

**ATTN:
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY
ANNOUNCED BY ORDER NO R-109-264/JUNE 23,
2022 OF THE RECTOR OF THE MEDICAL
UNIVERSITY "PROF. 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 'Associate 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 Pediatric Clinic at St. Marina University Hospital of Varna according to the Order of the Rector, Valentin Lyubomirov Ignatov, MD, PhD, promulgated in State gazette No 32/April 26, 2022

According to Order No R-109-264/June 23,2022 of the Rector of the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna, I was elected external member of the Scientific jury in a procedure for tenure of the academic position of Associate Professor' in the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna and assigned for standpoint preparation concerning the competition. Assistant-in-chief Krasimira Ivanova Koleva, MD, PhD, 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 for tenure of academic positions in the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna. No procedural infringements were established.

I declare that I have no conflict of interest 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

Krasimira Ivanova Koleva was born on June 17, 1966 in the village of Vetrino, Region of Varna. She graduated from the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna in 1999. Krasimira Koleva, MD, started to work as a physician in a medical centre. Since 2010, she was appointed as intern, and since 2017, she is assistant in the Department of Pediatrics at St. Marina University Hospital of Varna. She has acquired a speciality of pediatrics in 2009 and a speciality of pediatric gastroenterology in 2016. During the period between 2019 and 2021, she is doctoral student in independent preparation form in the speciality of pediatric gastroenterology at the Department of Pediatrics and successfully defends a dissertation for the educational and scientific degree of 'doctor of philosophy' on

the theme of 'Some contemporary diagnostic aspects of inflammatory bowel diseases in children and adolescents'.

II. RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Krasimira Koleva, MD, PhD, participates in the present competition with the following scientific works:

A dissertation work for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree of 'doctor of philosophy'

One-author monograph entitled 'Novelties in the treatment of ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease in childhood and adolescence'.

Publications and reports published in scientific editions abstracted and indexed in world-famous data-bases with scientific information such as *Scopus* и *Web of Science* (in two Bulgarian journals) - nine in number and publications published in non-abstracted scientific journals with scientific peer-reviewing (in six Bulgarian and one foreign journal), or published in edited collective volumes (three reports in three proceedings of scientific forums in Bulgaria) - 20 in number. A total of 249.84 scores (at a necessary minimum of 200 scores).

Reports published in full-text in proceedings of two scientific forums in Bulgaria (beyond the minimal scientometric requirements for the academic position of 'Associate Professor' - three in number. A total of 20.83 scores.

Articles published in two non-abstracted Bulgarian scientific journals with scientific peer-reviewing, related to the dissertation work - four in number. A total of 75 scores (at a necessary minimum of 50 scores).

According to the check-up from the Library of the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna, three Dr. Krasimira Koleva's articles have been cited a total of 11 times (in seven articles by Bulgarian authors and in four articles by foreign authors). A total of 105 scores.

A total of 37 publications are in Bulgarian but a total of five ones - in English language. Krasimira Koleva, MD, PhD, is the only or second author of six publications each, first author - of five, third author - of nine, fourth author - of eight, fifth author - of one and sixth author - of three publications.

Krasimira Koleva, MD, PhD, participates in one research project in the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna on the theme: 'Assessment of the expression levels of selected microRNAs as potential biomarkers in children and adolescents with inflammatory bowel diseases'.

The publications submitted by Krasimira Koleva, MD, PhD, for participation in the competition completely correspond to the recommended quantitative criteria for tenure of the academic position of 'Associate 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 Krasimira Koleva, MD, PhD, is based on her clinical therapeutic and diagnostic work as pediatrician and pediatric gastroenterologist presenting with prestige among the Bulgarian scientific community and the children with diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, liver, pancreas, cystic fibrosis, etc.

The theoretical and applied contributions in the scientific works of Krasimira Koleva, MD, PhD, are in the following main thematic fields: pediatric gastroenterology, pediatric hepatology, pediatric pancreatology, clinical pediatrics, and intestinal microbiome.

