

Standpoint

By Prof. Dobrin Nikolov Konstantinov, MD,
the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic, University Hospital for Active Treatment
"Tsaritsa Yoanna" - ISUL, Department of Paediatrics, MF, MU-Sofia

Appointed as an external member of the Scientific Selection Committee by the Order
of the Rector of MU-Varna No P – 109-315/07.10.2019

About: Participation in a competition for occupying 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 06th of August 2019.

The only candidate, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Ignatova Kaleva MD, has submitted the documents for participating the competition.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Kaleva has submitted a complete set of documents that meet the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for the Conditions and Procedures for Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at the Medical University - Varna

Professional Development

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Kaleva has been a doctor since 1979, with a master's degree in medicine from the Higher Medical Institute, Varna. After she had completed her higher education, she was intern at the Children's ward, Municipal Hospital Omurtag for two years (1979-81). From 1981 – 1984 she was clinical paediatrician intern in the University Multifunctional Hospital for Active Treatment "Sv. Marina" – Varna, for the period from 1984 to 1987 – she was Head of the Children's ward at the Municipal Hospital - Omurtag, and since 1987 - Assistant at the Department of Paediatrics, Higher Medical Institute, Varna. At the same period started her work in the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic. She successively occupied assistant positions: 1989 - Senior Assistant; 1992 - Chief Assistant. She has 3 specialties: Paediatric Diseases (1984), Clinical Hematology in 1992 and Paediatric Clinical Haematology and Oncology in 2007

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 in 2005. She habilitated as Assistant Professor in 2007.

Since 2005 until now she is Head of the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Clinic (PHOC) at University Multifunctional Hospital for Active Treatment "Sveta Marina" Varna. Since 2012, until now she is Head of the Department of Paediatrics at the Medical University - Varna.

She has more than 39 years of medical experience

Educational and lecture activity

Assoc. Prof. Kaleva is a lecturer with over 35 years of academic experience. She participates in auditorium and non-auditory activity in the syllabus of the specialty of Paediatrics in Bulgarian language to students in the specialty medicine, nurse and midwife, the specialties radiology laboratory assistant and public health inspector at the Medical College - Varna. The information from the Medical University of Varna shows that the average and annual academic burdened in the last 3 years is 188 hours, exceeding the accepted standard of 126 hours.

She has considerable activity as a Head of the Department of Paediatric Diseases, including initiating and she has implemented double update in the curriculum on the specialty.

She participates in training for postgraduate qualification in paediatric oncohematology and chemotransfusion in individual courses, as well as in the organization of specialized thematic courses.

Assoc. Prof. Kaleva was the supervisor of one graduating student and five PhD students, two of whom successfully defended their dissertation. She has been the supervisor of three post-graduate students on paediatric and four post-graduate students on paediatric clinical haematology and oncology, three of whom have completed their specialization.

She participates in a Selection committee for professor competition (7 reviews and 5 standpoints), and the chief assistant (3 reviews), as well as in a Selection committee for review of 3 dissertations and 3 diploma works.

She is the author of reviews of monographs and scientific projects at the Science Foundation, Medical University - Varna and at the National Science Institute at the Ministry of Education and Science.

Research activity

For this competition 189 scientific works and publications have been submitted for review. Their dividing by groups is presented in the following table, where they are also divided into periods - before and after the habilitation for associate professor.

Scientific works – total and after the academic Associated Professor title had acquired)	Total	Afetr
Dissertations	1	-
Chapters in a monograph	4	3
Book chapters	1	1
Chapters in methodical instructions and guides	10	10
Full-text publications in Bulgarian magazines/journals	88	50
Full-text publications in international magazines/journals - 4 with IF	9	8

Summaries published in Bulgarian magazines/journals	19	15
Summaries published in international magazines/journals – all 9 with IF	9	6
Summaries published in Bulgarian corpuses	100	63
Summaries published in international corpuses	41	33
Total number	282	189

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

Assoc. Prof. V. Kaleva's impact factor is 64.14; the number of quotes - 65, as 58 of them in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information.

Assoc. Prof. Kaleva's research interests are diverse and broad-ranging, and they can be formed in several directions: rare blood disorders, other haematological disorders and childhood diseases, childhood malignancies, infectious complications in cancer children patients, other paediatric problems and diseases and haematological guidelines/standards based on evidence.

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

Other activities

Assoc. Prof. Kaleva is a member of the Board of Directors at the University Hospital for Active Treatment "Sv. Marina" – Varna, the Advisory Board and many of internal councils and committees in the same hospital. As an expert, she is a member in series of specialized committees and working groups, including the Expert Council on the medical specialty Paediatric Haematology and Oncology; National Council on Haemophilia at the Advisory Council Partnership for Health at the Council of Ministers, she manages the National Working Group on Thalassemia and Hemophilia at the Bulgarian Medical Society of Haematology (BMSH); an external expert at the NHIF, expert at the Center Fund for Treatment of Children (CFTC), etc.

She is a member of the editorial board of several journals/magazines, such as Clinical Haematology, Rare Diseases and Paediatrics.

She is also a member of the Administrative Board of the Bulgarian Medical Society of Haematology (BMSH), a member of the Administrative Board of the Bulgarian Paediatric Association (BPA), a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association for Paediatric Haematology and Oncology, Bulgarian Oncology Society, European Haematology Association, European Association of Paediatric Oncology (SIOPE) and International Network of Clinicians for Endocrinopathies in Thalassemia and Adolescence Medicine (ICET).

Assoc. Prof. Kaleva actively works and is a member of initiative committees and public organizations. She has received professional awards and prizes for active work with patients and other NGOs.

Conclusion

The documents, submitted by the participant in the competition, 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*, prove that Assoc. Prof. Valeria Kaleva fulfills and exceeds the required criteria for occupying the academic position “professor”. On the grounds of my personal impressions of Assoc. Prof. Kaleva from her almost entire professional career, I can confirm that she is also an established professional, with high qualifications as a paediatrician and paediatric onco-haematologist, a courageous lecturer, a serious researcher, a untiring and successful initiator and organizer of various procedures in the field of paediatrics and paediatric onco-haematology, by which she has earned her professional and public prestige.

In connection with the above, I am convinced by giving my **positive opinion** on the sole participant in the competition - **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Ignatova Kaleva, MD** and I recommend to the honourable Scientific Selection Committee to propose her occupation in 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.

Date: 21st of October 2019

Signature

