

REVIEW

By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena Krasimirova Nikolova-Vlahova, MD, PhD

Nephrology Clinic, "St. Iv. Rilski" UMBAL, Sofia

Department of Internal Medicine, MF, MU-Sofia

In relation to a competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Health and sport", by professional direction 7.1. "Medicine" (Internal Diseases),

Published in the "State Gazette", No. 37/ 26.04.2024

Documents of two candidates have been accepted for participation in the competition:

Chief assistant professor Dr. Nonka Yurukova, MD, PhD, and Dr. Rada Gancheva, MD, PhD

Dr. Nonka Yurukova

I. Professional development

The professional path of Dr. Nonka Yurukova began as a ward therapist and general practitioner, and in 2003 she began working in the field of gastroenterology at Lozenets Hospital.

The candidate has provided all the required certificates for specialties and the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

II. Scientific research activity

In connection with the scientific research activity for the current competition, Dr. Yurukova presents:

- 1 book,
- 1 monograph,
- 9 scientific publications,
- 2 published articles in conference proceedings.

The scientific production thus presented has been cited in the scientific literature, as evidenced by the provided official references.

The equivalent of a habilitation thesis in the form of articles in refereed journals in relevant fields of research is also provided.

The candidate's presented publications are mainly in the field of gastroenterology.

The data on participation in scientific congresses and conferences are insufficient - 2 are presented, in which the candidate has the status of "attendee".

There is no data on participation in scientific projects.

III. Teaching and learning activity

In her development, Dr. Yurukova successively passed through the positions of part-time teacher, assistants and chief assistant at the Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University.

The teaching activity in the last years - her classroom occupation is SU Faculty of Medicine respectively as follows: 2021/2022 - 440 hours, 2022/2023 - 470 hours, 2023/2024 - 175 hours (only includes data for the winter semester of 2023-2024 academic year).

In conclusion, based on the material presented to me in connection with the research and teaching activities of Dr. Nonka Yurukova, I consider that she meets the minimum requirements for an associate professor, laid down in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff, the regulations related to it and the regulations of Sofia University.

Since I have to rank the two candidates in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor", I declare with full conviction that Dr. Rada Gancheva has a greater number of points from scientific research activity and a greater number of publications in more areas of internal medicine. She participates in a scientific project, provides data on participation in congresses, therefore I consider her more suitable for the academic position of "associate professor". Although Dr. Yurukova has more teaching experience and has gone through the entire ladder of teaching development, Dr. Gancheva's scientific output is significantly greater in volume and quality, incl. a greater number of articles, a greater number of citations and congress participations, participation in a scientific project, a higher impact factor, which is why I believe that Dr. Gancheva is more deserving of the academic position of "associate professor" of Internal Medicine in the current contest.

Everything stated so far gives me the reason to rank the candidates as follows:

1. Dr. Rada Gancheva, MD, PhD
2. Chief assistant professor Dr. Nonka Yurukova, MD, PhD

August, 2024

Sofia

Sincerely,

Assoc. Dr. Milena Krasimirova Nikolova, Vlahova

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Dr. Rada Gancheva

I. Professional development

Dr. Rada Gancheva has worked in the field of internal medicine - rheumatology for 12 years, successively passing through the positions of doctoral student (PhD), specialist, resident and doctor with a specialty.

Her professional development is related to Medical University-Sofia and Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University.

The candidate has provided all required certificates for specialty and educational and scientific degree "doctor".

II. Scientific research activity

In connection with the scientific research activity for the current competition, the candidate presents:

- 1 monograph,
- 6 books or book chapters,
- 21 publications in Bulgarian in refereed journals and
- 9 in non-referred.

There are 18 and 3 publications in English, respectively.

In a total of 27 of the presented publications, she is the first author.

All publications are in the field of Internal Medicine, related to various fields – rheumatology, cardiology, nephrology, metabolism, etc.

The quality of the presented scientific production can also be judged by the fact that the articles are cited in the scientific literature, as evidenced by the official references provided.

The equivalent of a habilitation thesis is also provided in the form - the required number of articles in refereed journals covering areas of scientific research.

Dr. Gancheva has the status of "participant" in 3 research projects at the Sofia University.

She is a member of 3 scientific societies and has also participated in numerous qualification courses, as well as in the development of clinical consensuses at home and abroad. Dr. Gancheva actively participates in scientific life and by attending congresses and conferences (28 in Bulgaria and 19 abroad). A development with her participation is presented, which focuses the attention of researchers who are at the forefront of science, for which relevant testimonies are presented.

The presented evidentiary material convincingly shows that on all points in relation to the minimum scientific requirements for acquiring the title of associate professor, the research activity of Dr. Gancheva not only meets, but also exceeds those of the relevant requirements.

III. Teaching and learning activity

Teaching activity in recent years - part-time teacher with classroom employment at MU-Sofia: 262 hours and 258 hours, respectively. Her teaching at the Faculty of Medicine of SU is 117 hours and 45 hours (the latter figure applies only to the winter semester of the 2023-2024 academic year). This fully meets the requirements.

IV. Personal impressions

I have known Dr. Gancheva since she was a student and I had the pleasure of following her overall development and career up to now. She demonstrates a marked interest in scientific and teaching activities in the field of Internal Medicine and its subspecialties. It is focused in its developments and participates in research on both socially significant problems, such as hyperuricemia and vascular diseases, as well as on some rarer conditions.

In conclusion,

Based on the presented material in connection with the research and teaching activities of Dr. Rada Gancheva, I can confidently state that Dr. Gancheva's scientometric indicators not only meet, but also exceed the minimum requirements for acquiring the academic position "associate professor".

Since I have to rank the two candidates in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor", I declare with full conviction that Dr. Rada Gancheva has a greater number of points from scientific research activity and a greater number of publications in more areas of internal medicine. She participates in a scientific project, provides data on participation in congresses, therefore I consider her more suitable for the academic position of "associate professor". Although Dr. Yurukova has more teaching experience and has gone through the entire ladder of teaching development, Dr. Gancheva's scientific output is significantly greater in volume and quality, incl. a greater number of articles, a greater number of citations and congress participations, participation in a scientific project, a higher impact factor, which is why I believe that Dr. Gancheva is more deserving of the academic position of "associate professor" of Internal Medicine in the current contest.

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