

STATEMENT

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Regarding the competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of: 7. "Health and sport", by professional direction 7.1. "Medicine" (Internal Diseases)

The competition was announced in the "State Gazette", N. 37/ 26.04.2024 and the documents of two candidates were accepted for participation in the competition:

Chief. Assistant Dr. Nonka Yurukova and Dr. Rada Gancheva

Dr. Rada Gancheva

I. Professional development

Dr. Rada Gancheva has been working in the field of rheumatology for 12 years, passing through a doctoral student, a specialist, a resident and a doctor with a specialty. Her professional development is related to Medical University of Sofia and Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University. The candidate has provided the required certificates for specialty and for educational and scientific degree "doctor".

II. Research activity

Regarding 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-refereed ones. The publications in English are 18 and 3, respectively. In 27 of the presented publications, the candidate is the first author. The quality of the presented scientific production can be judged by the fact that it is cited in the scientific literature, as

evidenced by the official references provided. The equivalent of a thesis in the form of articles in refereed journals covering areas of scientific research is also provided. Dr. Gancheva has the status of "participant" in 3 research projects at the Medical University of Sofia. The candidate is a member of 3 scientific societies and has also participated in numerous qualification courses, as well as in the development of clinical consensus at Bulgaria and abroad. Dr. Gancheva is actively involved in scientific life and visits the congresses and conferences (28 in Bulgaria and 19 abroad). A study with her participation is presented, which focuses the attention of researchers who are at the forefront of science.

III. Teaching activity

Regarding the teaching activity, in recent years, as a part-time assistant professor, Dr. Gancheva has employment at MU-Sofia for 262 hours and 258 hours, respectively. Her teaching at the Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University is 117 hours and 45 hours (the latter includes only the winter semester of the 2023-2024 academic year)

IV. Personal impressions

The candidate has a clearly defined area of her scientific interest, and personally it makes a very pleasant impression on me that Dr. Gancheva does not change the focus of her interests, consistently upgrading and developing them. This fact gives reason to assume the presence of qualities such as purposefulness and durability of interests, which in themselves deserve high evaluation, trust and respect.

In conclusion, on the basis of the material presented to me related to the scientific research and teaching activities of Dr. Rada Gancheva, I can categorically state that the minimum requirements for an associate professor, laid down in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff, the regulations to it and the regulations of Sofia University are accomplished and impeached, and that is the reason why I will vote positively for the acquisition of the academic position of "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" by Dr. Rada Gancheva.

d-r. Nonka Yurukova

I. Professional development

Dr. Nonka Yurukova works as a ward therapist and general practitioner, finding her vocation in the field of gastroenterology at Lozenets Hospital since 2003. The candidate has provided the required certificates for specialties and the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

II. Research activity

Regarding the research activity for the current competition, the candidate submits 1 book, 1 monograph, 9 scientific publications and two published articles in conference proceedings. The presented scientific production is cited in the scientific literature, as evidenced by the provided official references. The equivalent of a thesis in the form of articles in refereed journals covering areas of scientific research is also provided.

Personally, some things don't make a good impression on me. There are no participations in scientific congresses and conferences, and where (two) are given, the candidate has the status of "present". There is also no data on any participation in scientific projects. This is a reason to suggest that demonstrates that Dr. Yurukova don't has a high interest in scientific activity, which is not a good idea if one aspires to an academic career.

III. Teaching activity

Dr. Yurukova successively worked as a part-time assistant professor, assistant professor, and chief assistant professor at the Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University. In terms of teaching activity, in recent years Dr. Yurukova has lectureships at the Faculty of Medicine of the Sofia University respectively:

2021/2022 – 440 hours

2022/2023 – 470 hours

2023/2024- 175 hours (includes only the winter semester of the 2023-2024 academic year)

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

Regarding my obligation to rank the two candidates in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor", I believe with full conviction that Dr. Rada Gancheva is significantly more deserving of the academic position. Although Dr. Yurukova's greater teaching experience and passing through the entire ladder of teaching development can be highlighted as an advantage, the scientific output between the two candidates is significantly higher in quality and quantity with Dr. Rada Gancheva.

Therefore, I rank the candidates as follows:

1. Dr. Rada Gancheva, PhD
2. Chief Assistant professor dr. Nonka Yurukova, PhD

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prof. d-r D. Kyrkchiev, PhD, DScĭ