

TO
The Chairman of the Scientific Jury,
appointed with Ordinance of the
Rector of MU – Varna,
No. R-109-323 dated 07.10.2019

REGARDING: Review for a contest for the academic position Associate Professor in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sport, professional direction 7.1 Medicine, scientific specialty Pediatrics for the needs of Medical Faculty, Department of Pediatrics at MU – Varna, published in State Gazette, issue 62 dated 06.08.2019.

REVIEW

By Professor Dr. Stefan Nedev Stefanov, MD, PhD

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Department of Pediatrics, Medical University, Sofia

Scientific specialty: Pediatrics, Pediatric Rheumatology

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Candidate in the competition: One candidate participates in the contest: Dr. Elena Nikolova Paskaleva-Georgieva, MD, PhD.

The contest is announced in the appropriate order. Only one candidate participates in the contest, namely Dr. Elena Nikolova Paskaleva-Georgieva, MD, PhD.

The review of the documents, presented in the contest, is based on the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulation for its implementation, as well as on the Regulation of the conditions and the procedure for acquisition of scientific degrees and occupation of academic positions and the Qualitative criteria for the development of academic staff at Medical University, Varna.



All documents in this contest were presented to me according to the requirements of the Regulations, well organized and with the necessary supporting material.

1. Presentation of the candidate.

Biographical details and professional development.

Dr. Elena Nikolova Paskaleva-Georgieva, MD was born on 11. 01. 1958, Yagodovo, Plovdiv region.

She graduated higher education in Medicine in 1982 at Higher Medical Institute, Plovdiv. From 1983 - 1989 she was a regional pediatrician in City Polyclinic, Blagoevgrad /1983-1985/, and from 1985-1989 in 28th Polyclinic, Sofia. In the period 1989 - 2007 she was a staff physician in Pediatric Ward of University Multiprofile Hospital for Active Treatment "St. Anna", Sofia. From 2007 until now she has been a staff physician in Clinic of Pulmonology with Intensive Ward at Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment of Pediatric Diseases "Prof. Ivan Mitev", Medical University, Sofia.

In 1990 she obtained a specialty in "Pediatric Diseases", and in 2017 – specialty "Pediatric Pulmonology and Phtisiatics".

In 2009 she obtained qualification "Healthcare Management" at Southwest University "Neofit Rilski", Blagoevgrad.

2015-2017 she was a resident in pediatric pulmonology at Pediatric Clinic of Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment of Pulmonary Diseases "St. Sofia".

She has additional qualification in Homeopathy /1999-2001/ in Medical University, Sofia, functional methods for diagnostics in pediatrics /2007/. She performed short-term specializations in University Center "Charite"-Berlin /2009 and 2012/ and Lisbon /2016/ on the problems of respiratory medicine, emergency situations and respiratory reanimation. She performed an educational course in conventional ultrasonography – abdominal ultrasonography and superficial structures /2008/.

In 2015 she obtained the scientific and educational degree "Doctor" with dissertation on the topic "Diagnostic and therapeutic approach to broncho-obstructive syndrome in early childhood".

She speaks fluent German, Russian and English.

She has good computer skills.

A reference was presented for consultant and translation activities.

She presents 31 publications in Bulgarian and foreign journals, with impact factor /IF/- 19.88. Regular participations in national and international congresses and conferences with scientific reports and posters – 35 participations.

A positive statement was presented for her professional realization by the Executive Director of Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment of Pediatric Diseases - LTD "Prof. Ivan Mitev", Sofia.



2. EVALUATION of the scientific research activity

Dr. Elena Paskaleva-Georgieva, MD has presented for review in this contest a total of 31 scientific publications and communications. Their distribution is as follows:

- Dissertation for obtaining the scientific and educational degree „Doctor” – 1
- Scientific publications in foreign and Bulgarian journals – 31
- Publications in Bulgarian – 21
- Publications in a foreign language – 9 in English and 1 in Russian
- Publications in peer-reviewed and indexed journals – 12
- Publications in non-peer-reviewed journals - 19
- As an equivalent to habilitation work were presented 12 publications, 5 of which resumes published in foreign journals.

In the presented publications Dr. Georgieva, MD is:

- Independent author – in 19 publications
- First author in co-authorship – in 8 publications
- Co-author – 4 publications
- Participation in international congresses and conferences - 35.

Impact factor:

Based on data from the National Information and Documentation Center, the total impact factor of the presented publications is IF 19.88.

The citations of Dr. Georgieva, MD are in journals with IF 26.423.

