

To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury,
determined by Order No. R-2454/15.05.2025
of the Rector of MU – Plovdiv

REVIEW

from

Prof. Dr. Snezhana Veselinova Murgova, MD

Head of the Department of "Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases, Maxillofacial Surgery with
Surgical Dentistry" at the Medical University - Pleven

Regarding

Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Ophthalmology, field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports", professional field 7.1. "Medicine", at the Department of "Eye Diseases" for teaching Bulgarian language part-time (4 hours) in the discipline "Ophthalmology" in the State Gazette, issue 15 of 21.02.2025 and on an approved proposal by the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University - Plovdiv (pr. No. 5 of 14.05.2025).

The review was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on Academic Affairs and Research and the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedures for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at the Medical University of Plovdiv.

For participation in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, in the professional field 7.1 Medicine, at the Department of "Eye Diseases", Faculty of Medicine of MU - Plovdiv, documents have been submitted by Dr. Nina Stoyanova, MD.

The materials submitted by the candidate for the competition meet the requirements of the regulations on the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and titles and occupying academic positions at MU Plovdiv.

Brief biographical data:

Dr. Nina Staneva Stoyanova, MD was born in 1974 in Burgas. She graduated from medicine in Plovdiv in 1999, and in 2006 she specialized in Ophthalmology. She has completed her education in health management - 2012.

Since 2008, he has been working at the Eye Clinic at the University Hospital "St. George" in Plovdiv as an Ophthalmologist - Resident, and since 2009 as an Assistant. In 2021. he became Chief Assistant.

Member of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Department. For three consecutive years she has been awarded the diploma for the best lecturer, chosen by the students.

In 2021, she defended her dissertation on the topic "Ocular manifestations in thyroid-associated ophthalmopathy" and obtained the ONS "Doctor".

Dr. Stoyanova has participated in a number of qualification courses in the country - laser treatment in ophthalmology, cataract surgery, ultrasound diagnostics in ophthalmology, eyelid plastic surgery, ocular surface, dry eye, corneal and stem cell transplantation, application of dermal fillers, confocal microscopy. She has completed a course in Phacosurgery in Switzerland.

She has participated in clinical studies and interclinical projects – together with endocrinology, clinical laboratory and imaging diagnostics.

Dr. Stoyanova is a member of the Union of Physicians in Bulgaria, Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, Bulgarian Society of Ophthalmology, Bulgarian Glaucoma Society, Bulgarian Society of Retinology, Euroretina.

EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

Scientometric indicators

Dr. Stoyanova, MD, presents in the competition the following scientific works that meet the criteria for compliance and fulfillment of the minimum national requirements (MNR) for "Associate Professor", including a monograph, publications, citations and scientific research activity:

Dissertation for the acquisition of the ONS "Doctor" - "Ocular manifestations in thyroid-associated ophthalmopathy", 2021, MU-Plovdiv (50 points)

Habilitation thesis, i.e. monograph submitted in connection with a habilitation procedure:

"Application of B-ultrasound in eyeball pathology. Practical guidelines." Nina Stoyanova, 2025, Lax Book, ISBN: 978-619-189-289-1 (100p.)

Publications and reports published in scientific journals, **referenced and indexed** in world-renowned databases of scientific information – 12 pcs. (188.52p.)

Publications and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes – 12 issues (156 p.)

Citations and/or reviews* in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information (only Scopus and Web of Science) – 28 citations and 14 reviews (630 p.)

Based on this data, the overall IF/SJR: 10.4/1.671

Dr. Stoyanova's scientific interests are focused on various current and significant problems in ophthalmology. The publications presented are distinguished by their thoroughness and analytical approach, and good statistical processing. The theses and conclusions are original and have serious scientific and applied potential. Proof of this are the publications in refereed journals and the list of citations, confirming the interest and importance of Dr. Stoyanova's scientific contributions.

MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DR. STOYANOVA'S RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The scientific contributions from the presented research activity are original, confirmatory and applied in nature, with a large part of the results being published in numerous prestigious journals.

The main thematic areas of Dr. Stoyanova's research activities are focused on: ocular manifestations of thyroid-associated ophthalmopathy, ultrasound examination in ophthalmology, rare diseases with ocular manifestations, and training in eye diseases.

