

To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury
of Medical University "Prof. Dr Paraskev Stoyanov"- Varna
Appointed by Order Nr.-P-109-176/23.04.2021

To the Rector of the University

Regarding: Competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in higher education field 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field 7.1 Medicine and scientific specialty Pediatrics, for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, MU - Varna, and the Clinic of Pediatric Clinical Hematology and Oncology at University Hospital St Marina- Varna (published in *State Gazette*, issue 17 or 26.02.202)

Candidate: Dr Milena Ivanova Belcheva, MD

STATEMENT OF OPINION

by Ass Prof Dr Miglena D. Georgieva, MD

Department of Pediatrics, MU Varna

on the materials submitted for the Competition to award the academic position of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in higher education field 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field 7.1 Medicine and scientific specialty Pediatrics, for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, MU - Varna, and the Clinic of Pediatric Clinical Hematology and Oncology at University Hospital St Marina- Varna (published in *State Gazette*, issue 17/26.02.2021)

I present this Statement of Opinion in my capacity of member of the Scientific Jury, appointed in accordance with Order Nr-P-109-176 / 23.04.2021 of the Rector of Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna. I have been appointed to present an opinion by Record Nr 1 of 2021 from the session of the Scientific Jury.

1. Brief biographical and professional information about the candidate:

Ass. Prof. Dr. Milena Ivanova Belcheva, MD was born on August 23, 1966, in Shumen. In 1979 she graduated with honors from IVth French Language High School "Frederic Joliot Curie", Varna. In 1985 she graduated with honors from Higher Medical Institute -Varna. In 1985 and 1986 she worked as a district pediatrician at the Children's Polyclinic of the Regional Hospital in Shumen. After a competition she was elected a resident doctor at the Department of Pediatrics of the Higher Medical Institute- Varna (1986-1989). In 1992, after a competition, she was appointed as an Assistant at the Department of Pediatrics of the Higher Medical Institute- Varna. From 1992 to 1993 she worked at the Pediatric Pulmonology Clinic, and in 1993 at her request she was employed at the Pediatric Oncohematology Clinic. She successively passed through the academic positions of senior and chief assistant. From 1986 to 1990 she specialized in Pediatrics at the Department of Pediatrics, Medical University- Varna. Since 1993 and until now, she has been working at University Hospital "St. Marina", Varna, at the Clinic of Pediatric Clinical Hematology and Oncology and at the Department of Pediatrics. In 1998 and 1999 she specialized in Pediatric Oncology at the Département de Pédiatrie, Institut Gustave-Roussy, Villejuif, Paris, France, with a scholarship from the French government (Diplôme Universitaire d'Oncologie Pédiatrique – Université Paris XI/1999).

In 2020 she defended her dissertation titled: *Cardiac impairment, cardiometabolic risk and bone*

health among survivors of childhood haematological malignancies, and obtained the educational and scientific degree of *Doctor of Pediatrics* (diploma 380/22.05.2020).

Dr. M. Belcheva is a holder of diplomas for three medical specialties: *Pediatrics* in 1991 (diploma 38492/1991), *Oncology* in 2004 (diploma 0629/2004) and *Pediatric Hematology and Oncology* in 2006 (diploma 012029/31.01.2007). She has the following specializations: 1986-1989 at the Clinic of Pediatric Oncohematology, 2002-2004 and at the Clinic of Oncology and National Institute of Oncology in Sofia; 1998-2000 at the Département de Pédiatrie, Institut Gustave-Roussy, Villejuif, Paris, France; specializations and courses abroad in the area of antitumor chemotherapy, pediatric solid tumors and palliative care held in prestigious specialized centers in Europe: Paris, France (1999-2000), and shorter-term training concerning haemophilia management and pediatric hematology.

