

To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury
Designated by Order №P-2015/13.07.2023
of the Rector of Medical University-Plovdiv
15A Vasil Aprilov Blvd.
4002 Plovdiv

On Your Protocol No.1/24.07.2023

attached, I present: STATEMENT OF OPINION on the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in "Pediatrics," announced in State Gazette No.32 of 08.04.2023.

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Vili Krasteva Stoyanova, MD
Department of Pediatrics and Medical Genetics, Medical University-Plovdiv
Sc Pediatric Diseases; Medical Genetics
Cc Заличено на основание чл.5 §1, 6. "Б" Регламент (ЕС)2016/679 02 Plovdiv; 15A Vasil Aprilov Blvd.
M:

For the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Pediatrics," field of higher education 7. Health Care and Sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine at the Department of "Pediatrics and Medical Genetics "Prof. Dr. Ivan Andreev", announced in State Gazette No.32 of 08.04.2023, with the sole candidate Dr. Margarita Vasileva Panova, MD.

The competition announcement follows the procedure.

I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile.

Dr. Margarita Vasileva Panova graduated in medicine from Higher Medical Institute - Plovdiv in 1986. Over the period 1986-2000, she worked successively at the Children's Clinic of the Regional Hospital in Pazardzhik and the Children's Clinic of Higher Medical Institute - Plovdiv. From 2000 up to the present, she has been a physician at the Clinic of Pediatric and Genetic Diseases, University Hospital "St. George", Plovdiv. Parallel to this, in 2012, she began her academic career too. She obtained a specialization in "Pediatric Diseases" in 1993 and in "Pediatric Neurology" in 2013.

In 2017, based on a defended dissertation on the topic "Health Status of Children with Shunted Hydrocephalus," she was awarded the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Pediatrics."

She has undergone a series of specializations in the fields of pediatric neurology, ultrasound examination of the central nervous system, electroencephalography, and epilepsy diagnosis.

She is proficient in English, German, Russian, and Greek.

Dr. Panova is a member of the Bulgarian Pediatric Association; Scientific Society of Pediatric Neurology, Psychiatry, and Developmental Psychology; Society for Neuromuscular Disorders; European Pediatric Neurology Society.

II. General description of the materials submitted for the competition.

The materials submitted for the competition are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and its implementation regulations, as well as the Regulations on the Organization and Activity of Medical University-Plovdiv.

III. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works for overall academic development.

For the competition, Dr. Panova has presented 44 publications. Out of these, 24 publications are in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science (215 points), with 7 of them in international journals with an IF, and 20 publications in non-referenced journals or edited collective volumes (257.5 points).

The overall IF of the full-text publications is 16.427.

Dr. Panova is a co-author of two textbooks: "Emergency Behavior in Pediatrics" edited by Shmilev and Ivanov ISBN 978-619-237-084-8 and "Emergency Conditions in Pre-hospital Care" edited by Shmilev (2023) ISBN978-954-9666-74-8.

In addition, the candidate has participated with scientific communications in 5 international congresses or conferences, with four of the communications published with abstracts in journals with IF.

Participation in scientific projects

Dr. Panova has taken part as a co-researcher in 3 projects with intra-university funding: "Information Portal on the Most Common Surgical Conditions in Childhood"; "Development of a Screening Guide for Risk of Malnutrition in Children"; and "Measurement of Anti-Xa Factor in Children Undergoing Treatment and Prevention with Low Molecular Weight Heparin."

Evaluation of scientific contributions

The scientific developments cover various areas of pediatrics (disorders in early childhood development; inflammatory and infectious diseases in childhood; therapy of pediatric diseases), but mainly focus on the field of pediatric neurology and clinical genetics (epilepsy, epileptic syndromes and epileptic encephalopathies in childhood; cerebrovascular diseases; disorders of the peripheral nervous system and cranial nerves; genetic and rare neurodegenerative diseases; hydrocephalus; congenital metabolic diseases).

