

**To the  
Chairperson of the scientific panel,  
designated by Order No. P-  
1725/15.07.2022  
of the Rector of Plovdiv Medical  
University**

**OPINION**

from

Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Ramshev, MD -

Head of

The Intensive Therapy Clinic of the Military Medical Academy – MBAL, Sofia  
regarding a competition procedure

FOR THE POSITION OF CARDIOLOGY **PROFESSOR** at the Cardiology Section with the First Internal Diseases Department of Plovdiv Medical University under a competition announced in SG No. 32 of 26.04.2022.

The opinion has been prepared according to the Act on the Development of Academic Staff (ADAS), the Rules on the Implementation of ADAS (RIADAS) and the Rules on the Terms and Procedure for Conferment of Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at Plovdiv Medical University.

All necessary documents for the competition have been provided by Assoc. Prof. Maria Petkova Tokmakova. The competition procedure has been followed.

**1. Biographical data:**

Assoc. Prof. Maria Petkova Tokmakova graduated in Medicine in 1995 from Plovdiv Medical University with honours. She has successively held the positions of assistant and chief assistant at the Cardiology Clinic of Plovdiv Medical University, she was a PhD student at the same clinic. She has been awarded the degree of Associated Professor in Cardiology. Assoc. Prof. Tokmakova has two majors: "Internal Diseases" and "Cardiology". She is a member of the Society of Cardiologists in Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Medical Association, the European Society of Cardiology, the American College of Cardiology and the Heart Failure Association. Member of the editorial board of the Bulgarian Cardiology journal, and section editor of the Folia Medica journal.

**2. General description of the submitted materials:**

The following scientific papers have been submitted to this competition:

- Publications,
- Abstracts from scientific forums,

- Monographs - one independent and participation in a collective;
- Author's summary of a dissertation paper,
- Chapters from textbooks:
- Research Projects

**3. Evaluation of scientific works for overall academic development:**

- Publication activity is related to the following areas - Physiology, pathophysiology and clinical relevance of response to exercise and exercise training in patients with heart failure, Cardiovascular risk and risk factors, Prognostic factors, Heart failure, others.
- Regarding the physiology, pathophysiology and clinical relevance of the response to exercise and exercise training in patients with heart failure. The topic was originally developed in the dissertation for the award of Doctoral degree - "Diagnostic value of cardiopulmonary exercise test parameters in patients with chronic heart failure"
- The influence of concomitant respiratory diseases on the oxygen consumption efficiency score (OUES) in chronic heart failure (CHF) patients with NYHA functional class II - III during metered exercise was studied.
- Regarding cardiovascular risk and risk factors Assoc. Prof. Tokmakova addresses the adverse health effects of utility and household noise and occupational noise exposure. In this regard, she is also the supervisor of a Ph.D. student
- Prognostic factors- Assoc. Prof. Tokmakova thoroughly investigated and established the relationship between high heart rate in stable survivors of acute coronary syndrome (ACS) and poor long-term prognosis.
- "Heart Failure- Gender Differences in Heart Failure" is a monograph that provides a comprehensive look at gender differences in heart failure. It is analytically, thoroughly and critically demonstrated that gender is an important factor to be considered in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of patients with heart failure. At present, the major studies and guidelines on the subject do not address these differences fully enough and this calls for more in-depth investigation in the future. Knowledge of sex differences in pathogenesis, clinical presentation and response to treatment in different diseases is an important element of a personalized approach in medicine and in heart failure patients in particular.
- In the field of heart failure, Assoc. Prof. Tokmakova deals with the prevalence, economic burden and prognosis in patients with heart failure. She reviews current data on the prevalence, diagnosis and prognosis of patients with heart failure and evaluates the quality of care for adults with heart failure.
- As a member of a working group that includes experts in the field of heart failure Assoc. Prof. Tokmakova participated in the development of a set of quality indicators (QIs) to assess the quality of care for adults with heart failure (HF).

Assoc. Prof. Tokmakova presents 26 Bulgarian citations related to her scientific publications, according to the citation reference from the Central Medical Library. The citations

of the candidate's publications in scientific journals referenced and indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science are 412.

**Teaching activity:**

Assoc. Prof. Tokmakova's teaching load is 2249 hours for the period 2019-2022. Teaching activity includes lectures, seminars, participation in term-end and state examinations in English and Bulgarian, a supervisor of PhD students. She participates in thematic courses for cardiology specialists and resident physicians.

**5 Critical notes:**

Although participation in congresses is not referenced, I did not see results of congresses and international forums in which I am sure Assoc. Prof. Tokmakova participated.

**6 Professional assessment:**

I have known Assoc. Prof. Tokmakova for a long time and I believe she is an accomplished cardiologist combining the skills of a good clinician and lecturer, with experience of over 20 years.

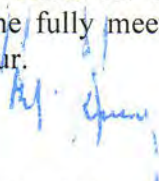
Assoc. Tokmakova meets all the mandatory conditions of the regulations of Plovdiv Medical University for holding the academic position of Professor.

According to the updated national minimum science-metric requirements according to ADAS of 2018, Assoc. Prof. Tokmakova is also eligible for holding the academic position of Professor. Her total score is **10219.16** points, against a required minimum of 1500 points.

**7 Conclusion:**

Evaluating in totality the qualities of Assoc. Prof. Maria Petkova Tokmakova, as well as the terms and conditions of the ADAS and the Rules for Implementation of ADAS of Plovdiv Medical University, it is my opinion that she fully meets the requirements for the academic position of Professor, for which I vote in favour.

09.09.2022

Signature: 

/Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Ramshev, MD /

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09.09.2022

Signature:

Заличено на основание  
Чл. 5, 91, 6. "В" Регламент (ЕС) 2016/679

/Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Ramshev, MD /