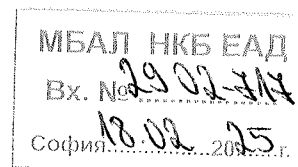


OPINION



by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anna Toncheva Dasheva-Dimitrova, PhD ,

Clinic of Rheumatology and Cardiology of SBALDB "Prof. Ivan Mitev" - Sofia; Associate Professor at the Department of Pediatrics of the Faculty of Medicine, Medical University, Sofia, External member of the scientific jury, appointed by order No. 447/30.10.2024, of the Executive Director of the National Cardiology Hospital EAD, Sofia.

Subject: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Pediatric Cardiology" at the primary unit of the Pediatric Cardiology Clinic at the National Cardiology Hospital "NKB" EAD - Sofia, announced in the State Gazette No. 91/29.10.2024, upon proposal of the Scientific Council of the National Cardiology Hospital (Proposal No. 18 of 08.10.2024) .

The opinion was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at the National Cardiology Hospital EAD, Sofia and was prepared on the basis of the materials submitted to me on electronic media by the sole candidate - Dr. Zornitsa Nikolova Vasileva-Enikova, PhD .

Candidate details

Dr. Zornitsa Vasileva was born in 1980 in the city of Pernik. She graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University of Sofia in 2005 with excellent results. During the period 2006-2011 she specialized in Pediatric Diseases at the Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment of Pediatric Diseases – Sofia. In 2007 she was appointed as an assistant professor in Pediatric Diseases at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University, Sofia.

In 2011, Dr. Vasileva started a specialization in Pediatric Cardiology at the Pediatric Cardiology Clinic of the National Cardiology Hospital - Sofia . From 2012 to 2018, she worked as a pediatrician in Belgium at the University Hospital in Ghent. She trained in echocardiography of congenital heart malformations and fetal echocardiography in Bulgaria and abroad. Since February 2019, Dr. Vasileva has been working as a pediatric cardiologist at the Pediatric Cardiology Clinic of the National Cardiology Hospital, Sofia and was later appointed as a part-time lecturer at the Medical University, Sofia.

In 2011, Dr. Vasileva obtained a diploma in Pediatrics, and in 2017 - in Pediatric Cardiology from the Medical University, Sofia . In 2019, she obtained a certificate in "Echocardiography in Childhood", and in 2021 - a certificate in "Fetal Echocardiography" from the Medical University, Sofia .

In 2020, Dr. Vasileva was enrolled as a doctoral student in independent training at the Clinic of Pediatric Cardiology with scientific supervisor Prof. Anna Kaneva. On 14.02.2023, she successfully defended her doctoral thesis on the topic "Preoperative echocardiographic

diagnosis of complete atrioventricular septal defect", with which she acquired the educational and scientific degree " PhD ".

In February 2022, Dr. Vasileva received a certificate of professional qualification in Health Management, Economic Academy - Svishetov.

Dr. Z. Vasileva has been an editor in the specialized medical journals MD and Cardio D since 2010. The candidate is a member of 5 international and 3 national scientific and professional societies and organizations. She participated in two clinical trials as a sub-investigator.

Dr. Zornitsa Vasileva's academic career began in 2006 as an assistant physician in pediatrics at the Clinic of Rheumatology and Cardiology of SBALDB, Sofia and later in 2019 at the National Cardiology Hospital, where she continues to this day. Since September 2023, Dr. Vasileva has been a chief assistant and participates in the training of medical students (Bulgarian and English-speaking), residents in pediatrics and pediatric cardiology, and is a lecturer in ultrasound training courses for neonatologists and residents in cardiology. She is the scientific supervisor of two residents in pediatric cardiology. The average and educational workload for the last five years is 250 hours.

Dr. Z. Vasileva has a total work experience of 20 years and 21 days. As a pediatrician and pediatric cardiologist, she demonstrates consistency, thoroughness, precision, and actively participates in treatment, diagnostic, and consultative activities.

General description of the candidate's scientific works and achievements

To participate in the current competition for the academic position of "associate professor", Dr. Zornitsa Vasileva has submitted a total of 88 full-text publications. The candidate is the first or sole author in 77 articles. The distribution of publications is as follows - 25 are in publications indexed and referenced in world databases (8 with impact factor); 21 are in publications from the National Reference List and 42 - in other publications. 5 abstracts have also been published in publications with impact factor and 2 abstracts in publications indexed and referenced in world databases. Dr. Vasileva is a lecturer in 20 national congresses on pediatrics, cardiology, cardiac surgery, neonatology, obstetrics and gynecology, as well as participating in domestic and international training courses and congresses.

A citation reference from the Central Medical Library of the Medical University, Sofia, is presented, which indicates a total of 24 citations, 3 of which are in Scopus, 9 - in Web of Science, 4 - in other foreign online databases and 8 - in Bulgarian sources.

Dr. Vasileva has a total of 1076.89 points, which not only covers, but also exceeds the minimum number of points required to acquire the academic position of "associate professor".

Analysis of the candidate's scientific and scientifically applicable achievements, presented in the materials for participation in the competition

Dr. Z. Vasileva's scientific interests are in various areas of pediatric cardiology: congenital heart malformations - anatomical characteristics and hemodynamics, echocardiographic

diagnosis; fetal cardiology; cardiac involvement in the context of COVID -19 in children; infectious endocarditis in childhood; pediatric cardiac surgery and intensive care medicine. Scientific interests also extend to other areas of medicine - rare clinical cases, general pediatrics, cardiology, endocrinology.

Echocardiographic diagnosis of congenital heart malformations is the author's main area of interest, and there are a number of scientific developments in this area, both independent and collective.

The candidate's dissertation work " Echocardiographic preoperative evaluation of patients with complete atrioventricular septal defect", as well as the published independent monograph "Atrioventricular septal defect - embryology, prenatal diagnosis, hemodynamics, anatomical characteristics, natural and postoperative evolution, echocardiographic evaluation" have important scientific-theoretical and scientific-practical contributions.

Other topics of publications are related to the diagnosis and treatment of congenital heart malformations in adult patients. The comprehensiveness of Dr. Vasileva's scientific and practical interests is demonstrated by publications in the field of fetal cardiology, rare diseases, etc. The author focuses on severe and current clinical conditions such as bacterial endocarditis, multisystem inflammatory syndrome after covid infection, etc. The presented refereed articles are a contribution to Bulgarian and world medical science.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the materials and scientific papers submitted in the competition, their significance and scientifically applicable contributions, Dr. Z. Vasileva meets the mandatory criteria and minimum national requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for holding the academic position of "associate professor". Given the above conclusions and my personal impressions of the candidate's clinical, scientific and teaching work, I vote positively for awarding Dr. Zornitsa Nikolova Vasileva-Enikova the academic position "associate professor".

17.02.2025

Sofia

Signature:.....
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anna Dasheva-Dimitrova, Ph.D