The main directions in her research work are related to the contemporary diagnosis and treatment of the inflammatory bowel diseases, gastrointestinal and liver diseases in childhood and adolescence.

The novelties in the diagnosis of the inflammatory bowel diseases in childhood and adolescence have been systematized in the dissertation work and in the monograph.

For the first time in Bulgaria, the additional differential diagnostic role of 11 microribonucleic acids in children with ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease has been investigated. The constellation of appropriate modern laboratory and imaging methods of investigation in the children and adolescents with Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and non-specific colitis has been defined in the dissertation work for the first time in Bulgaria. An original diagnostic algorithm concerning the inflammatory bowel diseases in childhood and adolescence has been elaborated. Not only in the dissertation work, but also in the monograph, the recent scientific achievements in the field of the treatment of the inflammatory bowel diseases in the children and adolescents have been presented. For the first time in Bulgaria, the international scientific communications and dynamic institutionalization of research on the issues of Crohn's disease in children have scientometrically been studied.

Several publications have been devoted to the clinical symptoms, methods of diagnosis, genetic tests, complications and treatment of celiakia as well as to the peculiarities of cystic fibrosis, gastroesophageal reflux disease, primary and secondary gastroesophageal reflux in suckling age. The important role of the intestinal microbiome for the human organism as well as of the fecal microbiome and revolution of probiotics has been considered. The diseases taking its course with chronic diarrhea in childhood such as celiakia, cystic fibrosis, lactase deficiency, irritable bowel syndrome and inflammatory bowel diseases and causing nausea and vomiting in childhood have been discussed. The clinical picture of food allergy and, especially, of eosinophilic esophagitis, gastritis and gastroenteritis, atopic dermatitis, allergic proctocolitis, and contact dermatitis has been presented.

Several articles have been devoted to the diagnosis of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in children and adolescents. For the first time in Bulgaria, the role of the microribonucleic acids, serological tests and elastography for the diagnosis of this disease has been analyzed. The rare *vena portae* thrombosis related to kidney affection in children, adolescents and young persons, the deep venous thrombosis as a complication of ulcerative colitis in childhood and the deep venous thrombosis of the femoral and iliac veins in a child with acute ulcerative colitis have been presented. There are undoubted contributions in the articles dealing with suckling's nutrition, permeable alimentary tract, constipation, chronic liver disease and hepatorenal syndrome in childhood.

IV. TEACHING AND LECTURER'S ACTIVITY

Krasimira Koleva, MD, PhD, is involved in the education of medical students in the discipline of 'pediatrics'. Her teaching and lecturer's activity as assistant at 0.5 pay-roll office in the Department of Pediatrics during the period between 2017 and 2021 is the following: during the 2017-2018 academic year - 232 hours; during the 2018-2019 academic year - 210 hours; during the 2019-2020 academic year - 198 hours and during the 2020-2021 academic year - 216 hours.

V. MEMBERSHIPS IN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

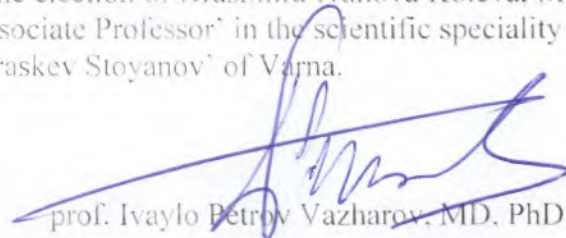
Krasimira Koleva, MD, PhD, is member of several scientific societies and organizations:

1. Bulgarian Pediatric Association
2. Bulgarian Society of Human Genetics and Genomics
3. ESPGHAN (European Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition)
4. ECCO (European Crohn and Colitis Organization)

CONCLUSION

Based on candidate's scientific works submitted for peer reviewing and analysis, I can convincingly declare that I vote positively for the election of Krasimira Ivanova Koleva, MD, PhD, for tenure of the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in the scientific speciality of 'Pediatrics' in the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna.

September 19, 2022


prof. Ivaylo Petrov Vazharov, MD, PhD