

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Krasimir Antonov Antonov, MD

Clinic of Gastroenterology, Department of Internal Medicine, based
on the University Hospital "St. Ivan Rilski", MF, Medical University – Sofia

regarding the candidacy of Dr. Rozalina Ivanova Balabanska, MD, from the Clinic of Gastroenterology at Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital "Tokuda" - EAD Sofia for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, in the professional field 7.1 Medicine and scientific specialty "Gastroenterology", announced in the "State Gazette" No. 85 of 14.10.2025.

The teaching, educational work, research and scientific activity of Dr. Rozalina Balabanska were evaluated according to the requirements of Art. 4, para. 2 and Art. 29a of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff at Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Tokuda EAD, Art. 2, para. 2, Art. 57, para. 1, para. 2 of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff at Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Tokuda EAD.

Dr. Rozalina Balabanska graduated from the 35th high school with intensive study of foreign languages - Sofia in 1981 with a gold medal for excellent success from the Ministry of Education and Science.

She graduated from the Higher Medical Institute, Sofia in 1987 with excellent success. She obtained a specialty in "Internal Medicine" in 1996 and a specialty in "Gastroenterology and Dietetics" in 1999.

She worked in the Gastroenterology Clinic of the Military Medical Academy and the Fifth City Hospital, where she gained experience for 14 years under the leadership of Academician Grigor Mechkov.

For nearly 19 years (since 1.3.2007) she has been working in the Gastroenterology Department of Tokuda Hospital, Sofia.

She defended her dissertation on 1.9.2021 on the topic "Liver steatosis and non-alcoholic steatohepatitis - clinical assessment and application of transient elastography (Fibrosan)" and obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

Since February 2022, she has been a chief assistant at the Gastroenterology Clinic and leads exercises in propaedeutics of internal diseases and Internal Diseases - Gastroenterology for 3rd and 4th year medical students as a part-time assistant professor at the Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

For 34 years, she has been engaged in ultrasound examination of the abdominal organs, interventional ultrasound. She holds a certificate for abdominal Doppler ultrasound - level II since 2007 and a certificate for Interventional Ultrasound - level III since 2009.

She specialized in Gastroenterology and Abdominal and Endoscopic Ultrasound at the National Center for the Study and Treatment of Oncological Diseases in Milan, Italy, and has specializations in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Greece, and training in Hepatology and Transient Elastography at Vall D'Hebron Hospital, Barcelona, Spain under the supervision do Prof. Maria Buti and Prof. Rafael Esteban.

For this competition, Dr. Rozalina Balabanska has submitted 58 scientific publications. Of the 58 publications, 28 are in English and 30 are in Bulgarian. Of the

publications, 28 are in refereed and indexed journals in the Scopus or Web of Science databases, with 25 publications having an impact factor. The total IF of the publications is 679,596, with an individual IF of 34,643. The remaining articles are in non-refereed journals. She is the sole and first author in 17 publications (29,3%).

For the period from 1994 to 2025, Dr. Rozalina Balabanska has participated with a poster or oral presentation at 48 scientific forums, of which 21 in Bulgaria and 27 abroad.

Dr. Rozalina Balabanska is the author of 1 monograph - "Liver Steatosis", published by Prosveta Publishing House in 2025.

She has been positively cited between 625 and 635 citations in foreign scientific journals, according to the sources used for reference (respectively Web of Science and Scopus), which partially overlap, and 11 citations are in Bulgarian scientific journals.

According to the point system for minimum requirements by group indicators, Dr. Rozalina Balabanska receives a total of 10,453.09 points with a minimum number of points of 400 according to the requirements of the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports", professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Gastroenterology" for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor".

Dr. Rozalina Balabanska is a part-time lecturer in internal medicine at the Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" with a classroom workload of 180 teaching hours for 2022-2023, 195 teaching hours for 2023-2024 and 105 hours for 2024-2025 with students in "Medicine". For the period 01.01.2021 - 30.11.2025 at "Acibadem City Clinic ÜMBAL Tokuda" EAD Dr. Rozalina Balabanska has 1,152.50 equivalent teaching hours with residents.

Dr. Rozalina Balabanska has a total of 37 years of work experience, of which 26 years of work experience in the specialty "Gastroenterology" and 4 years as a lecturer.

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 steatotic liver disease.

She is a member of the International and Bulgarian Association of Surgeons and Gastroenterologists, the European and World Association of Ultrasound in Medicine, the Bulgarian Gastroenterological Society and the Bulgarian Association of Ultrasound in Medicine, the European Association for the Study of the Liver, and for 15 years she has been a member of the American Association for the Study of the Liver, and for several years she was the only representative from Bulgaria.

For over 10 years she was the head of the "Gastroenterology" section in the medical journal "Medical Magazine", as well as a member of the editorial board of the journal Medical Review - Gastroenterological Diseases.

She regularly participates in national and international congresses and conferences on Gastroenterology and ultrasound diagnostics.

For over 10 years she has been awarded the title "Doctor whom Bulgarians trust".

I believe that Dr. Rozalina Balabanska fully meets the mandatory and specific conditions under Art. 4, para. 2 and Art. 29a of the ZRASRB, Art. 2 para. 2, Art. 57, para. 1 para. 2 of the PPZRASRB, Art. 60, para. 1 and para. 2 of the Regulations for the

Development of the Academic Staff at "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD,
for holding the academic position of "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR".

06.01.2026

Sofia

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