

OPINION

Written by Assoc. Prof. Bogdan Mladenov, MD, PhD

Regarding: competition for the academic position "associate professor" in university education 7. Health care and sports, 7.1. Medicine and scientific speciality "Pediatrics", announced in SG number 46, dated 26.5.2023

The candidate submitted documents to participate in the competition - Dr. Snezhina Mihailova Lazova, d.m.

For the competition, the candidate has provided the documents and references required according to the regulations for developing the UMHATEM "N.I.Pirogov" academic staff.

Biographical data and professional development

Dr. Lazova graduated in human medicine from the Medical University of Sofia in 2008, after which she initially began to specialise in Pediatrics at the UMHAT "Tokuda" and the UMHAT "Aleksandrovska" and obtained a speciality in Pediatrics. In 2020, he obtained a second specialty - Children's Pneumology and Phthisiatry.

From 2015 to 2017, she completed his master's degree in Public Health and Health Management at the Faculty of Public Health.

From 2010 to 2016, as a full-time and then a part-time doctoral student under the supervision of Prof. Penka Perenovska, she developed and defended her doctoral thesis on the topic "Clinical significance of the functional examination of breathing and atopic status in children with asthma."

Over the years, she participated in a large number of qualification courses in paediatrics and pulmonology:

2022 Open Medical InstituteSalzburg CHOP Pediatric Pulmonology Pediatric Allergology and Immunology – one-week seminar, Pediatric Pulmonology – one-week seminar

Continuing Medical Education - The Children's Hospital Of Philadelphia in collaboration with the Medical University of Gratz, The American Austrian Foundation

Open Medical

2015 - Hermes ERS Pediatric Summer School European respiratory society (ERS) Pediatric pulmonology - summer school.

2015 - University Hospital «Atikon», Athens, Greece, Department of Pediatric Pulmonology and Allergology Clinical specialization in Pediatric Pulmonology and Allergology

2013, 2014 European Spirometry Driving License - Barcelona, Spain certificate from the European Respiratory Society (ERS - European Respiratory Society) for competence in conducting spirometry meeting world standards

2012 - Klinik für Kinder- und Jugendmedizin, Gemeinschaftsklinikum Koblenz-Mayen
Rotary International Scholarship 'Prof. Dr. Walter Toussaint', Rotary Club Koblenz, Germany, Rotary Club Sredetz Sofia. Bulgaria clinical training in pediatric pulmonology, allergology, functional diagnostics and intensive care - mentor Prof. Thomas Nuesslein.

Professionally, Dr. Lazova's work experience began at UMHAT "Tokuda" hospital, passed through UMHAT "Alexandrovska" UMBAL and pediatric outpatient consultation at "Cardiohelp", "Pirogov" medical centre, and "INSPIRO" medical centre. Since 2018 is part of the Department of Pediatrics of UMHATEM "N.I. Pirogov" medical staff. Since 2020, she become the chief assistant at the Department of Health Care of the Medical University of Sofia-Sofia.

From 2023 is a researcher in a project of SU "St. St. Kliment Ohridski" SUMMIT and works in a medical facility for pre-hospital care "Neoklinik".

Scientific research activity

Dr. Lazova's main research interests are in the field of pediatric pulmonology, with an emphasis on bronchial asthma and allergic conditions, as well as spirometry.

The total volume of Dr. Lazova's scientific work amounts to 128 scientific publications and reports. In the current competition, she participated with 62 publications, of which 20 were published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in WOS and Scopus, and 42 in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals. Three publications are book chapters (collective monograph), two of which are referenced in Scopus. Eleven publications (9 articles and 3 reports) have a Thomson Reuters impact factor (total IF 45,092 - articles - 24,645, reports - 20,447). In most publications submitted for participation in the competition, the candidate is

the first or last author - in 42 first author and two - last author (referred first author - 10 articles, non-refereed with scientific review first author - 32).

Dr Lazova devoted a large part of the presented works to bronchial asthma problems in children and the application of functional breathing research to optimise the management of this pathology. An interesting modification of the traditional techniques of FID that are studied is the oscillatory technique, which is presented in preschool children. In the overall assessment of bronchial asthma, the etiological causes are also presented as topics: allergic, gastro-oesophageal reflux, and allergic rhinitis. In terms of treatment, traditional approaches such as inhaled corticosteroids and immunological genetic prerequisites for the success or failure of therapy have been examined. Several of these works result from joint work under two grants of MU-Sofia, in which Dr. Lazova was an active participant.

Another topic that is seriously advocated in Dr. Lazova's work is the Functional Study of Breathing. The works presented in this area are aimed at the correct application and indications for the conventional established indicators of FID and the introduction and research of new topics, such as forced oscillations in children with their advantages and disadvantages. Populations outside the most common indications for FID, such as children with chest deformities, have also been considered as subjects. Some of the developments are related to scientific grants from MU-Sofia.

The candidate's work in clinical immunology and connections with pediatric pulmonology is impressive. There are works with serious theoretical depth regarding the immunological aspects of asthma and cystic fibrosis, as well as practically oriented works on immunomodulation in children with respiratory diseases.

In a large part of Dr. Lazova's works, the topic of bacterial and viral infections of the respiratory system and their complications (MIS-C) is very seriously considered.

Regarding viral diseases, some of the most common pathogens in childhood are influenza, RSV, bacoviruses, and the newly emerging causative agent SARS-CoV2. The latter topic has received in-depth analysis in several studies in relation to clinical work, as well as on a more theoretical level with the immunological changes accompanying this condition. In continuation of this topic are the candidate's developments regarding MIS-C, a multisystemic immunological reaction characteristic of childhood, which affects not only the respiratory system and needs a complex approach outside the framework of pediatric pulmonology.

Of the works presented, those focused on pediatric clinical practice and vaccine prophylaxis make an impression. In this regard, Dr. Lazova's work on the Pneumococcal vaccine is again part of a project funded by MU-Sofia.

It is clear from the presented materials that Dr. Lazova actively participated in over 50 scientific forums in the country and abroad and presented 78 scientific reports.

The scientometric report shows that, with the works presented, Dr Lazova fulfils and exceeds the set national and hospital criteria for the announced position of "Associate professor."

Teaching activity

Dr Lazova participated in the education of medical students as a part-time teacher at Sofia University. From 2020 is the chief assistant in the Department of Health Care at the Health Care Center and the Clinic of Pediatrics of the UMHATEM "N.I. Pirogov". Conducts lecture courses and seminars for students from the specialties "nurse", "midwife", "management of clinical trials", "kinesitherapy", "medical assistant", students in the profile of emergency medicine. In addition, he is the supervisor of two specialists from the Pediatrics Clinic of UMHATEM "N.I. Pirogov.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the overall evaluation demonstrates that Dr Snezhina Lazova has extensive research and teaching experience in paediatrics and pediatric pulmonology. The presented scientific works and academic references fully meet the necessary criteria for holding the academic position of "associate professor".

The presented facts and my observations give me a reason to recommend to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to vote **POSITIVELY** for awarding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific speciality "Paediatrics" to Dr Snezhina Mihaylova Lazova from the Pediatric Clinic of UMHATEM "N. I. Pirogov" Sofia.

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