

## STANDPOINT

### **for a competition for tenure of the academic position of Professor in the speciality of Pediatrics for the needs of the Department of Pediatrics at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University "Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov" of Varna**

*Concerning: the announced 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 for the needs of the Department of Pediatrics at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University "Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov" of Varna and the Second Clinic of Pediatrics at St. Marina University Hospital of Varna published in State gazette No 61/July 23, 2021.*

**Candidate: Assoc. Prof. Miglena Dimitrova Georgieva, MD, PhD**

**The standpoint is prepared by Prof. Boryana Borisova Varbanova, MD, PhD**, member of the Scientific jury according to Order No R-109-390/September 20, 2021 of the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov" of Varna

#### **Concise biographic data**

Assoc. Prof. Miglena 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. She obtains her higher medical education during the period from 1980 till 1986 at Leningrad Pediatric Medical Institute where she graduates with excellent marks. Between 1987 and 1992, she worked as intern in the Pediatric Division of the Regional Hospital of the town of Provadiya. She acquired the speciality of pediatrics in 1992. In the same year, she started a regular post-graduate education in the Department of Pediatrics. In 1996, she defended a dissertation on the theme: "Clinical, endoscopic, morphological and functional alterations in upper alimentary tract diseases among children and adolescents". In 2006, she acquired the speciality of pediatric gastroenterology. Until 2010, she worked as intern in St. Marina Multiprofile Hospital of Varna when she was elected associate professor in pediatrics. Since 2014 until presence, she is head of the Second Clinic of Pediatrics at St. Marina University Hospital of Varna. In 2016, she acquired the speciality of nutrition and dietetics.

Assoc. Prof. Georgieva has performed numerous teachings and short-term courses in our country and abroad. She has acquired a series of certificates for highly-specialized activities in the field of gastroenterology associated with abdominal echography, endoscopy, liver biopsy and other interventional diagnostic procedures. She has a command of Russian, French and English languages.

#### **Research activity**

#### ***Scientometric indicators***

Assoc. Prof. Miglena Georgieva, MD, PhD, participates in the competition with one dissertation on the theme: "Clinical, endoscopic, morphological and functional alterations in upper alimentary tract diseases among children and adolescents", one monograph "Palette hatches of functional gastrointestinal disorders in childhood and adolescence", 11 chapters in monographs and reference books, 87 full-text publications and 40 reports in scientific forums.

According to the academic check-up from the Medical University of Varna, the scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Georgieva covering the minimal scientometric requirements amounts to 409.6 points. Fourteen publications in abstracted and indexed journals are presented (three of them are full-text publications and for are abstracts in foreign journals and proceedings) as well as 12 articles in non-abstracted journals with scientific peer reviewing and collective book volumes.

Additionally, 55 scientific works outside the minimal scientometric requirements for the academic position of "Professor" are presented (752.12 points).

Some 54 citations are indicated, of which 40 citations or peer reviews in scientific publications which are currently abstracted and indexed in world eminent data-bases with scientific information, or in monographs and books; two citations in scientifically peer-reviewed monographs and books and 12 citations or peer reviews in scientifically peer-reviewed journals which are not abstracted in data-bases (a total of 670 points).

Assoc. Prof. Georgieva has two publications with impact factor of IF 3.874.

### ***Main trends and contributions***

The research activity of Assoc. Prof. Miglena Dimitrova Georgieva, MD, PhD, is based to a great extent on her immediate clinical diagnostic and therapeutic activity as pediatrician and pediatric gastroenterologist presenting with approved prestige among the scientific community and the children with diseases of the alimentary tract, liver, pancreas, nutritional disorders, etc. It deals not only with a series of socially significant diseases but also with some more seldom diseases of casuistic value for the medical science and practice. Her scientific works are devoted to a broad spectrum of the pediatric gastroenterology and pediatrics.

The scientific contributions of Assoc. Prof. Miglena, MD, PhD, are in the field of functional gastrointestinal disorders, celiakia, cystic fibrosis, inflammatory and other bowel diseases, chronic liver disease, diseases of the pancreas, the role of intestinal microflora, probiotics, prebiotics and psychobiotics, food allergies, nutrition of the healthy suckling and child and in a series of diseases, neurological diseases, rare alimentary tract diseases, etc.

The scientific contributions are systematized in 13 main trends.