Citations:

Dr. Georgieva, MD has attached an official reference from the Central Medical Library – Medical University, Sofia, the National Information and Documentation Center and Medical University-Varna for citations:

The citation reference of the candidate showed a total of 14 citations. Self-citations are excluded.

- Citations in Bulgarian literature – 4
- Citations in foreign literature /Scopus, Web of Knowledge / - 7
- Citations or reviews in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review



- The citations of Dr. Georgieva, MD are in journals with IF 26.423.

Scientific societies:

Dr. Georgieva, MD is a member of scientific and medical societies and organizations. They are in the field of pediatrics and pulmonary diseases:

- - European Respiratory Society (ERS)
- - Bulgarian Pediatric Association
- - Bulgarian Society Of Pulmonary Diseases
- - Bulgarian Association Of Pediatric Pulmonology And Phtisiatics
- - Bulgarian Medical Association

3. Scientific contributions and areas of the scientific research activity:

The publications cover a main area – pulmonary pathology in early childhood. The following main contributions in the relevant areas of scientific activity can be formed:

In the presented publications scientific results with applications are achieved and problems are investigated with contributions in the following fields and areas:

1. As a first area – research of BOS in childhood - “Diagnostic and therapeutic approach to broncho-obstructive syndrome in early childhood” – this is the topic of the dissertation for obtaining the scientific and educational degree “Doctor”. The functional (reversible) and the organic (irreversible) manifestations of the broncho-obstructive syndrome have been discussed in detail. Attention has been drawn to the allergic predisposition and atopic background of the children. The role of the infections, bacterial and viral, has been confirmed, as well as the therapeutic approach to controlling the condition. An analysis has been made of the approach also in bronchial asthma

The study in the field of the broncho-obstructive syndrome is the first investigation in our country of the etiopathological factors for the development of broncho-obstructive syndrome in early childhood, based on age-appropriate diagnostic procedures. The clinical characteristics of the various episodes of bronchial obstruction have been summarized. The role of the persistence of their manifestations till the age of 5 has been proved. The generalized classification of diseases with broncho-obstructive syndrome in early childhood is extremely valuable. The practical focus has allowed to develop a diagnostic algorithm for working with children with BOS. The role of breastfeeding and proper



nutrition has been confirmed as protective factors for the development of BOS in early childhood.

In conclusion, there is a need for refinement of antibiotic treatment in the neonatal period and up to 1 year of age in order to limit the obstruction manifestations.

2. Clinical cases with pulmonary pathology - a comparative analysis of the diseases of the respiratory system, as well as of bronchial asthma in 3 municipalities in Sofia District, cases of respiratory system abnormalities: congenital lobar emphysema, pulmonary hypoplasia, bronchiectasis.
3. The role of vitamin D in children with BOS
4. Obstructive sleep apnea - a serious problem for preterm, term newborns and children up to the age of 3 years.
5. Lung diseases in infectious, allergic and systemic diseases. Different cases of pulmonary pathology are covered in Wegener's granulomatosis, congenital abnormalities of the lungs (lobar emphysema, hypoplasia of the lungs, bronchiectasis), anemia and nutrition in childhood, congenital heart malformation, which was associated with clinical picture of frequent pulmonary infections, shunt nephritis, differential diagnosis of space-occupying processes in the brain.
6. Epidemiologic study – The in-depth study of the outbreaks and the spread of tuberculosis amongst the pediatric population in Bulgaria is interesting.

Given her interests in the scientific fields, from 2019 Dr. Elena Paskaleva-Georgieva, MD, PhD has been included in the editorial team of American Journal of Pediatrics.

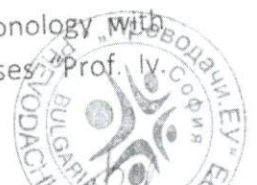
It is obvious that Dr. Elena Georgieva, MD is a knowledgeable and seeking researcher, who combines well the qualities of a good clinician and scientist, who uses contemporary diagnostic and therapeutic methods. At the same time, she always strives to improve the diagnostic and therapeutic process. I commend her ability to perform research activity related to clinical pediatrics and to combine science with clinical practice at the patient's bed. It is apparent that she is presented as a researcher who is able to properly investigate, interpret and present scientific material.

4. EVALUATION of the educational and teaching activities:

The teaching activity of Dr. Elena Paskaleva-Georgieva, MD in the years is mainly as the organizer of a publication idea, adviser of young physicians in their scientific work and participation in international congresses for students and young doctors.

