

**TO**

**The President of the Scientific Jury**

**appointed by Order No. RD-26-269/29.01.2025**

**of the Executive Director of the University Hospital "N. И. Pirogov EAD, Sofia Sofia.**

**To your protocol №1**

**I present: OPINION** regarding the competition for the occupation of the scientific position "associate professor" in the scientific specialty "Pediatrics" for the needs of the Pediatric Surgery Clinic, UMBAL "N. And. Pirogov" EAD according to a competition announced in SG No. 90/25.10.2024:

**Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Stefan Nedev Stefanov, PhD**

Clinic of Pediatrics, University Hospital "Heart and Brain", Pleven

Consultant at the Clinic of Pediatric Rheumatology, SBARDB, Sofia

Scientific specialty: paediatrics, paediatric rheumatology

Address and contacts:

snsnedev@abv.bg; +359 888 503 433

The competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific specialty "Paediatrics" is announced on the basis of Article 3, item 13 of the Regulations on the structure, activity and internal order of the University Hospital "N. I. Pirogov" 60, para. 2 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University Hospital "N. I. Pirogov" EAD, and in accordance with the decision of the Scientific Council with protocol No. ND-01-2-05/15.01.2025.

I have been elected as a member of the Scientific Jury of the competition for "Associate Professor" in the professional field 7.1. 90/25.10.2024 by Order No. RD-26-269/29.01.2025 of the Executive Director of the University Hospital "N. И. Pirogov EAD, Sofia Sofia.

The examination of the materials is based on the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Implementation and the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedures for Acquisition of the the educational and scientific degree

and Occupation of the Position of Academic Position at the University Hospital "N. I. Pirogov". ". EAD Sofia and the Quality Criteria for Academic Staff Development adopted by the Decision of the Scientific Council of 29 March 2023.

In the announced competition for filling the academic position of "Associate Professor" there is one participant admitted by the Commission on documents, namely head. asst. Dr. Denitza Roumenova Kofinova, PhD.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE**

### **Dr. Denitza Roumenova Kofinova, PhD**

#### **Biographical data and professional development**

Dr. Denitza Roumenova Kofinova graduated with honors from MU Sofia in 2014.

Since 02.11.2015 she started working as a resident at the Clinic of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hospital "Prof. Dr. Ivan Mitev", Medical University, Sofia. In January 2016 she started specialization in pediatric gastroenterology.

In 2020 she will acquire the specialty "pediatric gastroenterology" and in 2022 - "pediatrics". Certificate of postgraduate training No. 1424/29.07.2020 for the completion of the professional qualification course: 'Health Management' - 200 hours, held 01.07.2020-29.07.2020.

From May 2023 till now she is a pediatrician, consultant at the Clinic of Pediatric Abdominal Surgery of the UMHATEM "N. I. Pirogov".

From 2016 to April 2023, he was successively a lecturer, associate professor and senior assistant professor at the Department of Pediatrics of MU-Sofia.

From 24.03.2016 to 24.03.2020 he is a full-time PhD student at the Department of Pediatrics. In 2020 she defended her dissertation thesis on 2D shear wave elastography on the topic "Evaluation of liver fibrosis in children with chronic liver diseases".

In 2020, she received the "Acad. Asen Hadzhiolov" award - Award for a young scientist in the field of clinical sciences. In 2024, she was awarded the "Physician of the Year" award in the category "Contribution to the development and application of innovative medicine and unique techniques" for the introduction of a minimally invasive endoscopic procedure for the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) with STRETTA in pediatric patients at the Clinic of Pediatric Surgery - Pirogov.

She is a member of the European Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (ESPGHAN), the Bulgarian Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (BULSPGHAN), the Bulgarian Pediatric Association, the Bulgarian Association of Ultrasound in Medicine (BAUM).

She is a member of the board of BAUM and deputy editor-in-chief of the journal "Diagnostic and Therapeutic Ultrasound".

She has a certificate in abdominal ultrasound - level I and II, conventional gastrointestinal endoscopy. She has completed a course in interventional gastrointestinal endoscopy and in performing STRETTA.

She speaks English - B2, FCE/C1; German - C1, DAF test, Russian - A2.

All the data presented speak of the upward professional development of Dr. Denitza Kofinova and her desire to expand her knowledge in pediatric science and especially in the field of pediatric gastroenterology.

## **EVALUATION OF LEARNING AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

Dr. Denitsa Kofinova has experience as a lecturer in the training of students and residents in medicine and dentistry from 2016 to April 2023, successively being a part-time lecturer, assistant and chief assistant at the Department of Pediatrics of MU-Sofia.

She teaches Bulgarian and English-speaking students of medicine and dentistry, residents in pediatrics and pediatric gastroenterology and other pediatric subspecialties.

She participates in courses organized by post graduation department in Pediatric Gastroenterology and Basic Course - Level I.

As an author and co-author, she has participated in 3 textbooks in pediatrics and 6 chapters of books published in edited collections.

