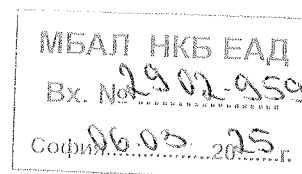


OPINION



By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lachezar Radoslavov Marinov MD, pediatric cardiologist, external member of the Scientific Jury appointed by order of the Director of the National Cardiology Hospital EAD No. 447/30.10.2024

Regarding: Procedure for acquiring the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports", professional field 7.1 "Medicine" in the specialty "Pediatric Cardiology" with code 30183, at the Pediatric Cardiology Clinic of the National Cardiology Hospital - EAD, announced in the State Gazette No. 91/29.10.2024 in his capacity as an external member of the Scientific Jury, appointed by order No. 447/30.10.2024 of the Executive Director of the National Cardiology Hospital EAD.

Prepared the opinion: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lachezar Radoslavov Marinov, MD, pediatric cardiologist, external member of the Scientific Jury appointed by order of the Director of the National Cardiology Hospital "NKB" EAD No. 447/30.10.2024.

At the first absent meeting of the Scientific Jury, I have been assigned to prepare an opinion.

The competition is held in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria), the Regulations for the Application of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff and the Regulations for the Terms and Conditions for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Titles and the Occupancy of Academic Posts in MBAL "NHH" EAD-Sofia.

The presented set of materials on paper/electronic media is in accordance with the procedure for acquiring the academic position of "Associate Professor" of the National Cardiology Hospital "NHH" EAD.

In the announced competition for "Associate Professor" in Pediatric Cardiology, regular documents were submitted to the only candidate, Dr. Zornitsa Nikolova Vasileva - Enikova, MD, Chief Assistant Professor at the Clinic of Pediatric Cardiology of the National Heart Hospital - Sofia.

I have no conflict of interest from my participation in the current scientific jury.

Brief biographical data and professional development:

Dr. Zornitsa Vasileva - Enikova graduated from "Medicine" in 2005 at the Medical University - Sofia. From 2005 to 2011 she specialized in Pediatric Diseases at the "Prof. Ivan Mitev" Children's Hospital - Sofia. She obtained a specialty in Pediatric Diseases in 2011. She specialized in Pediatric Cardiology at the Pediatric Cardiology Clinic of "NHH"-EAD - Sofia and at the University Hospital of Ghent - Belgium. In 2017 she obtained a specialty in Pediatric Cardiology. She holds certificates for "Fetal Echocardiography", "Echocardiography in Childhood – Fundamental Level, Transthoracic Echocardiography (One- and Two-dimensional EchoCG), Pulse, Continuous and Color Doppler", European Certificate "Echocardiography in Congenital Heart Disease" (European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging certification in Congenital Heart Disease Echocardiography), Certificate "Advanced fetal echocardiography", Fetal Medicine – Barcelona. In February 2022, he obtained a Certificate of Professional

Qualification in Health Management, Economic Academy – Svishtov. From July 2020 to September 2022, she was a doctoral student in independent training at the Clinic of Pediatric Cardiology at the National Heart Hospital. From February 2023, she obtained the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” after successfully defending a dissertation on the topic “Preoperative Echocardiographic Diagnosis of Complete Atrioventricular Septal Defect”.

She is fluent in English and Dutch, basic knowledge of Russian, German and French.

Since 2006 until May 2012 works as an assistant in pediatrics at the Rheumatology and Cardiology Clinic in the Children's Hospital, MF of the MU - Sofia. Leads practical and thematic classes for medical students (Bulgarians and English speakers).

From June 2012 to December 2018, she was a pediatrician at AZ Lokeren, Lokeren, Belgium, and from November 2012 to November 2018, he was a consultant physician in pediatric cardiology at the Clinic of Pediatrics at the University Hospital in Ghent, Belgium. From May 2015 to June 2018, she worked as a consultant physician in pediatric cardiology at the Queen Paula Specialized Children's Hospital, Antwerp, Belgium. From 01.02.2019 to 19.10.2023 she is an assistant at the Department of Clinical Oncology of the National Clinical Hospital - Sofia, from 19.10.2023 and until now she is a chief assistant at the same clinic.