Dr. Panova's studies stand out for their relevance and innovation, serving as evidence of her professionalism as a pediatrician and pediatric neurologist.

Based on the dissertation work and scientific publications, the following original scientific contributions can be outlined:

An algorithm for managing complications and monitoring children with shunted hydrocephalus has been proposed;

For the first time in Bulgaria the distribution, frequency of clinical manifestations, risk factors, and the ability to predict the clinical manifestations of CMV infection in hospitalized infants during their first year of life have been described as well as the development of children with selectively treated cytomegalovirus infection;

Specific symptoms in hypomyelination with atrophy of the cerebellum and basal ganglia (H-ABC) in patients from the Roma ethnic community have been proven and a clinical-genetic correlation for early diagnosis of the condition has been suggested;

Dr. Panova is a co-author of a publication in an international journal (Mol Genet Metab 2014, 1-2; 113: 76-83) where a homozygous p.Arg 446* mutation in the PDHX gene has been proven in half of the Roma children with lactate acidosis, as the most common leading cause of the condition in this ethnic group. This mutation is proposed to be used for rapid screening of children of Roma origin with metabolic acidosis for early diagnosis and effective treatment;

A case of lenticulostriate vasculitis complicated by ischemic stroke after minimal brain trauma has been reported for the first time in world literature, highlighting the role of lenticulostriate vasculopathy as a predisposition for ischemic stroke;

Rarer or unique cases have been described such as: infantile dural arteriovenous fistula (NR 2); Jobber syndrome; subacute sclerosing panencephalitis.

- Scientifically applied contributions

A comprehensive differential diagnosis of acute hemiparesis in childhood has been published and a contemporary diagnostic and therapeutic approach in children with acute hemiparesis to enhance its prognosis has been proposed.

With a high level of professionalism, Dr. Panova addresses the complex issues of growing cerebral vascular pathology in childhood, analyzing the most common causes of ischemic stroke in children, their treatment and prevention.

While judging the candidate's scientific contributions, I recognize their practical orientation, aimed at improving the diagnosis and prevention of a number of neurological diseases in childhood.

IV. Evaluation of the monographic work or equivalent publications submitted for the competition. In connection with of the habilitation procedure, a monograph has been presented – a habilitation thesis entitled "Acute Hemiparesis in Childhood", LaxBook, Plovdiv, 2021. In this work, the author provides an in-depth and systematic presentation of a diagnostically challenging issue and proposes an algorithm for managing children with acute onset hemiparesis.

V. Reflection (Citation) of the candidate's publications in national and international literature (publication image).

Dr. Panova has a total of 70 citations in the Scopus and Web of Science databases (mostly in journals with IF), as well as additional 15 citations in non-referenced journals or books.

Scopus Hirsh index – 5.

VI. Comprehensive, qualitative assessment of educational-methodological and teaching activities, including scientific supervision of students, doctoral students, and trainees.

Dr. Panova has ten years of experience as a teacher. According to the provided reference, the candidate's teaching workload varies from 303 to 447 hours for the last 3 academic years, exceeding the norm for clinical specialty. Dr. Panova's overall assessment score for the period 2019-2021 is good, with a total of 63.4 points, and recommendations to enhance her scientific activity in international congresses.

CONCLUSION

Dr. Margarita Panova is a thorough researcher and experienced educator with significant scientific achievements and contributions, widely reflected in international and national journals with an impact factor and impressive citation rate of publications.

Based on the materials submitted for the competition, I can state that Dr. Margarita Vasileva Panova fully meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Educational and Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at Medical University-Plovdiv for the position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty of "Pediatrics." She has the necessary volume of scientific activity, publications, and teaching experience.

I confidently recommend that the respected members of the scientific jury award the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty of "Pediatrics" to Dr. Margarita

Vasileva Panova for the needs of the Department of Pediatrics and Medical Genetics, Medical University-Plovdiv.

Залчено на основание
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Prof. Dr. ~~V.~~ Stoyanova