

To

The Chairman of the Scientific Jury, determined
by an order of the Executive Director of UMBALSM "N.I.
Pirogov" EAD

REGARDING: Review for the procedure for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7, health and sports, professional field 7.1 medicine, scientific specialty "pediatrics", to the Department of Pediatrics, UMBALSM "N.I. Pirogov" EAD, declared in the State Gazette No. 25-05 / 5.4.2019.

REVIEW

From Prof. Dr. Stefan Nedev Stefanov, MD

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Candidate for the procedure: One candidate is participating in the competition: Dr. Iren Stoyanova Tzotcheva.

The procedure is announced in the appropriate order. Only one candidate participated in the competition, namely Dr. Iren Stoyanova Tzotcheva.

The review of the materials submitted for the procedure are based on the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Rules for the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and borrowing AD and the Qualitative criteria for the development of the academic staff of UMBALSM "N.I.Pirogov".

All the procedure documents are presented to me according to the requirements of the Regulations, well arranged and with the necessary supporting material.

1. Presentation of the applicant.

Biographical data and professional development.

Dr. Iren Tzotcheva graduated from the Medical University in Sofia in 1997. She has a specialization in "childhood diseases", acquired in 2006 and "children's pulmonology" - in 2013, and since 2018. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Health and Health Management.

She received her PhD in 2006 on the topic: "Clinical, immunological and genetic features of childhood bronchial asthma".

She has professional experience as a doctor, assistant and chief assistant in pediatrics. From 1998 -2001 she was a doctor in the polyclinic. In 2001, after a competition, she became a PhD student for the Department of Pediatrics, MU, Sofia, where she worked after defending her doctoral thesis. From 2014 to 2018 she is Head of the Department for Children with Acute Respiratory Diseases, Pediatric Clinic, University Hospital "Alexandrovska", EAD, and from 2018 is Head of the Department of Pediatrics, University Hospital "N.I.Pirogov" EAD. She has specialized in France, Croatia, Germany and Spain, courses in bronchoscopy, abdominal and

thoracic ultrasound, certification courses in spirometry, courses in various problems of allergic diseases and bronchial asthma, etc.

She is also Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator in 4 scientific projects. Submits 51 publications in Bulgarian and foreign magazines, 6 of them with Impact Factor / IF /. She has regular participation in national and international congresses and conferences with scientific reports and posters.

She has fluent knowledge in English and German.

She is a member of a number of our and international professional and scientific organizations. Has good computer skills.

2. Evaluation of research activities

Dr. Iren Tzotcheva submitted a total of 51 scientific publications and communications for review in this competition. Their distribution is as follows:

- 11 publications in foreign scientific journals
- 35 publications in Bulgarian journals
- 1 dissertation and 1 abstract for a doctorate degree,
- 3 publications related to the dissertation
- 1 participation in a scientific compilation / book
- 33 participations in national and international congresses, conferences and symposia
- There are 3 publications and 6 participations related to the dissertation work for the PhD in scientific forums.
- 6 publications in journals with Impact Factor .

In the publications presented Dr. Tzotcheva is:

- Single or First author - in 38 publications
- The applicant also has 39 participations in international congresses and conferences - 14 of them are abroad, 18 in Bulgaria with international participation and 7 are national or regional forums, 6 of these participations are related to the dissertation. She is the sole or first author in 21 presentations.

This is a reference for the scientific works of Dr. Iren Tzotcheva, presented by the author:

Type of scientific publication and activity	Total number	First author	Another position
Total number of publications (journals, scientific journals)	44	27	17
Participation in scientific volume in Bulgarian	1	1	
Publications in Bulgarian magazines	35	26	9
Publications in foreign magazines	8	0	8
• with IF	6		
Participation in Bulgarian congresses and conferences	22	15	7
Participation in international congresses			
• abstracts (number)	14	5	9
• with IF (number, IF)	3	2	
Citations (from all data bases)	208		
• in Bulgaria	8		
• Scopus	200		
Membership in Medical scientific organizations abroad	2		
Incl. in the board	no		
Membership in National Medical scientific organizations	3		
Incl. in the board	no		

Research projects	4		
• in Bulgaria	4		
• abroad	no		

Impact Factor: Dr. Tzotcheva submits a publication reference, co-authored in 6 foreign impact factor journals and 3 participations in international abstract congresses, also published in scientific impact factor journals.

Total IF of publications is 17,996, individual - 2,008.

The total IF of abstracts in journals is 18,942, the individual is 3,785.

