

**ATTN:
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY OF
THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY „PROFESSOR
PARASKEV STOYANOV” OF VARNA**

STANDPOINT

by Prof. Dimitrichka Duchevea Bliznakova, MD, PhD.
Medical University “Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov” of Varna, Faculty of Dental Medicine,
Department of Clinical Medical Sciences

Member of the Scientific Jury assigned according to Order No R-109-
390/September 20, 2021, of the Rector of the Medical University “Prof.
Paraskev Stoyanov” of Varna

Concerning the performance of competition for tenure of the academic position
of Professor in the field of higher education No 7 Public health and sports,
professional trend No 7.1 Medicine and scientific speciality of Pediatrics, with
candidate Assoc. Prof. Miglena Dimitrova Georgieva, MD, PhD

Assoc. Prof. Miglena Dimitrova Georgieva, MD, PhD, was born on March 14, 1961 in
the city of Varna. She graduated at Frédéric Joliot-Curie Fourth Foreign language secondary
school with excellent marks and gold medal in 1980 and at Leningrad Pediatric Medical
Institute with excellent marks in 1986.

She acquires the following specialities:

speciality of pediatrics in 1992

speciality of pediatric gastroenterology in 2006

speciality of nutrition and dietetics in 2018.

Acquired qualification of:

Diagnostic and therapeutic fibrogastroscopy and fibrocolonoscopy in 2008

Conventional echography (abdominal echography and superficial structures) - level
one in 2008

Interventional gastrointestinal endoscopy - level two in 2016

Endoscopic cholangiopancreatography and related interventional procedures - level
three in 2016

Abdominal Doppler echography in gastroenterology - level two in 2016

Interventional and endoscopic abdominal echography in gastroenterology - level three
in 2016.

Specializations:

Two five-day courses of pediatric gastroenterology (chronic hepatitis and food
allergy) in the city of Sofia (in 1994 and 1995); a ten-day course of pediatric gastroenterology

(selected chapters of the pediatric gastroenterology) in the city of Krakow, Poland, within a HOPE Project (in 1999); a five-day course of gastroenterology (selected chapters of the pediatric gastroenterology) within the medical seminars in the city of Salzburg, Austria (in 2004); a five-day European summer school of pediatric gastroenterology (selected chapters of the pediatric gastroenterology) in the city of Sofia (in 2006); a three-day European summer school of pediatric gastroenterology (selected chapters of the pediatric gastroenterology) in the city of Varna (in 2011); a seven-day basic course of clinical nutrition (enteral and parenteral nutrition) in the city of Dubrovnik, Croatia (in 2012); a three-day training in inflammatory bowel diseases in the city of Barcelona, Spain (in 2016), a course of basic training of Gauche's disease in the city of Amsterdam, the Netherlands (in 2016); five annual module trainings in nutrition and dietetics at the National Centre for Public Health Protection and Analyses in the city of Sofia (from 2013 till 2017); a two-month practical training in clinical nutrition and dietetics at Tsaritsa Giovanna Hospital of Sofia (in 2017); a three-day training in support of the children with cystic fibrosis in the city of Southampton, Great Britain (in 2017); a seven-day course of pediatric gastroenterology in the city of Graz, Austria (in 2019); a course of pedagogical bases of academic teaching in the city of Varna (in 2015), etc.

Professional development:

She started to work as intern in the Pediatric Division of the Regional Hospital of the town of Provadiya in 1987. During the period between 1997 and 2008, she worked as intern in the Clinic of Gastroenterology and Endocrinology at St. Marina Multiprofile Hospital of Varna and during the period between 2008 and 2010 she worked in the Clinic of Cardiology, Rheumatology, Nephrology, Gastroenterology and Pediatric Intensive Division at the same hospital. Between 2010 and April 1, 2014, she worked as associate professor in the Third Division of the Multiprofile Specialized Pediatric Clinic at St. Marina University Hospital of Varna, and afterwards until present she works as head of the Second Clinic of Pediatrics at St. Marina University Hospital of Varna. Between August 1, 2018 and March 1, 2020, she is organizer and deputy-director of the Expert Centre of Cystic Fibrosis and since March 1, 2020, she is director of the Expert Centre of Cystic Fibrosis.

