

REVIEW

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Head of Kinika "Dermatology, Venereology" Acibadem Cityclinic Tokuda Hospital EAD

Subject: Competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific specialty "Dermatology and Venereology" in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports", professional field 7.1. "Medicine" for the needs of the Clinic of Skin and Venereal Diseases of "Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital" EAD, promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 113 of 23.12.2025

Based on Order No. 15-03-41#2/23.02.2026 of the Executive Director of the "Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital" I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for holding a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Dermatology and Venereology. I have been elected as a reviewer at the first meeting of the Scientific Jury. The only candidate who has submitted documents is Dr. Bisera Kotevska Trifunova, MD, dermatologist, assist. Assistant Professor at Tokuda Hospital – Sofia, The documents provided by the applicant meet the requirements of the Law on the Prevention of Corruption and Neglect, the Regulations for its implementation and the Rules on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions in Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital EAD.

I. Brief biographical data of the candidate:

Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova was born in the town of Sofia. Bitola, North Macedonia.

He completed his secondary education in 2005.

He obtained a Master's degree in Medicine from the Faculty of Medicine, MU-Sofia in 2011.

From 2012 to 2016 he specialized in Acibadem City Clinic Hospital UMHAT Tokuda EAD. In 2016 she acquired a specialty in Skin and Venereal Diseases.

In 2018 he successfully defended his dissertation for the acquisition of the PhD degree (in medicine) on the topic "Allergic contact dermatitis, features in the etiopathogenesis, clinical picture, diagnosis and prevention in childhood".

Since 2023, Dr. Kotevska has been a Chief Assistant at Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda.

Scientific and professional interests are, allergodermatology, pediatric dermatology, oncodermatology.

II. Scientific activity of the candidate

The assessment of the research activity of Dr. Bisera Kotevska, MD was made on the basis of the recommended criteria and indicators for evaluation in "Acibadem City Clinic MBAL Tokuda" EAD. It includes 138 scientific papers:

61 publications (27 in foreign languages and 34 in Bulgaria). To the above Bulgarian articles, I have added the abstract of the dissertation.

3 chapters in 3 monographs published abroad.

74 participations in national and international scientific forums (of which 56 abroad)

1. Scientometric criteria:

1 abstract of a dissertation for "Doctor" (in medicine);

10 publications in international scientific journals, refereed and indexed in the S/WOS databases;

5 publications in Bulgarian scientific journals, refereed and indexed in the S/WOS databases;

17 publications in international journals, unrefereed and not indexed in the S/WOS databases;

28 publications in Bulgarian scientific journals (from the NACID list) 3 chapters in 3 monographs.

He is an independent or first author in 24 works, second in 32, third and subsequent in 8 publications.

The presented publication activity makes it possible to determine the following areas in the scientific and professional interests of Dr. B. Kotevska:

Allergodermatology – publications and dissertations are aimed at identifying the most common contact allergens in childhood, as well as participating in the preparation of a consensus for the treatment of contact dermatitis,

Статията „Allergic contact dermatitis caused by homemade slime, Serbian Journal of Dermatology and Venerology, 2018; 10(2):52-55. DOI: 10.2478/sjdv-2018-0009" primarily touches on a topical topic, and is one of the first publications on this topic.

A significant part of scientific activity is focused on the problem of "Atopic Dermatitis", including modern therapeutic approaches, improving the patient's quality of life and optimizing long-term disease control.

Psoriasis as a systemic disease – the publications present an analysis of modern therapeutic options in real clinical practice.

The publications contribute to the optimization of the choice of treatment in patients with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis and to the introduction of innovative biological drugs in Bulgarian dermatological practice. by applying IL-17 inhibitors and IL-23 inhibitors, analyzing their effectiveness, safety and place in modern therapeutic algorithms.

Clinical cases are presented that show the achievement of a rapid therapeutic response, as well as an improvement in the quality of life of patients.

A clinical case of fatality following methotrexate overdose has been published, with a detailed description of the development of intoxication and the complications leading to excitus (Fatal outcome after methotrexate overdose. Dermatology and Venereology 2020;1:26-29.).

Oncodermatology and a multidisciplinary approach in medicine – includes a focus on rare genetic diseases, malignant skin tumors and therapeutic innovations in vascular lesions.

In the field of rare genetic diseases, a case of Xeroderma pigmentosum associated with multiple malignant melanomas and non-melanocytic skin tumors has been presented. The analysis of this case contributes to early diagnosis and treatment in patients

with a high risk of cutaneous melanoma. (Xeroderma pigmentosum, associated with multiple malignant melanomas and non-melanocytic skin tumors. *Dermatology and Venereology* 2021;1:20-23.)

A rare clinical case of blastic plasmacytoid dendritic cell tumor has been presented. The key role of histological and immunohistochemical examination (CD4, CD56, CD123, CD46, Ki-67) for early diagnosis and differential diagnosis with other hematological and cutaneous neoplasms is presented. The importance of a multidisciplinary approach between dermatologists, pathologists and oncohematologists for timely diagnosis and referral to specialized treatment is emphasized. (51397 Blastic Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cell Neoplasm: A Case Report. *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*, 2024; 91(3), AB147).

Dr. Kotevska's experience in the treatment of congenital hemangiomas in children is also included here, with the innovative therapeutic option Hemangiol syrup in collaboration with pediatricians, as well as the two publications published in the books "Clinical cases in Middle-Years Pediatric Dermatology", book 2022 (Chapter 8 Acneiform Eruption In Prepubertal Children) and "Clinical Cases in Pediatric Skin Cancers" book 2022 (Chapter 14 A Pediatric case presenting with poikiloderma).

