

To the Chairman of the Scientific Selection Committee  
At Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"- Varna  
Appointed by the Order No. № P – 109-315/07.10.2019  
By the Rector of the University, under the procedure  
Competition for filling 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 Paediatric, at the 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 as of 06<sup>th</sup> of August 2019  
Candidate: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Ignatova Kaleva, MD

## STANDPOINT

By Associate Professor Dr. Miglena D. Georgieva, MD

Department of Paediatrics, MU Varna

Pursuant to the materials submitted for participation in the competition for filling 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, at the 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 06<sup>th</sup> of August 2019.

The standpoint has been prepared in my capacity as a member of the Scientific Selection Committee, appointed in accordance with the Order No. № P-109-315/07.10.2019 by the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

### 1. Short applicant's professional details and curriculum vitae:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Kaleva, MD was born in 1955. She completed her secondary education in 1973 and in 1979 the Higher Medical Institute – Varna - she graduated from high school with flying colours. In the year of her graduation she started work as an intern at the Paediatrics (Children's) Ward – town of Omurtag. During the periods: 1981 – 1984 she became a clinical intern on paediatrics at the University Hospital for Active Treatment "Sy. Marina" – Varna; and 1984 – 1987 she was Head of the Paediatrics Ward – town of Omurtag. In 1987 she was an assistant at the Department of Paediatrics, Higher Medical Institute – Varna and she was employed at the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic (PHOC). Consistently she passed through the academic positions of senior assistant and chief assistant, and in 2007 she was habilitated. 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 of Paediatrics*.

Assoc. Prof. Dr.V. Kaleva has three medical specialities: *Paediatric Diseases, Clinical Haematology and Paediatric Clinical Haematology and Oncology*. She has specialized in the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic (PHOC) and the National Institute of Haematology



in Sofia and she has conducted multiple courses in hemoglobinopathies and coagulopathies at prestigious specialized centers for the treatment of rare blood diseases in Europe: Nicosia, Athens, Bonn, Malmö and others. Since 2005 she is the Head of the the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic (PHOC) at the University Multifunctional Hospital for Active Treatment “Sveta Marina” Varna and since 2012 - Head of the Department of Paediatrics at the Medical University - Varna.

## 2. Assessment of the applicant’s scientific activity:

### Scientometric indicators

Assoc. Prof. V. Kaleva has 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. In addition, a reference was presented for 82 participations with reports and posters in scientific forums in Bulgaria after she had received the academic *Associate Professor’s* title, which had not been proposed for review.

It has been provided for review 189 scientific works and publications, presented as follows: 58 full-text publications in magazines/journals, of which 50 in Bulgarian journals and 8 in international ones, 4 of the latter are with IF; 21 published summaries in journals, 15 of them in Bulgarian ones and 6 in international ones, as all 6 are 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 team of authors in the form of methodical instructions and guides.

<b>Scientific works - after academic <i>Associated Professor</i> title had acquired</b>	<b>Number</b>
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 – 6 with IF	6
Summaries published in Bulgarian corpuses	63
Summaries published in international corpuses	33
Total number	189

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

Assoc. Prof. V. Kaleva’s impact factor is 64.14; the number of citations is 65, of which 58 are quoted in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous scientific information databases.



### **Thematic areas and contributions**

Assoc. Prof. Kaleva's scientific contributions have classified in 6 directions: (1) rare hematological diseases, (2) other hematological disorders and diseases in childhood, (3) malignant diseases in childhood, (4) febrile neutropenia and infectious complications in oncologically sick children, (4) other paediatric problems and illnesses, and (5) evidence-based haematological guidelines/standards.

Assoc. Prof. Kaleva's largest scientific works are in the field of rare anaemia and congenital coagulopathies, including a single book, 3 sections of collective monographs, 33 articles and 59 published summaries as a result from participation in scientific forums. For the first time in the Bulgarian literature these works have presented the most up-to-date paradigms for genetic etiopathogenesis, clinics and diagnostic-therapeutic models of rare haematologic diseases, as well as the possibilities for their clinical application in Bulgarian medical practice. It has been evaluated for the first time the clinical status of Bulgarian patients with thalassemia major, and original data related to the most common cardiovascular, endocrine, gastroenterological and renal complications have been published. Under her guidance it has been realized a large-scale epidemiological study of structure, clinical status, and therapeutic behaviour in children with congenital coagulopathies, as well as an analysis of the therapeutic efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the different categories of prophylactic regimens in patients with severe haemophilia has been executed. For the first time in the field of rare diseases in Bulgaria, principles and rules for the establishment of expert working groups, electronic database, epidemiological register and Expert Centers for Rare Diseases have been defined.

