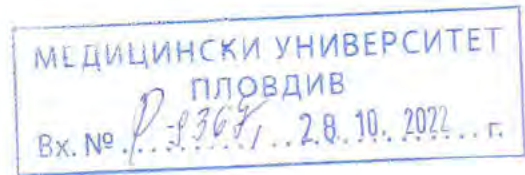


To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury,

by Order No. R-2356/03.10.2022

of the Rector of the Medical
University, Plovdiv



Attached:

Review

regarding a competition for the occupation of an academic position "professor" in the field of Higher Education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, in the scientific specialty Rheumatology (code - 03.01.18) for teaching Bulgarian and English - part-time (4 hours), announced in the State Gazette, issue: 39/27.5.2022, page 16 and on the website of the MU - Plovdiv.

Contact address:

Prof. Dr. Mariana Ivanova Goycheva, PhD

Department "Rheumatology"

Medical Faculty, Medical University, Sofia

Sofia, 16

Phone: 08 **Заличено на основание**
Чл.5 §1, б. "В" Регламент (ЕС)2016/679

E-mail: rr

The aim of the review is the occupation of an academic position "professor" in the field of Health care and sport, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, in the scientific specialty Rheumatology (code - 03.01.18) for teaching in Bulgarian and English - part-time (4 hours), announced in the State Gazette, issue 39/27.05.2022, page 16 and on the website of the Medical University - Plovdiv.

One candidate participated in the competition – Assoc. Prof. Mariela Geneva Geneva-Popova, PhD, the Department of Propedeutics of Internal Medicine "Anton Mitov", MU- Plovdiv.

The review has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations for Academic Development of the MU - Plovdiv, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulation (Sections IV-VI) for occupying the relevant academic position based on the Regulations for the structure and activity of the MU - Plovdiv.

I. Candidate's career profile

1. Education and qualification

Assoc. Prof. Mariela Geneva - Popova, MD, studied medicine from 1985 to 1991 and graduated in 1991 from Medical University, Plovdiv. She has 3 recognized medical specialties - Infectious Diseases, Internal Medicine and Rheumatology. In 2011 she defended a master's degree in Health Management, and since 2018 has a recognized professional qualification "Applied Psychology and Psychotherapy".

Assoc. Prof. M. Geneva - Popova, defended two dissertations - "Acute viral hepatitis B - clinical course, cytokines, lymphocyte populations" in 1998 and "Diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis - clinical characteristics, bone metabolism, risk factors and recommendations for early diagnosis" in 2012. Since 2014 she is an associate professor at the Department of Propedeutics of Internal Medicine, MU - Plovdiv.

2. Work experience and specializations

Her job as a doctor has begun in the Department of Infectious Diseases, Pazardzhik in 1993. During the period 1995-1998 she has been a doctoral student in the "Department of Infectious Diseases, Epidemiology and Parasitology", Medical University - Plovdiv. In 1998 she started working as a doctor in the Rheumatology Clinic, General Hospital "Sv. Georgi", Plovdiv. 2014 – 2017 she was the Head of the Internal Department of the "Trimontsium" Hospital, Plovdiv. Since 2017 she became the Head of the Rheumatology Clinic, General Hospital "Sv. Georgi", Plovdiv.

In the period 1999-2007 Assoc. prof. M. Geneva-Popova was an assistant at the Department of Propedeutics of Internal Medicine at the Medical University of Plovdiv, 2007 – 2011 she was a senior assistant, and since 2011 was a principal assistant.

Since 2014 Assoc. prof. M. Geneva-Popova has been an associate professor at the same department.

Since 2019 Assoc. Prof. M. Geneva - Popova has been the vice dean "Quality and Accreditation" of the Faculty of Medicine, Medical University - Plovdiv.

In order to participate in the competition, Assoc. Prof. Geneva - Popova presents a Certificate in Joint Echography (basic course), issued by the MU - Plovdiv, a Certificate in Abdominal Echography, issued by the MU - Plovdiv, English language exam report, level B2/03.10.2014 and B2/04.08.2022, MU - Plovdiv, diploma "First Basic MSU course for Rheumatologist", Sofia, Bulgaria, 2011.

The duration of her career is presented with documents as of 10.06.2022 is 29 years, 0 months, 9 days old.

3. Study load and teaching activity

The academic workload (including practical classes, lectures and exams) during the last 3 years of Assoc. Prof. Geneva - Popova are as follows: during the academic year 2019-2020. – 490 hours, 2020-2021 – 490 hours and 2021-2022. – 490 hours, which is above the required study load of 120 hours.

Assoc. Prof. M. Geneva - Popova conducts a full lecture course in Propedeutics of internal diseases for 3rd year medical students in English, and takes part of the lecture course in rheumatology.

4. Administrative - academic activity

In the Department of Propedeutics of Internal Medicine, Assoc. Prof. M. Geneva - Popova is responsible for the scientific and research activities. She is a participant in the Educational Mobility with the aim of teaching under the Erasmus+ program, MU - Plovdiv and in Working Groups at the National Health Insurance Fund as an expert.

Assoc. Prof. M. Geneva - Popova participates in conducting theoretical courses in Rheumatology, MU - Plovdiv. She is a member of the University Quality Committee and chair of the Faculty Quality Committee. Since 2020 she has been the course leader of the 3rd Medical Course at the Medical University - Plovdiv, Faculty of Medicine.

