

**ATTN:  
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY,  
ANNOUNCED BY ORDER NO R-109-  
390/SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 OF THE RECTOR OF  
THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY „PROFESSOR  
PARASKEV STOYANOV” OF VARNA**

**STANDPOINT**

**by Professor Ivaylo Petrov Vazharov, MD, PhD,  
chief of Naval Hospital of Varna, Military Medical Academy**

**Concerning:** the 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, at 0,5 pay-roll office for the needs of the Department of Pediatrics at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University “Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov” of Varna and 0,5 pay-roll office for the needs of the Second Clinic of Pediatrics at St. Marina University Hospital of Varna, according to Order No R-109-422/September 27, 2021 of the Rector of the Medical University “Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov” of Varna, Prof. Valentin Lyubomirov Ignatov, MD, PhD, promulgated in *State gazette* No 61/July 23, 2021.

According to Order No R-109-390/September 20, 2021, of the Rector of the Medical University “Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov” of Varna, Prof. Valentin Lyubomirov Ignatov, MD, PhD, I was elected external member of a Scientific jury in a procedure for tenure of the academic position of Professor in the Medical University “Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov” of Varna and assigned for standpoint preparation concerning the competition. Assoc. Prof. Miglena Dimitrova Georgieva, MD, PhD, head of the Second Clinic of Pediatrics at St. Marina University Hospital of Varna, is the only candidate.

The documents submitted to me conform with the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Statute-book for its application, and meet the requirements of the Statute-book for the conditions and order for the acquisition of scientific degrees and tenure of academic positions in the Medical University “Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov” of Varna and meet the requirements for tenure of the indicated position. No procedural infringements were established.

Herewith I declare that I have no conflict of interests in the sense of article 4, paragraph 5 of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

**I. CONCISE BIOGRAPHICAL DATA AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

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. In 1987, she

started to work as intern in the Pediatric Division of the Regional Hospital of the town of Provadiya. During the period between 1992 and 1996, she was regular post-graduate student in the Department of Pediatrics of the Medical University of Varna and the Clinic of Gastroenterology at St. Marina University Hospital of Varna. During the period between 1997 and 2008, she worked as intern in the Clinic of Gastroenterology and Endocrinology, and during the period between 2008 and 2010 she worked in the Clinic of Cardiology, Rheumatology, Nephrology, Gastroenterology and Pediatric Intensive Division. 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. During the period between 2002 and 2015, she was part-time lecturer in the Centre for Continuing Education, qualification of "Management in recreation" at the University of Economics 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, acquired the PhD educational and scientific degree in 1997. The theme of her dissertation work was "Clinical, endoscopic, morphological and functional alterations in upper alimentary tract diseases among children and adolescents". She attained the academic rank of associate professor in 2010.

Assoc. Prof. Miglena Dimitrova Georgieva, MD, PhD, has a recognized speciality of pediatrics (in 1992), of pediatric gastroenterology (in 2006) and of nutrition and dietetics (in 2018) as well as qualification of fibrogastroscopy and fibrocolonoscopy, interventional gastrointestinal endoscopy, endoscopic cholangiopancreatography, conventional echography, abdominal Doppler echography and endoscopic abdominal echography.

## **II. RESEARCH ACTIVITY**

Assoc. Prof. Miglena Dimitrova Georgieva, MD, PhD, participates in the present competition with the following scientific works after her attainment of the academic rank of associate professor:

- one monograph and 12 publications in 6 scientific conference proceedings in Bulgaria with a total volume of 441 pages;
- a total 87 full-text articles in a total of 17 Bulgarian and 6 foreign journals with a total volume of 443 pages;
- 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;
- a total of 107 plenary reports, oral communications and multimedia oral presentations with a total volume of more than 1000 slides delivered at a total of 58 specialized scientific forums in Bulgaria and at four international scientific forum abroad.

The total impact factor after her attainment of the academic rank of associate professor is 3,874.

