

REVIEW

**on a competition for filling the academic position Professor
in the speciality "Paediatrics" for the needs of the Department of Paediatrics
At the Faculty of Medicine - Medical University
"Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"- Varna**

Subject: Announcement of the competition for holding the academic position Professor in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.1 Medicine and scientific specialty Paediatrics for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Paediatrics - Medical University – Varna and the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic at the University Multifunctional Hospital for Active Treatment "Sveta Marina" Varna, published in the *State Gazette*, issue 62 dated 06th of August 2019.

Candidate (sole): Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Ignatova Kaleva, M.D.

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Violeta Mihova Yotova, MD

Member of the Scientific Selection Committee by Order No.P-109-315 / 07.10.2019. by the Rector of Medical University - Varna, designated for a reviewer

Biographical details

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Kaleva was born on 17th of February 1955 in the village Staro selo, District of Silistra. In 1973 she completed her high school education at Mathematics High School "Baba Tonka", city of Ruse with excellent grades. Same year she was admitted to the Higher Medical Institute - Varna, specialty medicine. In 1979 she graduated with excellence grades. For two years she worked as an intern at the Paediatrics (Children's) Ward – town of Omurtag, and after the successfully passed competition she continued as a clinical intern paediatrician at the University Multifunctional Hospital for Active Treatment "Sv. Marina" - Varna. After her acquiring a specialty in childhood diseases in 1984, she became Head of the Paediatrics Ward – Municipal hospital town of Omurtag, as well as a neonatologist at the Maternity Ward of the same hospital. In 1987 she won an assistant competition at the Department of Paediatrics to the Medical Institute Varna, and she started work at the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic (PHOC) where she has worked for 32 years up to now. During the following 4 years she passed through the stages: Senior Assistant (1989), Chief Assistant (1992) and she became habilitated in 2007 (Diploma No. 24185/19.04.2007). In 2005 she defended her doctoral thesis with a subject "Febrile neutropenic and infectious complications for children with oncology diseases", and obtained her educational and scientific degree *Doctor* on the specialty *Paediatrics* with Diploma No.29557/26.02.2005.

Professional and academic development

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva acquired three medical specialties: **Paediatric Diseases** in 1984 (Diploma 27386/15.10.1984), **Clinical Haematology** in 1992 (Diploma 40061/16.07.1992) and **Paediatric Clinical Haematology and Oncology** in 2007 (Diploma 1641/10.10.2007).

Her specialties are mainly related to malignant blood diseases in children, anaemia and coagulation disorders. In the period 1990-1992 she passed through several courses at the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic (PHOC) under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Dragan Bobev, and at the National Institute of Haematology (NIKH) in Sofia under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Danaila Avramova. She passed an individual course in immunohaematology and cytology at the National Institute of Haematology (NIKH) under the guidance of prof. Dr. Todor Meshkov in 1990. Her specializations and courses abroad are in the field of haemoglobinopathies and coagulopathies in prestigious specialized centers for rare blood diseases in Europe: Thalassemia Center in Nicosia, Cyprus (2006), Thalassemia Center in Athens, Greece (2006), Center for Haemophilia at the Institute for Experimental Haematology and Transfusion Medicine in Bonn, Germany (2014), and short-term highly specialized training courses including: *Von Willebrand disease – from theory to clinical practice*, Malmö, Sweden (2011), *Haemophilia management in clinical practice*, University of Lovain, Brussels, Belgium (2014), *Diagnosis and management of very rare red cell and iron disorders*, Lisbon, Portugal (2016).

During the Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva's work, she has passed certified trainings on palliative medicine, abdominal ultrasound, and joint ultrasound in patients with haemophilia, scanning and reading DXA in childhood, transplantation of HSC. She has two certified pedagogy of higher medical education and a Diploma in *Health Management* as of 2013.

In 2005 Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva won a competition for the Head of the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic at the University Multifunctional Hospital for Active Treatment "Sv. Marina", where she has been occupying this position up to now. During that period the clinic reformed its facilities and capabilities for the application of almost all modern diagnostic-therapeutic algorithms in paediatric oncohaematology, by becoming one of the leading specialized clinics in Bulgaria. The first expert center for rare diseases in Bulgaria - Expert Center for Coagulopathy and Rare Anemia (ECCRA) was opened in 2013 at the clinic, and in 2017 the first Center for transplantation of HSC for children begins to work. Under her guidance, currently the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic has reached the status of the only specialized clinic in the country where there is an opportunity for complete and comprehensive treatment of haematological and oncological diseases in children, including conventional and high-dose chemotherapy, operative treatment, radiotherapy, haematopoietic stem cell transplantation multidisciplinary treatment of rare haematological diseases.