Impact factor (total/individual): 17,996/2,008

Citation: Dr. Tzotcheva enclosed an official reference from the Central Medical Library for citations:

The candidate's quotation report shows 208 of them quoted in Scopus 200. Self-citations are excluded.

- is quoted in Bulgarian literature -8
- is quoted in foreign literature /Scopus, Web of Knowledge / - 200

Scientific projects:

Dr. Tsocheva participates in 4 scientific projects - in 1 as principal investigator and in 3 as co-researcher.

Data are presented for participation in 4 research projects, with an excellent evaluation of the results obtained in 3 of them, which have been completed.

2018 - Present: Co-researcher in a research project on "Viral pathogens in respiratory medicine - distribution in Bulgaria, genetic and clinical features", issue NN 13-15 / 20.12.2017 funded by fund "Scientific research"

2018 - 2019: Principal Investigator under Contract D-106-D / 03.05.2018 with Medical University of Sofia under Grant 7770 of 22.11.2017. on the topic: "Nasopharyngeal microbiome in children with chronic pulmonary disease": High score for results.

2018 - 2019: Co-Investigator under Contract D-107-D / 03.05.2018 with Medical University of Sofia under project Grant 7771 of November 22, 2017 on the topic: "Dynamic picture of respiratory pneumococcal infections in children after the introduction of routine pneumococcal vaccination in Bulgaria": high score for achievements results.

2014 -2015: Co-researcher under Contract No. 66/2014 with the Medical University of Sofia on the topic: "Significance of serum biomarkers for the assessment of the severity of inflammation and the effect of antibiotic therapy in children with pneumonia acquired in society": High score for the results achieved

Scientific societies:

Dr. Tzotcheva is a member of 6 scientific and medical companies and organizations. They are in the field of pediatrics and lung diseases:

- European Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID)
- European Respiratory Society (ERS)
- Bulgarian Pediatric Association
- Bulgarian Society for Pulmonary Diseases
- Bulgarian Association for Pediatric Pulmonology
- Bulgarian Medical Association

3. Scientific contributions and directions in research:

The publications cover a variety of areas in pediatrics and pediatric pulmonology. The following main contributions can be made to the relevant lines of research:

The presented works have achieved scientific and applied results and investigated problems with contributions in the following areas and areas:

1. Viral Respiratory Infections in Early Childhood -13 publications. Using modern molecular genetic diagnostic methods, a characterization of the severity and cyclicity of infections caused by 15 respiratory viruses in 4 consecutive autumn-winter seasons has been made. The most commonly reported are RSV, RV and hMPV, adenoviruses, bocaviruses, influenza and parainfluenza viruses, and often co-infections. The characterization of the clinical picture in various respiratory infections is important for preventive and therapeutic strategies in modern respiratory pathology.
2. Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP) in children.
 - 2.1. The role of newer biochemical markers of inflammation / CRP, PCT, sTREM-1 / in assessing the severity of pneumonia and the risk of complications that are applicable in daily practice of the doctor are reviewed and demonstrated in 4 publications.

The role of some of the biomarkers examined has been determined - CRP is more likely to determine the severity and PCT has a predictive value.
 - 2.2. In 4 publications, a detailed characterization of Mycoplasma pneumonia (by clinical, radiological and laboratory criteria) is made and guidance markers applicable in clinical practice are derived.
 - 2.3. Two publications have analyzed the etiological spectrum of CAP, with particular attention to immunization status, and identifies the still leading role of pneumococcus.
 - 2.4. A practical role for pediatricians and GPs is the study of disparity available in the interpretation of outpatient radiographs of children hospitalized for pneumonia and to reduce the use of antibiotics in viral respiratory infections.
 - 2.5. Treatment of CAP in childhood - 3 publications. Contemporary review, discussed and debated are possible causes for non-influence. To help the pediatrician.
3. Rare lung diseases. A case of late-diagnosed diaphragmatic hernia is presented, with recurrent pulmonary infections in the absence of changes in the first X-Ray; case of SLE debut with diffuse pulmonary hemorrhage, mastered upon complete recovery after aggressive treatment; cases of Bruton's disease with leading pulmonary infections and bronchiectasis, well responded to by modern therapy; a rare case of late diagnosed VKAM; a rare case of fatal pulmonary nocardiosis in a 16-year-old boy.
4. Immunology, genetics and diagnosis of childhood asthma. Dr. Tzotcheva's contributions to this field of pediatric pulmonology are pioneering our conditions and are undeniable, especially given her doctorate in this field.
5. General pediatrics.