The works of Assoc. Prof. Miglena Dimitrova Georgieva, MD, PhD, are highly evaluated by the scientific community in our country and abroad. The total number of the citations or peer reviews after her attainment of the academic rank of associate professor is 54 - 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.

Assoc. Prof. Georgieva is adviser of three 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.

She is participant in the research project of 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“.

Besides she is involved in the performance of 7 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.

The publications presented by Assoc. Prof. Georgieva for the participation in the competition in terms of number and categories completely conform on the recommendable quantitative criteria for tenure of the academic position of "Professor" in the Medical University "Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov" of Varna according to the Statute-book for the conditions and order for the acquisition of scientific degrees and for tenure of academic positions in the University.

### III. CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

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, cystic fibrosis, nutritional disorders, etc. The spectrum of her scientific works is extraordinarily broad and includes populational-diagnostic and screening investigations, organization-methodological and thematic analyses as well as direct applied research in the field of pediatrics and pediatric gastroenterology.

In general, the theoretical and methodological and practically applied contributions in the scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Miglena Georgieva, MD, PhD, could be systematized in the following main thematic fields: pediatric gastroenterology, pediatric hepatology and pancreatology, nutrition, clinical pediatrics, and casuistry.

A great number of publications belong to the field of pediatric gastroenterology and are devoted to actual problems in the following thematic trends: functional gastrointestinal disorders, upper alimentary tract diseases, celiakia, inflammatory bowel diseases, genetic diagnostic methods and several other intestinal diseases.

Several chronic liver diseases, cystic fibrosis as well as acute and chronic pancreatitis are born in mind in the field of pediatric hepatology and pancreatology.

The publications about the nutrition of the healthy child and of the children with different diseases, food allergy, intestinal microbiome, probiotics, prebiotics and psychobiotics represent undoubted interest, too.

The following most essential contributions in the research and scientific-applied activity of Assoc. Prof. Georgieva, MD, PhD, are delineated:

The problem of the functional gastrointestinal disorders is considered for the first time in Bulgaria in an independent monograph and six articles.

The diagnosis of the gastroesophageal reflux by means of impedance pH-metry is used for the first time in Bulgaria in two articles and one abstract.

Some genetic tests for the proof of the genetic predisposition to celiakia are applied for the first time in Bulgaria.

The microribonucleic acids are used for the first time in Bulgaria in the diagnosis and follow-up of two inflammatory bowel diseases such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease in childhood.

For the first time in Bulgaria, the contemporary concepts of the intestinal microflora, pro-, pre- syn- and psychobiotics are systematized and the positive prophylactic and therapeutic effect of the probiotics in the diarrhoea related with antibiotic therapy is proved.

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.

Some results from genetic investigations of the HLA-genotypification in celiakia and suspicion on Gilbert's disease are published for the first time in Bulgaria.

#### **IV. TEACHING AND LECTURER'S ACTIVITY**

The teaching loading of Assoc. Prof. Miglena Georgieva, MD, PhD, during the last four academic years is the following: during the 2017-2018 academic year - 144 hours, during the 2018-2019 academic year - 136 hours, 144 hours, and during the 2019-2020 academic year - 124 hours. She is adviser of three postgraduate students in pediatrics and of four postgraduate students in pediatric gastroenterology.

Under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. Miglena Georgieva, MD, PhD, two postgraduate students, Niya Yolkova Rasheva, MD, and Krasimira Ivanova Koleva, MD, 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.

She is participant in the scientific jury for awarding of the educational and scientific degree of PhD by six postgraduate students, for two candidates for "associate professor" and in the election of one "assistant-in-chief".

#### **V. MEMBERSHIPS IN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES AND 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 following professional and scientific organizations:

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).

#### **CONCLUSION**

Based on candidate's scientific words submitted to me for peer-reviewing and analysis, I can declare with conviction that I vote positively for the election of Assoc. Prof. Miglena Dimitrova Georgieva, MD, PhD, for tenure of the academic position of "Professor" in the scientific speciality of "Pediatrics" in the Medical University "Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov" of Varna.

October 15, 2021



Prof. Ivaylo Petrov Vazharov, MD, PhD