

To  
The Chairman of the Scientific Jury,  
appointed by Order № R-2006/13.07.2023  
by the Rector of Medical University – Plovdiv  
15A Vassil Aprilov blvd.  
4002 Plovdiv

**On your Protocol №1/ from 17.07.2023**  
(date of the 1st ...)



**I present attached: Review**

regarding the competition for the academic position of *Associate Professor*  
in scientific specialty *Pharmacology (incl. Pharmacokinetics and Chemotherapy)*  
announced for the needs of MU – Plovdiv, *Department of Pharmacology and Clinical  
Pharmacology*  
in the State Newspaper, issue №32/08.04.2023

**Reviewer:** Corr.-member Prof. Mila Vasileva Vlaskovska, MD, PhD, MSc  
Scientific specialty/s Pharmacology  
Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, MF, MU Sofia

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## Review

By Prof. Mila Vasileva Vlaskovska, MD, PhD, MSc, Corr.-member of BAS,  
Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, MF, MU Sofia

Regarding the competition for the academic position of *Associate Professor* in scientific specialty *Pharmacology (incl. Pharmacokinetics and Chemotherapy)* announced for the needs of MU – Plovdiv, *Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology* in the State Newspaper, issue №32/08.04.2023.

One candidate has participated in the competition – Senior Assistant Professor Hristina Ivanova Zlatanova, MD, PhD.

I was provided with all the required materials for evaluating the candidate for “Associate Professor”, which were extremely meticulously arranged.

### I. SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL DATA AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Hristina Ivanova Zlatanova was born in Plovdiv. In 2008 she graduated from "Sveti Paisii Hilendarski" high school, Plovdiv, with technological profile and German language. In 2014 she graduated from Medical University - Plovdiv with a Master's degree in Medicine.

2015 - 2019 worked as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, MU Plovdiv;

2018 - successfully defended her PhD thesis in the scientific specialty "Pharmacology (incl. Pharmacokinetics and Chemotherapy)" on the topic of "Experimental pharmacological study of the analgesic and anti-inflammatory activity of newly synthesized pyrrole derivatives";

From 2019 until now she works as a Senior Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, MU Plovdiv;

2020 – acquired the specialty "Pharmacology";

Responsible for Academic Activities and Quality and Accreditation in the Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology.

Memberships: Bulgarian Medical Association, Board of Directors of the Youth Scientific Association "Asclepius", Bulgarian Society of Pharmacology, Clinical Pharmacology and Therapy, Co-founder of the Bulgarian Society for Simulation Medicine.

Awards: Certificate of distinction from Bulgarian Medical Association and Medical University - Plovdiv , "Golden Hippocrates" award – valedictorian of year 2014, Certificate for excellent performance in the scientific session "Science and youth - 2016" and "Science and youth - 2018", "ECNP Excellence Award" 34th ECNP Congress 2021.

She is fluent in English, German and Italian.

## II. OVERVIEW OF THE SUBMITTED COMPETITION DOCUMENTS

Dr. Hristina Zlatanova has submitted the following documents for the competition:

- ✓ Application to the Rector of MU–Plovdiv;
- ✓ Autobiography in European format;
- ✓ Copy of the diploma for completed higher education with addendum;
- ✓ Copy of the diploma for PhD acquisition;
- ✓ Certificate of internship in the respective specialty and reference for the occupied academic positions;
- ✓ Academic reference for the academic workload for the last 3 academic years;
- ✓ Copy of the last attestation sheet;
- ✓ Author's abstract of dissertation work for PhD degree;
- ✓ Habilitation work – monograph on the topic of Drug interactions;
- ✓ List of publications in scientific journals, referenced and indexed only in Scopus and/or Web of Science;
- ✓ List of publications in non-referenced journals with scientific review or published in redacted collective volumes;
- ✓ List of citations and/or reviews in scientific journals, referenced and indexed only in Scopus and/or Web of Science with evidence from databases;
- ✓ List of citations and/or reviews in non-referenced journals with scientific review;
- ✓ Copy of the diploma for the recognized specialty;
- ✓ Documents certifying participation in national scientific projects;
- ✓ List of published university textbooks with evidence material;
- ✓ Document, certifying training of interns;
- ✓ Reference for original scientific contributions with supporting material;
- ✓ Reference-self-assessment for the fulfillment of the specific scientometric requirements;
- ✓ Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;