I. Contributions related to the dissertation on the topic "Ocular manifestations in thyroid-associated ophthalmopathy"

A thorough and analytical literature review was conducted on the epidemiology, pathogenesis, and risk factors for the occurrence and worsening of thyroid-associated ophthalmopathy, a description of the subjective and objective clinical signs, and the principles of treatment of TAO according to the severity and activity of the process.

Methods for imaging the orbits – computed tomography and ocular ultrasound – have been extensively studied. B-ultrasound has been applied to examine the oculomotor muscles in patients with thyroid disease and healthy controls.

A comparative analysis of Hertel exophthalmometry and exophthalmos measured by multidetector computed tomography was performed.

For the first time in the country, the Barrett's index was measured to assess the risk of optic neuropathy in patients with TAO.

For the first time in Bulgaria, the influence of TAO activity and severity on subjective and objective ocular manifestations in patients with thyroid pathology has been studied.

II. Contributions in the field of Ultrasound in Ophthalmology

For the first time in our country, a manual (monograph) in Bulgarian for ultrasound in ophthalmic practice has been published.

Historical data on ultrasound as a diagnostic method are presented. A detailed theoretical analysis of the physical characteristics and its interaction with tissues is made. The principle design of ultrasound devices and the formation of the image during examination of the eye, as well as possible artifacts, are examined in detail.

The techniques for performing A- and B-ultrasound are described in detail and the indications for the application of the ultrasound examination are highlighted.

The ocular pathology diagnosed with ultrasound is described by chapters on an anatomical principle and is illustrated with examples from the practice of Dr. N. Stoyanova.

The own results from the application of ultrasound in eye injuries and interesting clinical cases from a diagnostic and differential diagnostic perspective are presented.

III. Contributions in the field of Rare Diseases with Ocular Manifestations

A literature review was conducted for rare diseases such as Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, tuberous sclerosis, Schnyder's corneal dystrophy, etc. and the diagnostic criteria and therapeutic approach for them were described.

Clinical cases of a rare manifestation of ocular pathology in childhood such as Herpes Zoster ophthalmicus, Posterior scleritis with complications are described and diagnostic and therapeutic approaches are discussed.

IV. Contributions to the field of Education in Eye Diseases

Dr. Stoyanova participated in the publication of a Practical Guide to Ophthalmology for Medical Students and a Practical Guide to Eye Diseases for Dental Students, published in Bulgarian and English.

TEACHING AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Dr. Stoyanova is a long-time lecturer at the Medical University of Plovdiv, participating in conducting lectures and exercises for medical students - Bulgarian and English language training, dentistry and nursing. Participates in semester exam committees. Supervisor of 4 residents for acquiring a clinical specialty in Ophthalmology.

According to the report provided by MU Plovdiv on Dr. Stoyanova's teaching activities and academic workload, for the last three academic years the total is 1919.1 hours.

The provided attestation assessment demonstrates that Dr. Stoyanova is an established and ambitious lecturer, dedicated to fulfilling her duties. She is responsible for the academic activities of the department and actively participates in the development of teaching materials for the ongoing preparation of students.

For several consecutive years she has been awarded the title of best lecturer, chosen by medical students.

Participates in conducting courses in ocular ultrasound at the Department of Ophthalmology and at Schools for Specialists organized by the Bulgarian Academy of Medical Sciences.

Reference for compliance with minimum national requirements:

Group of indicators	Content	Assoc. prof. (number of points)	Dr. Nina Stoyanova, PhD
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 3	100	100
C	Sum of indicators from 5 to 9	200	349.52
D	Sum of indicators from 10 to 12	100	635
E	Sum of indicators from 13 to 22	60	87
F	Study load	100	318.5

	Academic position	200	300
Total		810	1840.02

CONCLUSION

The comprehensive assessment of the scientific and research activities, teaching and professional qualifications of Dr. Nina Staneva Stoyanova, MD, corresponds to the requirements of the Regulations on the conditions and procedure for acquiring the academic position of "Associate Professor" at MU - Plovdiv.

Based on the above and my personal impressions, I support the candidacy and recommend that the esteemed members of the scientific jury vote positively for Dr. Nina Stoyanova, MD, majoring in Eye Diseases at the Medical University - Plovdiv, to occupy the academic position of Associate Professor.

Date: 01/06/2025

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Respectfully:

Заличено на основание
Чл.5 §1, б. "В" Регламент (ЕС)2016/679

/prof. Snezhana Murgova, PhD./