

REVIEW

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Subject: competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific specialty "Dermatology and Venereology" in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports", professional direction 7.1. "Medicine" for the needs of the clinic for skin and venereal diseases of "Acibadem City Clinic MHAT Tokuda", promulgated in the State Gazette, issue 113 of 23.12.2025.

Based on Order No. 15-03-41 #2 /23.02.2026 of the Executive Director of Acibadem City Clinic MHAL Tokuda," I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for conducting 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 submitted documents is Dr. Bisera Kotevska Trifunova, MD, PhD, Dermatologist, Chief Assistant at "Tokuda" Hospital - Sofia. The documents provided by the candidate meet the requirements of the ZRASRB, the Regulations for its implementation, and the Regulations for the terms and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at "Acibadem City Clinic MHAL Tokuda" Sofia.

I. Biographical data of the candidate:

Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova was born in Bitola, North Macedonia, where she completed her secondary education in 2005. She obtained her Master of Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, Medical University of Sofia in 2011. From 2012 to 2016, she specialized at Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda EAD. In 2016, she specialized in Skin and Venereological Diseases.

In 2018, she successfully defended her dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Medicine (Medicine) on the topic of "Allergic Contact Dermatitis, Features of Etiopathogenesis, Clinical Picture, Diagnosis and Prevention in Childhood". Since 2023, Dr. Kotevska has been a Chief Assistant Professor at Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda. Her scientific and professional interests are pediatric dermatology, allergodermatology, and oncodermatology.

In her professional development, she has conducted training in the country and abroad (Budapest, Trieste, Amsterdam), participated in many educational courses in dermatosurgery, pediatric dermatology, laser procedures, dermatohistopathology, non-invasive research methods in dermatology, and biological therapies.

II. Scientific and research activity of the candidate

The assessment of the scientific and research activity of Dr. Bisera Kotevska was made based on the recommended criteria and indicators for evaluation at Acibadem City Clinic MHAT Tokuda Sofia. It includes 138 scientific works:

- ✦ 61 publications (27 in foreign languages and 34 in Bulgarian). To the mentioned Bulgarian articles, I have also 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. Publication activity:

- ✦ 1 abstract of a dissertation for a "PhD" (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, non-refereed and not-indexed in the S/WOS databases;
- ✦ 28 publications in Bulgarian scientific journals (from the NACID list)
- ✦ 3 chapters in 3 monographs.

She is the sole or first author in 24 works, second in 32, and third and subsequent in 8 publications.

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

- ✦ **Allergodermatology** – publications and dissertation work 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.

The article "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 addresses a current topic and is one of the first publications on this topic.

A significant part of the 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 control of the disease.

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

The publications contribute to optimizing the choice of treatment in patients with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis and to introducing innovative biological medications into Bulgarian dermatological practice, through the application of IL-17 inhibitors and IL-23 inhibitors, analyzing their effectiveness, safety, and place in modern therapeutic algorithms.

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

A clinical case of fatal outcome after methotrexate overdose has been published, with a detailed description of the development of intoxication and complications leading to death (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 is presented. The analysis of this case contributes to early diagnosis and treatment in patients at high risk for 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 neoplasia is 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 skin

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).

This also includes the experience of Dr. B. Kotevska in the treatment of congenital hemangiomas in children, with the innovative therapeutic option Hemangiol syrup in collaboration with pediatricians, as well as the two publications printed 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 –**

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

Interdisciplinary clinical and laboratory studies are also considered, 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, a large part of which were carried out by interdisciplinary teams, including on the territory of neighboring North Macedonia, in which Dr. B. Kotevska also participated.

✦ **Casistry and venereology –** this area includes clinical cases, which show a strong orientation towards practical dermatology - Pityriasis rubra pilaris, generalized extragenital lichen sclerosus, gonococcal pharyngitis in a homosexual patient, neurosyphilis, Lues secundaria, and HIV.

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

In summary, it can be concluded that the research activity of Dr. Bisera Kotevska Trifunova is primarily in the field of clinical dermatology, with pronounced sub-areas in pediatric dermatology, dermato-oncology, infectious skin and venereal diseases, and modern therapeutic approaches to 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 Ref. 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). CMB reference with Ref. No. 49/15.01.20 2 6 indicates **4 Bulgarian citations, 10 citations in Scopus, 11 in Web of Science, and 7 in other accessible sources. The citations in the S/WOS databases partially overlap.**

2. Scientific activity:

A list of 56 participations in international and 18 in national congresses and conferences is attached, 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 EADV. The following year, she received the first prize for her presentation at the EADV Fostering course – Laser, IPPL, LED, Trieste, Italy, May 29/15.

She is a member of national and international scientific organizations, including the Bulgarian Dermatological Society, the Dermatoallergology Section, EADV, International Dermoscopy Society, and the Women's Dermatologic Society.

3. Contributions information: I accept the attached report on the contributions of Dr. Bisera Kotevska, determining the following scientific, theoretical, and applied contributions as the most significant:

- The results of the study conducted on the frequency of ACD and the identification of the most common allergens in childhood - pioneering for Bulgaria;
- The presented rare genetic diseases with high risk for skin tumors, with an analysis of the clinical course and diagnostic approach.
- The practical value of PRISCA for early detection of aneuploidies, for the effect of gestational diabetes as a risk for trisomy 21, has been validated.
- Determining the prognostic value of NLR and CRP in hospitalized patients with COVID-19 and the pronounced correlation between NLR, CRP, D-dimer, and platelets;
- Analyzing the diagnostic features and clinical course of neurosyphilis, with an emphasis on its early recognition.

III. Teaching activities of Dr. Bisera Kotevska

Dr. B. Kotevska participates in the practical training in "Dermatology and Venereology" in the master's program in "medicine at Sofia University, St. Kliment Ohridski (from 2019 to the present and continuing), as well as for doctors-specialists in skin and venereal diseases. According to the attached reference with Ref. No. 24 / 02.02. 2026 from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for the academic years from 2019/20 to 2023/24, Dr. B. Kotevska has a teaching load of 907.8 equiv. hours, of which 849 hours are classroom hours. Certificate with 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 implemented a total of 1740.50 equiv. hours of training for residents.

IV. Diagnostic and therapeutic activities

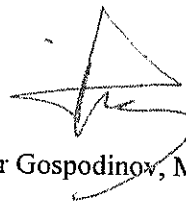
Dr. B. Kotevska is an actively practicing dermatologist with over 10 years of experience in the specialty. She acquired a specialty in skin and venereal diseases in 2016. She has proven diagnostic and therapeutic skills in her practice. Organizer of the annual allergology campaigns of the dermatoallergology section of the Bulgarian Dermatological Society. Active participant in the development of the adopted Consensus of the Bulgarian Dermatological Society for the diagnosis, clinic, and treatment of allergic skin diseases. She is a member of the specialized commission at Tokuda Hospital for the treatment of psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, and hidradenitis suppurativa with expensive medications. These facts support the opinion that Dr. B. Kotevska is sufficiently well theoretically prepared and has extensive clinical experience.

Conclusion:

Dr. Bisera Kotevska, MD, PhD, is an established clinician and research associate. On a national scale, she is the specialist who has best developed the problem of contact allergy in pediatric

practice in a scientific and practical aspect. The scientific works presented by her fully meet the criteria and indicators for holding the academic position of "associate professor" in the institution in which she works. I confidently vote in favor of awarding the academic position of "associate professor" to Dr. Bisera Kotevska Trifunova, MD, PhD.

16.03.2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Gospodinov', written over a faint, stylized star or geometric shape.

Prof. Dimitar Gospodinov, MD, PhD, DSc