## **EVALUATION OF RESEARCH ACTIVITY**

For participation in the competition, Dr. Denitza Kofinova presents the following scientific works:

In the current competition for the scientific position of "associate professor" 28 publications (27 full-text articles and one published report) are presented, of which:

- of which 17 are published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in WOS and Scopus
- 11 in non-refereed journals with scientific review.
- 4 of the publications are book chapters (published in edited collected volumes).
- 5 publications (4 articles and 1 report) have a Thomson Reuters impact factor (total IF 9.572 – articles – 5.326, reports – 4.246).

In the majority of publications submitted for participation in the competition, the candidate is the first or last author – in 16 first author and in one – last (refereed first author – 8 articles, unrefereed with scientific review first author – 8).

**Citations:**

An official reference from the Central Medical Library (CML) is presented, according to which Dr. Denitsa Kofinova has:

- 10 citations in publications cited in SCOPUS (Elsevier) and
- 10 citations in Web of Science (Clarivate) and
- 23 citations in Bulgarian sources.

**Participation in scientific projects:**

Dr. Denitsa Kofinova has 1 participation as an executor in a Scientific Project, namely: Contract N D-142, Project with entry N 8542-12.12.2016 from the "Young Investigator" Competition for project funding - 2017. Topic: "Biochemical, genetic and ultrasound criteria for assessing the degree of development of steatosis and fibrosis in chronic liver diseases in childhood" Scientific supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristo Zhelev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Avdzhieva-Tzavella, PhD.

**Reference for scientific-metric indicators.**

The following REFERENCE is presented

**TABLE WITH INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC-METRIC INDICATORS,**

in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University Hospital "N. I. PIROGOV" EAD - Sofia.

Dr. Denitza Kofinova, MD has a total number of points of 792,312, which exceed the required minimum, namely:

Respectively by indicators:

- Indicator A - 50 points.
- Indicator B - 114.2 points (11 are scientific publications in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information, with the weight of habilitation work)
- Indicator D - 273.54 points
- Indicator E - 265 points.
- Indicator E – 80 points.
- Indicator G – 9.572

Dr. Denitza Kofinova meets the requirements for scientific and teaching activities.

### **Scientific and applied contributions and directions in scientific research activity:**

The scientific interests of Dr. Denitza Kofinova, PhD cover various areas of pediatrics, gastroenterology, functional studies, etc. with scientific and scientific-practical problems.

In the works submitted for review, scientific and applied results have been achieved and problems have been studied with contributions in the following areas and directions:

According to the topic, the works can be divided into the following groups:

#### **1. Dissertation work**

Dr. Kofinova defended in 2020 a dissertation work on the topic "Evaluation of liver fibrosis in children with chronic liver diseases" at the Department of Pediatrics of the Medical University, Sofia. The dissertation work has original and confirmatory contributions. Among the original ones: For the first time in the country, the role of Shear-wave elastography for the assessment of liver fibrosis in pediatric patients has been studied; the role of non-invasive blood markers – FibroTest, APRI, FIB-4, ASAT/ALAT for the assessment of liver fibrosis; the relationship between shear wave elastography values and liver fibrosis assessed histologically in pediatric patients with chronic liver diseases was assessed; a cut-off value for shear wave elastography was established to differentiate fibrosis from lack of fibrosis in pediatric patients with chronic liver diseases; the role of genetic polymorphisms PNPLA3 I148M, TM6SF2 E167K and GCKR P446L in the development of NAFLD was studied; an algorithm for monitoring pediatric patients with chronic liver diseases was proposed, etc.

#### **2. Chronic inflammatory bowel diseases**

#### **3. Chronic liver diseases**

#### **4. Helicobacter pylori infection**

#### **5. General pediatric gastroenterological problems**

#### **6. Multidisciplinary cases**

The presented articles make original, confirmatory and applied conclusions.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Doctor Denitza Roumenova Kofinova is a doctor with broad scientific interests and great potential. With an interest in the latest in the diagnosis and treatment of children's diseases and an interest in pediatric gastroenterology in particular. With diverse scientific activity - pediatrics and gastroenterology.

From the presented presentation it is clear that Dr. Denitza Roumenova Kofinova is a trained teacher and specialist in pediatrics and pediatric gastroenterology. She has sufficient clinical and teaching experience and has acquired the necessary organizational experience that allows her to cope with daily practical tasks and cases.

The work she has produced is sufficient in volume and quality for the requirements for an "associate professor" in the specialty "Pediatrics", reflected in the Regulations on the

conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions. She has the necessary volume of scientific activity, publications and diagnostic and therapeutic activity.

Dr. Denitza Roumenova Kofinova is an established doctor, teacher and researcher.

Based on the above, I believe that Dr. Denitza Roumenova Kofinova, PhD, meets the quantitative and qualitative indicators for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Pediatrics" in the competition.

I vote "for" and recommend that the members of the Scientific Jury vote for the scientific position of "Associate Professor" for Dr. Denitza Roumenova Kofinova, PhD.

21. 02. 2025

Signature:

Sofia

Prof. Dr. Stefan Nedev Stefanov, PhD