- ✓ Copies of publications in referenced and indexed journals;
- ✓ Abstracts of the presented publications in Bulgarian and English;
- ✓ Other documents – qualification courses, certificates, memberships;
- ✓ Completed card for NACID;
- ✓ Certificate of Proficiency in English, issued by Cambridge (CPE), level C2 according to the European language framework.

### III. SCIENCE AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Dr. Hristina Zlatanova has participated in the competition with a total of **37 scientific works**, as follows:

- ✓ Monograph on the subject of *Drug interactions*, which is presented as the main habilitation work - 137 pages;
- ✓ **12 publications in indexed journals**, in world-famous databases with scientific information (Scopus and Web of Science), 6 of which have an impact factor;
- ✓ 24 publications in non-referenced journals with scientific review or publications in redacted collective volumes.

In 8 of the presented articles, Dr. Hristina Zlatanova is the first or only author, and in the remaining 28 she is the second or subsequent author.

Dr. Hristina Zlatanova has participated in 53 scientific forums, of which 29 are international. I evaluate very positively the presentation of scientific results in forums that allow the exchange of ideas and the promotion of scientists.

Dr. Hristina Zlatanova is a leading researcher or part of the team of 8 scientific projects, 3 of which are national or European projects with a national program operator.

The candidate is a reviewer in several scientific international journals with impact factor: *Toxicology* - 2022 ; *Frontiers in Neuroscience* - 2023; *Journal of Psychiatric Research* - 2023.

#### **Main thematic directions and scientific contributions**

Dr. Hristina Zlatanova has presented her personal contributions in detail and correctly, most of which have an original fundamental, scientific-applied and confirmatory character. The presented scientific contributions are the following:

1. Experimental study of the analgesic and anti-inflammatory activity of newly synthesized pyrrole derivatives – 8 publications, 2 extended resumes, 1 participation in a scientific forum, 10 citations;

2. Experimental studies on the antipsychotic cariprazine - 2 publications, 2 extended resumes, 1 citation;

3. Experimental research on *Morinda citrifolia* (noni) - 2 extended resumes, 2 citations;

4. Experimental research on the antidepressant escitalopram - 1 publication, 1 extended resume, 1 participation in a scientific forum, 3 citations.

As part of a scientific team, the work of Dr. Zlatanova can be further summarized in the following main directions:

1. Experimental pharmacological studies on phytoproducts for antidepressive, anxiolytic, analgesic, anti-inflammatory activity;

2. Experimental pharmacological studies of vitamin D on learning and memory processes;

3. Experimental pharmacological studies on antiparkinsonian drugs (pramipexole and tolcapone).

My comprehensive assessment of the presented monograph, publications and scientific projects is positive.

#### IV. EVALUATION OF THE MONOGRAPHIC WORK

The monograph, presented as the main habilitation work, is on the topic of Drug interactions. It is devoted to the current and significant problem of modern drug therapy from a theoretical and scientific-applied point of view. The information is presented competently and comprehensively and is of indisputable benefit in reducing the negative consequences of drug interactions, increasing the effectiveness and safety of pharmacotherapy. The monograph would be of interest to a wide range of readers - not only specialists in the field of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology, but also doctors from clinical specialties, interns, and students.

My assessment of the presented monograph is highly positive.

#### V. REFLECTION OF THE CANDIDATE'S PUBLICATIONS IN NATIONAL AND FOREIGN LITERATURE

Dr. Hristina Zlatanova significantly exceeds the normative requirements for citation of scientific works (600 points according to the table for self-assessment from citations in journals referenced in Scopus and/or Web of Science). She has presented an additional list of citations in non-referenced journals (55 points according to the table for self-assessment), which undoubtedly reflects the international recognition of the candidate's scientific output.

