

## STATEMENT

of

Assoc. Prof. Maya Nikolova Yordanova M.D.,  
The Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic,  
University Multifunctional Hospital for Active Treatment "Tsaritsa Yoana" - ISUL,  
Department of Paediatrics, Ministry of Finance, Medical University-Sofia,  
Appointed for External Member of the Scientific Selection Committee by the  
Order of the Rector of MU-Varna № P - 109-315/07.10.2019

Concerning

the competition for filling the academic vacancy 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 "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" 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 statement has been prepared in accordance with the criteria of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff and the Regulations on the conditions and procedure for obtaining academic degrees and occupying academic positions at the Medical University - Varna. There is only one candidate participating in the competition - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Ignatova Kaleva M.D., Head of the Department of Paediatrics at the Medical University of Varna and Head of the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic at the University Hospital "St. Marina". The participant has submitted a complete set of documents, which meet the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations on the conditions and procedure for obtaining academic degrees and occupying academic positions at the Medical University - Varna.

### **Biographical data, professional and academic development.**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeriya Kaleva graduated with excellent grade results in medicine at the Higher Medical Institute - Varna in 1979. In the beginning she worked in the Children's Ward in the town of Omurtag, which ward she took the lead in 1984, after had received a major "Children's Diseases", as a result of successfully completing a clinical intern in paediatrics at University Hospital "Sveta Marina" in the city of Varna. After she won an "assistant" competition in 1987, she started work at the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic and the Department of Pediatrics at the Higher Medical Institute in Varna, where she has been working currently. She has passed step by step through all the stages of academic and scientific development - defense of the dissertation for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the specialty "Paediatrics", senior and chief assistant, and in 2007 she has received habilitation as "Associate Professor".



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva has worked continuously for 40 years as a paediatrician. During this period she has three medical specialties: Paediatric Diseases in 1984, Clinical Haematology in 1992 and Paediatric Clinical Haematology and Oncology in 2007 - Pediatric Clinical Hematology and Oncology. She has specialized in specific areas of paediatric haematology - malignancies, anaemia and coagulation disorders. The process of her professional qualification also includes numerous courses in specialized centers in Bulgaria (Clinic of Paediatric Onco-Haematology at ISUL-Sofia, National Institute of Haematology in Sofia and at prestigious European Centers for the Treatment of Rare Blood Diseases (in Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Portugal, Cyprus, Greece).

Assoc. Prof. Kaleva has certificates of training for additional skills and qualifications in palliative medicine, abdominal ultrasound, joint ultrasound in patients with haemophilia, etc., as well as a diploma for completed "Healthcare Management".

After Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva had won the competition, since 2005 she is the Head of the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic at the University Hospital "Sv. Marina", a position she has held up to now. She also leads the Expert Center for Coagulopathy and Rare Anemia (ECCRA) to the Clinic, which was established in 2013 under her leadership.

#### **Administrative responsibilities and expert activity, participation in professional organizations,**

As of 2012 and up to now, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva is Head of the Department of Paediatrics at the Medical University of Varna. She was a member of the Faculty and Academic Council of the Medical University - Varna, as well as of the Scientific Council of Therapeutic Sciences at the Medical University - Varna.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva was a member of the Board of Directors at the University Hospital "Sv. Marina" from 2005 to 2010. She is also the permanent chairman of the Hospital Committee on Blood and Blood Transfusion Products, the Children's Oncology Committee, as well as a member of the Medicines and Ethics Committee, and the Hospital Oncology Committee. As an expert, she is a member of a number of specialized committees and working groups: Expert Council on the Medical Specialty Paediatric Clinical Haematology and Oncology; National Council on Haemophilia at Advisory Council Partnership for Health at the Council of Ministers. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva leads the National Working Group on Thalassemia and Haemophilia at the Bulgarian Medical Society of Haematology (BMSH). She is an external expert at the NHIF for rare anaemia and coagulopathies, an expert at the Center Fund for Treatment of Children (CFTC).

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Society of Haematology (BMSH), in whose Administrative board she participated from 2009 to 2011. Since 2011 she is a permanent member of the Administrative board of the Bulgarian Paediatric Association (BPA). She is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association for Paediatric Haematology and Oncology and the Bulgarian Oncology Society. She is the chairman of the Varna Regional Staff of the BPA since 2015. She is a permanent member of the European Hematology Association (EHA), the European Society for Paediatric Oncology (SIOPE) and the International Network of Clinicians for Endocrinopathies in Thalassemia and Adolescence Medicine - ICET.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva is a member of the editorial boards of several journals/magazines – "Clinical Haematology", "Rare Diseases" and "Paediatrics". She is



a member and actively operates in public organizations and various initiative committees of patients and other non-governmental organizations, for which she has awarded with professional awards and prizes for active work.

### **Research and lecture activities**

Assoc. Prof. Kaleva is a lecturer with over 35 years of academic experience. She teaches the specialty of Paediatrics in Bulgarian language to students in the specialty medicine, the specialties nurse and midwife and the specialties radiology laboratory assistant and public health inspector.

