

Посветени на хуманността

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**To**  
**The Chair of the Scientific Jury,**  
**Determined by Order No. R - 2383/11.07.2024.**  
**of Vice-Rector SRA of Medical University - Plovdiv**

*According to Order № P -3580/05.12.2023.*

**Bldv. B. Aprilov №15A**  
**4002 Plovdiv**

**To your Protocol No. 1 / of 18.07.2024**

***Please find attached: REVIEW***

for competition for an academic position: 'PROFESSOR'

in scientific specialty "Rheumatology"

announced for the needs of MU-Plovdiv, Dept. "Propedeutics of Internal Diseases "Prof. Dr. Anton Mitov" in the State Gazette, issue 35/19.April.2024.

**Reviewer:** Prof. Dr. Silvia Bogdanova Tsvetkova-Trichkova, PhD

Professional field: 7.1 Medicine

Scientific specialty: Diagnostic imaging

Institution: Medical University - Plovdiv

Address and contacts:

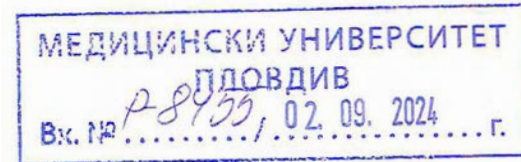
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**Чл.5 §1, б. "В" Регламент (ЕС)2016/679**



## REVIEW

### About the candidate Assoc. Prof. Sevdalina Nikolova Lambova , Ph.

#### I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile.

Assoc.Prof. Dr. Sevdalina Nikolova Lambova, PhD completed her secondary education at the "Vasil Levski" secondary school in the town of Karlovo with excellent grades. She graduated as a physician in 2003 at the Medical Faculty of the University of Thrace, Stara Zagora with excellent grades in her studies and state examinations. In 2014 she graduated as a Master in Public Health and Health Management at the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University of Plovdiv. Assoc.prof. S. Lambova has obtained a diploma in specialties Internal Medicine /2016/ and in Rheumatology /2015/.

Assoc. Prof. Lambova, PhD has worked as physician-resident at the Clinic of Rheumatology, University Hospital "St. George" EAD Plovdiv, physician-resident at the Department of Rheumatology at the University Hospital "Pulmed" Plovdiv, and at the moment she is the head of the Department of Rheumatology at the Hospital "St. Mina" and a physician-rheumatologist at MC 6 - Plovdiv. At the time of the announcement of the competition she has over 14 years of medical experience.

In 2004, after a successful competition, Assoc. Prof. Lambova was appointed as a full-time PhD student in Rheumatology, Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Diseases, and from 2007 to the present moment she has successively passed through all stages of her career development - Assistant Professor /2007 - 2018/, Chief Assistant Professor /2018 - 2022/ and Associate Professor /2022 to the present moment/.

In 2011 she successfully defended her dissertation thesis on "The role of capillaroscopy in rheumatology" at the Justus Liebig University, Giessen, Germany and obtained the **PhD degree**, which in 2013 was also recognized by MU-Plovdiv.

Assoc. Prof. Lambova, PhD has attended a number of international courses: joint ultrasonography course, Leeds, UK, Capillaroscopy course, Genoa, Italy, Scleroderma-Belgrade, Serbia, courses under the auspices of EULAR, as well as numerous courses in the country.

Assoc. Prof. Lambova, PhD was a lecturer and demonstrator in a course on capillaroscopy in 2009 at Kerkhof Clinic, Bad Nauheim, Germany and in a course "Progressive Systemic Sclerosis-Master Class, Workshop "Capillaroscopy" 28-30 November 2013 Kerkhof Clinic, Bad Nauheim, Germany.

Assoc. Prof. Lambova, PhD is a member of several international and national organizations. She is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, the Bulgarian Society of Rheumatology, the Bulgarian Medical Society of Osteoporosis and Osteoarthritis, the EULAR study group on Microcirculation in Rheumatic Diseases/ , in 2015 she received the Rector's Award for the best young scientist of the Medical University of Plovdiv. She has participated in 1 intra-university project / project leader /, 2 national projects and 2 international research projects. Relevant supporting material for these activities is provided.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sevdalina Lambova is fluent in English (Cambridge Certificate №0047208366, level C1) and German (Goethe Institute Certificate №01586-2-00079- 11, level B2).