In 2005, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva was elected as a member of the Board of Directors at the University Hospital for Active Treatment "Sv. Marina" – Varna where she worked by 2010, and for the period 2012-2015 she was a member of the Advisory Board of the hospital. She is the first and permanent chairwoman of the *Hospital Committee for Blood and Blood Products*

Transfusion, the Children's Oncology Committee, established in 2012. She is a member of the committees: Medicinal, Ethical, Hospital Oncology Committee.

She is a coordinator of the hospital innovative projects for Center for HSC Transplantation and Laboratory for Translational Medicine, as well as a pilot project for Bulgaria Center for Innovative CAR-T Immune Cell Therapy for Cancer Patients in Bulgaria and Border Countries in the Region.

Assoc. Prof. Dr.Kaleva has been the Head of the Department of Paediatrics at the Medical University - Varna since 2012 to date. During the period 2006-2015 she was a member of the Faculty and Academic Council at the Medical University - Varna, and in the period 2012-2016 she was also a member of the Academic Council. Since 2012 she is a member of the Scientific Council for Therapeutic Sciences at the Faculty of Medicine, and the Program Council for the coordination of training in the specialty "Nurse". On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Department in 2013 under her supervision and along with co-authored Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emil Dyankov, the anniversary book "*50 years from the life of a department*" was published.

Innovation and Research

Scientometric indicators

The analysis of Assoc. Prof. Dr V. Kaleva's quantitative data of the scientific production shows that she participated in the competition with a total of **282 scientific works and publications**, as **189** of them were realized after she had received the academic Associate Professor's title. Additionally, she submitted a reference for 82 participations with papers and posters in scientific forums in Bulgaria after receiving an academic position "associate professor", which she did not propose for review due to the lack of summaries, posters or reports published in the corpuses (scientific activity). The distribution of the works before and after the acquisition of the Associate Professor has been presented in the following table.

Scientific works – total (before and after the academic Associated Professor title had acquired)		Number
Dissertations		1
Chapters in a monograph		4
Book chapters		1
Chapters in methodical instructions and guides		10
Full-text publications in Bulgarian magazines/journals		88
Full-text publications in international magazines/journals - 4 with IF		9
Summaries published in Bulgarian magazines/journals		19
Summaries published in international magazines/journals – all 9 with IF		9
Summaries published in Bulgarian corpuses		100
Summaries published in international corpuses		41
Total number		282

The 189 scientific publications submitted for review are distributed as follows: 58 full-text publications in journals/magazines, of which 50 in Bulgarian and 8 in international, as 4 of the

latters are with IF; 21 published summaries in journals, 15 of them in Bulgarian and 6 in international ones, all 6 with IF; 96 published summaries, 63 of them in Bulgarian and 33 in international ones; 3 publications in the form of chapters of monographs, one in a textbook and 10 publications in a collective authorship in the form of methodical instructions and manuals. The scientific papers submitted for review after the acquisition of the academic position "Associate Professor" are presented in the following table.

Scientific works - after academic <i>Associated Professor</i> title had acquired	Number
Chapters in a monograph	3
Book chapters	1
Chapters in methodical instructions and guides	10
Full-text publications in Bulgarian magazines/journals	50
Full-text publications in international magazines/journals - 4 with IF	8
Summaries published in Bulgarian magazines/journals	15
Summaries published in international magazines/journals – all 9 with IF	6
Summaries published in Bulgarian corpuses	63
Summaries published in international corpuses	33
Total number	189

In the submitted documentation for participation in the competition, the scientific works and papers are divided in two parts. The first includes the publications through which Assoc. Prof. Dr.Kaleva covers the minimum requirements for occupation of the academic position professor, according to Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria dated 2018, issue 28, and in the second one - included all the rest 161.

In 53 publications (28%) she is the sole or first author: the sole author in 32 scientific papers (19%), the first author in 21 publications (12%). In collective works she participated as the second author in 43 (22%), the third one in 29 (15%) and the further author in 64 (32%).