Assoc. Prof. M. Geneva - Popova is the supervisor of two successfully defended doctoral students and four other are still developing their doctoral studies. She was the supervisor of six specialists, four of whom already had acquired the "rheumatology" specialty.

II. Presented materials for the competition

The materials for the competition are presented in electronic form, photocopies of the summaries of publications and published monographs according to the requirements of the Regulations of the MU - Plovdiv.

III. Evaluation of the scientific works of the candidate for the overall academic development. The works after acquiring the academic position "associate professor" were evaluated.

1. Characteristics of scientific production

To participate in the competition, Assoc. Prof. M. Geneva-Popova submits a total of 87 published materials, all of which are after the academic position of "associate professor". They are as follows: 20 scientific publications in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in global databases of scientific information with Impact Factor, 63 publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes, participation in 2 textbooks, respectively - Propaedeutics of internal diseases and Internal diseases for medical students, 4 monographs (one co-authored), 1 study aid. Participation in congresses and conferences in Bulgaria and abroad with posters or reports that have been published in journals with or without impact factor are not reviewed in this contest.

2. Scientific activity

The scientific activity of the candidate includes developments in the field of degenerative joint diseases (Forestier's disease, osteoarthritis of the knee joint), osteoporosis, inflammatory joint diseases (rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis), systemic connective tissue diseases (systemic lupus erythematosus, systemic sclerosis). For years, innovatively and expertly, Assoc. Prof. M. Geneva-Popova developed topics in the field of immunobiology, cytokines, chemokines involved in the pathogenesis of rheumatic diseases and published reports or full-text publications in prestigious scientific journals.

3. Participation in scientific projects

Assoc. Prof. M. Geneva-Popova participated in the development of eleven scientific projects - two for the "Scientific Research" and "Working Conditions" funds, she was the scientific supervisor on three of the projects, and a member of the scientific team. She is also a member of one international project at EULAR on the topic "Dissemination and assessing implementation of the EULAR recommendations for patient education in inflammatory arthritis across Europe", finalized in 2021.

4. Scientific and creative achievements

Assoc. Prof. M. Geneva-Popova's scientific and creative achievements are in the fields of inflammatory, degenerative joint diseases and systemic connective tissue diseases. She, along with other colleagues, have studied chemokines in lupus and have proved for the first time in Bulgaria that the level of the IFN-induced chemokines CCL2, CXCL10 and CCL19 have prognostic value regarding the activity of SLE and the degree of organ damage. The same chemokines were studied and monitored in patients with Sjogren's syndrome, which have showed the diverse interests of Assoc. Prof. M. Geneva-Popova in the study of various rheumatic diseases.

As a result of her work with a doctoral student, they have observed the dynamics of the formation of drug-neutralizing antibodies against TNF- α blockers in patients with inflammatory joint diseases - rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and their role on the activity of the diseases.

Assoc. Prof. M. Geneva-Popova has participated in studies published in prestigious medical journals regarding the prognostic significance of serum levels and the ratio between RANKL and OPG in patients with acute coronary syndrome and inflammatory joint diseases.

5. Guidance of doctoral students

Assoc. Prof. M. Geneva - Popova is the supervisor of two successfully defended doctoral students. This fulfills the requirements of the MU - Plovdiv for awarding the academic position of "professor".

IV. Evaluation of the monographic work

The topics represented in the monographs are up to date, contemporary, significant, with indisputable scientific, theoretical and practical value from the rheumatological, general internist and general medicine points of view. The monographs are written in a clear and concise style.

V. Citation of the candidate's publications in the national and foreign literature

From the attached reference, it can be seen that the citations of Assoc. Prof. M. Geneva - Popova are 180, referenced in Scopus and/or Web of Science sources. 7 of the mentioned citations are in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review and 45 citations or reviews - in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

VI. Complex, qualitative assessment of educational - methodical and teaching activity

Assoc. Prof. Mariela Geneva - Popova is a long-time teacher, possesses the necessary pedagogical skills and experience for a full-fledged teaching activity. Along with that, Assoc. Prof. Geneva-Popova has been working at the University Clinic of Rheumatology as its head for years and has achieved a number of successes in the treatment of rheumatic pathology. Her selection as a professor is a consequence of the accumulated experience, scientific production, publication activity and teaching experience.

VII. Critical notes and recommendations

I don't have any critical notes and recommendations.

VIII. Assessment of the applicant's compliance with the mandatory conditions and mandatory quantitative criteria according to the University's regulations.

Assoc. Prof. Mariela Geneva - Popova meets the requirements of the University Regulations - completion of higher medical education, acquired specialties, she is PhD and the mandatory quantitative scientometric criteria for awarding the academic position "professor".

IX. Conclusion

Based on the cited data and bearing in mind the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff and the Regulations for the Activities of the MU-Plovdiv, I recommend to the respected Scientific Jury to vote positively for Assoc. Prof.

Mariela Gencheva Geneva - Popova, PhD to be awarded an academic position "Professor" for the needs of the Department of Propedeutics of Internal Medicine at the MU - Plovdiv.

15.10.2022

Sofia

Reviewer: 

Заличено на основание
Чл.5 §1, б."В" Регламент (ЕС)2016/679

/Prof. Mariana Ivanova, MD, PhD/