

## STATEMENT



regarding: competitions for the academic position “professor” (2 positions)  
scientific specialty “Epidemiology”  
professional direction 7.1. Medicine  
area of higher education 7. Health and sport  
announced for the needs of Medical University-Plovdiv, Dept. of Epidemiology and Disaster  
Medicine, Faculty of Public Health  
in State Gazette issue 56/16.07.2019

**from professor Dr Marianna Atanassova Murdjeva, MD, PhD**

member of the Scientific Jury, Rector’s order P 2062 /07.10.2019:

with scientific specialties in: 1/ Microbiology and 2/ Clinical Immunology

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*This statement is prepared according to the requirements of the Bulgarian Law for Development of Academic Staff (2018) and the Rules in Medical University - Plovdiv for the academic position “professor”*

Further to the announced in State Gazette issue 56 of 16.07.2019 two competitions, two candidates presented sets of documents. Both of them are from the Department of Epidemiology and Disaster Medicine at the Faculty of Public Health, MU-Plovdiv:

1. Associate Professor Dr. Ani Kevork Kevorkian-Sariyan, MD
2. Associate Professor Nikolay Todorov Vatev, MD

They both were admitted to the competition. The submitted documents show that their professional qualification corresponds to the specified habilitation in the specialty.

### **I. Analysis of candidates' career profile**

1. Assoc. Prof. Ani Kevorkian was born in 1974. She graduated from the Higher School of Medicine in Plovdiv (1999). Then she started working at the Multiprofile hospital - Haskovo as a resident doctor in the Infectious Diseases Department and subsequently she went to the Hygiene-Epidemiological Inspection - Haskovo. Since 2002 she has consistently been an assistant, chief assistant and chief administrative assistant at the Department of Epidemiology at the Medical University of Plovdiv. She received a degree in specialty of Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases in 2005. Her PhD thesis was successfully defended in 2012 with a

dissertation entitled "*Study on the dynamics of the epidemic process of hepatitis B at the present stage in the Plovdiv region*". She was hired as associate professor of epidemiology at the same department in 2014.

2. Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Vatev was born in 1957. He graduated in medicine from the Higher Medical Institute in Plovdiv in 1984. He started working at the Military Enterprise in Sopot. From the following year, after a competition, he was appointed as an assistant at the Medical University of Plovdiv, and subsequently took up the positions of senior assistant, chief assistant and associate professor (since 2013). He acquired a specialty in epidemiology in 1990, and Ph.D. in 2010 with a PhD thesis "*Epidemiological study on viral hepatitis to improve prevention and epidemic measures*."

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

The documents are submitted by the candidates in electronic form. Assoc. Prof. Kevorkian presents a more precisely arranged set. The documents contain descriptions and evidence in support of meeting the minimum requirements under the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria (2018). The comparison with the requirements is presented in the attached table.

<b>Groups of Indicators</b>	<b>Minimal point number for a Professor</b>	<b>Associate professor Kevorkian</b>	<b>Associate professor Vatev</b>
A	50	50	50
Б (B)	-	0	0
B (C)	100	100	100
Г (D)	200	431	345.9
Д (E)	100	1020	480
E (F)	100	181	152.4
<b>Total number of points</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>1782</b>	<b>1128.3</b>

## III. Assessment of candidates' scientific activity for overall academic development

### ✓ General characteristics of scientific production and publication activity:

1. Assoc. Prof. Kevorkian participates in the competition with a total of 44 publications, 1 monograph, a chapter of a collective monograph, all after the acquisition of PhD thesis and academic position "Associate Professor". The publications are distributed as follows:

- 16 full-text publications, referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science (2 of them in Impact factor journals)
- 28 full-text publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

2. Assoc. Prof. Vatev submits a total of 40 scientific works for participation in the competition. Out of these, 38 are publications:

- 9 full-text publications, referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science (3 of them in Impact factor journals)
- 29 full-text publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals and in peer-reviewed journals.
- Two monographs are presented, in one of which he is a solitary author.

Applicants' publication activity testifies that data from their scientific results have become available to the scientific community both at home and abroad.

✓ Scientific activity - dissemination and application of the scientific and practical achievements of the applicants in the scientific community

1. Assoc. Prof. Kevorkian has applied 3 abstracts published in Impact Factors journals, as well as participations in 40 scientific events, 26 of which are abroad.

2. Assoc. Prof. Vatev has participated in 3 international scientific events.

✓ Participation in projects

1. Assoc. Prof. Kevorkian participated in the implementation of 2 scientific projects after her habilitation. There is also one educational project funded by the Human Resources Development Programme.

