

## OPINION

**By Prof. Dr. Evgenia Hristakieva Hristakieva, DM,**

Head of Clinic of Dermatology and venereology, UMHAT, Stara Zagora

Member of the Scientific Jury with Decision of the Scientific Council, Protocol No. 55 of 28.11.2024/ Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital, University Hospital JSC",

### REGARDING:

Competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, in the professional field 7.1. Medicine – medical-clinical area and scientific specialty Dermatology and Venereology, for the needs of the competition announced in the State Gazette No. 106 of 17.12.2024 for "Professor" at the external organization "ASMP - Group Practice in Dermatology - Euroderma Clinic" Ltd., Sofia, with the sole candidate who applied within the legal two-month period – **Associate Professor Jana Stoyanova Kazandjieva-Tzankova, MD.**

I have no conflict of interest in this competition.

The submitted set of materials is in accordance with the Law on the Promotion of Research and Development of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for holding academic positions at Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda EAD, Sofia.

From the detailed autobiographical reference, diplomas, certificates and scientific production it is evident that she has extensive professional clinical and scientific-teaching experience in the scientific specialty in which she is applying for the academic position of "Professor".

Assoc. Prof. Kazandzhieva became an assistant at the Department of Dermatology and Venereology, VMI - Pleven in 1985. In 1986, she started working as a resident physician at the City Skin Dispensary Sofia. Since 1994. After a competition, she is an assistant at the Department of Dermatology and Venereology - MF, MU - Sofia. In 2002 she was elected as a chief assistant, in 2008 as an associate professor at the same department, where she currently works as an associate professor and in the Clinic of Skin and Venereological Diseases at the University Hospital "Alexandrovska" Sofia.

She has specializations in the field of dermatology and electron microscopy in Vienna / Austria (1992); in the field of laser therapy of dermatological diseases in Zurich / Switzerland (1999).

In 2005 she successfully defended her dissertation on the topic "Exogenous pigment disorders - dermatological aspects and therapeutic possibilities" with Diploma number: 29702/05.05.2005/VAK..



The presented publication activity makes it possible to determine the following areas of scientific and professional interests of Assoc. Prof. Kazandzhieva with impressive publication and lecture activity:

**1. Scientific contributions in the field of dermatology: Contact dermatitis:** 106 scientific papers, of which 97 are after acquiring the academic title of associate professor; 1 independent monograph; 17 articles in English and 57 in Bulgarian; 4 chapters in monographs in English and 15 lectures on the topic of contact dermatitis, delivered at prestigious international forums abroad. Assoc. Prof. Kazandzhieva is the first and leading author in 4 national consensuses of the Bulgarian Dermatological Society - 2 consensuses on the topic of contact dermatitis - 2011 and 2023 and 2 consensuses on the topic of hand eczema - 2014 and 2024. **Atopic dermatitis:** 31 scientific papers, of which 30 are after acquiring the academic title of associate professor, which include 6 articles in English; 14 in Bulgarian; 1 material in a textbook; 4 teaching aids - 2 for doctors and 2 for patients. She is the first and leading author in the first national consensus of the Bulgarian Dermatology Association on atopic dermatitis - 2012; creator and first author in the Bulgarian White Book on Dermatology - 2019; first author in "Therapy of Atopic Dermatitis. Consensus of the Bulgarian Dermatology Association - 2021" and first author in "Standard of medical care for patients with atopic dermatitis" - 2023.

**2. Scientific contributions in the field of infantile hemangiomas:** 39 scientific papers in the field of vascular dermatoses. After acquiring the academic title of "associate professor", she has published 13 articles in English; 15 in Bulgarian; 1 chapter in a monograph - "Skin and the Heart", Springer, 2021, first author in the first National Consensus on the Treatment of Hemangiomas in Infants and Young Children, which is joint for the Bulgarian Dermatological Society and the Society of Pediatrics - 2017.

**3. Scientific contributions in the field of drug-induced dermatoses:** 30 scientific papers, of which 25 are after acquiring the academic title of "associate professor". Of these, 9 are articles in English. The articles dedicated to drug-induced psoriasis, lupus erythematosus and acne have a total of 382 citations (NACID, 2025). The characteristic clinical features of drug-induced acne are described. A case of Recall dermatitis after treatment with paclitaxel is described. The article is among the top 10 in the world and the first in Bulgaria, describing the so-called skin "recall" reactions or reactions of immunological memory. For the first time in the world, a series of cases of granulomas after vitamin injections has been described.

**4. Exogenous pigment disorders.** Skin complications in temporary and permanent tattoos. 10 papers and 9 lectures after obtaining the academic title of "associate professor". An article on



a new trend in tattoos "Skin Cryobranding" has been published, which for the first time in the world describes the skin changes in this "technique" for tattooing.

**5. The skin as a target organ in multisystem diseases:** 12 publications in English, with a contribution as the first in the world, which substantiate the systemic nature of skin diseases. 2 monographs and 1 textbook in English.

**6. Dermatological changes in the COVID pandemic:** 13 articles (4 in English and 9 in Bulgarian) after obtaining the academic title of "associate professor" with a wide range of topics with a total of 75 citations of international articles.

