

ACADEMIC OPINION

by Prof. Sonya Stoyanova Marina - Kirova, MD, PhD

Regarding: the competition for the academic position of **Associate Professor** in the scientific specialty **Dermatology and Venereology**, within the field of higher education **7. Healthcare and Sports**, professional field **7.1 Medicine**, for the needs of the Clinic of Dermatology and Venereology at **Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital**, announced in the State Gazette, Issue No. 113 of 23.12.2026.

The procedure for announcing the competition for one position of Associate Professor has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of Art. 4, para. 2 and Art. 25 of the **Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria**, as well as Art. 96, para. 1 and 2 of the **Regulations for the Conditions and Procedures for Acquiring Academic Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital**.

By Order No. 15-03-41#2/23.02.2026 of the Executive Director of Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital, I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury for the evaluation of candidates applying for the academic position of Associate Professor in Dermatology and Venereology.

Only one candidate has applied for the position – **Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova, MD, PhD**, dermatologist and Chief Assistant at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital.

The documentation submitted by the candidate fully complies with the requirements of the **Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria**, its implementing regulations, and the institutional rules governing the acquisition of academic degrees and academic positions at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital.

I. BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL DATA, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS

Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova graduated in Medicine from the **Medical University – Sofia** in 2011. From 2012 to 2016 she completed her residency training in Dermatology and Venereology at **Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital**. In 2016 she obtained her specialty in **Dermatology and Venereology**.

In 2018 she successfully defended her PhD dissertation entitled "*Allergic Contact Dermatitis – Characteristics of Etiopathogenesis, Clinical Presentation, Diagnosis and Prevention in Childhood*" at the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital.

The candidate has completed several specialized trainings and professional courses in **Budapest, Trieste and Amsterdam**. In 2023 Dr. Kotevska-Trifunova won a competition for the academic position of **Chief Assistant** at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital.

She has actively participated in numerous specialized training programs and educational courses in **dermatologic surgery, pediatric dermatology, laser procedures, dermatopathology, non-invasive diagnostic methods in dermatology, and biological therapies.**

In 2014 she received the **Michael Hornstein Memorial Scholarship** at the **11th EADV Spring Symposium** in Belgrade. In 2015 she was awarded **first prize for a clinical presentation** at a course dedicated to laser technologies in dermatology held in **Trieste, Italy.**

II. RESEARCH ACTIVITY

The research activity of Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova has been evaluated according to the scientometric criteria and indicators adopted at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital.

Her overall scientific output includes **138 scientific contributions** (87 international and 51 national), distributed as follows:

- **64 scientific publications** (31 published in international journals and 33 in Bulgarian journals). Dr. Kotevska-Trifunova is **first or sole author of 24 publications, second author of 32 publications, and third or subsequent author of 8 publications.**
- **3 chapters in 3 monographs** published abroad.
- **74 participations in scientific forums** with oral presentations and posters (56 international and 18 national).

According to the submitted scientometric report, the publications of Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova have been published in journals with a **cumulative impact factor of 19.8.** The total number of citations indexed in the international databases **Web of Science and Scopus** is **28.**

Scientific Contributions

The candidate's scientific contributions can be summarized within the following main research areas:

1. Psoriasis

Psoriasis represents a major focus of the candidate's research activity. Particular emphasis is placed on studies investigating **biological therapies**, the understanding of psoriasis as a **systemic disease**, and contemporary therapeutic approaches for its management. Dr. Kotevska-Trifunova is also a member of a **specialized commission responsible for the treatment of psoriasis with high-cost medications.**

2. Allergodermatology

This research area is represented primarily by the candidate's participation in the development of a **consensus on the treatment of contact dermatitis**, as well as by review articles addressing **allergic contact dermatitis in childhood.** Several publications and the candidate's doctoral dissertation focus on identifying the **most common contact allergens in pediatric patients.**

The publication "*Allergic Contact Dermatitis Caused by Homemade Slime*" addresses a highly relevant and emerging issue and represents one of the earliest scientific publications on this topic.

3. Case Reports in Dermatology

The candidate has also published a number of rare and clinically significant dermatological cases, including:

- fatal outcome following methotrexate overdose
- allergic contact dermatitis associated with homemade slime
- gonococcal pharyngitis in a homosexual patient
- generalized extragenital lichen sclerosus

4. Clinical Biochemistry

The candidate's research work also demonstrates valuable contributions in the field of clinical biochemistry. Her publications address several important topics, including:

- frequency and risk factors for chromosomal abnormalities during pregnancy
- serum levels of **hepcidin and ferritin in patients with metabolic syndrome**
- hematological and biochemical abnormalities in hospitalized patients with **COVID-19**
- prevalence of **chronic hepatitis B and C** and their association with **vitamin D levels**

Overall, the scientific contributions of Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova are characterized by **originality, confirmatory scientific value, theoretical significance, and practical applicability**, and correspond to the above-mentioned research areas.

III. TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Practical training course in the discipline "**Dermatology and Venereology**" for **fourth-year medical students** in the Bulgarian-language program at **Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"**, with a total teaching workload of **907.8 hours during the period 2019–2024** (Reference No. MF 24/02.02.2026).
2. At **Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital**, during the period **01.01.2021 – 31.12.2025**, Dr. Kotevska-Trifunova has accumulated a teaching workload with medical residents amounting to **1740.50 equivalent hours**.

CONCLUSION

Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova is a highly qualified specialist with more than **10 years of professional experience** in Dermatology and Venereology. As both a researcher and a clinical dermatologist, she has made significant contributions to the development of dermatological science and clinical practice in Bulgaria.

The candidate fully meets the **national requirements for holding the academic position of Associate Professor**. The submitted documentation convincingly demonstrates her **scientific productivity**,

professional development, initiative, and creative approach in both research and clinical activities. In addition to the achievements outlined above, I would also emphasize my personal conviction regarding her excellent **scientific, professional, and organizational qualities**.

Considering the candidate's overall academic achievements, research productivity, clinical expertise, and teaching activity, I give my **positive evaluation** and strongly support her candidacy.

Therefore, I **recommend to the esteemed Scientific Jury** that the academic position of **Associate Professor in Dermatology and Venereology**, professional field **7.1 Medicine**, field of higher education **7. Healthcare and Sports**, be awarded to **Chief Assistant Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova, MD, PhD**.



March 6, 2026

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