2. Assoc. Prof. Vatev participated in two educational projects of doctors and medical specialists after his habilitation.

✓ Scientific authority

1. Assoc. Prof. Kevorkian is a member of the Expert Council for the Control of Infectious Diseases at the Ministry of Health, a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, The Union of Scientist in Bulgaria, ESCMID, the Bulgarian Scientific Society for Epidemiology of Infectious and Non-communicable Diseases (member of the Management Board), Bulgarian Association for Prevention and Control of Nosocomial Infections (Member of the Management Board), the Bulgarian Scientific Society for Public Health. She has reviewed publications in international scientific journals and a report on a scientific project, PhD theses. She has been a member of scientific juries for the academic position "Chief Assistant "(7 times)," Associate Professor "(2 times) and "Professor" (1 time). She is also a member of the editorial board of "Nosocomial Infections" journal.

2. Assoc. Prof. Vatev is a member of ESCMID, the Bulgarian Scientific Society for the epidemiology of infectious and noncommunicable diseases; The Southern Bulgarian Society for Infectious Diseases, Epidemiology and Parasitology (Member of the Board); Bulgarian Scientific Society for Public Health.

These data indicate that both candidates have established credibility among the scientific community.

✓ Main directions and contributions to the scientific activity

1. Assoc. Prof. Kevorkian has evaluated the immunological efficacy of the anti-hepatitis B vaccine in hemodialysis patients; she supplemented information on the incidence of hepatitis A spread in Bulgaria using seroprevalence studies (anti-HAV-IgG antibodies);

she has studied comprehensively and analyzed the prevalence of *Legionella pneumophila* in dental practice; conducted a study of in-hospital outbreaks; conducted national questionnaires among hospitals in the country assessing the state of the system of decontamination of flexible gastroscopes, the organization of the central supply of sterile materials in medical establishments, the knowledge of dental doctors about the complications of applying bisphosphonate therapy among patients in dentistry; she has also enriched the analysis of other important infections such as measles, rubella, chickenpox.

2. Assoc. Vatev focuses on vaccine-preventable infections. He presents a disturbing fact about the mismatch between officially registered immunizations and the actual vaccine coverage of the population for hepatitis B, measles, rubella. He also investigates the clinical and epidemiological features of the Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, hepatitis A and E, chicken pox, HIV/AIDS and co-infections.

#### **IV. Reflection (citation) of the candidate's publications in national and foreign literature**

1. Assoc. Prof. Kevorkian has 118 citations after her habilitation. Of these, 46 are in foreign journals with IF, 15 in monographs and collective volumes, 32 in non-referred journals, and 25 in diploma and PhD these. Her H-index is 4.

2. After his habilitation, Assoc. Prof. Vatev has 30 citations in scientific journals referenced and indexed in world databases. Of these, 20 are in foreign IF journals, 6 in non-referred journals. His H-index is 3.

Applicants' citations reflect their publication image in the academic community.

#### **V. Assessment of teaching and teaching activities, incl. scientific guidance of students, PhD students, postgraduate students.**

Both applicants have a strong background in university teaching.

1. Assoc. Prof. Kevorkian teaches students and interns at MU-Plovdiv. She conducts practical classes, lectures, participates in semester and state exams of students. Her academic yearly workload exceeds the minimum for MU-Plovdiv - over 400 hours. for the last 3 school years. She participates in the training of trainee doctors as well as specializing general practitioners. She was a scientific co-supervisor of 2 successfully defended PhD students. She is also a keynote speaker at BulNozo Academy. She has co-authored 2 textbooks on epidemiology and 2 textbooks.

2. Assoc. Prof. Vatev also participates in the teaching of epidemiology to students and trainees at the Medical University of Plovdiv. His annual workload varies from 286 to 357 hours over the last 3 years. He is co-supervisor of 1 successfully defended PhD student. He participated as a co-author of 1 textbook published and 1 epidemiology textbook for students.

#### **VI. Conclusion**

After analyzing the materials presented at the competition, I believe that Assoc. Prof. Kevorkian and Assoc. Vatev have established scientific skills and considerable experience in teaching at a higher education institution. The coverage and even exceed the requirements for the academic position Professor of Epidemiology give them grounds to apply for these two

positions. On this basis, I will confidently vote for the acquisition of the academic positions "Professor" by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ani Kevorkian and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nikolay Vatev.

14 Nov 2019 r.

Prof. Dr. Marianna Murdjeva, MD, PhD

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Murdjeva', is located to the right of the printed name.

