

**To  
the Chairman of the Scientific Jury  
appointed by Order  
Nr P-109-176/23.04.2021  
of the Rector of Medical University  
“Prof. Dr Paraskev Stoyanov”- Varna**

## **Statement of Opinion**

**by Prof. Dr Dobrin Nikolov Konstantinov, MD  
Clinic of Pediatric Clinical Hematology and Oncology,  
University Hospital “Tsaritsa Yoanna- ISUL”, Sofia**

**Regarding: Competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 7.1 Medicine, specialty "Pediatrics", higher education field 7. Healthcare and Sports- one, 0.5 full-time position for the needs of the Clinic of Pediatric Clinical Hematology and Oncology of University Hospital Saint Marina EAD- Varna.**

By Order No. P-109-176/23.04.2021 of the Rector of Medical University -Varna, I have been appointed as an external member of the Jury which took a decision on its first session to appoint me to present an opinion for the above-mentioned competition. Documents for participation in the competition (published in SG issue 17/26.02.2021) were submitted by one candidate- Dr Milena Ivanova Belcheva, PhD.

### **1. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA OF THE CANDIDATE**

Dr. Milena Ivanova Belcheva graduated from high school in 1979 at the IVth French Language High School in Varna, and obtained a Master's Degree in Medicine in 1985 from the Higher Medical Institute of Varna. She holds diplomas for acquired specialties in Pediatrics (1991), Oncology (2004) and Pediatric Hematology and Oncology (2006).

Throughout her medical practice, she has worked in children's hospitals - initially as a Pediatrician at the Regional Hospital in Shumen, and since 1993 she has been appointed as an Assistant at University Hospital "St. Marina "- Varna, then at the Clinic of Pediatric Pulmonology, and later the same year and until now, at the Clinic of Pediatric Clinical Hematology and Oncology, where she has passed through all degrees of Assistant at the Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Belcheva has completed a number of specialization and qualification courses in Bulgaria and abroad. For two years (1999-2000) she has worked as a resident physician at the Departement de Pediatrie, Institut Gustave Roussy, Paris, France.

She received her doctorate degree in 2020 after defending her dissertation thesis.

According to the official report of Medical University of Varna, Dr. Belcheva has worked more than 28 years as a Pediatrician and lecturer.

## **2. RESEARCH AND TEACHING ACTIVITY AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

To participate in the competition, Dr. Milena Belcheva submitted the full set of documents required by the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov "- Varna .

In this competition, Dr. Belcheva participates with a dissertation and an abstract, as well as with publications in Bulgarian and foreign scientific journals.

Her dissertation thesis titled: "Cardiac impairment, cardiometabolic risk and bone health among survivors of childhood haematological malignancies" occupies a significant part of the scientific contributions of the candidate. It consists of 182 standard pages, with a reference from 421 sources, of which 5 in Cyrillic and 416 in Latin. Some of the most common and important treatment-related late effects in long-term survivors of childhood Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and Hodgkin Lymphoma have been examined. The main goal is to determine indicators for increased risk of iatrogenic damage. The study presents reasoned summaries and conclusions and provides recommendations to pediatric hematologists, general pediatricians and specialists in various areas of Pediatrics and Medicine with high practical value. In connection with the dissertation, the candidate has 3 publications in the Bulgarian specialized press and 4 participations in scientific events with international participation held in Bulgaria. She is the first author in all publications. The candidate Dr. Belcheva presents, apart from her dissertation, a list of publications in Bulgarian

and foreign scientific journals. She has 10 publications in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, and 17 are those in a group of publications and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review. The total Impact Factor (IF) of the articles published by the candidate is 18.48. She has 15 approved citation.

Additionally, 9 full-text publications in scientific journals and collections are presented, beyond the minimum scientometric requirements for holding the academic position of Associate Professor, as well as a list of 89 participations in Bulgarian and international events, mostly with published summaries in collections of papers.

In her long practice as a pediatrician and lecturer, the scientific activity of Dr. Milena Belcheva focuses on several areas, including:

1. Late effects of treatment of malignant diseases in childhood and follow-up of patients in long-term remission.
2. Solid tumors in childhood.
3. Malignant hemopathy in children.
4. Emergencies and complications in the course of malignant diseases and their therapy in children.
5. Benign hematological diseases.

In all areas, Dr. Belcheva demonstrates in-depth analytical skills and accuracy in mastering and consolidating new knowledge, striving to improve her professional skills.

As a lecturer, Dr. Belcheva is active in the theoretical and practical training in pediatrics of students (in Bulgarian and English) and specialists, and for the last 5 academic years she has been certified an average workload of 242 hours, with a standard of MU-Varna of 220 hours per academic year.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

Dr. Milena Belcheva, the only candidate in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, is a trained physician and an established specialist - a doctor and lecturer, with significant clinical experience in Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, and in General Pediatrics. The scientific activity of the candidate evidences for her diverse interests and has a high scientific and practical value. She has a diverse and significant teaching practice.

The candidate has submitted regular documents for the competition and fulfills and even exceeds the minimum scientometric requirements of Medical University - Varna in Educational Field 7. Healthcare and Sports, Professional field 7.1 Medicine:

Group indicators	Contents	Associate Professor Points required	Associate Professor Points obtained
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-
C	Indicators 3 or 4	100	187,5
D	Sum of indicators from 5 to 9	200	259,07
E	Sum of indicators from 10 to 12	50	210
F	Sum of indicators from 13 to the end	-	-

Based on the above, I have every reason to give a **positive assessment** and confidently **recommend** to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to **confer to Dr. Milena Ivanova Belcheva, PhD, the academic position of Associate Professor**, specialty "Pediatrics", Professional Field 7.1 Medicine, field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports - one, 0.5 full-time position for the needs of the Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, and 0.5 full-time position for the needs of the Clinic of Pediatric Clinical Hematology and Oncology of University Hospital "St. Marina" EAD - Varna.

18.06.2021

Sofia