## **II. General description of the materials submitted to the competition.**

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Lambova, PhD has submitted a complete set of documents on paper/electronic media in accordance with Article 120 of Section V of the Regulations for Academic Development at MU-Plovdiv. The supporting material includes CV in European format; copy of the diploma of higher education with an annex; copy of the diploma of the PhD in the scientific specialty of rheumatology, certificate of experience in the relevant specialty and a reference of the academic positions held to date; Academic transcript of the teaching load; copy of the last attestation sheet; abstract of dissertation for PhD; habilitation thesis - monograph; list of publications in scientific journals refereed and indexed only in Scopus and/or Web of Science; list of publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals; chapters of a collective monograph, a reference of citations from NACID with a list of citations and/or reviews in scientific journals, refereed and indexed only in Scopus and/or Web of Science, a list of citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific peer review, citations and/or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review; copy of diplomas for recognized specialty; reference from NACID for citation impact factor; printout from Scopus certifying the candidate's h-index; documents certifying *participation* in national and international projects; participation in the publication of a university textbook; documents certifying training of interns, postgraduate students and doctoral students issued by the relevant department/department of the higher education institution/scientific organization; reference to original scientific contributions with supporting material; Self-assessment report on the fulfillment of the specific science-metric requirements in the main units of MU - Plovdiv; declaration of originality and reliability of the attached documents; copies and summaries of the submitted publications in Bulgarian and English; other documents - qualification courses, certificates, memberships, etc., related to

Teaching, Research; participation and membership in scientific forums, committees. Article 120 item 35 is also complied with, given the purpose of the competition and for English-language training.

All the documents meet the requirements of the LDASRB and the Regulations for its implementation in MU-Plovdiv.

## **II. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works for the overall academic development.**

The research and publication activity of Assoc. Prof. Lambova, PhD is significant. In her overall practice so far Assoc. Prof. Lambova has authored and co-authored 77 full-text publications (of which 67 are refereed in Scopus or Web of Science). The total impact factor of the full-text publications is 110.195, and the impact factor of the published scientific communications/abstracts is 207.4. For the current competition she has **23 full-text** publications in scientific journals refereed and indexed in **Scopus and/or Web of Science (11 with impact factor), 14 reports and scientific communications/abstracts published in refereed journals, 6 full-text publications in non-refereed journals**, participation in writing a **university textbook**, one **independent monograph, chapters of collective monographs**.

The scientific developments are multifaceted and include the study of current problems in patients with rheumatological diseases and changes in microcirculation. Based on the authors' own experience on the subject, an algorithm for the classification of patients with Raynaud's phenomenon in rheumatology practice based on capillaroscopic findings is proposed, as well as a proposal to update the currently used criteria for undifferentiated connective tissue disease. For the first time, a study was conducted on the comparison of different capillary diameters in patients with progressive systemic sclerosis and undifferentiated connective tissue disease with evidence of early microangiopathy. For the first time, a comparative study of capillaroscopic imaging with characteristics of the "scleroderma-like" type in progressive systemic sclerosis and the "scleroderma-like" type in other rheumatic diseases was performed. In a study of our own, the identification of a "scleroderma-like" type of microangiopathy in the debut of rheumatic diseases (undifferentiated connective tissue disease and systemic lupus erythematosus/SLE) other than progressive systemic sclerosis was reported for the first time.

Multilateral scientific interests lead to joint developments in a multidisciplinary team, which proves the ability of Assoc. Prof. Lambova, PhD for teamwork. Many of the scientific works have led to a number of publications in prestigious international journals such as Life (Impact Factor (JCR) -

3.2; Q2), Biomedicines (Impact Factor 4.7 Q2), which is an undeniable attestation of the importance and contribution of this scientific production.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sevdalina Lambova is an editor for the section "Scleroderma" of the journal Current Rheumatology Reviews (refereed in Web of Science and Scopus; impact factor for 2022: 1.5). Since 2020, Assoc. Prof. Lambova, PhD is a member of the editorial board of the journal Life (refereed Web of Science and Scopus; impact factor for 2022: 3.2). Attached are official notes from the publishers.

Assoc. Prof. Lambova, PhD has experience as a reviewer in international refereed rheumatology journals. Attached is a list of reviews from Web of Science database and certificates from some journals. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sevdalina Lambova is a reviewer for the congress of EULAR (European League Against Rheumatism, European Association of Rheumatologists) in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023. Copies of the reviewer lists for the last two years 2022 and 2023 are attached.

For the current competition Assoc. Prof. Lambova, PhD presents participation in **2 national and 2 international scientific projects, and evidence for this is attached.**

Up to the present moment the candidate has been a supervisor of **2 PhD students** who have successfully defended their dissertation and of **one full-time PhD student** in the period of study.

#### **IV. Evaluation of the monographic work or equivalent publications submitted by the candidate for the competition for AP "PROFESSOR".**

Assoc. Prof. S. Lambova, PhD presents as a monographic work her monograph "Capillaroscopy in Rheumatology - What More Do We Need to Know?" ISBN 978- 619-189-248-8. Published by Lax Book, Plovdiv, 2024. The monograph presents in detail the achievements of medical science in the field of capillaroscopy, building on the author's previous monograph. Emphasis is placed on the capillaroscopic findings and features of microangiopathy in the more common rheumatic diseases. Special attention is given to the diagnosis of early microangiopathy, the expanded indications for capillaroscopic examination, and the importance of capillaroscopy in terms of classifying patients with peripheral vascular syndrome in rheumatology.

On the basis of the author's own experience in the field of capillaroscopy in rheumatology there are author's opinions with practical orientation, including: the National Consensus for Capillaroscopy in Rheumatology of the Bulgarian Society of Rheumatology; opinion on the presence of microvascular changes in patients with psoriatic arthritis.