2. Evaluation of the candidate's research activity:

Scientometric Indicators

Dr. M. Belcheva participates in the competition with a total of 40 scientific papers, as well as an additionally presented reference for participation with reports and posters in national and international scientific forums. 40 scientific papers were presented for review, distributed as follows: 31 full-text publications in journals, of which 30 in Bulgarian journals and 1 in an international journal (with IF); 4 published abstracts in international journals (all with IF); 5 chapters in a clinical guide.

In 20 publications (50%) she is the sole or first author: sole author in 6 scientific papers (15%), first author in 14 publications (35%). She has participated in 10 collective works as a second author (25%), in 5 as a third author (12.5%) and in 5 as a next author (12.5%). The reference for participation with reports and posters in national and international scientific forums includes 89 titles. The candidate is the first author in 20 (22.5%) of the scientific communications. *From the additional scientific communications*: published abstracts in Bulgarian journals: 5, published abstracts in foreign journals: 2, published abstracts in Bulgarian journals: 48, published abstracts in foreign journals: 22, without published abstracts: 12 (total: 89).

Thematic areas and contributions

The main clinical interests of Dr. Milena Belcheva are in the field of modern methods for diagnosis and treatment of solid tumors and lymphomas in pediatric oncology practice; rare malignancies in children; assessment and treatment of pain in pediatric oncology practice; palliative care and late effects of the therapy in childhood malignancies.

The scientific contributions of Dr. Milena Belcheva are grouped in several areas 1 / Late effects of the treatment of malignant diseases in childhood and follow-up of patients in long-term remission; 2 / Solid tumors in childhood; 3 / Malignant hemopathy in children; 4 / Emergencies and complications in the course of malignant diseases and their therapy in children; 5 / Benign hematological diseases (detailed reference is presented).

Participation in projects

From 2007 to 2014, Dr. M. Belcheva is the coordinator of the international project "Training of health care assistants at General Hospital St Marina, in partnership with Saint Michel Training Center at Groupe Hospitalier« Saint Augustin », Malestroit, France, and Medical University-Varna. As a coordinator of an international project, Dr. M. Belcheva has actively participated in the development and adaptation of a program for training of health care assistants. Based on this pilot project, MU Varna has received a license for training in the professions of *Health Care Assistant and Carer*.

Dr. Milena Belcheva was a Secretary of the Hospital Commission for Blood Transfusion at General Hospital «St Marina» from 2007 to 2011, and subsequently became a member of the Hospital Commission for Blood Transfusion at General Hospital «St Marina». She is also a member of the hospital oncology committee.

3. Teaching activity

Dr. Milena Belcheva has 29 years of experience as a lecturer in pediatrics for medical students; she is engaged with the training in the Elective Course of Pediatrics and the postgraduate qualification in pediatric oncohematology. The average annual teaching workload of the candidate in the last 3 years is 214, 222, 248 hours with a norm of 126 hours.

Dr. Milena Belcheva is a member of the Bulgarian Pediatric Association, the Bulgarian Medical Association, the Bulgarian Association of Hematology, the Bulgarian Association of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, the European Hematology Association (EHA), the European Society for Pediatric Oncology (SIOPE), Societe Francaise de lutte contre les Cancers et des leucemies de l'enfant et de l'adolescents (SFCE).

5. Conclusion:

Based on the above facts, I believe that the professional qualification, research and teaching activities of the candidate are in compliance with and even exceed the requirements of the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding the academic position of Associate Professor at Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna.

Therefore, I recommend to the members of the Scientific Jury to vote affirmatively to confer to Dr Milena Ivanova Belcheva, MD, the academic position of Associate Professor at Medical University "Prof. Dr Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna, in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field 7.1 Medicine and scientific specialty Pediatrics, for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, MU - Varna, and the Clinic of Pediatric Clinical Hematology and Oncology at University Hospital "St. Marina" Varna (published in *State Gazette*, issue 17/26.02.2021).

Signature: Ass Prof Dr Miglena D. Georgieva, MD

17.06.2021

Varna