

To the Chairperson of the Scientific Jury
Appointed by Order No. R-109-69/28.01.2026
Of the Rector of Medical University – Varna

STATEMENT

By Assoc. Professor Stoyan Georgiev Kostov, MD, PhD

Research Institute

Medical University – Pleven

Regarding a procedure for holding the academic position of **Associate Professor** in the field of higher education 7. **Healthcare and Sports**, professional area 7.1. **Medicine**, scientific speciality **Obstetrics and Gynaecology**, for the needs of the Department of Healthcare – Shumen Affiliate, MU-Varna, published in the State Gazette, issue 102 of 28/11/2025.

The only candidate accepted into the Associate Professor selection process is Yonka Ivanova Kornovska, MD, PhD, currently serving as Chief Assistant in the Department of Healthcare at the Shumen Affiliate of Medical University "Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna. The candidate has submitted all the documentation required, thus complying with the requirements. The regulations of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB) and the Rules for its application at MU-Varna have been observed, including the provisions for obtaining the academic position of "Associate Professor."

Biographical Data

Yonka Kornovska, MD, PhD, was born in 1975. She completed her higher education in 1999 at the Higher Medical Institute – Pleven. In 2005, she obtained her Certificate of Completion of Special Training (CCST) in Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Reproductive Medicine.

She has worked in her field of expertise during the periods 2004–2005 and from 2015 to the present at: Maichin Dom – Varna, Women's Health Centre “Prof. Yavor Kornovski”, and the Gynaecology Clinic at St. Anna Hospital – Varna. From 2020 onwards, she started teaching at the Department of Healthcare, MU-Varna, Shumen Affiliate. Initially, she was a part-time assistant professor (2020 – 2021), then a full-time assistant professor for the following two years. She has been a Chief Assistant Professor within the same department since 2023. In 2022, she defended her doctoral thesis on the *Treatment of Cervical Precancerous Lesions by Large Loop Excision (LLETZ) in Outpatient Settings*. She has an excellent command of English.

I. Analysis and Assessment of Research and Scientific Output

Dr. Yonka Kornovska's research includes 81 published scientific works along with 63 presentations at national scientific conferences. For this procedure, she has presented 38 articles: 11 papers in foreign peer-reviewed journals qualifying as cumulative habilitation: 10 in foreign peer-reviewed journals; and 16 in Bulgarian non-peer-reviewed ones. One additional publication in an indexed journal is presented beyond the minimum requirements. The number of points from the submitted publications meets the minimum requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and those of MU-Varna. Dr. Kornovska is a second or subsequent author in most of the papers; she is the first author of 2 publications.

Based on the Medical Library at MU-Varna report, the submitted papers citations are 10, which meet the minimum requirements of MU-Varna. According to the global research database Google Scholar, her scientific publications have been cited 281 times.

Dr. Kornovska's papers have a combined impact factor of 112.3. The candidate holds a high h-index of 10.

The candidate's research and its practical application are in the following areas within the speciality of Obstetrics and Gynecology: (1) a comprehensive and detailed perspective on retroperitoneal anatomy and its significance in operative gynaecology; (2) the implementation of ERAS (Enhanced Recovery After Surgery) protocols, representing an innovation in the speciality; (3) surgical treatment of gynaecologic oncology conditions in women of reproductive age and during pregnancy; (4) the application of Erbium lasers in gynaecological

practice. In these areas, the candidate presents valuable scientific and applied contributions, with some of the reported data being presented for the first time in Bulgaria.

The scientific publications also provide methodological guidance for implementing specific components of the ERAS program and for the treatment of urinary incontinence. The submitted research output meets the scientometric requirements for holding the position of Associate Professor.

II. Academic Activity

The candidate has been teaching at the Department of Healthcare, Shumen Affiliate of MU-Varna since 2020 – initially for one academic year as a part-time assistant professor, and subsequently as a full-time assistant professor. Dr. Yonka Kornovska has 5 years of teaching experience, of which 3 years were as Chief Assistant Professor at MU-Varna. Her academic-related tasks include practical sessions in the speciality of Midwifery. The workload report for the past 5 years shows an average teaching load of practical exercises and examinations of 216 hours. The total number of hours meets the minimum requirements of MU-Varna.

III. Assessment of Diagnostic and Clinical Activity

The surgical interventions performed by Dr. Yonka Ivanova Kornovska over a three-year period total 259 operations of varying scope, primarily in operative gynaecology. In pursuit of additional professional qualifications, Dr. Kornovska has completed courses in colposcopy (Levels I and II), hysteroscopy (Levels I and II), laparoscopy (Levels I and II), and an ultrasound course in obstetrics and gynaecology.

In conclusion, Dr. Yonka Ivanova Kornovska's research and academic experience meet the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for Academic Staff Development at MU-Varna. Based on my firm conviction, I advocate for the esteemed Scientific Jury to vote positively for awarding Dr. Yonka Ivanova Kornovska the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific speciality of Obstetrics and Gynaecology for the needs of the Department of Healthcare, Shumen Affiliate at Medical University – Varna.

Заличено на основание чл. 5,
§1, б. „В“ от Регламент (ЕС)
2016/679

05/03/2026

Assoc. Prof. Stoyan Kostov, MD, PhD