

R E V I E W

BY

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Concerning: procedure for acquiring the academic position of "Assoc. Prof." in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports", Professional field 7.1 "Medicine", specialty "Obstetrics and Gynecology", for the needs of the Department of Healthcare, Shumen branch of Medical University of Varna, pursuant to Order R-109-69/28.01.2026 of the Rector of MU-Varna.

The procedure was published in State Gazette No. 102/28.11.2025, and only one candidate participated in it - Dr. Yonka Ivanova Kornovska, M.D.

I. CAREER PROFILE& BIOGRAPHY OF THE CANDIDATE:

Dr. Yonka Kornovska, M.D. was born in 1975. She completed her higher education and graduated with a master's degree in medicine from the Medical University of Pleven in 1999 with excellent grades. From 2000 to 2004, she was a resident in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Medical University of Pleven. In 2005, after successfully passing her exams, she obtained her specialty in the same field. Dr. Kornovska's professional development includes working as a doctor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at SBAGAL "Maychin Dom" in Varna, senior medical representative and regional coordinator for one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies. Since 2020, she has been part of the team at the Gynecology Clinic at the St. Anna Hospital in Varna, and since 2015, she has also been practicing at the "Prof. Yavor Kornovski" Medical Center.

The candidate's academic development has been steady and upward—assistant on a fee basis at the Department of Health Care at MU-Varna, Shumen branch, regular assistant, and after defending her dissertation "Treatment of cervical precancerous lesions by LLETZ electrocautery

excision in outpatient settings," she obtained her PhD. Since 2023, she has also been a senior assistant.

She has made an excellent impression with her numerous additional qualification courses – Colposcopy Level I and II, Hysteroscopy Level I and II, Laparoscopy Level I and II, Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology, etc.

Dr. Kornovska, M.D. is a member of a number of professional organizations.

She is fluent in English.

II. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

The candidate's scientific interests lie in several main areas: anatomical considerations and surgical techniques in operative gynecology, ERAS and prehabilitation, Erbium lasers in gynecology, gynecological oncology, rare clinical cases, etc. Dr. Kornovska's professional pursuits are also reflected in her scientific output. She has a total of 144 publications: 81 written scientific papers and 63 participations in national scientific forums. For the purposes of this competition, 38 of the publications and 1 dissertation for the acquisition of the academic degree "Ph.D." have been used. Eleven of them are in refereed and indexed journals, 16 in refereed contemporary publications with scientific review.

According to the information provided by the global database Google Scholar, as of January 3, 2026, Dr. Kornovska's scientific works have been cited 281 times.

The total IF is 112.3, and the h-index is 10.

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS: There are ones with original, methodical, and applied contributions, some of which I would like to highlight:

- The anatomy and variations of the vascular network of the anterior abdominal wall are described, knowledge of which minimizes complications associated with the placement of trocars in laparoscopic surgery;
- A proprietary surgical technique is described for primary healing of vulvar defects after wide local excision of the vulva, vagina, and urethra in locally advanced vulvar carcinoma;
- The applicability and technique of laparoscopic transposition of the ovaries in young patients with locally advanced cervical cancer before chemoradiotherapy is described;

- The applicability of scalpel conisation during pregnancy in pregnant women with Ca colli uteri in situ is described;

Also described are: the surgical technique of Hudson's operation for achieving cytoreduction in advanced ovarian carcinoma, a universal technique for penetrating the retroperitoneal space of the small pelvis in a number of oncological and non-oncological diseases, a technique for ligating the hypogastric artery as a surgical means of stopping excessive bleeding in the small pelvis caused by gynecologic pathology.

The second area of Dr. Kornovska's scientific interests—ERAS and rehabilitation—is extremely contemporary, relevant, and is gaining ground worldwide in an increasing number of surgical specialties:

- For the first time in Bulgaria, results from the practical application of the ERAS system in daily practice are presented.

- The applicability of the individual components of ERAS, such as non-opioid analgesia and measures to accelerate patient recovery on the day of surgery, etc., is presented.

Regarding the third area—Erbium lasers in gynecology—the results of the treatment of stress incontinence and genitourinary syndrome in menopause, published for the first time in Bulgaria, are a valuable contribution.

The contributions in scientific papers devoted to the combination of pregnancy and cancer are also particularly important.

Four rare cases are described, some of which have been published in prestigious foreign journals, which clearly illustrates their significance.

III. TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

The information provided on Dr. Kornovska's teaching load certifies the following: 177 teaching hours for 2021/2022, 240 teaching hours for 2022/2023, 240 teaching hours for 2023/2024, and 240 teaching hours for 2024/2025 from practical exercises in "Obstetrics and Gynecology" in the specialty "Midwifery."

IV. THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES:

Dr. Kornovska, M.D. actively participates in the therapeutic, diagnostic, and surgical activities of St. Anna Hospital in Varna. She possesses excellent communication skills, which contribute to successful daily teamwork.

V. CONCLUSION:

Dr. Kornovska, M.D. is a physician with indisputable professional skills, as well as a lecturer whose participation in scientific forums is eagerly awaited. The attached reference shows that the candidate meets and even exceeds the minimum requirements.

The materials submitted for the procedure meet the requirements of the ADASRB (Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria) and the Regulations of the Medical University of Varna.

In view of the above, I support and recommend to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the appointment of Dr. Yonka Ivanova Kornovska, M.D., Ph.D. as "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR".

05.03.2026

Plovdiv

Review by

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/Prof. Dr. Elena Dimitrakova, M.D., Ph.D./