The average and annual academic burdened in the last 3 years is 188 hours with an approved standard of 126 hours. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva also participates in the postgraduate qualification in Paediatric Oncohaematology and Chemotransfusion, within the framework of training in individual and specialized thematic courses.

As head of the Department of Paediatric Diseases, two updates to the paediatric curriculum in the specialties she teaches have been made.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva was a supervisor of three post-graduate students of paediatric and four post-graduate students of paediatric clinical haematology and oncology, three of whom work in the field of paediatric healthcare. She is the supervisor of one graduating student and five PhD students, two of whom have defended dissertations.

She participated in the selective committee 7 reviews and 5 opinions in competitions for professor, 1 review and 3 opinions in competitions for associate professor and 3 reviews in competitions for assistant professor. She has been in the selective committee for reviews of 3 dissertations and 3 thesis papers. She has participated in reviews of monographs and scientific projects at the Science Foundation, Medical University - Varna and the National Science Foundation at the Ministry of Education and Science.

### **Research activity and scientometric indicators.**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva has presented 189 scientific publications of totally 282, which were realized after she had received the academic Associate Professor's title. These 189 scientific publications include: 58 publications in refereed scientific journals - in Bulgarian - 50, in international - 8, of which 4 are with Impact Factor (IF). The presented published summaries in journals/magazines - 21 - 15 of them in Bulgarian and 6 - in international journals, all with IF. There are 96 summaries published, 63 in Bulgarian and 33 in international ones. Three of the publications are monograph chapters, one is in a textbook and 10 are in a team of authors, as part of methodological guidelines and manuals. A reference was also made on 82 participations with papers and posters in scientific forums in Bulgaria after receiving the academic position "Associate professor" which were not proposed for review.

The scientific papers submitted for review in this competition are set out in a table, divided by type and publication periods - before and after the candidate's habilitation with the associate professor.

Scientific works and publications	No
<b>Before the academic <i>Associated Professor</i> title was acquired</b>	
Dissertations	1
Chapters in a monograph	1
Full-text publications in Bulgarian magazines/journals	38
Full-text publications in international magazines/journals	1
<b><i>With IF of them</i></b>	<b>1</b>
Summaries published in Bulgarian magazines/journals	4
Summaries published in international magazines/journals	3
<b><i>With IF of them</i></b>	<b>3</b>
Summaries published in Bulgarian corpuses	37
Summaries published in international corpuses	8
<b>Total number</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>After the academic <i>Associated Professor</i> title had acquired</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
<b><i>With IF of them</i></b>	<b>4</b>
Summaries published in Bulgarian magazines/journals	15
Summaries published in international magazines/journals	6
<b><i>With IF of them</i></b>	<b>6</b>
Summaries published in Bulgarian corpuses	63
Summaries published in international corpuses	33
<b>Total number</b>	<b>189</b>

In 53 publications (28%) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva 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%).

The thematic areas of scientific interests of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva covers a wide range of issues in paediatric haematology and oncology. They can be grouped into the following areas: (a) common paediatric problems and diseases, (b) childhood malignancies, (c) rare blood diseases (thalassemia and haemophilia), (d) epidemiological models of febrile neutropenia and infectious complications in paediatric oncologically ill patients and standards of behaviour, (e) immediate and long-term complications of the progression and treatment of chronic haematological diseases in childhood, (e) comparative studies and therapeutic algorithms in patients with haemophilia, (g) epidemiology scientific studies, methodological guidelines and standards based on evidence of principles and algorithms for the treatment of haematological and oncological diseases in childhood.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaleva actively participates in scientific projects at the Science Foundation, Medical University - Varna and joint international projects of Medical University – Varna with other educational institutions and research groups.



## Conclusion

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Ignatova Kaleva's presented documents, publications, references and materials concerning many years of lecturer's, social, administrative and scientific activity are in compliance with the requirements of the in accordance with the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules of the Medical University of Varna. They meet and even exceed the requirements and criteria for occupying the academic position "Professor".

My personal impressions about the applicant are of an experienced paediatrician with clinical wisdom and high qualification and experience in the field of Bulgarian paediatric haematology, of high public recognition and authority. She is an recognized specialist, with significant scientific and methodological contribution to the diagnosis and treatment of rare haematological diseases in childhood, and at the same time, an erudite and successful lecturer, an untiring and successful initiator and organizer in the field of paediatrics and paediatric onco-haematology activity of the Bulgarian Paediatric Onco-hematological Society for the specialty significance and perspective.

On the grounds of the submitted materials for the candidate's diverse scientific, lecturer's and social activities and her personal beliefs, I give my positive assessment of the application of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Ignatova Kaleva, MD as a professor and I recommend to the honourable Scientific Selection Committee to offer the award of the academic position and academic title "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.

22<sup>nd</sup> of October, 2019

Signature: .....