## VI. EDUCATIONAL AND TEACHING ACTIVITY

In the last 3 years, the total academic workload, including hours of semester and state exams, exceeds the standard of 360 academic hours. I highlight the fact that the hours reach and even exceed 150% workload.

The academic references submitted for the academic workload are as follows:

2019/2020 - 546 hours; 2020/2021 - 609 hours; 2021/2022 - 585 hours.

Dr. Hristina Zlatanova participates in conducting practical classes in Pharmacology for medical students, dental students, nurses; practical classes in Clinical Pharmacology for medical students. She is responsible for medical interns and conducts relevant seminars during their internship at the department. She is also responsible for Educational activities, Quality and accreditation, and Website maintenance of the Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology.

Her joint scientific work with students has led to 4 participations in national and international scientific forums, and 2 full-text publications. She participated in the 42nd National Meeting of the Association of Medical Students in Bulgaria as a trainer and leader of the "Emergency Pharmacotherapy" workshop.

Dr. Hristina Zlatanova has participated in the writing of 42 chapters in Pharmacology textbooks and study guides.

## VII. CRITICAL NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I have no critical remarks to the candidate. My recommendation is to continue her research and publication activity in the areas in which she has already shown herself, especially regarding drug interactions and pharmacogenetics, since these are important parts of Pharmacology with great significance in clinical practice. To continue with the same enthusiasm and dedication to teach the young, motivated students.

## VIII. OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE CANDIDATE'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE MINIMUM NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF MU - PLOVDIV

Dr. Hristina Zlatanova **fully covers and significantly exceeds** the minimum national requirements under art. 2b, par. 2 and 3, respectively the requirements under article 2b, par. 5 of Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) and the specific requirements of MU – Plovdiv, defined in the Academic Development Regulations (**Table 1**).

**Table 1.** Minimum required points by group of indicators for the academic position  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

GROUP OF INDICATORS		POINTS FOR "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR"	CANDIDATE POINTS
A		50 points	50 points
B		100 points	100 points
C		220 points 15 articles, 10 of which in journals referenced in Scopus and/or Web of Science, including 5 articles with IF	292 points 36 articles 12 in journals referenced in Scopus and/or Web of Science 6 articles with IF
D		200 points 10 citations in journals, referenced in Scopus and/or Web of Science	655 points 37 citations and 3 reviews in journals, referenced in Scopus and/or Web of Science 11 citations in non-referenced journals
E		80 points 2 scientific projects (including intra-university projects) acquired specialty	128.15 points 8 scientific projects (incl. 5 intra-university projects) acquired specialty in Pharmacology 1 university textbook 8 university workbooks responsible for training interns
F	Academic workload (lectures and practical classes)	150 points (for the last 2 years X 0.5 p/hour)	542 points for the last 2 years - 1084 hours
	Academic position	200 points (senior asst. professor - 100 p. for 1 year)	385 points senior asst. professor – 3 years 10 m.
TOTAL		1000 points	2152.15 points

## IX. CONCLUSION

Dr. Hristina Ivanova Zlatanova **fully meets and exceeds** the mandatory and specific conditions and scientific criteria indicated in the DASRBA and the Academic Development Regulations in MU - Plovdiv for the academic position "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR". I know Dr. Zlatanova as an extremely motivated academic teacher and researcher. Obtaining the position of Associate Professor will give her the opportunity to develop those qualities, so necessary for creating educated medical specialists. In addition, she is distinguished by an extremely broad general and professional culture, analytical mind, creative approach, and humanity. All the listed above achievements and her personal qualities allow me to confidently suggest to the members of the esteemed scientific jury to vote **positively** for the acquiring of the academic position "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" by Hristina Ivanova Zlatanova, MD, PhD in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine and scientific specialty of Pharmacology (incl. Pharmacokinetics and Chemotherapy) for the needs of the Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine at Medical University - Plovdiv.

31 July 2023  
Sofia

Залчено на 09.07.2023  
Reviewer: Чл. 5 §1, б. "В" Регламент (LC) 7015/079  
Corr.-member Prof. Mila Vlaskovska, MD, PhD, MSc