Miglena Dimitrova Georgieva, MD, acquires the PhD educational and scientific degree in 1997. The theme of her dissertation work is "Clinical, endoscopic, morphological and functional alterations in upper alimentary tract diseases among children and adolescents".

Academic development:

During the period between 1992 and 1996, she was regular postgraduate student in the Department of Pediatrics and the Clinic of Gastroenterology at St. Marina University Hospital of Varna of the Medical University of Varna.

She attains the academic rank of associate professor in 2010.

Participations in research projects

Adviser of research projects in the Medical University "Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov" of Varna:

- 1. Assessment of the expression levels of selected microRNAs as potential biomarker in children and adolescents with inflammatory bowel diseases.*
- 2. Bone health in children with celiakia.*

3. *Etiology, clinical picture and diagnosis of non-alcoholic liver disease in children and adolescents.*

Participant in a research project in the Medical University "Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov" of Varna:

Nutritive status and food intervention in children with cystic fibrosis - a single-centre, open non-randomized trial

Participant in clinical trials

1. **Improving celiac disease management in the Danube region by raising the awareness, improving the knowledge, and developing better skills.**
2. Efficacy of *Lactobacillus reuteri* probiotic for prevention of antibiotic-related diarrheas and *Clostridium difficile*-related infections among hospitalized children and adolescents.
3. A phase III-B, randomized, open trial of monotherapy with pegylated interferon, alpha-2A or in combination with Lamivudine as compared to non-treated control patients - children with HBeAg-positive chronic hepatitis in a immunotolerance phase.
4. Effect of different carob mucilage contents in Friso Comfort on the lower esophageal sphincter.
5. A phase II, multicenter, parallel group, active-controlled, randomized, double-blind dose-ranging study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of different doses of Creon IR in subjects with pancreatic exocrine insufficiency due to cystic fibrosis.
6. A multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase II trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of Lenbasum in cystic fibrosis.
7. A phase III, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group efficacy and safety study of Linaclotide administered orally to children aged 6 to 17 years with functional constipation.

Membership in professional organizations: Assoc. Prof. Miglena Dimitrova Georgieva, MD, PhD, is member of the Board of managers of the Bulgarian Pediatric Association and president of the Bulgarian Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition.

She is member of the:

1. Bulgarian Pediatric Association
2. Bulgarian Scientific Society of Gastroenterology
3. Bulgarian Union of Physicians
4. BULSPEN (Bulgarian Society of Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition)
5. Bulgarian Society of Neurogastroenterology and Motility
6. ICMART (International Council of Medical Acupuncture and Related Techniques)
7. Société Française de Pédiatrie
8. ESPGHAN (European Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition)
9. ESPEN (European Society of Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition).

Assoc. Prof. Miglena Georgieva, MD, PhD, participates in the competition for professor with a research work qualifying for an academic degree entitled „Palette hatches of functional gastrointestinal disorders in childhood and adolescence“.

Scientometric indicators:

The total number of the concrete scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Miglena Dimitrova Georgieva, MD, PhD, during the period between 1993 and 2021 is the following: two monographs, nine chapters in monographs and reference books, 12 publications in six proceedings of scientific forums in Bulgaria, 121 articles in 21 Bulgarian and seven foreign journals, 168 abstracts of reports and scientific communications published in proceedings of a total of 35 scientific forums in Bulgaria and of 41 ones abroad and in nine foreign journals, respectively, as well as a total of 107 plenary reports oral communications and multimedia oral presentations delivered at a total of 58 specialized scientific forums in Bulgaria and in four one abroad.

Assoc. Prof. Miglena Dimitrova Georgieva, MD, PhD, participates in the present competition with the following scientific works during the period between 2011 and 2021 after her attaining the academic rank of associate professor:

1) one monograph and 12 publications in 6 scientific conference proceedings in Bulgaria;

2) a total 87 full-text articles in a total of 17 Bulgarian and 6 foreign journals;

3) a total 40 abstracts of reports and scientific communications published in a total of 18 proceedings with abstracts (15 in Bulgaria and three abroad) and in two foreign periodical journals and

4) a total of 107 plenary reports, oral communications and multimedia oral presentations delivered at a total of 58 specialized scientific forums in Bulgaria and at four international scientific forums.

Assoc. Prof. Georgieva's scientific interests are versatile as displayed by the scientometric indicators.

