

**To Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iren
Tzocheva, PhD**

Chair of the Scientific Jury

**Designated by Order No. RD-26-269/29.01.2025 of the
Executive Director of UMHALSM " N. И. Pirogov"**

Dr. Valentin Dimitrov

Opinion

By Prof. Dr. Polina Ivanova Miteva - Shumnalieva, PhD

**Department of Health Care at the Faculty of Public Health "Prof. Dr. Tsekomir
Vodenicharov" at MU - Sofia**

Scientific specialty: paediatrics, paediatric nephrology

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Appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury by Order No. RD-26-269/29.01.2025, on the basis of Article 69, Paragraph 3, Clause 13 of the Regulations on the Activity, Structure and Internal Order of the University Hospital "N. И. Pirogov EAD - gr. 60, para. 2 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University Hospital "N. И. Pirogov" EAD, according to the decision of the Scientific Council with protocol № ND 01-2-05/15.01.2025.

The competition is for the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education 7. 7.1. Medicine and scientific specialty "Paediatrics", for the needs of the Clinic of Paediatric Surgery at the University Hospital "N. И. Pirogov EAD - city of. 90, dated 25.10.2024.

The present opinion has been prepared in accordance with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDA), the Regulations for the Implementation of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University Hospital "N. I. Pirogov" EAD.

The competition and the procedure for its conduct are in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the University Hospital "N. I. Pirogov" EAD.

I have no conflict of interest caused by my participation in this scientific jury.

Only one candidate has submitted documents within the legal deadline and has been admitted to the competition - Dr Denitza Roumenova Kofinova, PhD

All the documents for the competition were submitted according to the requirements of the regulations, well arranged, in excellent aesthetic appearance and with the necessary evidence.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Denitza Roumenova Kofinova, PhD

Biographical data and professional development

Dr. Denitza Roumenova Kofinova was born on 19.11.1989 in Bourgas. She graduated with excellent grades **Medical University – Sofia in 2014, Diploma № 26529/19.12.2014.**

Medical-treatment activity

After completing her medical studies, from 2014 to 2015 Dr. Kofinova worked as a volunteer at the Clinic of Pediatric Gastroenterology at the Hospital of Pediatric Gastroenterology "Prof. Ivan Mitev" - Sofia, and from November 2015 she was appointed as a resident physician at the same clinic. From 2016 to 2020 she is a specialist in pediatric gastroenterology. She successfully passed the examination and acquired the **Specialty in Pediatric Gastroenterology; Diploma № 023955 of 25.08.2020, Series ACN 017163, MU-Sofia.** From 2020 - 2022 he is a specialist doctor in Pediatrics, after which he acquires a **Specialty in Pediatrics; Diploma N 025907 from 15.02.2023, Series AC N 018112, MU-Sofia.** Till May 2023 he worked in the Clinic of Pediatric Gastroenterology of the Hospital "Prof. Dr. Ivan Mitev", Sofia 1606, Blvd. "Akad. Ivan Geshov" 11, and since then - until now he has been a pediatrician, pediatric gastroenterologist consultant at the Department of Pediatric Abdominal Surgery; University Hospital "N. И. Pirogov", Sofia.

Teaching and learning

Dr. Kofinova's activities related to her academic development started in 2016 when she was appointed as a full-time PhD student on the topic "Assessment of fibrosis in chronic liver diseases in childhood" and at the same time she is a visiting assistant professor for teaching pediatric diseases to medical and dental students in Bulgarian and English. After the successful defense of her dissertation / Diploma N 818-D of 24.02.2021, Series MUS N 000882, MU-Sofia / she was awarded the degree of Doctor of Education and Science. She has been appointed Assistant Professor and from 2021 - Senior Assistant Professor at the Department of Paediatrics, Medical University - Sofia. She teaches medical and dental students; postgraduate students in pediatric diseases and pediatric gastroenterology.

For the period from 02.05.2023 to the present moment he has 315 teaching days at the base of the University Hospital "N. I. Pirogov". She has been working as a supervisor of the practical modules in "Pediatric Gastroenterology" for pediatric residents.

Other qualifications:

2016 - 6th International Meeting on Sono-Elastography, 2nd Hands on Course EFSUMB
Ultrasound Learning Centre, Camogli, Genoa

2016 - EUROSON SCHOOL COURSE - UP-TO-DATE IN LIVER ELASTOGRAPHY,
Timișoara, Romania

2016 - course on "Abdominal ultrasonography - level I" - University Hospital "Queen Joanna"-
ISUL, University Hospital "Alexandrovska Hospital"

2020 - Completed a course for professional qualification: 'Health Management' - 200 hours;
Postgraduate Certificate No. 1424/29.07.2020.

