related to various aspects of neurology. He is also a regular participant in a number of national and international scientific congresses and conferences in neurology.

Dr. Ivan Nikolov Dimitrov is a qualified specialist in neurology, with an excellent command of modern diagnostic and therapeutic methods in the specialty. He possesses the necessary theoretical, methodical and practical skills for the development of modern research activities and knows how to work in a team. Dr. Ivan Nikolov Dimitrov is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Union, Bulgarian Society of Neurology, Association of Movement Disorders and Multiple Sclerosis, Bulgarian Association of Neuro-Oncology, Union of Scientists - Varna branch.

II. The documents of Dr. Ivan Nikolov Dimitrov, MD, DSc meet the legal requirements for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the respective Regulations. They are very well arranged and contain sufficient evidentiary material.

III. Evaluation of scientific works:

(Overall assessment of scientific production and publication activity)

Dr. Ivan Nikolov Dimitrov participates in the competition with 83 scientific works and publications. Of these: 1 monograph, 6 co-authorships in published book chapters, 1 author's abstract and 75 scientific articles – 14 are scientific publications, referenced and indexed in international databases of scientific information. He participates in numerous congresses and symposia, having presented a list of selected 6 participations.

Publications presented for the competition address important current topics related to various aspects of neuroscience.

Dr. Dimitrov has presented a list of 39 positive citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in international databases of scientific information, as well as two in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review and another 5 - in non-referenced journals with scientific review: evident from the candidate's reference showing the significant total number of 615 evaluation points.

The topics covered in the candidate's scientific production are diverse and of particular interest to modern researchers.

Dr. Ivan Nikolov Dimitrov has a marked interest in multiple sclerosis, which is advocated in a large part of his publications regarding both the quantitative parameters and the significance of the results achieved.

He also authors other publications related to:

- Cognitive disorders, dementias and neuropsychology
- Electroencephalography, epilepsy
- Extrapyramidal diseases
- Neuro-oncology and neurosurgery

- Cerebrovascular disease
- Various syndromes and clinical cases
- Quality of life

All of these do not go unnoticed by the scientific community in Bulgaria and abroad, as evidenced by the large number of positive citations.

Dr. Ivan Nikolov Dimitrov has extensive teaching experience. From the beginning of his career, he was teaching neurology to students from the University of Varna, first as assistant-professor, and later as associate professor and professor. He also headed the University Affiliate in Sliven. As mentioned above, for the last year he has been teaching neurology to students at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas. In parallel with his academic activity, he teaches students attending student internships in the clinic he heads at Heart and Brain hospital, Burgas.

He does not miss the opportunity to regularly participate in various scientific events, both national and international, with his presentations and reports.

IV. General evaluation of the applicant's compliance with the mandatory requirements, quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators, according to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its application.

Mandatory quantitative scientometric criteria when occupying the academic position of Professor at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas and reference by group of indicators of the candidate's performance:

<i>Group of indicators</i>	<i>Contents</i>	<i>Minimal requirements</i>	<i>Fulfilled by Dr. Dimitrov</i>
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-
C	Indicators 3 и 4	100	100
D	Sum of indicators 5 to 9	250	656,49
E	Sum of indicators 10 and 12	150	615
F	Sum of indicators 13 to the end	120 (F14=60p.)	251.8 (F14=80 т.)
TOTAL		670	1673.29

Dr. Ivan Nikolov Dimitrov applies with a sufficient number of publications in national and international journals (the same applies to positive citations), having also published one monograph. The candidate meets all the criteria for participation in the competition and significantly exceeds some of them (D, E, F).

Dr. Ivan Nikolov Dimitrov is a proven scientist and teacher, a distinguished clinician with extensive experience and a keen sense for the new developments in neurology,

constantly improving himself. He definitely has leadership qualities and can motivate students and young scientists for achievements in medical innovations.

Conclusion:

The documents I reviewed and the evidentiary material presented by Dr. Ivan Nikolov Dimitrov for participation in the competition for the academic position of Professor in Neurology, announced for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas, according to the competition announced in State Gazette no. 45/12.06.2022, fully comply with the mandatory requirements, quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators, according to the regulation for occupying academic positions at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas, and for most indicators, they exceed the required minimum (groups D, E and F), which is evident from the presented comparative table.

The scientific works of Dr. Ivan Nikolov Dimitrov presented in the competition, are in the field of Neurology and fully comply with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Section III/Section IV of the Regulations for its application: Conditions and procedure for occupying the academic position of Professor, as well as the criteria of Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, city of Burgas, for the academic position of Professor.

I confidently give my positive opinion on the overall activity of Dr. Ivan Nikolov Dimitrov, MD, PhD, DSc, and I propose to the members of the Honorable Scientific Jury to vote positively for him to be elected to the academic position of Professor in Nervous diseases.

20.10.2022

Member of the Scientific Jury:

/Prof. Dr. Valentin Stoyanov, MD, PhD/