Skin physiology and pathobiochemical processes in human pathology –

An overview of the current scientific evidence on the impact of environmental factors, photoprotection and pollution on the skin, considered in the context of the "exposome" concept. The main pathogenetic mechanisms, including oxidative stress, inflammation, impaired skin barrier and immune dysregulation, leading to the development or exacerbation of a number of dermatological diseases, are analyzed ("Advances in Integrative Dermatology" book. 2019 (Chapter 24 Skin and pollution)

Interdisciplinary clinical and laboratory studies covering problems related to metabolic syndrome, the role of various biochemical and hormonal markers (including hepcidin and vitamin D), infectious diseases, as well as issues of laboratory diagnostics, prenatal screening and clinical biochemistry are also taken into account, most of which are carried out by interdisciplinary teams, incl. and on the territory of neighboring North. Macedonia, in which Dr. B. Kotevska also participated.

Casustry and Venereology – this area includes clinical cases, which shows an orientation towards practical dermatology - Pityriasis rubra pilaris, generalized extragenital lichen sclerosis, gonococcal pharyngitis in a homosexual patient, neurosyphilis, Lues secundaria and HIV.

Others – review publications, mainly related to the application of new therapeutic approaches to chronic inflammatory dermatoses such as vitiligo, urticaria, acne, rosacea.

In summary, it can be concluded that the research activity of Dr. Bisera Kotevska Trifunova is mainly in the field of clinical dermatology, with pronounced subdirections in pediatric dermatology, dermato-oncology, infectious skin and

venereal diseases and modern therapeutic approaches in chronic dermatoses, while also demonstrating participation in interdisciplinary scientific research.

The attached impact factor report (according to Journal Citation Reports – CLARIVATE), prepared by the CMB with Ex.No 42/14.01.2026 and No 107/28.01.2026 certify that **the total impact factor of the presented scientific production is 19.815** (only published articles as of the specified date are included). A reference of the CMB with Ex.No 49/15.01.2026 indicates **4 Bulgarian citations, 10 citations in Scopus, 11 in Web of Science and 7 in other available sources**. Citations in the S/WOS databases partially overlap.

2. Scientific activity:

Attached is a list of 56 participations in international and 18 in national congresses and conferences, the majority of which are reports described above.

Dr. Bisera Kotevska participates in the annual dermatoallergological campaigns related to the diagnosis, therapy and prevention of contact allergy in Bulgaria.

In 2014 she was awarded the international award "Michael Hornstein Memorial Scholarship" of the EADV. The following year, he received the first prize for his presentation in the EADV Fostering course – Laser, IPPL, LED, Trieste, Italy, May 2915.

She is a member of national and international scientific organizations including the BMA, BDD and the Department of Dermatoallergology, EADV, International Dermoscopy Society, Women's Dermatologic Society.

3. Reference for the contributions: I accept the attached reference for the contributions of Dr. Bisera Kotevska, identifying the following scientific, theoretical and applied contributions as the most significant:

The results of the study on the incidence of ACD and the identification of the most common allergens in childhood are pioneering for Bulgaria.

Analysis of the diagnostic features and clinical course of neurosyphilis, with an emphasis on its early recognition.

The presented rare genetic diseases with high risk for skin tumors with an analysis of the clinical course and the diagnostic approach;

The practical value of PRISCA for the early detection of aneuploidy, for the effect of gestational diabetes as a risk for trisomy 21 has been validated.

The determination of the prognostic value of NLR and CRP in hospitalized patients with COVID-19 and the pronounced correlation between NLR, CRP, D-dimer and platelets.

III. Teaching activities of Dr. Bisera Kotevska, MD

Dr. B. Kotevska participates in the practical training in "Dermatology and Venereology" in the Master's program in Medicine at Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski" (from 2019 to the present and ongoing), as well as for resident doctors in skin and venereal diseases. According to the attached reference with Ex. № 24 / 02.02. 2026 from Sofia University "St. For the school years from 2019/20 to 2023/24, Dr. B. Kotevska has a teaching load of 907.8 eq. hours of which 849 hours of classroom occupancy. Certificate with Ex.No 19-46/26.01.2026 of Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital shows that for the period from 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2025. It has realized a total of 1740.50 equivalent hours of training of postgraduate students.

IV. Diagnostic and therapeutic activity

Dr. B. Kotevska is an active practicing dermatologist with over 10 years. experience in the specialty, she acquired a specialty in skin and venereal diseases in 2016.

diagnostic and therapeutic skills in their practice. He took an active part in the organization of allergological campaigns of the Department of Dermatoallergology at the BDD.

Active participant in the development of the adopted Consensuses of BDD for diagnosis, clinic and treatment of allergic skin diseases. He is a member of the specialized commissions at Tokuda Hospital for the treatment with expensive medications for psoriasis, atopic dermatitis and purulent hidradenitis. From this it becomes clear that Dr. B. Kotevska is sufficiently well theoretically prepared and with extensive clinical experience.

Conclusion:

Dr. Bisera Kotevska, MD, is an established clinician and research associate. On a national scale, she is the specialist who has mostly worked in the direction of contact allergy in pediatric practice. The scientific works presented by her cover the criteria and indicators for occupying the academic position of "associate professor" in the institution where she works. I am confident that I vote positively to award the academic position of "Associate Professor" to Dr. Bisera Kotevska Trifunova, MD.

22.03.2026

Prof. Z. Demerdzhieva, MD, PhD



