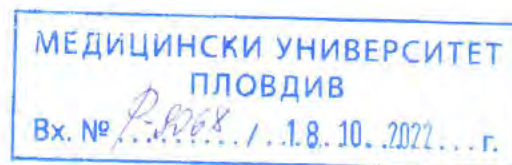


To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury,

By Order No. R-2356/03.10.2022

of the Rector of the Medical University, Plovdiv



Attached: **Review**

By competition for the occupation of the 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. Stoyanka Vladeva, PhD,

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The review was prepared in connection with holding a competition for the occupation of the academic position of "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 women and English language - part-time (4 hours), announced in the State Gazette number: 39/27.5.2022, page 16 and on the website of the MU - Plovdiv.

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

The review was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations for Academic Development of MU-Plovdiv, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulation (Sections IV-VI) for occupying the relevant academic position from the Regulations for the organization and activities of MU-Plovdiv.

I. Candidate's career profile

1. Education and qualification

Assoc.prof. Mariela Geneva-Popova, PhD, graduated from "Bertolt Brecht" high school with teaching of foreign languages, Pazardzhik. In 1991, she graduated as a doctor at the "Iv. P. Pavlov", Medical University, Plovdiv. Assoc.prof. M. Geneva has 3 recognized medical specialties – Infectious Diseases, Internal Medicine and Rheumatology. In 2011, she defended her master's degree in Health Management, and since 2018 she has a recognized professional qualification in "Applied Psychology and Psychotherapy". In 1999, she defended a dissertation on the topic "Acute viral hepatitis B - clinical course, cytokines, lymphocyte populations" with the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in medicine, and in 2013 - a doctorate on the topic "Diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis - clinical characteristics", bone metabolism, risk factors and recommendations for early diagnosis.

In 2014, she was elected as an associate professor at the Department of Propedeutics of Internal Medicine, Plovdiv Medical University.

2. Work experience and specializations

Dr. Geneva-Popova started working in the Department of Infectious Diseases, Pazardzhik. In the period 1995-1998, she was a doctoral student at the Department of Infectious Diseases, Epidemiology and Parasitology of the Medical University "Iv. P. Pavlov"-Plovdiv. In 1998, she started working at the Rheumatology Clinic, General Hospital "Sv. Georgi", Plovdiv. Since 2014, she has been the head of the Internal Department of the "Trimontsium" Hospital, Plovdiv, and from 2017 to the present, she is the head of the Rheumatology Clinic at the General Hospital "Sv. Georgi", Plovdiv.

In the period 1999-2007, she was an assistant at the Department of Propedeutics of Internal Medicine of MU-Plovdiv, from 2007-2011 she was elected as a senior assistant, in 2011 she was elected as a chief assistant, and in 2014 as an associate professor at the same department.

Since 2019, Assoc. prof. Geneva-Popova is the Vice Dean "Quality and Accreditation" of the Faculty of Medicine, Medical University-Plovdiv.

To participate in the competition, Assoc. prof. Geneva-Popova submits a Certificate for Joint Ultrasound, issued by the Medical University of Plovdiv, a Certificate for Abdominal Ultrasound, issued by the Medical University of Plovdiv, English language exam report, level B2/03.10.2014 and B2/04.08.2022, MU- Plovdiv, DIPLOM "First Basic MSU course for Rheumatologist", Sofia, Bulgaria, 2011

The documented work experience as of 10.06.2022 is 29 years, 0 months, 9 days.

3. Study load and teaching activity

The classroom teaching employment (including exercises, lectures and exams) during the last 3 years of Assoc. prof. Geneva-Popova is as follows: in the academic year 2019-2020 – 490 hours, 2020-2021 – 490 hours and 2021-2022. – 490 hours.

Assoc. prof. Geneva-Popova conducts a full lecture course on Propedeutics of internal diseases for 3rd year medical students in English, participates in the lecture course on rheumatology.

4. Administrative-academic activity

In the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine, Assoc. prof. Geneva-Popova is responsible for 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 NHIF as an expert.

Assoc. prof. Geneva-Popova participated 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, he has been the course director of the III Medical Course at the Medical University of Plovdiv. She is the supervisor of two successfully defended doctoral students and four who are developing their doctorates. Assoc. prof. M. Geneva is the head of six specialists, four of whom already have a "rheumatology" specialty.

II. Presented materials for the competition

The materials for the competition are submitted 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. Works after obtaining the academic position "Associate Professor" are evaluated.

1. Characteristics of scientific production

To participate in the competition, the candidate presents a total of 90 publications after holding the academic position of "docent" - 20 scientific publications in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in global databases for scientific information with an Impact Factor, 63 publications and reports published in non-refereed journals with a scientific peer review or published in edited collective volumes, participation in 2 textbooks, respectively on Propedeutics of internal

diseases and Internal diseases for medical students, 4 monographs (one co-authored), 1 teaching aid, participation in congresses and conferences in Bulgaria and abroad with posters or reports.