Assoc. Prof. Dr.V. Kaleva's impact factor is 64.14 (14,622 out of 4 journals with full-text publications and 49,518 out of 9 journals with published summaries), which has been calculated by a systematic source of information Web of Science. The number of quotes is 65, of which 58 are quotes in scientific journals, referred and indexed in world-famous scientific information databases, one quote is in a monograph and 6 are quotes in non-refereed scientific non-reviewed journals. The quotes was prepared in the Library of MU - Varna grounded on the information from international scientific databases Web of Science, Scopus Google Scholar и eLibrary.ru. Assoc. Prof. Dr.Kaleva is a regular lecturer with reports and presentations in 82 scientific and practical conferences of organizations and associations at regional and national level. The latters are not submitted for review as the events are predominantly educational.

Thematic directions and contributions

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Assoc. Prof. Kaleva's scientific contributions have classified in 6 directions:

1. Rare haematological diseases;
2. Other haematological disorders and diseases in childhood;

3. Malignant diseases in childhood;
4. Febrile neutropenia and infectious complications in oncologically sick children;
5. Other paediatric problems and diseases; and
6. Evidence-based haematological guidelines/standards.

In the field of thalassemia and haemophilia Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva's scientific production is leading. For the first time in Bulgaria the principles and algorithms for the establishment and functioning of a certified expert center for thalassemia and haemophilia, corresponding to European and world standards have been defined. The first summarized national assessment of the clinical status of Bulgarian patients with thalassemia major (as of December 2014) is being conducted and future directions for their complex care are formulated. She has participated in a series of clinical studies evaluating for the first time the therapeutic efficacy of mono- or combination with iron chelation therapy in Bulgarian patients with thalassemia major. In collaboration with international research teams the detection was introduced for the first time, quantification and prediction of myocardial iron load by cardiovascular MRI (the value of T2*). She is a mentor in a series of original echocardiographic evaluation studies (E /e') of parameters for systolic and diastolic dysfunction in thalassemia, correlations between laboratory and echocardiographic indexes (NT-proBNP and LAVi), the epidemiological profile of rhythmic disturbances and pulmonary hypertension. She is also co-author of clinical studies analyzing endocrine disorders, reproductive health, tube dysfunction, oral, hepatic and gastrointestinal disorders in patients with thalassemia major.

As a national expert on haemophilia, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva participated in the first global epidemiological study on structure, clinical status and therapeutic behaviour in children with congenital coagulopathies in Bulgaria. She is co-author to the comparative national studies on patients with haemophilia analyzing therapeutically efficiency and economic expedience on the categories of prophylactic regimens with coagulation factors, including the new product *BAY 81-8973*. She is a co-author of a large international study (with Bulgarian and German patients) on the diagnostic value of ultrasound to evaluation of joint defects. Her reports stated for the first time in the national haematology the theory and strategy for the induction of immune tolerance in inhibitory haemophilia and recommend the most up-to-date protocols for therapeutic behaviour (low dose regimen under *Protocol Bonn*, prophylactic administration of aPCC (*FEIBA*), rFVIIa, etc.).

An outstanding contribution to the field of malignancies is the first in Bulgaria guide of behaviour at malignant pleural effusions associated with malignant lymphomas, acute and chronic leukemias, multiple myeloma, *Castleman's* disease, radiation therapy, bone marrow transplantation, whose author is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva. She has participated in a series of multicenter national studies summarizing data on the efficacy of different therapeutic modalities in acute lymphoblastic leukemia, acute myeloblastic leukemia, and chronic childhood myeloblastic leukemia. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva is the co-author of publications describing clinical casuistics - a child with blast plasmacytoid dendritic cell neoplasia (for the first time in Bulgaria) and acute lymphoblastic leukemia with the simultaneous appearance of transcripts ETV6-RUNX1 and BCR-ABL in a child with B-cell leukemia (for the first time in world literature). She

participates in a national expert team that has regulated for the first time in Bulgaria the Euro Net-PHL-C1 protocol as a therapeutic standard for *Hodgkin* disease.

In the field of childhood solid tumors, Assoc. Prof. Kaleva participates as a co-author of summarizing national studies on the prognostic factors and therapeutic parameters of the most common solid tumors in childhood. She is the author of sections in the National Evidence-Based Guide to Neuroblastoma Behaviour. She is a mentor of the first oncological psychology studies in Paediatrics in Bulgaria for art-therapy sessions and for the selection of terminal-phase crisis interventions using validated assessment tools (ESAS, STAI-S, E.P.Q.-D and TAT).