Participates in two projects as a sub-investigator: MEDLEY - clinical study (2019 – 2023), A Phase 2/3 Randomized, Double-blind, Palivizumab-controlled Study to Evaluate the Safety of MEDI8897, a Monoclonal Antibody With an Extended Half-life Against Respiratory Syncytial Virus, in High-risk Children (MEDLEY) and NPCarriage Study - clinical study (2016-2019) Streptococcus pneumoniae serotypes carried by young children and their association with Acute Otitis Media during the period 2016 – 2019.

Dr. Zornitsa Vasileva – Enikova is a consultant to the "Bulgarian Christmas" and a reviewer for the journals Hippokratia and BMC Pediatrics.

Her main publications and interests are in the field of morphology, embryology and hemodynamics in children and adults with atrioventricular septal defect (AVSD) and other congenital heart malformations (CHM), cardiac involvement in the context of COVID-19, non-structural heart diseases, intensive care, rhythmology, general pediatrics.

She actively participates with reports and presentations at Bulgarian and international forums.

Her teaching activities are related to the training of medical students - Bulgarian and English-speaking, practical classes and lectures for residents in pediatric diseases, pediatric cardiology. She lectures in the training course "Echocardiography in Neonatology", scientific supervisor of residents in pediatric cardiology.

She is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Union (BLU), Bulgarian Pediatric Association (BPA), Orde der Geneesheren – Flemish Medical Association, Belgium, Society of Cardiologists in Bulgaria, European Society of Cardiology (ESC), European Association of Pediatric Cardiology (AEPC), Fetal Heart Society, European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (EACVI).

Scientific and research activity:

Dr. Zornitsa Vasileva – Enikova has presented a list of a total of 93 scientific publications in full text, which include:

Abstract of the dissertation - "Echocardiographic preoperative evaluation of patients with complete atrioventricular septal defect". Sofia 2023, National Cardiology Hospital.

Habilitation work (monograph) - "Atrioventricular septal defect - embryology, prenatal diagnosis, hemodynamics, anatomical characteristics, natural and postoperative evolution, echocardiographic evaluation". "Arbilis" OOD, Sofia, Bulgaria, 2024. ISBN: 978-619-7063-77-6 (Print), 978-619-7063-78-3 (e-Book).

Three publications related to the dissertation published in the journal "Bulgarian Cardiology" and the journal "MD Bulgaria".

The full-text publications unrelated to the dissertation work printed in leading Bulgarian and foreign medical journals are 88.

The ones printed in scientific publications indexed in Web of Science and Scopus with an impact factor are 8. The journals are Ann Thorac Cardiovasc Surg; Hippokratia; Turkish Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery; Front. Pediatr., J Clin Ultrasound.

Full-text publications unrelated to the dissertation work printed in Bulgarian scientific journals, indexed in Web of Science and Scopus without impact factor are 14. They were published in the journals: Pediatrics; Cardiovascular Diseases; Medical Review; Bulgarian Cardiology.

Full-text publications in journals referenced in the national reference list are 22: Pediatrics; Nauka Cardiology; GPNews; MD Bulgaria.

Full-text publications in non-refereed journals are 44, printed in the journals: Turk J Womens Health Neonatol; J Cardiol & Cardiovasc Ther; EC Cardiology; Cardio D; Doctor D; Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Presented scientific reports with published abstracts in journals with impact factor are 5 in the journal Cardiology in the Young.

The scientific reports with published abstracts in other publications are 2, in the journal Bulgarian Cardiology.

Dr. Zornitsa Vasileva has also presented a list of 20 reports presented at other national and international forums.

According to the distribution of scientific works by authorship, Dr. Vasileva is an independent author of 59, co-authored as the first author in 18, second in 1, third and subsequent author in the rest.

A reference is presented with the total number of citations: in Bulgarian sources 8, in foreign sources 16 - Scopus (Elsevier), Web of Science (Clarivate) and other freely available online sources.