### **Qualitative criteria for the development of the academic staff**

#### **I. Scientific research activity (outside the ONS "doctor" and "associate professor")**

**1. Actual publications:** 79 publications referenced in Scopus and Web of Science, of which 39 published in journals with an impact factor and 40 in journals referenced in Scopus and Web of Science without an impact factor, 171 publications printed in Bulgarian journals referenced in the national reference list of NACID

**2. 1 independent monograph,** which is not presented as the main habilitation work; co-authorship in 17 chapters of monographs, of which 13 in English;

**3. co-authorship of 7 chapters of textbooks** and 5 teaching aids, of which 1 textbook in English

**4. Participation in scientific forums:** 462 participations with lectures and posters, of which 72 lectures delivered as an invited lecturer at prestigious international forums abroad and 87 participations with poster presentations (9 published in journals with impact factor) at international forums abroad

**5. h index, g index, Impact factor** – According to the report from NACID and SMB - h index is 22; and g-index – 40. The total impact factor of the candidate from scientific articles is 113,697 (after acquiring the academic title of associate professor - 94,988)

**6. Citations:** 1774 citations abroad in WEB of Science and SCOPUS databases from a reference (NACID) (12.02.2025) From the attached reference of the Central Medical Library, MU - Sofia - 280 citations in Bulgarian sources - journals, dissertations and books.

#### **7. Evaluation of habilitation work for participation in the competition:**

Includes 10 articles with impact factor, in prestigious international journals. The description of the scientific contributions in the habilitation report is structured on three of the main areas of the candidate's scientific research: dermatoallergology, therapy of infantile hemangiomas and systemic aspects of certain skin diseases. The scientific articles are in the field of contact



dermatitis to specific allergens and angioedema and present the candidate's extensive experience in this area. A very rare case of allergic contact dermatitis to timolol gel, applied for the treatment of infantile hemangioma, published in 2024, is presented, which is an exceptional contribution to the unification of the different spheres of scientific research activity. Assoc. Prof. Kazandzhieva is a national and international expert and pioneer in the local treatment of infantile hemangiomas with beta-blockers. The habilitation work includes some of the numerous publications of Assoc. Prof. Kazandzhieva in the direction of drug-induced dermatoses, systemic skin diseases and the impact of the COVID-pandemic on the skin, indicated in the opinion above.

**II. Assessment of teaching and learning activities:** The teaching workload in the specialty of skin and venereal diseases of Assoc. Prof. Kazandzhieva includes practical exercises with students in Bulgarian and English, lectures and participation in the SDO (reference from MU - Sofia). For the last 2 years (2023 and 2024) the teaching workload is a total of 870 hours, and for the 6-year period from 2019 - a total of 4272 hours. Assoc. Prof. Kazandzhieva is a scientific supervisor of 5 successfully defended doctoral students.

**III. Assessment of clinical activities:** A perfect clinician, many years of experience in clinical, laboratory, diagnostic and therapeutic activities with exceptional commitment to patients and dedicated help to colleagues. She is the organizer and head of the Bulgarian Dermato-Allergology Network, which includes 10 centers in the country and conducts annual campaigns for free diagnosis and prevention of skin allergic diseases. So far, 16 campaigns have been conducted, on the basis of which the national database for contact hypersensitivity to various allergens in Bulgaria has been created.

**IV. Membership in professional organizations and editorial boards:** Head of the Dermato-Allergology Section of the Bulgarian Dermatological Society - since 2010, and the Vascular Dermatoses Section of the Bulgarian Dermatological Society. Member of EADV - board member (2012-2018); of the Ethical Committee of the EADV (2011-2015); of the German-Bulgarian Dermatological Society - secretary of the society (2001-2012); of the ESHDV (European Society of History of Dermatology and Venereology) since 2005; of the European Organization for the Prevention of Occupational Skin Allergies (EPOS); Honorary Member of the Serbian Dermatological Society and the Macedonian Dermatological Society; of the Ethics Committee of the Bulgarian Medical Association – Sofia (2016-2018); Founder and Board Member of the Eczema Foundation – Bulgaria (since 2014)

**Participations in editorial boards:** Bulgarian journals: member of the editorial boards of the journal Dermatology and Venereology; Academic Edition Dermato-Oncology – 2023/2024;

of GPMedic and Medic Art for issues related to dermatology. Foreign journals: Serbian Journal of Dermatology, Editorial board member; Clinics in Dermatology. Guest editor. Are Skin Diseases Systemic Ones?: I, II, III respectively 2019, 2015 and 2014 Editor of textbooks and monographs: Atopic Dermatitis – Part 1 and 2: "Axel Sofia" 2021; Atopic Dermatitis – a book for parents and patients (part 1) and Atopic Dermatitis: etiology, clinical picture and treatment (part 2). 2024. **Reviewer** of 2 textbooks on Skin and Venereological Diseases: "Dermatology and Venereology". Textbook for students of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy. MU – Varna, 2020; "Dermatology and Venereology. Handbook for Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Students.". Varna, Medical University of Varna, 2018, Reviews for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" – 19; . Reviews about the competition for an academic position – 6

**Quantitative criteria for the academic position of "Professor":** According to the Regulations of the institution, Assoc. Prof. Zhana Kazandzhieva meets and repeatedly exceeds the criteria for awarding the scientific and academic position of "Professor". with the above-mentioned impressive scientific research output and teaching and teaching activities.

**Conclusion:** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zhana Stoyanova Kazandzhieva-Tsankova is one of the leading Bulgarian and international dermatologists and dermato-allergologists, with very high expertise in diagnostics and therapy, an innovator and discoverer in modern world dermatology, an exceptional lecturer, teacher, researcher and dedicated ethical scientist, liked by her colleagues, doctoral candidates and students, a worthy representative of the Bulgarian Dermatological School.

Based on the above, I give my positive assessment and propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award Assoc. Zhana Stoyanov Kazandzhieva – Tsankova, academic title "Professor".

28.02.2025

Prepared the opinion: .....

Prof. Dr. Evgeniya Hristakieva, MD