Assoc. Prof. Dr. V. Kaleva is the leading author of a series of reviews and original clinical studies analyzing, for the first time in Bulgaria, the epidemiological model of febrile neutropenia in cancer patients and related infectious complications - categories, frequency, structure and microbiological spectrum. She is co-author of studies introducing evaluation criteria for oral and dental status and determining probiotic prophylaxis of oral mucositis.

In a series of modern reviews Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva, for the first time in national oncohematology, defines the issue of adherence to drug treatment and methods for its evaluation, launching a creative discussion on approaches to improving it through patient education, optimizing treatment regimens, and improving physician-patient communication.

Ass. Prof. Dr. Kaleva is co-author of the first Bulgarian publication presenting the GRADE approach as the most contemporary and creative method for developing evidence-based clinical evidence-based guidelines. Ass. Prof. Dr. Kaleva has continuously, for 8 years, updated the section on the behaviour of febrile neutropenia in the Bulgarian Standard for systemic therapy of solid tumors in adults and is co-author of the original editions and updates of the haematological methodological guidelines and therapeutic standards.

Participation in projects

Participation in a scientific project at the Science Foundation, Medical University - Varna

- Long-term results in the treatment of children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in a university clinic for paediatric oncohematology in Bulgaria (2019-2021)

Joint international projects of MU - Varna with other educational institutions and research groups

- Five-year project - Varna for Academic and Cultural Collaboration with Institut für Experimentelle Hämatologie und Transfusionsmedizin, Bonn, Germany (2013)
- Two-year project - Varna with Institut für Experimentelle Hämatologie und Transfusionsmedizin, Bonn, Germany, *Annual Hemophilia Training: Colloquium for Education* (2015)

Participation in other European projects related to research groups and networks

- e-ENERCA: Telemedicine platform for rare anaemias (2014-2019)
- E-ThaED for Healthcare Professionals (на TIF)

- PRO-RBDD: Prospective data collection on patients with coagulation fibrinogen and factor XIII deficiencies
- EuroNetPHL

Educational and lecture activity

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva is a lecturer with over 35 years of academic experience. She teaches at the Medical University - Varna the specialty of *Paediatrics* in Bulgarian language to students in the specialty *medicine* at the Faculty of Medicine, the specialties *nurse* and *midwife* at the Faculty of Public Health and the specialties *radiology laboratory assistant* and *public health inspector* at the Medical College - Varna. The teaching of the students in the field of *nurse* and *midwife*, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva conducts an interactive remote, allowing for the simultaneous teaching of the students from the university bases in Varna, as well as in the branches of Sliven, Shumen and Veliko Tarnovo.

The average and annual academic burdened in the last 3 years is 188 hours with a standard of 126 hours, as her number of teaching hours includes mostly teaching lessons.

The Paediatrics curriculum had passed two updates, as the content of all lecture courses being posted on the University's online platform *Blackboard*. An electronic version of the semester exam in English for Paediatrics is also in the process of testing, to be introduced in the next examination session. An electronic version of the semester exam in English for pediatrics is also in the process of testing, so it will be introduced in the next exam session.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva participates in the implementation of individual courses for postgraduate qualification in paediatric oncohematology and chemotransfusion. For the last three years she personally coordinated two new courses at the university – a course HSC Transplantation and paediatric course with the subject Emergency Conditions in Pediatrics. During the last academic year, with her active participation, a theoretical and practical training on FSS Rare Diseases in Paediatrics was introduced. After successful completion of the international project "Training of paramedics", of which she is the supervisor. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva along with the team have developed a pilot project for vocational training for the acquisition of vocational qualifications for the professions "Health assistant" and "Caregiver", on which basis two years later MU - Varna received for the first time in Bulgaria a license for training in both professions in the specialty "Health care" at the Faculty of Public Health.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva is the supervisor of three post-graduate students of paediatric and four post-graduate students on paediatric clinical haematology and oncology, three of whom have already completed a specialization and work in the field of paediatric healthcare - one is a pediatrician at a District Multifunctional Hospital, and two with a specialty in paediatric clinical hematology and oncology, who have remained at her clinic.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. V. Kaleva is a member of committees for the acquisition of a clinical specialty in the *Paediatric Haematology and Oncology* and *Clinical haematology*. She is the supervisor of one graduating student and five PhD students, two of whom defended dissertations, respectively in 2016 and in 2017.