#### **I. FUNCTIONAL GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS**

The problem of the functional gastrointestinal disorders is comprehensively considered for the first time in Bulgaria in an independent monograph and six articles. The classification of Rome IV criteria is introduced and algorithms for the diagnosis and schedules for non-medicamentous and drug treatment of these patients. The monograph "Palette hatches of functional gastrointestinal disorders in childhood and adolescence" is a contemporary manual on practical lines for the activity of the pediatric gastroenterologists, pediatricians, and general practitioners. In several articles, the etiology, clinical

picture, diagnosis, treatment of colic, constipation in sucklings and children, combined pathology between the functional diseases of the alimentary and urinary systems are analyzed.

## II. UPPER ALIMENTARY TRACT DISEASES

The combination of the gastroesophageal reflux disease and otorhinolaryngological pathology in childhood and impedance pH-metry in the diagnosis of the primary and secondary gastroesophageal reflux in suckling's age are presented. The diagnosis of the gastroesophageal reflux by means of impedance pH-metry is used for the first time in Bulgaria and to this, two articles and one abstract, while to the clinical picture, diagnosis and treatment of the achalasia, a rare disease, one article and one abstract are devoted.

## III. CELIAKIA

The clinical symptoms, diagnostic methods, complications and treatment of celiakia are analyzed in several review articles. The experience with the genetic tests for the predisposition to this disease is presented for the first time in Bulgaria.

Theoretical, methodological and practically applied contributions: in 14 scientific works, the proof of the genetic predisposition to celiakia is considered in detail and methods for the diagnosis with DEXA, osteocalcin and osteoprotegerin of the bone alterations in osteoporosis are offered for the first time in Bulgaria. The determination of the importance of gluten-free diet for patients' health is of great practical significance.

## IV. INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASES

The experience in this trend is summarized in 13 publications. For the first time in Bulgaria, data about the place of the microribonucleic acids in the diagnosis and follow-up of the inflammatory bowel diseases are published. Relatively rare cases with deep venous thrombosis in these diseases in early childhood are reported, anal lesions in the children with this pathology are interpreted and the surgical methods for treatment of the patients in the Second Clinic of Pediatrics at St. Marina University Hospital of Varna are commented. The analysis of the inflammatory bowel diseases in pregnancy and breast-feeding and the determination of the time for vaccination of these patients is an essential practically applied contribution. The recommendations for nutrition in these diseases are of importance for the specialized pediatric gastroenterological practice. Advices for correct nutrition in these diseases and its correlation with quality of life are presented for the first time in Bulgaria.

## V. OTHER BOWEL DISEASES

In this trend, seven articles and abstract are published. Modern schedules for the treatment of *Clostridium difficile* infection are analyzed and provided for the first time in Bulgaria. Knowledge about some rare diseases in childhood such as large colonic polyps and the combination of renal agenesis and Hirschsprung's disease is enriched. The clinical picture, diagnosis and treatment of some intestinal and/or other general infections, including the vaccination programmes in rotavirus infections are interpreted.

## VI. INTESTINAL MICROFLORA, PROBIOTICS, PREBIOTICS AND PSYCHOBOTICS

For the first time in Bulgarian monographic literature, the contemporary concepts of the intestinal microflora and the place of pro-, pre- syn- and psychobiotics are analyzed and generalized and the positive prophylactic and therapeutic effect of the probiotics in the diarrhoea related with antibiotic therapy is proved.

#### VII. CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE

Eleven articles and seven abstracts are devoted to the actual problems of a series of chronic liver diseases in childhood (chronic viral and medicamentous hepatitis, Wilson's disease,  $\alpha$ 1-antitrypsin deficiency, non-alcoholic liver disease, Gilbert's syndrome, Rey's syndrome, autoimmune liver disease, ascites syndrome, hepatorenal syndrome, acute liver failure, benign and malignant liver tumours, familial nodular hyperplasia, etc.). Two abstracts one of which has been published in an eminent foreign journal with impact factor are devoted to the acute and chronic hepatitis in children. The role of nutrition and contemporary genetic therapy of cystic fibrosis as well as the clinical peculiarities of this disease are the object of four articles and five abstracts.

#### VIII. DISEASES OF THE PANCREAS

For the first time in the international literature, some recommendations for nutritional intervention in acute and chronic pancreatitis in children are published. This consensus declaration concerning the nutrition in pancreatic diseases in childhood is elaborated by a joint working group of ESPGHAN-NASPGHAN. The detailed elaboration of the problem of the acute pancreatitis is of practical importance for Bulgaria.

#### IX. CYSTIC FIBROSIS

Cystic fibrosis is analyzed in 10 publications - incidence rate, clinical manifestation and treatment of cystic fibrosis patients in Bulgaria in 2017; the phenotype of relapsing pancreatitis child with a rare mutation as well as of cystic fibrosis patients and liver pathology are analyzed; bacterial colonization with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is interpreted along with the role of malnutrition in the children with cystic fibrosis and the perspective for genetic therapy.

