

To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury,
determined by Order No. 15-03-95#2 of 16.04.2026.
of the Scientific Council of Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital EAD

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Liliya Georgieva Vakrilova, MD, PhD
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Subject: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports", professional field 7.1. "Medicine", scientific specialty "Neonatology", for the needs of the Neonatology Department "Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda" EAD, published in the State Gazette No. 18/17.02.2026.

According to the procedure: In the current competition for the academic position of Associate Professor within the legal deadline, one candidate has submitted documents and has been admitted to participate – Dr. Radka Tsokova Maslarska, MD. All requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDACRB) and the Regulations for its implementation have been met.

Biographical data: Dr. Maslarska graduated in medicine from the Medical University - Pleven in 1986. In the period 1987-1992 she worked as a doctor in the Department of Neonatology, Lovech Hospital, from 1992 to 1995 she was Head of the Department for Premature Infants at the University Hospital "Georgi Stranski, Pleven". From 1995 to 2005 she has worked at the Clinic of Neonatology, Pediatric Hospital for Active Treatment, Sofia. From 2006 to the present she is a Head of the Department of Neonatology at "ACIBADEM CITY CLINIC HOSPITAL FOR ACTIVE TREATMENT TOKUDA" EAD.

Dr. Maslarska has 40 years of medical experience. Since 1992 she has a recognized specialty in Pediatrics, since 2003 – in Neonatology. In 2006 she obtained a Master's degree in Public Health and Health Management at the Faculty of Public Health of MU-Sofia. In 2023, after defending a dissertation on the topic "Hemangiomas in Infancy and Early Childhood – Innovative Treatment and Follow-up", she acquired the educational and scientific degree of "PhD".

Research

Scientometric indicators

The scientific research activities of Dr. Maslarska's include scientific publications and studies in the field of neonatology and pediatric dermatology: one dissertation, 33 publications in specialized scientific medical journals. She is the sole author of 6 of them, first author of 6, second author of 8. According to a reference from NACID, the candidate has 4 publications in foreign journals with Impact factor. In addition to them, for the period 2020-2023, Dr. Maslarska appears in 3 publications as a participant in research groups on medical trials.

Dr. Maslarska participates in a number of scientific forums with reports or posters with 33 studies: 29 in Bulgaria and 4 international, for which abstracts have been submitted.

The official references of the Central Medical Library (CML) of MU-Sofia, and NACID provide 8 citations of Dr. Maslarska's scientific works, all in foreign scientific medical literature. The CML's report also lists citations from the scientometric database of Scopus and Web of

science, respectively 957 and 949, for publications of research groups of which Dr. Maslarska is a member. The overall impact factor of the submitted publications of the candidate, Dr. Maslarska, is respectively: **IF (Web of Science) = 10.62 and SJR (Scopus) = 5.91.**

The overall **scientific research and applied scientific activities** of Dr. Maslarska and the relevant contributions are focused in the following areas:

1. **Infantile hemangiomas** – diagnosis, treatment, follow-up (dissertation topic and 3 publications). Dr Maslarska has methodological contributions to diagnosis, multidisciplinary approach and behavior; an algorithm for behavior and active treatment of infants with infantile hemangiomas has been developed.
2. **Pulmonary ventilation and surfactant therapy** (8 publications): The studies examine current trends and advances in the respiratory therapy in newborns. Rare clinical cases of congenital Coxsackie virus infection, complicated by pleural effusions, meconial aspiration, new behavioral trends in Patent Ductus arteriosus of premature babies are presented in separate publications.
3. **Enteral and parenteral nutrition** in at-risk newborns (2 publications): Own data and current trends in nutrition of healthy and at-risk newborns are presented.
4. **Ultrasound examinations** in newborns (3 publications): Own data, analyses and contributions to ultrasound examination and monitoring of the brain, lung and abdomen are presented.
5. **Assisted reproductive technologies** – ART. The 4 publications address problems of newborns conceived by ART: follow-up during pregnancy; maternal morbidity; risk of congenital anomalies, problems related to multiple pregnancies and premature birth.
6. **Neonatal infections** are the topic of 6 publications. They consider one's own experience and behavior in both maternal-fetal and nosocomial infections, and make recommendations to reduce the risk.
7. **Retinopathy of the prematurity**: In 1 publication, self-experience is summarized and guidelines for prevention, screening and treatment are given.
8. **Rare clinical cases** are considered in 5 publications. Their discussion is beneficial for timely diagnosis and treatment in subsequent cases.
9. **Surgical emergencies** in newborns. 4 publications examine the behavior of congenital diaphragmatic hernia, emphasizing a multidisciplinary approach involving prenatal diagnosis, fetal surgery, neonatal behavior, and postnatal surgery.

A number of the candidate's studies have been presented at national and international conferences as lectures or posters. They include results, analyses and conclusions from their own research, as well as case studies.

The development and realization of Dr. Maslarska's scientific activity is facilitated by **the membership and expert activity** of a number of scientific societies and organizations: Bulgarian Neonatal Association, Bulgarian Pediatric Association, Association of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Association of Premature Babies and Infants with Infantile Hemangioma. Expert activity: neonatal air transport (Ministry of Health); Consensus for treatment of infants with infantile hemangioma, Vaccinoprophylaxis.

Teaching and learning activities

Dr. Radka Maslarska is a lecturer in neonatology at Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda. For the period 01.01.2021 - 31.12.2025, it has a realized teaching workload with postgraduates doctors (equivalent hours) in the amount of 1858 equiv.h, of which 65 hours in continuing education. In the same period, Dr. Maslarska supervised the specialization of 6 postgraduate doctors.

Medical-diagnostic and organizational-consultative activities

Dr. Maslarska is an established clinician in the specialties of Neonatology and Pediatrics. She is proficient in all basic diagnostic and treatment methods. She actively participates in and manages the daily treatment and diagnostic process in the Neonatology department.

Conclusion: The analysis of the scientific, teaching and diagnostic-therapeutic activities of Dr. Maslarska shows that she meets the conditions and requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDACRB) and the Regulations for its implementation by fulfilling the criteria for acquiring the academic position of "Associate Professor".

Based on this, I propose that **Dr. Radka Ts. Maslarska be elected to the academic position of "Associate Professor"** in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports", professional field 7.1. "Medicine", scientific specialty "Neonatology", for the needs of the Department of Neonatology "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda" EAD.

05.05.2026

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/Assoc. L. Vakrylova, MD, MD/