For several years he has been a teacher-director of courses for professional development of healthcare professionals from the country, which are held in Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment of Pediatric Diseases "Prof. Ivan Mitev". She works with general practitioners, participates in seminars with theoretical as well as with practical focus.

She participates in the training of trainees and residents at Clinic of Pulmonology with Intensive Ward, Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment of Pediatric Diseases "Prof. Iv. Cоpъp Mitev" – Sofia.



In addition to being a teacher, Dr. Georgieva, MD is also performing consulting activities not only in her workplace - in 2007 with her active participation the publishing house "Bookmark Publishing" presented a series of 8 books on the proper nutrition in healthy children and the dietary regimens for children with different chronic conditions. She is an author of 4th book "Nutrition of the child from 3 until 18 years", 79 pages, 2007.

She is a consultant of several books on popular medical topics and with focus on the health culture: "Diabetes Guide", "What laboratory values tell us", "Diabetes in children", "What awaits you when you are expecting a child?", "What awaits you in the first year of the child?", "What awaits you in the second and third year of the child?", as well as the TV show on the Bulgarian National Television - "Television baby", season 2006-2007.

She is also presented as being perfectly fluent in foreign languages - she translated from German "Family Health Encyclopedia", Publishing house "Emas", 1997; "Guide to Homeopathy", Prof. Matthias Dorci, Publishing house "Emas", 1999; "My child has an allergy", Dr. Petar Fisher, Publishing house "Emas", 1997.

5. EVALUATION of the diagnostic and therapeutic activities:

Dr. Georgieva, MD has attached certifications/diplomas for obtained specialty in:

1. Pediatric diseases - 1990
2. Pediatric pulmonology and phtisiatics – 2017
3. Healthcare management – 2009 год.
4. Certificates from performed specializations:

2001: "Homeopathy", Medical University – Sofia;

2007: "Functional diagnostics in childhood", Medical University – Sofia;

2008: „Conventional ultrasonography – abdominal ultrasonography and superficial structures", Medical University – Sofia;

Dr. Georgieva, MD has specialized several times in various problems of pediatrics:

2009: "Emergency situations during childhood and respiratory reanimation, part A + B", University Medical Center "Charite" - Berlin, Germany

2012: Individual training in Clinic of Pediatric Pulmonology and Immunology, University Medical Center "Charite" - Berlin, Germany

2016: Summer school of paediatric respiratory medicine, Lisbon, Portugal

Multiple courses and individual training for continuous qualification in pediatrics, pulmonary diseases, immunology, autoimmune diseases etc.



In the period 1989 - 2007 she was a staff physician in Pediatric Ward of University Multiprofile Hospital for Active Treatment "Saint Anna", Sofia, and from 2007 until now she has been a staff physician in Clinic of Pulmonology with Intensive Ward at Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment of Pediatric Diseases "Prof. Ivan Mitev", Medical University, Sofia.

A positive statement was presented for her professional realization by the Executive Director of Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment of Pediatric Diseases - LTD "Prof. Ivan Mitev", Sofia.

CONCLUSION:

From the presented above it is obvious that Dr. Elena Nikolova Paskaleva-Georgieva, MD, is a trained teacher and a specialist in the field of pediatrics and pediatric pulmonology and phtisiatics, she has vast clinical as well as teaching experience. She participates in the training of young physicians, trainees, general practitioners and medical nurses, with sufficient volume of scientific activity, publications and diagnostic and therapeutic activity. The scientific output of Dr. Elena Georgieva, MD is performed by her personally. The results are obtained via scientific research and clinical experience. The contributions are indisputable. I believe that Dr. Georgieva, MD is a trained physician, a clinician with scientific interests, a leading pediatrician and a specialist in pediatric pulmonology.

The candidate fulfills all the criteria and scientometric indicators specified in the Regulation of the conditions and the procedure for acquisition of scientific degrees and occupation of academic positions of Medical University, Varna.

I recommend the honorary members of the Scientific Jury to award Dr. Elena Nikolova Paskaleva-Georgieva, MD, PhD, with the academic position "Associate Professor" in Pediatrics.

11. 11. 2019
Sofia

Signature:


/Prof. Dr. Stefan Stefanov, MD, PhD/

I, the undersigned Viktoriya Georgieva Georgieva, certify the veracity of the translation performed by me from Bulgarian to English of the attached document – Review. The translation consists of 7 /seven/ pages.

Translator: Viktoriya Georgieva Georgieva

