

To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury  
At UMHATEM "N.I.Pirogov" EAD,  
Appointed by order  
No RD 26-2023/18.10.2023  
To the Executive Director of UMHATEM  
"N.I.Pirogov" EAD, Sofia

## **PROFFESIONAL POSITION**

**By Associate Professor Dr. Iren Stoyanova Tsocheva, PhD**

**Head of Pediatrics Clinic of UMHATEM "N.I.Pirogov" EAD**

Appointed as a member of the NJ on the grounds of art. 60 para. 2 of the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at UMHATEM "N.I.Pirogov" EAD, Sofia, according to a decision of the Scientific Council, protocol Nr 01-3 / 4.10.2023.

**Subject:** Competition for the academic position "**Associate Professor**" in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports, 7.1. Medicine and scientific specialty "Pediatrics", announced in the State Gazette issue: 46, dated 26.5.2023 and on the website of UMHATEM "N.I.Pirogov" - Sofia.

One candidate participated in the competition – **Dr. Snezhina Mihaylova Lazova, PhD.**

All documents of the competition are presented according to the requirements, well arranged, in excellent aesthetic form and with the necessary evidence.

### **Biographical data and professional development of the candidate**

Dr. Lazova graduated in medicine in Sofia in 2008. She works consecutively at the Pediatrics Clinic of Tokuda Hospital as a pediatrics resident, Medical Center "Cardiohelp", Pediatrics Clinic of the University Hospital "Alexandrovska" (2011-2018), where she is a resident in pediatric pulmonology, a PhD student and a part-time lecturer. In 2016 She defended her PhD on "Clinical Significance of the Functional Study of Breathing and Atopic Status in Children with Asthma" headed by Prof. Penka Perenovska. In 2020 she acquires a second specialty – Pediatric Pneumology and Phthisiatrics.

For the period 2015 - 2017 she graduated with a Master's degree at the Faculty of Public Health in Public Health and Health Management.

Since 2018 so far, she is in the team of Pediatrics Clinic of UMHATEM "Pirogov" as a pediatrician and pediatric pulmonologist. From 2020 she is Chief Assistant at the Faculty of Public Health of MU, Sofia, Department of Health Care. Develops consultative outpatient activities in MC INSPIRO and MC "Neoclinic". She is a researcher at Sofia University "St. ST. Kliment Ohridski" under the SUMMIT project.

Dr. Lazova has specialized in a number of Bulgarian and foreign clinical units in pediatrics, pediatric pulmonology and phthisiatrics, allergology and immunology, for which she presents the necessary evidence.

Dr. Lazova is fluent in English, German and Greek. Her fluency in English provides her with seamless communication with colleagues from the international scientific paediatric community. She has good computer skills.

Her research interests are in the field of pediatrics, pediatric pulmonology, allergology and functional diagnostics. She has a teaching experience in pediatrics and pediatric pneumology and phthisiatrics and experience in the development and implementation of scientific projects, experience in the Working Committee on Health Technology Assessment, incl. and participation and postgraduate vocational training in international courses and practical workshops.

She is a member of the BPA, BADP, BDBB, BLS, ERS and EAAC.

### **Scientific and research activities**

The total volume of Dr. Lazova's scientific work amounts to 128 scientific publications and reports. 62 articles have been published in Bulgarian journals and 28 abroad, 9 of them are IF journals. The author also has 29 papers published in publications with IF. Three of the publications abroad are chapters of collective monographs.

For the competition for JSC "Associate Professor" the candidate presents 20 publications in journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus) – 13 of them after the year of awarding the PhD National Assembly.

Publications in non-refereed journals – 39 in number, of which 26 are after the year of awarding the NSA "doctor".

Dr. Lazova had participated with posters, poster discussions and reports in 50 scientific forums – 25 in Bulgaria and 28 abroad, where 78 scientific reports have been presented. Three of the presented posters were awarded with a diploma – two with first prize and one with a third.

The total IF of scientific papers is 112,212 and from publications after the defense of the dissertation for the PhD NSA it is 26,767. Eleven publications are with Thomson Reuters impact factor (total IF 45,092 – articles – 24,645, reports – 20,447).

