

## STATEMENT

**By Prof. Dr. Zdravka Demerdzhieva, MD, PhD**

Head of the Dermatology and Venereology Clinic

Acibadem City Clinic Hospital Tokuda Hospital

### ABOUT:

**Procedure for occupying the position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports", professional field 7.1 "Medicine", scientific specialty "Neonatology" for the needs of the Neonatology Department of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD with a single candidate **Dr. Radka Tsokova Maslarska MD.****

The statement was prepared on the basis of Order No. 15-03-95-2/16.04.2026, in accordance with a decision of the Scientific Council (protocol No. 64/18.03.2026) on the announcement of a scientific jury for the conduct of this competition (SG No. 18/17.02.2026). The opinion was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD.

I have no conflict of interest in this competition.

I did not find any gaps in the competition documentation.

### BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Dr. Maslarska graduated from the Medical University of Pleven in 1986. She has recognized specialties in pediatrics (1992), neonatology (2003), and health management (2017). In 2023, she received the ONS "Doctor" after successfully defending her dissertation on the topic "Hemangiomas in infancy and early childhood - innovative treatment and follow-up".

Dr. Maslarska's entire professional career has been connected with neonatology. She has worked successively in the neonatology departments of Lovech Hospital, Georgi Stranski University Hospital in Pleven, Ivan Mitev University Hospital, and Second General Hospital in Sofia. Since 2006, she has been the head of the Neonatology Department at Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital in Tokuda, where she has introduced modern methods for diagnosis and intensive treatment of newborns, including premature, extremely premature, and those with comorbidities, as well as polymalformative syndromes.

She is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, Bulgarian Pediatric Association, Neonatology Board, Maternal-Fetal Medicine Association, Premature Birth Association, Association of Children with Infantile Hemangioma. She is an expert at the Ministry of Health for air transport of newborns, participates in the Expert Council on Vaccine Prophylaxis and in the Consensus on the Treatment of Children with Infantile Hemangioma.

## **SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY**

Dr. Radka Maslarska participates in this competition with a total of 34 published scientific papers, distributed as follows: 1 dissertation and an abstract to it; 16 articles published in world-renowned databases of scientific information, four of which are international, and 17 publications published in non-refereed journals. Additionally, a list of 49 reports and scientific communications presented at scientific forums is presented, 12 of which are at international forums.

Dr. Maslarska is independent or first author in 12 of the published articles, second author in eight, and in the remaining 13 she is third or subsequent author. In the reports delivered on national and international forums, she is the first or only author in 22 of them. In the presented reference for citations are open eight citations on publications of Dr. Maslarska. In reference of the Central Medical Center at the Medical University of Sofia are indicated additional citations in Scopus and Web of Science, 967 and 949, respectively for publications on research groups, member on who is also Dr. Radka Maslarska. In the presented reference the general impact factor is 10.62 for Web of Science and 5.192 for Scopus (SGR), respectively. The index Hirsh to Dr. Maslarska in her profile in Scopus, H-index is 1.

The scientific production of Dr. Maslarska covers and exceeds the minimum national requirements of the Ministry of Education and Science and of Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda EAD.

The scientific interests of Dr. Maslarska are mainly in the area on :

- Infantile Hemangioma – diagnosis , treatment and follow-up .
- Pulmonary ventilation , respiratory distress syndrome and application on exogenous surfactant .
- Enteral and parenteral nutrition on newborns and at-risk premature .
- Ultrasound research in neonatology - on central nervous system , kidneys and white liver .
- Neonatal infections and neonatal sepsis .
- Retinopathy of premature babies .
- Assisted reproductive technologies .
- Vaccination at premature newborns .
- Urgent surgical states at premature babies .
- Organization on work and improvement quality on care in the neonatal unit intensive department .
- Clinical cases

## CONTRIBUTIONS

I believe that the most essential contributions of Dr. Maslarska are related with her own research for diagnosis , treatment and follow-up on infantile hemangioma in infancy and early childhood children's age . She performs the first systematically study on this disease in Bulgaria , such as analyze the types on the disease , establishes the reasons for the emergence on infantile hemangioma and outlines the main ones lines for clinical and therapeutic approach at the progression on disease . Contributions with practical application meaning are the meticulous assessment on efficiency on propranolol in treatment on infantile hemangioma , as well as the specific suggestions for increase on quality and access to treatment on the patients who yes be analyzed from health authorities for undertaking on legislative actions .

Contributions with scientific and applied value are for introduction and improvement on non-invasive methods for respiratory assistance at premature newborns , directed to reduction to minimum on the damage on the immature pulmonary tissue , storage on the spontaneous breathing and improvement on synchrony between respiratory device and the patient . Contributions with clinical significance are the introduction on instructions for nutrition and feeding on newborns and premature babies , in accordance with the recommendations on The European association for nutrition and

feeding . Contributions with attached character are those related to the use on the ultrasound research in diagnostics on diseases on nervous system , kidneys , lungs liver , as well as the heart at newborns .

Essential contribution is the clarification that congenital heart malformations is find at prophylactic review at 3.5% of newborns , frequency significantly higher from reported in the literature , which is the basis for the inclusion on echocardiographic Screening of newborns and infants in Bulgaria .

Contributions with attached character are those related to treatment on infections and septic states at newborn , emergency surgical conditions in the neonatal period , as well as vaccination at newborns . As chief on department by neonatology , Dr. Maslarska there is essential contributions to the organization on work and improvement on quality on care in the neonatal unit intensive department through application on the new ones technological solutions : introduction on central monitor station , diverse non-invasive hardware ventilation , monitoring on the central nervous system and transcutaneous continuously non-invasive monitoring on the partial pressure on carbon dioxide .

## **TEACHING ACTIVITY**

Doctor Maslarska participates active in learning on postgraduates by neonatology . For the last five years she has realized total 1858 school hours , which is significant contribution to the preparation on future specialists in this area .

She was . leader on six postgraduates neonatologists , which shows her commitment and experience in mentoring and professional development on the young doctors .

## **IN CONCLUSION**

Doctor Radka Tsokova- Maslarska is established and recognized specialist in the field on neonatology , as well as a scientist and teacher with diverse scientific interests and achievements . I think that the overall scientific-practical , organizational and teaching activity of Dr. Radka Maslarska completely answers on requirements on The law for development on academic composition in the Republic Bulgaria , as well as requirements of "Acibadem City" Clinic UMBAL Tokuda EAD for terms and conditions for borrowing on academic position Associate Professor .

Convinced will vote positive and I recommend on the esteemed members on scientific jury yes vote positive for award on academic position " associate professor " of Dr. Radka Tsokova Maslarska, MD , in the district on higher education 7. " Healthcare and Sports " , professional Direction 7.1 . " Medicine " scientific specialty " Neonatology " for needs on The department by neonatology to Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda EAD , Sofia .

18.05.2026

Sofia

Sincerely:



/Prof. Z. Demerdzhieva/