Assoc. Prof. Dr.Kaleva was a reviewer of several theses and doctoral dissertations in the field of medicine (3 theses and 3 dissertations), scientific works of candidates for the award of the scientific title *chief assistant* (3 reviews), *Associate Professor* (one review and 3 opinions) and *Professor* (7 reviews and 5 opinions). She is an author of reviews of 3 monographs, 5 scientific projects at the *Science* Foundation, MU - Varna and one at the National Science Foundation at the Ministry of Education and Science.

Since 2009 she is Member of the Editorial Board of the Journal *Clinical Haematology*, since 2015 - in the editorial board of *Rare Diseases* magazine and since 2019 - to the journal *Paediatrics*.

Since 2011 she is a member of the Administrative Board of the Bulgarian Medical Association of Haematology and the Administrative Board of the Bulgarian Paediatric Association (BPA), she is a member of the Regional staff – Varna of BPA, a member of Bulgarian Medical Association on paediatric oncology, Bulgarian Oncology Association, the European Association for Haematology (EHA), the European Association of Paediatric Oncology (SIOPE) and the International Network of Clinicians for Endocrinopathies in Thalassemia and Adolescence Medicine (ICET).

Public and expert activities

Since 2013 Assoc. Prof. Dr.Kaleva is a member of the Committee on Rare Diseases; she is an external expert of the NHIF for rare anaemia and coagulopathies, in the period 2013-2018 she is an expert at the CFTC at the Ministry of Health. Since 2013 she is a member of the Committee on Rare Diseases, since 2019 – a member of Committee on Rare Diseases, of the Expert Council on Medical Specialty Paediatric Clinical Hematology and Oncology, and of the Expert Council on Medical Specialty Paediatrics of the Ministry of Health. Since 2019 she is a member of the Commission for the treatment of children in Bulgaria and abroad at the NHIF.

With a view to improving the medical and social care for patients with thalassemia in Bulgaria by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva's suggestion it was founded in 2007 a **Thalassemia Working Group** at the BMAH.

Over 25 national scientific events for doctors, medical professionals and patients have been held. This Working Group is hosting the *4th European Symposium on Rare Anaemias*, to which Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva is chairwoman of the Organizational Committee. In 2011, the Working Group hosted the *4th European Symposium on Rare Anaemias*, where Assoc. Prof. Kaleva is a chairwoman of the Organizational Committee. There were created *Guide for the treatment of chronic hepatitis in patients with thalassemia*, *a Guide for cardiac complications in patients with thalassemia*, *a National program for adherence to iron-chelation therapy*.

Under the review of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva has published the monograph *Manual of Clinical Behavior in Beta-Thalassemia*. By Assoc. Prof. Kaleva's idea, as well as by help of the Working Group, it was established the first registry for rare diseases in Bulgaria - the Thalassemia Patient Register, which developed into a national project of Bulgarian Association for Promotion

of Education And Science (BAPES) *National Thalassemia Patient Register in Bulgaria* (2010-2012).

In accordance with the model of the Thalassemia Working Group, in 2009 a Working Group on Haemophilia for Children was established, with a chairwoman Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva, who was later transformed into a Working Group on Haemophilia for Children and Adults. Again, national scientific and educational events for doctors, medical specialists and patients have been conducted with a view to the proper care and prevention of the complications of this serious and disabling disease. In 2015 as a chairwoman of the Organizational Committee in Varna Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva made a beginning of the International Educational Seminar for novice doctors in Haemophilia Haemophilia Educational Program CHANCE, which in 2016 had a second edition for advanced in Varna, afterwards it continues to be held in other European countries.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva is the initiator and organizer of the annual edition of the annual National Symposium Young Haematologist, held in 2018, on subject Thrombosis and haemostasis. This is the first scientific forum of its kind in Bulgaria, in which prominent experts from Bulgaria and abroad present their personal experience on all major topics in the field of haemostasis, and young doctors and specialists have presented the clinical cases.

A specific realization of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva's efforts made to improve the care for patients with thalassemia and haemophilia of the first Expert Center for Rare Diseases in Bulgaria has been established. In 2014 ECCRA was admitted to the European Hemophilia Network (EUHANET) with the certificate and status of the Center for Complex Treatment of Haemophilia, and in 2016 - in the European Reference Network for Rare Haematological Diseases (EuroBloodNet). In early 2014 The Haemophilia Center at University Hospital for Active Treatment Sv. Marina - Varna and the Center for Haemophilia at the University Hospital in Bonn, Germany started a twinning program by a winning subsidy from the World Federation of Haemophilia (WFH). Two years later, the programme received the highest award - *Twins of the Year 2015*.