Of the publications referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus) 45 in number, in 18 (40.0%) Dr. Lazova is the first/last author, in the rest she is the second and next author. Of the publications in journals not indexed in a global database, but with scientific review, 77 in number, she is the first author in 48 (62.3%).

The candidate presents participation in 3 collective monographs in English, two of which are referenced in Scopus.

An official citation reference from the Central Medical Library is presented, according to which the candidate has 21 citations in publications referenced in SCOPUS (Elsevier) and 25 citations in Web of Science (Clarivate). In addition, there are 9 citations in publications from other foreign freely available online sources (evidence provided). From the CML repository, 22 citations (list provided) were reported. Two publications of the applicant are cited in a university textbook.

Much of the research activity has been carried out within scientific projects. Seven of them are funded and administered by the SMN of MU Sofia. In one project, the candidate participates as a full-time doctoral student. In another 6 projects under GRANT Dr. Lazova participates as a researcher in their overall implementation, incl. and in presenting the results at congresses and through scientific publications. The projects are related to pulmonary, functional, microbiological, immunological and socio-medical problems. During his work at UMHATEM "N.I.Pirogov" the candidate participated in two scientific projects related to the work of the Children's Emergency Department and the Pediatrics Clinic. Dr. Lazova also participated in an international project under the program "ERASMUS+KA2010" Improving the training of nurses in clinical pathways together with researchers from Kapodistrian University, Greece. Most of the submitted projects have been completed and their evaluation is excellent. They are also associated with not a small part of the candidate's publications.

The scientific reference shows that with the presented works Dr. Lazova fulfills and exceeds the set national and hospital criteria for the declared place for "Associate Professor".

It can be seen from this that Dr. Lazova has the impetus to generate ideas, organize and implement them, as well as to present the results obtained to the Bulgarian and international medical circles.

Dr. Lazova's scientific production is her personal work. The results are authentic, especially those related to FID studies. All directions of learning interests of the candidate are the result of in-depth searches and use of modern highly informative methods. The contributions are indisputable.

The scientific reference shows that with the presented works Dr. Lazova fulfills and exceeds the set national and hospital criteria for the declared place for "Associate Professor".

### **Teaching activities**

Dr. Lazova has nearly 10 years of experience as a lecturer in pediatrics to students in the specialties – nurses, midwives, medical assistants, kinesitherapy and clinical trial management, pediatric specialists, English-speaking medical students, as well as participation in examination committees. From 2020 is Chief Assistant at the Department of Health Care at the Faculty of Health and at the Pediatrics Clinic of UMHATEM "N.I.Pirogov". In addition, she is the supervisor of two post-graduate students from the Pediatrics Clinic of UMHATEM "N.I.Pirogov".

From her many years of collaboration with Dr. Lazova, I can say that she puts her heart and soul into her work as a teacher, intriguing the students trained by her, who then often look for an opportunity to continue their development in pediatrics. During presentations at scientific forums, she is able to systematically present large amounts of data and convey practical ideas. In addition, she is a hardworking, diligent, precise and communicative doctor and scientist who works well in a team.

### **Conclusion**

The overall assessment shows that Dr. Snezhina Lazova has extensive research, clinical and teaching experience in the field of pediatrics and pediatric pulmonology. The presented scientific papers and transcript of records, as well as my impressions of our joint work are grounds to believe that the applicant fulfills the criteria and scientific-metric indicators set out in the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Rules for the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Occupying AD and Quality Criteria for the Development of the Academic Staff of the

University Hospital "N.I. Pirogov" - Sofia, to occupy the academic position "Associate Professor".

In view of the above, I recommend to the members of the esteemed scientific jury to vote POSITIVELY for awarding the academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Pediatrics" to Dr. Snezhina Mihaylova Lazova from the Pediatrics Clinic of UMHATEM "N.I.Pirogov" - Sofia. Sofia.

30 November 2023

Ass. Prof. Dr. Iren Tsocheva, PhD