It is clear that Dr. Tzotcheva is a powerful and searching researcher who combines well the qualities of a good clinician and a scientist using modern diagnostic and therapeutic methods. The desire to improve the diagnostic and therapeutic process is always emphasized. I commend her ability to perform clinical pediatrics research activities and to combine science with clinical practice at the patient's bedside. It is evident that she presents herself as a researcher, properly researching, interpreting and able to present scientific material.

4. Evaluation of educational activity:

Dr. I. Tzotcheva has 15 years of teaching experience as an assistant, senior and chief assistant.

She is a teacher of medical students / incl. and English-speaking dentists, trainees and pediatric trainees, pediatricians, pediatric pulmonology, general practitioners, VET, and participation in student exam committees

According to the presented work load certificate of Dr. Tzotcheva from the Department of Pediatrics, MU, Sofia, there are 360 hours of total work load for the academic year 2017/2018.

Dr. Tzotcheva is an excellent lecturer. He presents himself as a lecturer who is observant and able to present a fascinating, clear and precise topic. I appreciate the lecturer's skills and high marks. Shows qualities - precision in work, hard work, diligence, good communication and good teamwork.

She was a member of the exam committees of the semester examinations of pediatric students.

5. Evaluation of diagnostic and therapeutic activity:

Dr. Tzotcheva has certificates / diplomas for the specialty in:

1. Children's diseases - 2006.
2. Pediatric Pulmonology - 2013.
3. Certificates of completed specializations:

2018: "Conventional first level fibrobronchoscopy ", Medical University - Sofia;

2016: "Conventional Thorax Ultrasound First Level Investigation", Medical University, Sofia;

2014: Ultrasound diagnostics of thoracic diseases, Medical University-Sofia;

2013: "SPIROMETRY - module 3 ", MU-Plovdiv and BBSB;

2012: Certification Course in Spirometry, Module 2, MU-Plovdiv and BDBB;

2011: Certification course in SPIROMETRY, module 1, MU-Plovdiv and BDBB;

Dr. Tzotcheva has specialized several times in various problems of pediatrics:

2004: "Genetic and Epidemiological Methods for the Study of Pulmonary Diseases", European Respiratory Organization (ERS), Paris, France;

2004: "Epidemiology and pathogenesis of allergic diseases", European Association of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI), Dubrovnik, Croatia;

2002-2003: Fellow of the German Academy of Scientific Exchange (DAAD) at Ludwig-Maximilians University, Children's Clinic "Dr. Von Haunersches" Laboratory of Allergy Genetics, Munich, Germany, supervisor Prof. Erica von Mutius; Scientific projects in the field of childhood bronchial asthma genetics, genotyping of 1L-4 and CD14 gene polymorphisms, complete sequencing and polymorphisms in the DEFB4 gene.

2002: Flow Cytometry and Allergy - European Association of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI), Bilbao, Spain;

2002: "Application of modern molecular genetic methods in microbiological diagnostics", NCIPD

2001: "Immunological diagnosis of internal diseases ", MU-Sofia; 2001: " Immunodeficiency states ", MU-Sofia;

From 2018 until now he is the Head of the Department of Pediatrics, UMBALSM "N.I. Pirogov", EAD.

Previously - since 2014 until 2018 is Head of Division for Children with Acute Respiratory Diseases, Chief Assistant, Clinic of Pediatrics, University Hospital "Alexandrovska", EAD.

She has subsequently held the positions of assistant / 2010-2011 / and chief assistant / 2011-2014 /.

CONCLUSION:

From the presented overview it is clear that Dr. Iren Stoyanova Tzotcheva, MD is an erudite teacher, lecturer and specialist in the field of pediatrics and pediatric pulmonology, has enviable clinical and teaching experience. Participates in the training of students, postgraduates and pediatricians for 15 years, with sufficient volume of scientific activity, publications and diagnostic and therapeutic activity. Dr. Tzotcheva's scientific output is her own work. The publications are the result of scientific research and clinical experience. The contributions are indisputable. I believe that Dr. Tzotcheva is an erudite doctor, teacher and researcher, a leading pediatrician and a specialist in pediatric pulmonology.

The applicant fulfills all the criteria and scientific-metric indicators set out in the Rules for the Terms and Conditions for Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Lending of academic position in UMBALSM "N.I. Pirogov".

I recommend to the esteemed members of the scientific jury to be awarded the academic position of Assistant Professor in Pediatrics to Dr. Iren Stoyanova Tzotcheva.

28. 08. 2019 Sofia

Prof Dr Stefan Nedev Stefanov, MD