2. Scientific activity

To participate in the competition, Assoc. prof. Geneva-Popova submitted a total of 83 publications in Bulgarian and international journals, 4 monographs, 2 contributions to a textbook and teaching aid, numerous poster participations in congresses and conferences (they are not evaluated in this competition).

The different topics, methodologies and rheumatological pathology, the subject of the cited monographs, reflect the diverse scientific interests of the candidate.

3. Participation in scientific projects

Assoc. prof. Geneva-Popova participated in the development of eleven scientific projects - two for the "Scientific Research" and "Working Conditions" funds, she was the scientific supervisor of three of the projects, and a member of the scientific team of the others. She is also a member of 1 international project at EULAR on the topic "Dissemination and assessing implementation of the EULAR recommendations for patient education in inflammatory arthritis across Europe", completed in 2021.

4. Scientific and creative achievements

Assoc. prof. Geneva-Popova works in the following areas:

4.1. Conducting immunological studies in rheumatology. She studied the IFN- α induced cytokines CCL2, CXCL10, and CCL19 in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus and demonstrated that they have prognostic value regarding SLE disease activity and degree of organ damage. Another aspect in this direction is the analysis of immunological and capillaroscopic characteristics of patients with progressive systemic sclerosis, as well as the role of proinflammatory cytokines in patients with acute coronary syndrome.

Together with a team, Assoc Geneva studies drug-neutralizing antibodies against TNF- α blockers and their role as biomarkers for evaluating their therapeutic effect in inflammatory joint diseases, as well as serum osteoprotegerin and receptor activator of nuclear factor kappa-B ligand in patients with rheumatological diseases

4.2. Direction of psoriatic arthritis

Assoc. prof. M. Geneva studies various aspects of the pathogenesis of psoriatic arthritis - the role of enzymes, cytokines, immune molecules in the development of psoriatic arthritis and the possibility of using them as biomarkers for diagnosis and prognosis of the disease.

4.3. Direction of rheumatoid arthritis

Assoc. prof. M. Geneva studies the expression of TNF- α in unstable atherosclerotic plaques, serum levels of IL-6 and TNF- α in patients with acute coronary syndrome and rheumatoid arthritis. Several studies have analyzed pathobiochemical mechanisms linking iron homeostasis to parameters of inflammatory activity and autoimmune disorders in rheumatoid arthritis.

4.4. Direction Diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis

Assoc. prof. M. Geneva publishes various aspects of Forestier's disease related to diagnosis, complications, prognosis.

4.5. Direction of patient education

Assoc. prof. M. Geneva studies together with an international team the dissemination and evaluation of the implementation of the EULAR recommendations for patient education in inflammatory arthritis, as well as the accessibility and awareness of rheumatology care for patients.

4.6. Direction of degenerative rheumatic diseases

Assoc. prof. M. Geneva studies the influence of chest deformations on the functional examination of breathing in patients with rheumatological diseases, osteoarthritis as a socially significant disease, the relationship between metabolic syndrome and gout in relation to this direction.

4.7. Direction: other diseases in the field of rheumatology

Assoc. prof. M. Geneva has contributed to a number of publications related to fibromyalgia, Ponce disease, mixed connective tissue disease, primary Raynaud's phenomenon, systemic vasculitis, Sjogren's syndrome, Mucopolysaccharidosis IV, Takayasu's arteritis

5. Guidance of doctoral students

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

IV. Evaluation of the monographic work

Assoc. prof. M. Geneva presents 4 monographs for participation in the competition. The topics discussed in the monographs are current, with theoretical and practical value. They are written in clear, concise and concise Bulgarian language. The bibliographies are up-to-date from recent years. 3 of the monographs were written in the last year, despite the existing problems related to the coronavirus pandemic.

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 Prof. Geneva-Popova are 180 referenced in Scopus and/or Web of Science sources. Prof. Geneva-Popova's citations repeatedly exceed those required by the University Regulations- 15 pieces. 7 of the cited citations are in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes and 45 citations or reviews in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

VI. Complex, qualitative evaluation of the teaching-methodical and teaching activities

Prof. M. Geneva-Popova is a clinician, a long-time teacher, possesses the necessary pedagogical skills, experience and experience for a full-fledged teaching activity. Her selection as a professor is a consequence of the accumulated experience, scientific production, publication activity and teaching experience.

VII. No 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.

Prof. M. Geneva-Popova meets the requirements of the University Regulations - completion of higher medical education, acquired specialties, ONS "doctor" 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 Rules for the Activities of the MU-Plovdiv, I recommend to the respected Scientific Jury to vote with a positive vote for Associate Professor M. Geneva-Popova, that she be given an academic "Professor" position for the needs of the Department of Propedeutics of Internal Medicine at the Medical University of Plovdiv.

Prof. Dr. StoyankaVladeva, PhD

Stara Zagora

17.10. 2022

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