



The Chairman of the Scientific Jury,

By Order No. R-2356/03.10.2022

of the Rector of the Medical University, city of Plovdiv

*Attached: opinion on the 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 and English - part-time (4 hours), announced in the State Gazette issue: 39/27.5.2022, page 16 and on the Internet page MU - Plovdiv.*

Contact address:

Prof. Dr. Rumen Malinov Stoilov, PhD,

Department of "Rheumatology"

Medical U

City of S

Phone: 08

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

E-mail: ru

The aim of the review is the occupation of an 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 and English - part-time (4 hours), announced in the State Gazette number: 39/27.5.2022, page 16 and on the Internet the page of MU - Plovdiv.

One candidate participated in the competition - Associate Professor Mariela Gencheva Geneva-Popova, PhD. - associate professor at 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 ZRASRB, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulation (Sections IV-VI) for occupying the relevant academic position from the Regulations for the structure and activity of the MU-Plovdiv.

## I. Candidate's career profile

### 1. Education and qualification

Assoc. Dr. Mariela Geneva-Popova, PhD, graduated medicine in 1991 at the "Iv. P. Pavlov", Plovdiv. She 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".

Assoc. Prof. M. Geneva - Popova, defended two dissertations - "Acute viral hepatitis B - clinical course, cytokines, lymphocyte populations" with the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in medicine awarded in 1998, and in 2013 a dissertation on the topic "Diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis - clinical characteristic, bone metabolism, risk factors and recommendations for early diagnosis" with a diploma from MU-Plovdiv.

Since 2014, she is an associate professor at the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine, Plovdiv Medical University.

### 2. Work experience and specialisations

Her job as a doctor began in the Department of Infectious Diseases, Pazardzhik in 1993. During the period 1995-1998, she was a doctoral student at the Department of Infectious Diseases, Epidemiology and Parasitology of the "Iv. P. Pavlov" - Plovdiv. In 1998, she started working as a doctor at the Rheumatology Clinic, Saint George Medical Center. From 2014 to 2017, she was the head of the Internal Department of the "Trimontsium" Medical Center, and since 2017 she became the head of the Rheumatology Clinic at the "St. George" Medical Center.

In the period 1999-2007, Prof. Geneva was an assistant in 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 chief assistant. Since 2014, she became 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.

In order to participate in the competition, Assoc. Prof. Geneva-Popova presents a Certificate for joint ultrasound (basic course), issued by the MU - Plovdiv, a Certificate for Abdominal ultrasound, issued by the MU - Plovdiv, English language exam report, level B2/03.10.2014 ..

MU - Plovdiv, DESO and conducted exam in English, B2/04.08.2022, MU - Plovdiv, DESO, DIPLOM "FirstBasic 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 academic workload (including practical classes, lectures and exams) during the last 3 years of Associate Professor Geneva-Popova is as follows: in the academic year 2019-2020 – 490 hours, 2020-2021 – 490 hours and 2021-2022. – 490 hours.

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

### 4. Administrative-academic activity

In the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine, 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 that are dealing with the prescription of medicinal products.

Prof. Geneva 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 is the course leader of the III Medical Course of the MU - Plovdiv, Faculty of Medicine.

She is the supervisor of two successfully defended doctoral students and four other who are still developing their doctorates. She was the supervisor of six interns, four of whom already have a "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, the candidate submits 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 journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes, participation in 2 textbooks, respectively in Propedeutics 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.

## 2. Scientific activity

To participate in the competition, Prof. Geneva-Popova submitted a total of 83 publications in Bulgarian and international magazines, 4 monographs, 2 contributions to a textbook and study aid, numerous poster participations in congresses and conferences. The scientific activity of the candidate includes developments in the field of degenerative joint diseases (such as Forestier's disease, osteoarthritis of the knee joint, osteoporosis), inflammatory joint diseases (rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis), systemic diseases of the connective tissue (systemic lupus, systemic sclerosis).

## 3. Participation in scientific projects

Associate Professor 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

Prof. Geneva-Popova's scientific and creative achievements are in the fields of inflammatory, degenerative and systemic joint diseases. Along with other colleagues she studied chemokines in lupus and proved for the first time in Bulgaria that the level of the IFN-induced chemokines CCL2, CXCL10 and CCL19 has a prognostic value regarding the activity of the SLE disease and the degree of organ damage.

Along with a doctoral student, she observed the dynamics of the formation of drug-neutralizing antibodies against TNF- $\alpha$  blockers in patients with inflammatory joint diseases - rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and their role in the activity of the diseases.

Assoc. Geneva 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

Prof. 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 discussed 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. They are written in clear and concise Bulgarian language.

#### 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. The citations of Assoc. Prof. Geneva-Popova repeatedly exceed those required by the University Regulations - 15 citations. Seven of them are in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes, and 45 citations or reviews are in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

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

Assoc. Dr. M. Geneva-Popova is an established clinician, a long-time teacher, possesses the necessary pedagogical skills and experience for a full-fledged teaching activity. Her election as a professor is a natural consequence of the accumulated rich clinical experience, significant scientific production, high publication activity and teaching experience.

VII. Critical notes and recommendations – She does not 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.

I believe that Associate Professor M. Geneva-Popova fully meets the requirements of the University Regulations - completion of higher medical education, acquired specialties, she is also 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 with a positive vote the candidacy of Associate Professor M. 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.

Prof. Dr. Rumen Stoilov MD.

Sofia 25.10. 2022

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