- The diseases of the upper portion of the alimentary tract and the application of impedance pH-metry in the diagnosis of primary and secondary gastroesophageal reflux in suckling age are considered for the first time in Bulgaria.

- Data about the place of microRNAs in the diagnosis and follow-up of the inflammatory bowel diseases are published for the first time in Bulgaria. The recommendations concerning the nutrition in these diseases are part of the specialized pediatric gastroenterological practice. The biological therapy of these severe diseases with a poor prognosis is considered, too.

- In some publications for the first time in Bulgaria, the role of the extensively hydrolyzed milks for the treatment of suckling allergy towards cow milk is described as the importance of the hydrolyzed milks for food allergy prevention in suckling age is emphasized.

- The clinical course of celiakia in childhood. e.g. physical development, bone alterations, and their influencing by observing the corresponding diet is considered. The proof of the genetic predisposition towards celiakia is discussed and some methods for the diagnosis of the osseous changes in osteoporosis by means of DEXA, osteocalcin and osteoprotegerin are proposed for the first time in Bulgaria.

- For the first time in Bulgaria, the contemporary concepts of the intestinal microflora and the place of pro-, pre- syn- and psychobiotics are analyzed and generalized in the diarrhoea related with antibiotic therapy.

- The publications associated with the diseases of the pancreas are extraordinarily valuable and provide recommendations for the nutrition in acute relapsing and

chronic pancreatitis.

- The foundation of an Expert Centre of Cystic Fibrosis enlarges the consideration of the problems of the individuals with this disease. In some publications, the issues of cystic fibrosis such as clinical symptoms, complications and behavior, nutrition regime and CFTR-modulating therapy are developed.

- Recently, the problem associated with the autistic spectrum in childhood is one of these issues that deserve attention. Not only the course of these severe abnormalities but also the role of the nutrition and observation of a corresponding diet aiming at improving the clinical symptoms is underlined.

- Other publications deal with one of the leading problems in childhood, that of obesity. The investigation of the serum markers in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in children represents an interest. The association between the hepatic fatty degeneration and obstructive sleep apnea is analyzed. In some publications, the issues of the autoimmune liver disease in childhood such as pathogenesis, clinical picture, differential diagnosis and treatment are assessed, too.

- The interest in the complications of Corona virus infection has not been omitted, too.

Her research work for qualifying for an academic degree represents a culmination of the gained experience in the field of pediatric gastroenterology. It deals with the functional gastrointestinal disorders in childhood and adolescence. A broad analysis of the disorders in sucklings and infants as well as in children and adolescents is carried out. Many functional conditions which are a serious challenge faced not only by gastroenterologists but also by the general practitioners and parents of these children are analyzed. In the research work for qualifying for an academic degree, several questions related to the suckling colic, suckling regurgitation, rumination, cyclic vomiting syndrome, functional diarrhoea, gastroesophageal reflux, functional dyspepsia, irritable bowel syndrome, functional abdominal pain, constipation, etc. find their answer. These issues are discussed with much mastery and knowledge, the directions for their diagnosis and influencing are provided. Behavioural algorithms in some of these states such as chronic diarrhea, abdominal migraine, etc. are created. Headache, one of the leading symptoms in childhood, is discussed from a differential-diagnostic viewpoint as the differential-diagnostic approach between the cyclic vomiting syndrome and abdominal migraine is outlined.

Becoming familiar with this extraordinarily valuable research work for qualifying for an academic degree, we, pediatricians, are convinced that the functional gastrointestinal disorders in childhood and adolescence are common, however, they are insufficiently clear in the clinical practice.


Based on her experience and by means of a clear presentation of the clinical symptom and her diagnostic thinking, Assoc. Prof. M. Georgieva, MD, PhD, makes these diseases accessible to the working pediatricians, with one main goal - to help them in the clinical practice. .

And, probably, for this research work for qualifying for an academic degree and its author, the words weigh that 'The theory is a treasure the key to which is the good clinical practice'.

Conclusion: The scientometric data of Assoc. Prof. M. Georgieva, MD, PhD,

presented are an expression of her scientific and practical experience. They meet all the requirements for tenure of the academic position of “professor”. Her profound investigations and publications deal with leading problems in pediatric gastroenterology. Numerous steps from the theory to the practice have been done which enable the implementation of the specialty of pediatric gastroenterology.

Varna, October 15, 2021



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Prof. Dimitrichka Bliznakova, MD, PhD