2022 - Certificate Series No. 4693/21.03.2022 for the competence "Conventional
ultrasonography - Abdominal ultrasonography in childhood - first level"

2022 - "Abdominal ultrasonography with Doppler - level II" - Hospital "Prof. Ivan Mitev"

2023 - Certificate of qualification in highly specialized activity in health care Reg. N
352/10.11.2023 in Conventional gastrointestinal endoscopy with biopsy - first level

2024 - Certificate of qualification in highly specialised activity in healthcare Reg. N
407/04.11.2024 in Interventional gastrointestinal endoscopy, for performing STRETTA - second
level

D. Kofinova is a member of:

- Bulgarian Medical Association
- Bulgarian Pediatric Association
- Bulgarian Association of Ultrasound in Medicine (BAUM)
- Bulgarian Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (BULSPGHAN)
- European Society of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (ESPGHAN) -
Trainee Member since 2017 Number 1277

Other activities

He is a member of the Board of Directors of BMAUM and Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the
journal Diagnostic and Therapeutic Ultrasound.

Language skills

Fluent in English, German and a good level of Russian

Awards and distinctions

In 2020, Dr. Kofinova received the award "Acad. Asen Hadzhiolov" of the Medical
University of Sofia, in the category of young scientist.

In 2024, she was awarded the Physician of the Year Award, in the category of Contribution to the Development and Application of Innovative Medicine and Unique Techniques, for the introduction of a minimally invasive endoscopic procedure for the treatment with STRETTA of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) in pediatric patients of the Children's Surgery Center - Pirogov.

EVALUATION OF RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Dr. Kofinova submitted the following research papers for the competition:

Publications:

Dr. Kofinova participated in the competition with 28 publications, of which 22 are after obtaining the PhD degree - an indicator of high scientific activity; 27 are full-text articles and one published report. Of these, 17 were published in scientific journals refereed and indexed in WOS and Scopus and 11 in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals. Four of the publications are book chapters (published in edited collective volumes). Five publications (4 articles and 1 paper) have a Thomson Reuters impact factor (overall IF 9,572 - articles - 5,326, papers - 4,246).

In 16 of the publications submitted to the competition the candidate is the first author (in 8 refereed and 8 non-refereed with scientific peer review) and in 1 - the last author.

Participations with scientific communications at national and international scientific forums: 83

Dr. Kofinova's research interests cover a variety of areas in pediatric gastroenterology. Her publications are in the following main areas. General paediatric gastroenterology issues such as infant and toddler feeding, constipation in infancy and the place of probiotics in paediatric gastroenterology are of particular benefit to GPs. Not least are the published multidisciplinary case studies.

The real publications presented are of scientific and practical value in the field of paediatric gastroenterology, both strictly specific and general paediatric with a gastroenterological focus. The scientific activity of Dr. Kofinova is characterized by the search and application of innovative methods of diagnosis and treatment. It is no coincidence that Dr. Kofinova has been awarded the prizes I reflected above. The introduction of Shear-wave elastography as a highly sensitive non-invasive method for the evaluation of significant and advanced liver fibrosis in Bulgaria is an outstanding contribution of Dr. Kofinova. For the first time in Bulgaria, Dr. Kofinova developed a cut-off value of two-dimensional shear-wave elastography (2D-SWE) for significant liver fibrosis (F2) in 53 children with chronic liver disease. The articles reporting the genetic polymorphisms PNPLA3 I148M, GCKR P446L are also original in nature.

The articles reflecting the genetic polymorphisms - PNPLA3 I148M, GCKR P446L, TM6SF2 E167K in children with NAFLD the current recommendations for the treatment of HCV in childhood with the new interferon-free regimens are also original.

Dr. Kofinova is a doctor with a searching spirit, with a flair for the new and the unknown.

Citation

An official citation reference from the Central Medical Library (CML) was submitted, according to which the candidate has 10 citations in publications refereed in SCOPUS (Elsevier) and 10 citations in Web of Science (Clarivate) and 23 citations in Bulgarian sources.

Self-citations are excluded.

I have no critical remarks or recommendations.

Overall assessment of Dr. Denitza Kofinova's compliance with the required conditions:

After analyzing the submitted materials for the competition, I can conclude that Dr. Denitza Kofinova meets the required quantitative scientific metrics according to the regulations for the academic position of Associate Professor at UMHATEM "N.I. Pirogov EAD. She is a leading specialist and lecturer in the field of

of paediatric gastroenterology with undoubted qualities and experience.

Dr. Kofinova is a knowledgeable, searching, capable individual, qualities necessary for growth in her professional and academic career.

CONCLUSIONS:

It is evident from the presentation that Dr. Denitza Kofinova, PhD is an established teacher and specialist in pediatrics and pediatric gastroenterology. She has sufficient clinical and teaching experience. She is one of the leading specialists performing elastography in pediatric gastroenterology. My personal impressions are of an organised, dedicated and helpful colleague.

The output of her work exceeds in volume and quality the requirements for Associate Professor of Pediatrics, reflected in the Regulations on the conditions and procedure for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the University Hospital "N. I. Pirogov" EAD

He has the required volume of scientific activity, publications and diagnostic and therapeutic activity.

Based on the above, I consider that Dr. Denitza Kofinova, PhD, meets the quantitative and qualitative indicators for holding the academic position of Associate Professor and I recommend the members of the Scientific Jury to award her the academic position of Associate Professor.

15.02.2025г.

Prof. Dr. Polina Miteva - Shumnalieva PhD