

OPINION

by Prof. Jana Stoyanova Kazandjieva, MD, PhD

Regarding the materials submitted for participation in the procedure for occupying the academic position “Associate Professor” in the field of higher education

7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field

7.1. Medicine, and scientific specialty “Dermatology and Venereology” for the needs of the Clinic of Dermatology and Venereology at “Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital,” published in State Gazette No. 113 of 23.12.2026

I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the evaluation of the candidates for the academic position “Associate Professor” in Dermatology and Venereology by Order No. 15-03-41#2 dated 23.02.2026 issued by the Executive Director of “Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital “.

The procedure for announcing the competition for Associate Professor is based on the requirements of Art. 4, para. 2 and Art. 25 of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), as well as Art. 96, para. 1 and 2 of the Regulations for the conditions and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at “Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital,” EAD. In the announced competition, documents were submitted by a single candidate – Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova, PhD,

dermatologist, Chief Assistant at “Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital, Tokuda” .

Brief biographical data:

Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova graduated in Medicine from the Medical University – Sofia in 2011. In 2012 she began her residency in Dermatology and Venereology at “Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital. In 2016, after successfully passing the state examination, she obtained the specialty in Dermatology and Venereology. Her PhD thesis entitled “Allergic Contact Dermatitis – Particularities in the Etiopathogenesis, Clinical Presentation, Diagnosis and Prevention in Childhood” was defended in 2018 at the Department of Dermatology and Venereology of Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital. Following a competition in 2023, Dr. Kotevska became Chief Assistant at “Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital”.

Description and analysis of the scientific output of Dr. Bisera Kotevska

The submitted scientific works meet the required quantitative scientometric criteria for occupying the academic position “Associate Professor” at “Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital. The scientific output of the candidate consists of 64 scientific publications (31 in foreign journals and 33 in Bulgarian), 3 chapters in international monographs, and 74 participations in scientific forums with presentations and posters (56 abroad and 18 in Bulgaria).

Dr. Kotevska is a sole or first author in 24 publications, second author in 32, and third or subsequent author in 8 publications. According to the presented scientometric report, the scientific articles of Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova have been published in journals with a total impact factor of 19.8. The number of citations according to the international

databases Web of Knowledge and Scopus is 28, excluding self-citations.

Scientific contributions:

The main contributions are systematized in several main areas – allergic contact dermatitis, psoriasis, dermatological case reports, and clinical aspects of medical biochemistry.

Dermatoallergology:

On the topic of “Contact dermatitis”: Dr. Bisera Kotevska is part of the Bulgarian Dermatoallergology Network and an active annual participant in dermatoallergology campaigns and conferences. One of her most prestigious international publications is “Allergic contact dermatitis caused by homemade slime”, which addresses the emergence of a new contact allergen in childhood. Dr. Kotevska is one of the contributors to the National Consensus for the treatment of contact dermatitis (2023) and the National Consensus of the Bulgarian Dermatological Society – Dermatoallergology Section on Hand Eczema: Etiopathogenesis, Clinical Presentation, Diagnosis and Therapy (2024). She is also the leading author of the review “Allergic contact dermatitis in childhood – particularities in etiopathogenesis, clinical presentation, diagnosis and therapy”.

On the topic of “Atopic dermatitis”: Dr. Kotevska is one of the authors of the “Standard for Medical Care of Patients with Atopic Dermatitis”. Related to this topic is also her participation with a chapter in an international monograph on environmental pollution and the skin (Skin and Pollution).

Psoriasis:

Dr. Kotevska has scientific contributions related to the modern treatment of the disease. She has presented and discussed at numerous conferences and congresses cases demonstrating therapeutic success in the treatment

of psoriasis with biological therapy. Dr. Kotevska is a member of the specialized commission for the treatment of psoriasis with high-cost medications at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital.

Case reports:

Dr. Kotevska has published and presented a number of rarely observed clinical cases, including: “Fatal outcome after methotrexate overdose”; “Gonococcal pharyngitis in a homosexual patient”; “Generalized extragenital lichen sclerosus”, among others.

Clinical biochemistry:

Several scientific works have been published related to the frequency and risk factors for chromosomal abnormalities during pregnancy; serum levels of hepcidin and ferritin in patients with metabolic syndrome; changes in blood parameters in hospitalized patients with COVID-19; and the association of chronic hepatitis B and C with vitamin D levels.

The scientific contributions of Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova have original, confirmatory, theoretical, and applied scientific significance.

Teaching activity:

At Tokuda University Hospital, from 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2025, Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova has a teaching workload with residents totaling 1740.50 equivalent hours.

For the period 2019–2024 she conducted a practical course in the discipline “Dermatology and Venereology” for fourth-year medical students (Bulgarian language program) at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” – teaching workload 907.8 hours (reference MF 24/02.02.2026).

Membership in scientific organizations: Bulgarian Dermatological Society (BDS); Dermatoallergology Section of the BDS; Bulgarian Dermatoallergology Network; European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV).

Conclusion:

The documents submitted by the candidate meet the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, its implementing regulations, and the internal regulations for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at “Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital”.

I have known Dr. Bisera Kotevska since the year she started as a resident at the Clinic of Dermatology and Venereology at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital. We have worked together in the field of dermatoallergology, and I highly appreciate her medical and dermatological expertise, as well as her administrative and organizational skills.

I firmly recommend that the esteemed scientific jury award the academic position “Associate Professor” in the specialty “Dermatology and Venereology”, professional field 7.1 Medicine, field of higher education 7 Healthcare and Sports, to Chief Assistant Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova, PhD.

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Prof. Jana Stoyanova Kazandjieva, MD, PhD