#### X. NUTRITION OF THE HEALTHY SUCKLING AND CHILD AS WELL AS IN CELIAKIA, CYSTIC FIBROSIS, INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASES, DISORDERS OF AUTISTIC SPECTRUM AND NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES

The issues of the nutrition of the healthy children and in a great number of severe diseases are investigated in a total of 19 articles and three abstracts. The recommendations for a special nutrition in inflammatory bowel diseases, neurodegenerative diseases, cystic fibrosis, acute and chronic pancreatitis represent an interest.

#### XI. FOOD ALLERGY

In four articles and one abstract, the role of the extensively hydrolyzed milks for the treatment of suckling allergy towards cow milk as well as of the partially hydrolyzed milks for food allergy prevention is described for the first time in Bulgaria.

#### XII. SOME RARE ALIMENTARY TRACT DISEASES

Some rare diseases such as hepatic vascular shunts, liver hemangiomas, familial nodular hyperplasia, hepatic peliosis, renal agenesis and Hirschsprung's disease, Rey's syndrome, congenital cysts of the biliary ducts, etc. are described in 14 publications. The pathogenetic problems of the children with disorders of the autistic spectrum and the affection of the alimentary tract in the course of the multisystemic response in COVID-19 infection are published for the first time.

#### XIII. SOME GENETIC METHODS FOR THE PROOF OF ALIMENTARY TRACT DISEASES

#### XIV. OTHER ISSUES

For the first time in Bulgaria, some results from genetic investigations of the HLA-genotyping in celiakia and suspicion on Gilbert's disease are published in four articles and four abstracts. Rare diseases are reported in seven articles and five abstracts. In seven articles and four abstracts, the results from the investigation of some other diseases in childhood such as hereditary hemorrhagic teleangiectasia, anti-NMDR encephalitis, primary form of tularemia, foreign body aspirations, urticaria, headache in children with epilepsy, etc. are published for the first time in Bulgaria. The results concerning adipokine and other markers of metabolic syndrome and abdominal obesity are published for the first time in Bulgaria.

#### ***Teaching and lecturer's activity***

Assoc. Prof. Georgieva teaches the speciality of „pediatrics“ in Bulgarian and English to the students of the speciality of “medicine” at the Faculty of Medicine and of the speciality of “public health inspector” at the Medical College of Varna. Her annual teaching loading during the last four academic years is between 124 and 144 hours as her horarium includes hours for lecture presentations and practical exercises.

Assoc. Prof. Georgieva performs education according to individual courses for postgraduate qualification in pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition. She is adviser of three postgraduate students in pediatrics and of four postgraduate students in pediatric gastroenterology.

Under her guidance, two postgraduate students, have defended their doctoral theses for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree of PhD. At present, she is adviser of six other postgraduate students.

#### ***Public and expert activity***

Assoc. Prof. Georgieva actively participates in national and international scientific societies: Bulgarian Pediatric Association, Bulgarian Scientific Society of Gastroenterology, Bulgarian Union of Physicians, BULSPEN (Bulgarian Society of Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition), Bulgarian Society of Neurogastroenterology and Motility, ICMART (International Council of Medical Acupuncture and Related Techniques), Société Française de Pédiatrie, ESPGHAN (European Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition) and ESPEN (European Society of Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition). She was elected member of the Board of managers of the Bulgarian Pediatric Association. She takes part as head and participant in national and international research projects

My acquaintance of many years with Assoc. Prof. Miglena Georgieva has enabled me to evaluate her broad scientific interests, devotedness to clinical medicine, high-minded ambition for perfecting, dedicatedness to teaching and collegial attitude.

#### **Conclusion**

Based on the aforementioned I consider that Assoc. Prof. Miglena Georgieva, MD, PhD, meets the requirements of the Statute-book for the conditions and order for the acquisition of scientific degrees and for tenure of the academic position of "professor" in the Medical University "Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov" of Varna. I recommend to the honoured members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the tenure by the candidate, Assoc. Prof. Miglena Georgieva, MD, PhD, of the academic position of "Professor" in the Medical University "Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov" of Varna for the needs of the Department of Pediatrics at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University "Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov" of Varna and the Second Clinic of Pediatrics at St. Marina University Hospital of Varna.

Varna, October 21, 2021

Signature:

Prof. Boryama Borisova Varbanova, MD, PhD

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'B' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.