

OPINION

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Regarding the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 7. Healthcare and Sports, 7.1. Medicine, Scientific Specialty Oncology, for the needs of the Department of Medical Oncology, Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital.

The competition was announced in the State Gazette, Issue No. 35 of April 14, 2026. One candidate has applied: Dr. Tanya Lyubomirova Zlatanova, MD, PhD.

Education and Professional Development

Dr. Tanya Lyubomirova Zlatanova graduated in Medicine from the Medical University of Sofia. Following her specialization in Internal Medicine, during which she worked at Ihtiman General Hospital, her entire professional career has been closely and consistently dedicated to the field of oncology. Between 2009 and 2012, she worked at Tokuda Hospice in Sofia, and from 2013 to 2016 she completed her specialty training in Medical Oncology. Since 2012, she has been employed as a specialist physician at the Department of Medical Oncology, Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital. In 2024, she was awarded the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (PhD).

Research Activity

The scientific output submitted by Dr. Zlatanova for the competition comprises a total of 36 scientific works: one doctoral dissertation, one publication related to the dissertation (which I have excluded from evaluation), one monograph, and 34 scientific publications, including 9 papers published in refereed and indexed journals (7 of which have an Impact Factor) and 25 papers published in peer-reviewed Bulgarian scientific journals included in the National Reference List. According to the report issued by the Central Medical Library of the Medical University of Sofia, her work has received 39 citations, including 5 citations indexed in Scopus and 6 citations indexed in Web of Science from international sources. Additionally, 25 citations have been identified in Bulgarian publications, including 2 indexed in Scopus and 2 indexed in Web of Science.

Dr. Zlatanova's principal scientific interests focus on the diagnosis and therapeutic management of malignant diseases of the breast, lung, prostate, gastrointestinal tract, and genitourinary system. A field of particular interest is immuno-oncology, a fact to which I can personally attest as a clinical immunologist. Her research encompasses several subdivisions within the specialty of oncology, demonstrating a broad scientific perspective and a comprehensive understanding of current developments and future directions in the field.

Teaching Activity

Since 2019, Dr. Zlatanova is a chief-assistant and has served as a part-time lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Diseases. Documentation has been provided confirming a teaching workload of 225 academic hours during the first three academic years and 210 academic hours during each of the last two academic years. She also supervises a resident in Medical Oncology at the Medical University of Sofia, with the relevant documentation duly provided.

Expert Activities

Dr. Zlatanova is a member of the Executive Board of the Bulgarian Scientific Society for Immuno-Oncology. She serves on the Scientific Committee and as Vice-Chair of the Organizing Committee of numerous scientific conferences dedicated to immuno-oncology.

She is also a member of the Expert Group for the program accreditation of the doctoral programmes in Diagnostic Imaging and Plastic Surgery at the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (NEAA). Furthermore, she has chaired several Health Technology Assessment committees. For two consecutive years, she has served on the Expert Board of the National Oncology Conference MORE. Dr. Zlatanova is also a co-author of the national clinical guidance documents Clinical Management of Cholangiocarcinoma and Clinical Management of Cervical Cancer.

I have known Dr. Zlatanova for the past six years and have repeatedly had the opportunity to attend her presentations at national and international congresses and scientific conferences. She consistently encourages scientific discussion and critical analysis, is exceptionally well prepared, and confidently defends her scientific positions. Dr. Zlatanova possesses broad general knowledge and diverse academic interests. These qualities, together with her unquestionable professionalism, define the prominent scientific position she occupies today.

Conclusion

Based on the documentation submitted concerning Dr. Zlatanova's research, teaching, and expert activities, and considering that the candidate fully satisfies all requirements stipulated by the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria, the relevant implementing regulations, and the criteria of the National Centre for Information and Documentation (NACID), I strongly recommend that the esteemed Scientific Jury award Dr. Tanya Lyubomirova Zlatanova the academic position of Associate professor, a recommendation I make with complete confidence and conviction.

July 7, 2026

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