

**ATTN: THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
SCIENTIFIC JURY ANNOUNCED BY ORDER
NO R-109-264/JUNE 23, 2022 OF THE RECTOR
OF THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY “PROF.
PARASKEV STOYANOV” OF VARNA**

STANDPOINT

by

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Concerning: the competition for the academic position of ‘**Associate Professor**’ in the Field of higher education No 7 Public health and sports, Professional trend No 7.1 Medicine and Scientific speciality of Pediatrics for the needs of the Department of Pediatrics at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University ‘Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov’ of Varna and the Second Pediatric Clinic at St. Marina University Hospital of Varna according to the Order of the Rector, Valentin Ignatov, MD, PhD, announced in State Gazette No 32/April 26, 2022

I have been elected as an external member of the Scientific Jury in a procedure for tenure of the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’ in the Medical University ‘Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov’ of Varna and I have been assigned to prepare a standpoint concerning the competition. Assistant Krasimira Ivanova Koleva, MD, PhD, is the only candidate.

The documents submitted to me conform with the Law for Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Statute-book for its application and meet the requirements of the Statute-book for the conditions and order for the acquisition of scientific degrees and for tenure of academic positions in the Medical University ‘Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov’ of Varna.

1. BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Krasimira Ivanova Koleva was born in 1966. She graduated from the Medical University ‘Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov’ of Varna in 1999. Krasimira Koleva started to work as a physician in a medical centre. Since 2010, she was appointed as intern, and since 2017, she is assistant in the Department of Pediatrics at St. Marina University Hospital of Varna. She has acquired a speciality of pediatrics in 2009 and a speciality of Pediatric gastroenterology in 2016. During the period between 2019 and 2021, she was a doctoral student in independent preparation form in the speciality of Pediatric gastroenterology at the Department of Pediatrics and successfully defended a dissertation for the Educational and scientific degree of ‘doctor of philosophy’ on the theme of ‘Some Contemporary Diagnostic Aspects of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases in Children and Adolescents’.

2. RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Krasimira Koleva, MD, PhD, participates in the present competition with the following scientific works.

1. A dissertation work for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree of ‘Doctor of Philosophy’

2. One-author monograph entitled 'Novelties in the Treatment of Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn's Disease in Childhood and Adolescence'.
3. Nine articles in two Bulgarian journals abstracted and indexed in world-famous data-bases with scientific information such as *Scopus* и *Web of Science*.
4. Seventeen articles in six Bulgarian and one foreign journal published in non-abstracted scientific journals with scientific peer-reviewing
5. Six reports in five proceedings of scientific forums in Bulgaria published in edited collective volumes
6. Four articles published in two non-abstracted Bulgarian scientific journals with scientific peer-reviewing related to the dissertation work.

Three articles by Krasimira Kolleva, MD, PhD, have been cited a total of 11 times in seven articles by Bulgarian authors and in four articles by foreign authors.

A total of 37 publications are in Bulgarian and a total of five ones - in English language. Krasimira Koleva is the only or second author of six publications each, first author - of five, third author - of nine, fourth author - of eight, fifth author - of one and sixth author - of three publications.

Krasimira Koleva participates in one research project in the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna on the theme: 'Assessment of the Expression Levels of Selected MicroRNAs as Potential Biomarkers in Children and Adolescents with Inflammatory Bowel Diseases'.

3. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

The research activity of Krasimira Koleva is the result of her clinical therapeutic and diagnostic work as pediatrician and pediatric gastroenterologist presenting with prestige among the scientific community in our country and the children with diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, liver, pancreas, etc.

The scientific works of Krasimira Koleva present definite theoretical and applied contributions to several thematic fields: Pediatric Gastroenterology, Pediatric Hepatology, Pediatric Pancreatology, Clinical Pediatrics, and Intestinal Microbiome.

The main directions in her research work are related to the contemporary diagnosis and treatment of the inflammatory bowel diseases, gastrointestinal and liver diseases in childhood and adolescence.

The investigations of the modern diagnosis of the inflammatory bowel diseases in childhood and adolescence occupy a primary place.

I would like to emphasize the studies of the differential diagnostic role of 11 microribonucleic acids (microRNAs) in children with ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease realized for the first time in our country. For the first time in Bulgaria, the constellation of appropriate modern laboratory and imaging methods of investigation in the children and adolescents with Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and non-specific colitis has been defined. Significant correlation dependences between microRNA195, microRNA131-a, microRNA142-3p, and microRNA223, on the one hand, and standard parameters of anemia and inflammation, on the other hand, have been identified.

An original diagnostic algorithm concerning the inflammatory bowel diseases in childhood and adolescence has been presented. The most recent scientific achievements in the field of the treatment of the inflammatory bowel diseases in children and adolescents have been systematized. For the first time in Bulgaria, the scientometric features of the international scientific communications and dynamic institutionalization of research on the issues of Crohn's disease in children have been analyzed.

The publications dealing with the clinical symptoms, methods of diagnosis, genetic tests, complications and treatment of celiakia as well as with the specific peculiarities of gastroesophageal reflux disease, cystic fibrosis, primary and secondary gastroesophageal reflux in suckling age represent an interest. The essential role of the intestinal microbiome and fecal microbiome for the human organism has been outlined. The diseases taking their course with chronic diarrhea in childhood such as celiakia, cystic fibrosis, lactase deficiency, irritable bowel syndrome and inflammatory bowel diseases and causing nausea and vomiting in childhood have been discussed. The clinical picture of food allergy and, especially, of eosinophilic esophagitis, gastritis and gastroenteritis, atopic dermatitis, allergic proctocolitis, and contact dermatitis has been presented.

For the first time in Bulgaria, the role of the microRNAs, serological tests and elastography for the diagnosis of the non-alcoholic fatty liver disease has been analyzed. The articles dealing with suckling's nutrition, permeable alimentary tract, constipation, chronic liver disease and hepatorenal syndrome in childhood deserve attention, too.

4. TEACHING AND LECTURER'S ACTIVITY

Krasimira Koleva is involved in the education of medical students in the discipline of 'pediatrics'. Her teaching and lecturer's activity as assistant at 0,5 pay-roll office in the Department of Pediatrics during the period between 2017 and 2021 is the following: during the 2017-2018 academic year - 232 hours; during the 2018-2019 academic year - 210 hours; during the 2019-2020 academic year - 198 hours and during the 2020-2021 academic year - 216 hours.

5. MEMBERSHIPS IN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Krasimira Koleva is member of several scientific societies and organizations:

1. Bulgarian Pediatric Association
2. Bulgarian Society of Human Genetics and Genomics
3. ESPGHAN (European Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition)
4. ECCO (European Crohn and Colitis Organization)

CONCLUSION

The professional qualification, research, teaching and lecturer's activity of Krasimira Koleva completely meet the requirements of the Statute-book for the conditions and order for the acquisition of scientific degrees and for tenure of the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna. Her publications submitted for participation in the competition conform with the quantitative criteria for tenure of this academic position.

I declare that I shall vote positively for the election of Krasimira Koleva, MD, PhD, for tenure of the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in the scientific speciality of 'Pediatrics' in the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna for the needs of the Department of Pediatrics at the Faculty of Medicine and the Second Pediatric Clinic at St. Marina University Hospital of Varna.

Sofia, September 20, 2022

Assoc. Prof. Yordanka Uzunova, MD, PhD