

STATEMENT

**BY PROF. DR. MILENA STANEVA STANEVA, PHD
HEAD OF THE ANGIOLOGY CLINIC, "ACIBADEM CITY CLINIC UMHAT TOKUDA" SOFIA**

REGARDING: COMPETITION FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR", IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION 7. HEALTH AND SPORTS, PROFESSIONAL DIRECTION, 7.1 MEDICINE IN THE SCIENTIFIC SPECIALTY "GASTROENTEROLOGY" FOR THE NEEDS OF THE GASTROENTEROLOGY CLINIC OF "ACIBADEM CITY CLINIC UMHAT TOKUDA"

1. Information about the procedure

The competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field, 7.1 Medicine, in the scientific specialty "Gastroenterology" for the needs of the Gastroenterology Clinic of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda" was announced in the State Gazette, issue 85/14.10.2025. By order No. 15-05-258#1 / 15.12.2025 of the Executive Director and the Procurator of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda", I am appointed as an internal member of the Scientific Jury and the decision of the first absentee meeting is to present an opinion.

Only one candidate submitted documents for participation in the competition - Dr. Rozalina Ivanova Balabanska, PhD, who meets all the requirements of the LDASRB, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda".

In connection with the materials provided to me for preparing a statement, I declare that I have not identified any evidence of plagiarism and I have no conflict of interest.

2. Candidate's professional data

Dr. Rozalina Balabanska graduated from the High Medical Institute - Sofia in 1987. She has a specialty in Internal Medicine (1996) and Gastroenterology and Dietetics (1999) at the Medical University of Sofia. She holds a certificate for Abdominal Doppler Ultrasound - Level II (2007) and a certificate for Interventional Ultrasound - Level III (2009).

In 2021, Dr. Balabanska defended her dissertation on the topic "Hepatic Steatosis and Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis - Clinical Assessment and Application of Transient Elastography (Fibroscan)", as a result of which she was awarded the ESD "PhD".

The candidate worked successively as a district physician at the 3rd MC, Pernik (1987-1991), a physician at the Gastroenterology Clinic of the Military Medical Academy, Sofia (1991-1994), at the Gastroenterology Department of the 5th City Hospital, Sofia (1994-2007), and since 2007 has been a physician at the Department/Clinic of Gastroenterology at Acibadem City Clinic, Tokuda University Hospital.

She has completed numerous specializations abroad in the fields of gastroenterology, hepatology and abdominal ultrasound.

She is a member of authoritative national and international organizations and scientific societies in the fields of gastroenterology and hepatology.

3. Evaluation of the quantitative and qualitative indicators of the candidate

Dr. Balabanska is presenting herself at the competition with a **total of 108 scientific papers**: **1 dissertation** for the award of the ESD "PhD", **1 monograph**, **58 scientific publications** (not related to the dissertation) and **48 scientific reports** (21 at national congresses and conferences and 27 at international ones). Of the 58 scientific papers presented, 28 have been published in scientific journals indexed in the Scopus and Web of Science databases (of which 25 are with IF), 28 - in the National Reference List and 2 - in a non-refereed journal with scientific review.

In more than half (58.6%) of the publications, Dr. Balabanska is an independent, first or second author, which indicates her active participation. The **total impact factor amounts to 679.596, and the Individual Impact Factor – 34.643**. From the submitted citation reference No. 895/27.11.2025 by the Central Medical Library of the Medical University of Sofia, a **total of 1271 citations** are documented in the databases, of which 635 in foreign sources Scopus and 625 in Web of Science, and 11 in Bulgarian sources. H index: Scopus – 4 and Web of Science – 6.

The data on the points (total 10,453.09 points) presented by Dr. Balabanska cover and in most indicators many times exceed the minimum national and Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda scientometric criteria (total 400 points) for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor".

4. Main scientific contributions

Dr. Balabanska's scientific interests concern various areas of diagnosis, treatment and prevention in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology. They can be grouped into several sections, the most important of which are:

1. New drugs for the treatment of chronic viral hepatitis B - No. 9,10,11,12,15,16,19,20,21,22,23,27,31,50,
2. Diagnostics of chronic viral hepatitis - No. 25,26,36,58,62,63,66.
3. Diagnostics and treatment of chronic viral hepatitis C - No. 28,29,30,32,33,34,45,47,54,57,60.
4. The practice of abdominal ultrasound - No. 35,59,64
5. The diagnosis and treatment of metabolic-associated fatty liver disease - No. 13,14,17,18,37,38,44.
6. Clinical cases - familial adenomatous polyposis, Gardner's syndrome, giant esophageal polyp, transthyretin amyloidosis, use of anabolic androgenic steroids in sports environments and liver damage, infectious mononucleosis, alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, rare conditions such as Dubin-Johnson syndrome - No. 39, 40,41,42,43,48.

Dr. Balabanska's scientific developments have proven scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied contributions, have been published in renowned specialized medical journals and the results have been reported at authoritative international congresses. They contribute to the development of gastroenterology and hepatology.

5. Teaching and learning activities

Dr. Balabanska has been a chief assistant at the Gastroenterology Clinic of "ACC UMHAT Tokuda" since 11.02.2022. She participates in the training of Gastroenterology residents, as well as in conducting courses on abdominal ultrasound and on the application of transient elastography with the Fibroscan device in the continuing medical education program. In a Certificate issued by "ACC UMHAT Tokuda" for the period 01.01.2021 to 30.11.2025, Dr. Balabanska has realized a teaching workload with residents of **a total of 1,152.50 equiv. hours**. Since the academic year 2019/2020, she has been a part-time assistant at the Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski" in Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine and Internal Medicine-Gastroenterology for 3rd and 4th course medical students. The study load report from Sofia University "St. Cl. Ohridski" shows **a total of 480 hours** of study for the period 2022-2025.

The total study load of Dr. Rozalina Balabanska is well presented and is estimated at a total of 1,632.5 hours for the period from 2021 to the end of 2025.

6. Medical and diagnostic activities

Dr. Rozalina Balabanska is a doctor with over 35 years of experience in the field of clinical medicine. Medical and diagnostic activities include complex diagnostics and treatment of chronic liver diseases, abdominal ultrasound, incl. performing liver biopsies and other targeted punctures and biopsy examinations under ultrasound control, contrast-enhanced ultrasound and non-invasive diagnostics with transient elastography. Dr. Balabanska has made a significant contribution to the introduction of transient elastography in Bulgaria as a routine non-invasive method for assessing the condition of the liver.

Dr. Balabanska has worked as a principal investigator for over 20 years on international programs for the treatment of chronic viral hepatitis and cirrhosis, and for 10 years on programs for the treatment of metabolic-associated fatty liver disease.

CONCLUSION

The candidate Dr. Rozalina Balabanska, PhD, fully meets the requirements of the LDASRB, the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB and the Regulations of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda" for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor".

Dr. R. Balabanska is a well-established physician - gastroenterologist and hepatologist, with extensive clinical experience, with sufficient volume, high quality indicators and theoretical and practical contributions of scientific activity and teaching experience.

Based on the above, I strongly recommend that the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury vote positively for the election of Dr. Rozalina Ivanova Balabanska, PhD, for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Gastroenterology" for the needs of the Gastroenterology Clinic of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda".

05.01.2026

City of Sofia

Prepared the statement:

(Prof. Dr. Milena Staneva, PhD)