The data for the SMR (scientometric requirements) of Dr. Vasileva show a significant excess of the indicators/points required for the Academic position "Associate Professor" - a total of 1076.89.

The scientific articles address current issues in the field of pediatrics (Kawasaki disease, Pompe disease, Hunter syndrome, congenital vascular anomalies, etc.), pediatric cardiology (embryology, hemodynamics, evolution, echocardiographic diagnosis of AVSD, other CVD, fetal cardiology, CVD in adults, intensive therapy for CVD, thrombosis in childhood, rhythm and conduction disorders, pulmonary arterial hypertension, cardiomyopathies, infective endocarditis). Special attention is paid to cardiovascular involvement and complications within the framework of COVID-19 in children and adults.

Some of the publications are dedicated to the presentation of rare clinical cases, others discuss the therapeutic behavior in type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

Scientific Contributions

The original scientific contributions of Dr. Zornitsa Vasileva are related to various areas of pediatric cardiology: congenital heart malformations (CHD) - anatomical characteristics and hemodynamics, echocardiographic diagnosis; fetal cardiology; cardiac involvement within the framework 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, CHD in adults, endocrinology.

Echocardiographic diagnosis of CHD is the basis of the scientific contributions of Dr. Vasileva with an emphasis on AVSD, systematically reviewed in her dissertation work and the published monograph, in which the recommendations made for behavior in adults and pregnant women with AVSD are of exceptional benefit to adult cardiologists and obstetrician-gynecologists. The developed scoring system for distinguishing balanced from unbalanced forms of atrioventricular septal defect is of great importance for the correct determination of the form of the defect and the selection of an appropriate therapeutic strategy. The criteria for prenatal diagnosis of AVSD and other critical cardiopathies are presented in detail. The frequency of prenatal diagnosis of critical CHD in Bulgaria is below 20%, compared to the average for developed countries - 60%.

In the field of pediatric cardiac surgery and intensive care in children with CHD, the RACHS-1 (Risk Adjustment in Congenital Heart Surgery) system, which divides patients into groups from 1 to 6, proportional to the risk, is discussed in detail, which is a significant contribution to practice.

Scientific contributions in other areas of pediatric cardiology are related to cardiomyopathies, thrombosis in childhood, and patent ductus arteriosus in premature newborns. A classification of cardiomyopathies in childhood is presented, as well as an algorithm for predicting the risk of sudden cardiac death in children with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Modern recommendations for the treatment of venous thrombosis in children with new oral anticoagulants are given. The modern diagnostic and therapeutic approach to persistent ductus arteriosus in premature newborns is presented.

Dr. Zornitsa Vasileva - Enikova has scientific contributions in other areas of medicine as well - cardiology, pediatrics, endocrinology. She has participated in numerous training courses and congresses in pediatric cardiology - mostly international ones, and has been a lecturer at 20 national congresses in pediatric diseases, cardiology, cardiac surgery, neonatology, obstetrics and gynecology.

Educational and teaching activities:

As can be seen from the certificate issued to Dr. Zornitsa Vasileva - Enikova by the National Cardiology Hospital "NHH" EAD, in her capacity as a teacher of specialists/interns and students (Bulgarian and foreign), the average teaching workload for the last 5 years is within 250 hours per year, which is completely sufficient for the purposes of the competition.

CONCLUSION:

Dr. Zornitsa Nikolova Vasileva - Enikova, MD is a highly qualified pediatrician and pediatric cardiologist with many years of clinical and teaching experience. She is proficient in modern methods for examining the cardiovascular system in childhood.

Her scientific research and teaching activities cover the quantitative and qualitative scientometric indicators for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" according to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations on the terms and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at „NHH“ EAD - Sofia.

I will vote positively, I strongly recommend to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for awarding the academic position of "Associate Professor" to Dr. Zornitsa Nikolova Vasileva - Enikova, MD, In the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports", professional direction 7.1 "Medicine", in the scientific specialty "Pediatric Cardiology" for the needs of the Pediatric Cardiology Clinic at the " NHH " EAD - Sofia.

05.03.2025

Varna

Prepared the opinion:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lachezar Marinov, MD