In the field of pediatric oncohematology Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva is directly involved in the organization of a number of national and regional scientific forums, including hosting the *Regional Central-Eastern/South-Eastern European Paediatric Oncohematology Meeting* in Varna in 2012. As a member of the National Expert Board and author of the first consensus "*Guide on Neuroblastoma Behaviour*", in 2015 Assoc. Prof. Kaleva took the initiative to organize an individual scientific conference session *MOPE* dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of one of the most common malignant tumors in children – neuroblastoma. In 2016 she was the initiator and organizer in Varna of an initial meeting for Bulgaria inclusion in the European network EuroNetPaediatric Hodgkin Lymphoma.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva is a permanent participant in the teams involved in the creation and updating of medical standards and therapeutic algorithms in paediatrics, paediatric oncohematology, clinical haematology and medical oncology. The latest update of the Guide for Diagnosis and Treatment of Haematological Diseases she is the author of almost the entire section on benign blood disorders and the guidance supplement entitled "Rare Coagulation Disorders".

In 2004 Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva started the project "The Art That Heals" – a project on mental resistance and mental recovery of children with malignancies and their companions by the means of art and mental rehabilitation. The project finds many supporters and subsequently it developed into a national program with realization in other paediatric onco-haematology clinics in the country.

Membership in Public Organizations:

- *Keeping the woman* by supporting the children and families, of young and old people
- Organization of Thalasseemics in Bulgaria
- Bulgarian Haemophilia Association

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva was honored annually with the Newspaper *24 hours- the Doctors We Trust* Award, and in 2017 she was selected for a member of the Bulgarian Medical League after conducted inquiry by Darik Radio *Who are the best doctors in Bulgaria*.

In 2011 she received award for *the Contribution to the Development of Medicine and Health Care of Open Society - Varna*, in 2017 – with the award *the Contribution to the Development and Implementation of Haematopoietic stem cell transplantation* by the Mayor of Varna and in 2019 - an honorary plaque for contribution in the field of rare diseases in Bulgaria by the Information Center for Rare Diseases and Orphan Drugs (ICRDOD).

Critical notes and recommendations

The Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva's huge organizational, educated and innovative in connection with the patient organizations work obviously takes in fully of her extraordinary energy and enthusiasm. This remains some of her most valuable contributions to our national paediatric and onco-haematology practice, unpublished in scientific publications. I do believe, along with her assistants, that she will find the power and time to summarize and publish in the following years the most significant scientific achievements in the field of the two rare disease groups, in which she has the greatest competence - rare anemia and coagulopathies.

In conclusion, the application of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Kaleva fully meets the state and institutional requirements for occupation of the academic position "Professor". Her scientometric and professional performance, as well as her personal qualities, are undoubtedly worthy of being awarded by this degree. Few of our contemporaries, with such passion, consistency and contagion by personal example, can consistently fight to achieve higher standards in the care of young patients with cancer and haematology diseases, for the better fate of their families and themselves. It is worth to see and to know how good is the relationship she builds as a healer and how important is her personal example as a mentor and teacher! In the Assoc. Prof. dr. Kaleva's scientific works everywhere can be seen the desire to improve clinical care and improve the outcome of the disease, and in support of national health policies in place, there is a complete

willingness to sacrifice personal time and powers in achieving of an ever-higher level of the loved one profession, as well as better patient prognosis. Her ability to collaborate, organize and bring together often incompatible perspectives and personalities for a common purpose is impressive and unique for our environment. Assoc. Prof. Valeria Kaleva has been able to strengthen and build on the significant traditions of Varna paediatric onco-haematology, to integrate successfully the care provided at the University Hospital "Sv. Marina" into the modern map of Europe, from the first steps in our country for transitional and lifelong care for patients in one center to full coverage all the necessary activities and therapeutic approaches for them. She has a number of talented followers whose scientific and career advancement is taken care of and who will no doubt continue and diversify of her work.

I am fully convinced and with a great respect I rhightly recommend to the Honorable Scientific Selection Committee, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Ignatova Kaleva, MD. to be awarded with the Academic position "Professor" in the specialty of Paediatrics for the needs of the Department of Pediatrics at the Faculty of Medicine, Medical University - Varna and Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic at MHAT "Sv. Marina" - Varna.



21.10.2019

Prof. Dr. Violeta Yotova, M.D.