



STATEMENT

Regarding: competitions for the academic position “professor”

Scientific specialty: “Parasitology and helminthology”

Professional direction: 7.1 Medicine

Area of higher education: 7. Health and sport

Announced for the needs of: Department of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine at the National Centre of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases

in State Gazette issue 24/17.03.2020

From: associate professor Rumen Nenkov Harizanov, MD, PhD

member of Scientific Jury, Director’s order No134/29.05.2020

Institution: National Centre of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases

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This statement is prepared according to the requirements of the Bulgarian Law for Development of the Academic Staff and the Rules of NCIPD, Sofia for the academic position “professor”

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

Further to the announced in State Gazette no. 24 / 17.03.2020 competition, a set of documents was submitted by one candidate - assoc. prof. Iskra Georgieva Rainova, MD, DSc. The materials presented to me on paper and electronic form are in accordance with Art. 60, para. 1 and 2 of the Bulgarian Law for Development of the Academic Staff, and Art. 58, para. 1 and 2 in the Rules of the NCIPD for the academic position “professor”, and the criteria determined by the Scientific Board of NCIPD (Appendix 1).

Assoc. prof. Iskra Georgieva Rainova, MD, DSc is admitted to participate in the competition. It is evident from the submitted documents that the professional qualification of the candidate corresponds to the indicated in the competition scientific specialty. Assoc. prof. Rainova presents a precisely arranged set of documents. They contain descriptions and evidence in support of the implementation of the minimal national requirements according to the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria. The comparison with the requirements is presented in the attached table:

Groups of Indicators	Content	Minimal point number for a "professorship"	Associate professor Rainova
A	Indicator 1	50	<u>50</u>
B	Indicator 2	100	<u>100</u>
C	Indicators 3 and 4	100	<u>233,66</u>
D	Sum of indicators from 5 to 9	200	<u>217,5</u>
E	Sum of indicators from 10 to 12	100	<u>105</u>
F	Sum of indicators from 13 to the end	100	<u>390</u>
Total		650	<u>1096.16</u>

2. Analysis of the candidate's career profile.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iskra Georgieva Raynova was born on July 5, 1956 in Sofia. She graduated medicine at the Medical Academy - Sofia in 1982. From 1982 to 1985 she worked as a pediatrician at the Regional Hospital - Dupnitsa, after which he worked as an internist at the IV City Hospital, Sofia until 1987. In 1987 she began work at the Laboratory of Experimental and Applied Parasitology at the NCIPD. Acquired a specialty in Medical Parasitology in 1992, and a specialty in Clinical Immunology in 1996. In 2002 she specialized in the field of diagnostics of parasitic diseases at the Institute of Parasitology, Bern, Switzerland. In 2006 she defended successfully her PhD thesis, and in 2020 for the scientific degree "Doctor of Science" in Parasitology and Helminthology. Since 2010 she has held the academic position of "Associate Professor". For the period 1994-2011, assoc. prof. Iskra Rainova is Head of Laboratory of Experimental and Applied Parasitology at the NCIPD, and from 2011 to 2016 - Head of the Department of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine at the NCIPD. Since 2016 he is Deputy Director of NCIPD, Sofia, responsible for educational activities.

The educational activity of assoc. prof. Rainova is related to the teaching of medical students, doctoral students and residents. In addition, she participates in national and institutional examination commissions. Since 2019, by order of the Minister of Health, she has been the main coordinator of the Expert Council for the medical specialty "Medical Parasitology".

3. Assessment of the candidate's scientific activity for overall academic development

A. General characteristics of the scientific production and publication activity

Assoc. prof. Rainova participated in the competition with a total of 56 publications, 20 chapters from two collective monographs, an abstract from a dissertation for the acquisition of the scientific degree "Doctor of Science", all after the acquisition of PhD degree and academic position "associate professor".

The publications are distributed as follows:

- 23 full-text publications referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science (13 of them with impact factor. **Total IF 22,685**);
- 33 full-text publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed scientific journals;

B. Scientific activity - dissemination and application of the scientific and practical achievements of the candidate among the scientific community

Assoc. prof. Rainova has submitted 114 abstracts from participations in scientific forums in the country and 5 abroad.

C. Participation in projects

Assoc. prof. Rainova has participated and is participating in the implementation of six research projects funded by the NSF, two international projects with external funding, two national research programs and is Deputy Project Manager of the project BG05M20P001-1.002 "Fundamental, translational and clinical research in the field of Infections and Infectious Immunology 2018-2023", funded by the Operational Program "Science and Education for Smart Growth".

D. Scientific authority

Assoc. prof. Rainova is the main coordinator of the Expert Council for the medical specialty "Medical Parasitology" at the Ministry of Health and chairman of the examination commission for the state exam for the specialty "Medical Parasitology". She is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, the Bulgarian Parasitological Society, the Association of Specialists in Medical Parasitology, the Bulgarian Association of Microbiologists. She has participated as a member and chairmen in scientific juries for graduate students defending their PhD theses. She has been also a member of the scientific juries for the acquisition of academic positions "Assistant Professor" and "Associate Professor". She is a member of the editorial board of the journal Problems of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, and the organizing committees of the annual congresses of BAM. This proves quite reliably that Assoc. prof. Rainova has a well-established reputation among the scientific community.

E. Main directions and contributions to the scientific activity.

The candidate's scientific activity is represented in the several areas of medical parasitology. Her main research interests are focused on the diagnosis of parasitic diseases and more precisely the isolation and characterization of different types of antigens, development of agglutination, ELISA and Western blot test kits for the detection of specific antibodies, her activities also are focused on pathogenesis, clinical characteristics, treatment, epidemiological surveillance and control of local and imported parasitic infections. Her studies are aimed at important helminthiases such as echinococcosis and trichinosis, as well as the group of soil-transmitted helminthiases (ascariasis, trichuriasis and toxocariasis), communicable parasitic infections (enterobiasis, giardiasis) and opportunistic parasitic diseases (toxoplasmosis, visceral leishmaniasis, cryptosporidiosis, blastocystosis), and some less common local parasitic diseases, such as cysticercosis, have been studied. Particular attention is paid to imported parasitic diseases such as malaria, due to the possibility of local spread and

cutaneous leishmaniasis, non-indigenous to our country but is diagnosed in refugees from Asia.

4. Reflection of the candidate's publications in the national and foreign scientific literature (citations).

Assoc. prof. Rainova has attached an author's reference list of 48 citations after her habilitation. Of these, in foreign journals with IF are 18, and in non-referred journals 30. The H-index is 5 (Scopus).

5. Assessment of teaching and teaching activities, incl. scientific guidance of students, PhD students and postgraduate students.

Assoc. prof. Rainova has serious experience in lecturing. She lectures students and PhD students and residents (postgraduate training). Conducts theoretical and practical training, participates in examination commissions, and the total study load for the last five years is 850 hours (mean 170 hours per year). Under her guidance, four PhD students have successfully acquired the Educational and Scientific Degree "Doctor", and there is one pending graduation. Assoc. prof. Rainova was a co-research supervisor of three successful graduates.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the materials presented in the competition, I believe that Assoc. prof. Iskra Georgieva Rainova, MD, DSc has developed scientific qualities and significant experience in teaching. Fully meets the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its application to the NCIPD. Therefore, I confidently give my positive assessment of the acquisition of the academic position "professor" in the field of higher education. 7. Health and sports, Professional field: 7.1 Medicine; Scientific specialty "Parasitology and helminthology".

Author of the statement:

Assoc. prof. Rumen Nenkov Harizanov, MD, PhD