In the field of childhood malignant diseases, Assoc. Prof. Kaleva has theoretical, methodological and practical applied contributions related, on the one hand to the teaching of paediatrics and postgraduate training, and on the other hand, by the clinical studies on the epidemiology, clinical morphology and flow cytometric characteristics of children malignity, prognosis indicators and therapeutic results. Her special interest in the problem of febrile neutropenia and infectious complications in children undergoing chemotherapy has been documented by 8 articles in the national publications and 6 reports in Bulgarian and international scientific forums.

### **3. Educational and Lecture activity**

Assoc. Prof. Kaleva has 35 years of experience as a lecturer on *paediatrics* to students in the fields of *medicine, nurse, midwife, radiology laboratory assistant and public health inspector*; she has performed training in individual courses for postgraduate qualification in paediatric onco-hematology and chemotransfusion, some courses in Highly Specialized Activities in Medicine (HSAM) and Freely Eligible Subjects (FES). She is the head of three post-graduate students on paediatrics and four post-graduate students on paediatric haematology and oncology. She is a supervisor of one graduating student and five PhD students, two of whom have successfully defended their dissertations. She has been repeatedly selected as a reviewer of thesis



and doctoral dissertations in the field of medicine, scientific works and papers of candidates for the *chief assistant, associate professor* and *professor*, monographs and scientific projects. Assoc. Prof. V. Kaleva is a member of committees for the acquisition of a clinical specialty in the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic. She is also a member of 3 editorial boards of scientific journals/magazines - *Clinical Haematology, Rare Diseases and Paediatrics*. Since 2011 she is a permanent member of the Board of the Bulgarian Medical Association of Haematology and the Administrative Board of the Bulgarian Paediatric Association (BPA). She is a permanent member of the Bulgarian Medical Association for Paediatric Haematology and Oncology, the 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).

#### **4. Public and expert activities**

Assoc. Prof. Valeria Kaleva is a member of the Committee on Rare Diseases, Expert Council on the medical specialty *paediatric haematology and oncology* at the Ministry of Health, National Council on Hemophilia at the Advisory Council *Partnership for Health* at the Council of Ministers and a permanent chairwoman of the National Working Group on Thalassemia and Hemophilia at BMAH. Since 2011 she is an external expert of the NHIF and an expert at the Commission for the Treatment of Children Abroad at the NHIF.

As a chairwoman of the Thalassemia and Hemophilia Working Groups and under her direction and household, more than 45 national and international conferences and educational events have been held for physicians, medical professionals and patients, some of which have been shown in the presented records of 82 participations in national forums without accompanying summaries. At Assoc. Prof. Valeria Kaleva's initiative, *a Guide for the Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis in patients with Thalassemia, a Guide for the Conduct of Cardiac Complications in patients with Thalassemia, a National Programme for Adherence to Iron-Chelation Therapy, a Guide to Clinical Conduct in Beta Thalassemia*.

In the field of paediatric oncohematology, she is directly involved in the organization of a number of scientific forums on a national and regional significance, including hosting the *Regional Central-Eastern/South-Eastern European Pediatric Onco and haematology Meeting* in Varna and the initial meeting to include Bulgaria in the European Network EuroNetPediatric Hodgkin Lymphoma. At her initiative, in 2015, a scientific session of the *MOPE* conference was organized on the problems associated with the diagnosis and treatment of neuroblastoma with subsequent co-authorship of the first national consensus *Guide on Neuroblastoma Behaviour*.

The applicant is a permanent member of the teams involved in the creation and updating of medical standards and therapeutic algorithms in paediatrics, paediatric oncohematology, clinical hematology and medical oncology.

Under her leadership in 2013 at the University Hospital for Active Treatment "Sv. Marina" - Varna was opened the first Expert Center for Rare Diseases in Bulgaria - Expert Center for Coagulopathies and Rare Anemias (ECCRA), which is certified by the European Hemophilia



Network (EAHAD) as a Center for Complex Treatment of Hemophilia and was accepted into the European Network for rare haematological diseases ((RRN-EuroBloodNet). In 2017 under her leadership started the first hematopoietic out of capital Cell Transplantation Center for Children. Assoc. Prof. Kaleva has been honored annually by the Newspaper *23 hours – The Doctors We Believe 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 Hematopoietic 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).

## 5. Conclusion:

Based on the above facts, I believe that the applicant's professional qualification, research and lecturing activity completely cover and even exceed the requirements of the Rules for the conditions for the acquisition of academic degrees and the occupation of the academic position "Professor" at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

Therefore I recommend the members of the Scientific Selection Committee to vote with a positive vote for of the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Ignatova Kaleva, MD for filling the academic position "Professor" in the University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna 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, at the 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 06<sup>th</sup> of August 2019.

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22.10.2019.  
City of Varna