This monograph will be a useful resource and will help the growing number of specialists training in capillaroscopy to build on their knowledge.

**V. Reflection (citation) of the candidate's publications in national and foreign literature (publication image).**

For the purposes of this competition, the candidate has submitted **552** citations, of which **533** citations in refereed journals (Web of Science and Scopus), 19 citations in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes. *Attached is a reference from NACID for the 552 citations and a reference for the impact factor of the cited articles from the competition list.*

The applicant has a Hirsh index of 15, reflected in Scopus and the official reference.

**VI. Complex, qualitative evaluation of the teaching and learning activities, including scientific guidance of students, doctoral students, postgraduate students.**

According to the provided Academic reference for the teaching workload of units with diagnostic/treatment activity, the total workload for Assoc.Prof. S. Lambova, PhD for the last three academic years amounts to **2386,4 hours**. Teaching activities with students include practical exercises and lectures in Bulgarian and English on "Propedeutics of Internal Diseases", "Rheumatology", "Internal Diseases" for students of Medicine and Dentistry.

Assoc. Prof. Lambova is supervisor of the training of postgraduate students in rheumatology. She participates as a presenter in training courses, including the workshop "Capillaroscopy" during the national conferences and congress of rheumatology 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023. She is a co-author of a module of the on-line capillaroscopy course of EULAR. Assoc. Prof. Lambova is a member of the organizing committee and lecturer in the first national course on capillaroscopy under the auspices of EULAR, to be held September 2024.

She is a member of the examination committees for semester examinations of medical and dental students in Bulgarian and English, competitions for academic positions, member of scientific juries (protocols and orders attached). Assoc. Prof. S. Lambova participated as a reviewer in a competition for a professorship in rheumatology at the University of Bonn - Germany (attached confirmation letter from the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine).

The attestation indicators from the candidate's last attestation sheet determine a **very good attestation score**.

## VII. Critical comments and recommendations.

I have no critical remarks and recommendations.

VIII. General assessment of the applicant's compliance with the minimum national requirements under Article 2b, paragraphs 2 and 3, respectively the requirements under Article 2b, paragraph 5 of the LDASRB and the requirements specific to MU - Plovdiv by fields and for units with clinical activity.

### REQUIRED MINIMUM SCIENTIFIC INDICATORS OF MU-PLOVDIV FOR AREA 7.1.MEDICINE (medico-clinical)

GROUP OF INDICATORS	CONTENTS	AP "PROFESSOR" (points)	Assoc.prof. Lambova, PhD (points)	S.
A	Indicator 1 Dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor"	50	50	
B	Indicator 3 and 4 Habilitation thesis - monograph	100	100	
Г	Sum of indicators 5 to 9 Publications and reports published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information, as well as in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals	250 15 articles, of which 10 in journals refereed in Scopus and/or Web of Science, including 5 articles with IF	1325,2 29 articles, of which 23 in journals refereed in Scopus and/or Web of Science, including 11 with IF	
Д	Sum of indicators 10 to 12 Citations in scientific publications, refereed and indexed in world-renowned	300 15 citations in Scopus and/or Web of	8185	

GROUP OF INDICATORS	CONTENTS	AP "PROFESSOR" (points)	Assoc.prof. S. Lambova, PhD (points)
	databases, in monographs and collective volumes, in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals	Science refereed journals	533 in journals, / Scopus and/or Web of Science/, 19 in monograph
E	Sum of factors 13 to 22 Supervision of a successfully defended PhD student, Participation in an international scientific project, Supervision of an international scientific project, Published university textbook, Training of interns, postgraduate students and PhD students	140 - 2 defended PhD students - 1 research project -1 textbook / textbook	223,1
Ж	Teaching Academic position	200 т 200 т.	720 225
GENERAL:		1240	10 828,3

**As a conclusion, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sevdalina Lambova, PhD presents evidence for a total of 10 828,3 points against the minimum required 1240 points, which significantly exceeds the minimum required criteria according to the regulations of the Medical University of Plovdiv.**

### **IX. Conclusion**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sevdalina Lambova, PhD is an established scientist, specialist and lecturer with a keen interest in scientific work. Her scientific work is original and highly citable. From the thorough



analysis of the materials submitted for the competition it is evident that the candidate meets and exceeds many times not only the minimum national requirements, but also the specific requirements of Medical University, Plovdiv.

On the basis of the above, I confidently give my **POSITIVE** vote and strongly recommend the members of the Honorable Scientific Jury to vote **FOR** the award of **Assoc.Prof. Sevdalina Nikolova Lambova, PhD to the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sport", in the professional field 7.1. "Medicine" and scientific specialty : "Rheumatology", for the needs of MU-Plovdiv, MF, Department of Propedeutics of Internal Diseases**

31.08.2024 г.

Plovdiv

Reviewer:

Prof. Dr. Silvia Tsvetkova-Trichkova, PhD

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

