

To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury  
determined by order  
№RD-26-2025/18.10.2023  
of the Executive Director of  
"N.I. Pirogov" UMBALSM EAD

### **EXPERT STATEMENT**

By Prof. Branimir Vladimirov Spasov, dm  
head of the Clinical Hematology clinic at the "Heart and Brain" Medical Center, Pleven  
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Regarding the competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Internal Diseases" announced in SG No. 46/26.05.2023 and according to the order of the executive director of UMBALSM, N.I. Pirogov" EAD and on the basis of Art. 67 para. 1. of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff.

One candidate participated in the competition, Petar Yordanov Atanasov, PhD, who meets the scientometric requirements in accordance with the "Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria" and the "Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of UMBALSM "N. I. Pirogov" (Academic reference for publications, citations and scientific profiles) and was admitted to participate in the competition by a commission for receiving the necessary documents.

#### 1. Biographical data:

Prof. Petar Yordanov Atanasov was born on 27.05.1962 in the city of Sofia. He graduated from high school in Kyustendil in 1980. In 1988 he graduated from Medical Academy - Higher Medical Institute in Sofia. From 1992 to 2013, he worked as an internist at the Clinic for Internal Diseases - UMBALSM "Pirogov", and from 2013 to 2014 as a hematologist at the Clinic for Transfusion Hematology and Immunology - UMBALSM "Pirogov". From February 2014, after a competition, he was appointed to the position of

"assistant" at the same clinic. From March 2014 to the present, he has been serving as the Head of Internal Medicine Clinic - Pirogov UMBALSM. From 19.12.2016, after winning a competition, he was appointed to the academic position of "associate professor" in Internal Medicine at the CVD.

He participated in over 200 national and international scientific congresses and symposia on: Internal Medicine, Toxicology, Clinical Hematology, Transfusion Hematology, Emergency Medicine, Pharmacology, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry. There are over 100 scientific publications in our and foreign scientific journals in the field of the above-mentioned specialties. He has participated in a number of scientific projects, including international ones, within the specialty of Internal Medicine, Clinical Hematology, Genetics, Molecular Biology, Inorganic, Organic and Pharmaceutical Chemistry. He is the scientific supervisor of four doctoral programs, three of which are currently under development and one has been successfully defended. He is the scientific leader of seven specialist programs, two of which have been completed by successfully passing the State examination in the respective specialties and acquiring the specialty of Endocrinology and Gastroenterology by the respective specialists. He has been continuously teaching undergraduate and graduate programs since 2014.

Prof. Atanasov has protected specialties in Internal Medicine, Scientific Medical Information, Clinical Hematology, Management, Emergency Medicine.

## 2. Scientific research activity:

For the period 2019-2023, he participated in 21 scientific conferences in the country and one abroad, in various areas of Internal Medicine. For the period 2016-2023, Associate Professor Atanasov has published 13 articles in Bulgarian journals, of which he is the first author in 2, second in 5 and a follow-up in the others. During this period, there are also 37 publications in foreign language journals, some of which have a very high impact factor. In 7 of these publications he is the first author, in 6 - the second and in the rest the 3rd and subsequent. Most of the publications in the last 3 years are devoted to the very current problem related to the diagnosis and treatment of the coronavirus infection. During this period, Prof. Atanasov also led one of the largest structures for the treatment of coronavirus infection, and the large number of publications abroad speaks of the accumulated and shared vast experience in this field. [9,36,40,41,42,43,45,46,47,50].

The total impact factor of Prof. Atanasov from publications is 82.91. His publications have been cited 31 times in Bulgaria and 440 times abroad with H-index 4.

Prof. Atanasov has participated in two scientific projects, one with an external organization and one internal research project:

1. "Immunological memory in SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19: mechanisms, duration and cross-reactivity", designated for financing under contract KP-06-DK1/9 dated 03/29/2021. on the basis of a competition held by the Scientific Research Fund for financing fundamental scientific research on societal challenges related to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic."
2. "Role of Individual Virus/Host Genomic Characteristics for Response to SARS-CoV-2 Infection" Based on a Funding Competition for Basic Research on Societal Challenges Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic -2020.

In the field of internal medicine, the candidate also has significant scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied contributions;

- For the first time in Bulgaria, the epidemiology and the nosologically determined cause-and-effect relationship in patients with anemia over the age of 80 years, hospitalized and treated as an emergency in the "N. I. Pirogov";
- For the first time in the country, diagnostic and therapeutic algorithms have been proposed for emergency conditions in Internal Medicine caused by atypical viral infections;
- For the first time in the country, the epidemiology and severity of rare parasitic infestations were studied in patients hospitalized in emergency order at the "N. I. Pirogov" for a ten-year period;
- For the first time in Bulgaria, studies were conducted on the course of moderate and severe forms of complicated coronavirus infection (specifically coronavirus pneumonia) in patients in different age groups;
- For the first time in Bulgaria, mortality was tracked in patients with moderate and severe forms of coronavirus infection in different age groups without accompanying diseases and in patients with one, two and more accompanying diseases;

- For the first time in our country, an analysis of comorbidity was conducted in patients with moderate and severe forms of coronavirus infection and the possible cause-and-effect relationship between the severity of the course, the complications that occurred, the duration of the course and the mortality with the corresponding concomitant disease(s);
- For the first time in our country, patients of different age groups were followed in the post-covid period within one and two years in order to establish possible laboratory correlations with the experienced coronavirus infection;
- For the first time in Bulgaria, the immune response was examined and analyzed in the patients followed up in the post-covid period, the levels of specific anti-SARS-CoV2-IgG and anti-SARS-CoV2-Ig-Total were recorded within the first and second year after dehospitalization, morbidity of any nature within the target period was tracked, as well as a possible cause-and-effect relationship between the new and/or accompanying exacerbated chronic diseases and the experienced coronavirus infection;
- For the first time in our country, the severity, the frequency of complications (including the frequency of intubation) and the duration of a moderate and severe form of complicated coronavirus infection in the group of smokers and non-smokers have been studied and analyzed.

### 3. Teaching and learning activities:

In the Clinic of Internal Medicine, students and specialists are trained, who are given theoretical and practical training under the guidance of the candidate. Prof. Atanasov has a large and varied teaching activity for students, interns and specialists. He is one of the main lecturers in the program of the Ministry of Health for Emergency Medicine - PULSS. The clinic headed by Prof. Atanasov is accredited as a base for specialization in the clinical specialty of Internal Medicine, a base for doctoral programs within the scientific specialty of Internal Medicine, as well as a base for training students (and interns) in the clinical specialties of Internal Medicine and Emergency medicine. The Clinic carries out research activities in the field of Clinical Pharmacology, Clinical Pharmacy, Immunology and Immunoematology. A number of studies are conducted in the field of diagnosis and treatment of rare diseases within the specialties: Internal Medicine, Pulmonology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Nephrology, Hematology, Rheumatology, Cardiology, Dermatology, Allergology.

In conclusion:

Bearing in mind the presented facts regarding the scientific-research, diagnostic-treatment and teaching-teaching contributions of Prof. Atanasov, MD. I accept that he fully meets the requirements for acquiring the academic position of "professor" and I suggest that the scientific jury support his candidacy.

Sofia:

25.11.2023

Prof. Dr. Branimir Vladimirov Spasov, MD