

OPINION

by Prof. Miroslava Ivanova Kadurina–Ilieva, MD, PhD, DSc

Subject: Competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the scientific specialty Dermatology and Venereology, in the field of higher education 7. Health 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 SG issue No. 113/23.12.2026.

The procedure for announcing the competition for academic position of Associate Professor is based on the requirements of Art. 4, para. 2 and Art. 25 of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as Art. 96, paras. 1 and 2 of the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring academic degrees and holding academic positions at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital.

By Order No. 15-03-41#2 dated 23.02.2026, issued by the Executive Director of Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital, I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury for evaluating the candidates in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in Dermatology and Venereology.

The only candidate in the competition is Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova, PhD, dermatologist and Chief Assistant at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital.

The documents submitted by the candidate comply with the requirements of the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the regulations for its implementation, as well as the internal regulations for acquiring academic degrees and occupying academic positions at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital.

I. BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL DATA, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND QUALITIES

Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova graduated in Medicine from the Medical University – Faculty of Medicine, Sofia in 2011. From 2012 to 2016 she was a resident 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 – Features of Etiopathogenesis, Clinical Presentation, Diagnosis and Prevention in Childhood” at the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital.

In 2023, Dr. Kotevska won a competition for the position of Chief Assistant at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital.

She has participated in numerous educational courses and trainings in Bulgaria and abroad (Budapest, Trieste, Amsterdam, etc.) in the fields of dermatosurgery, pediatric dermatology, laser and light therapies in dermatology, histopathology, non-invasive diagnostic methods in dermatology, and biological therapies in dermatological practice.

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 Clinical Presentation at the Course on Laser and Light Devices in Dermatological Practice in Trieste, Italy.

II. RESEARCH ACTIVITY

The research activity of Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova has been evaluated based on the criteria and indicators used at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital.

Her scientific output includes 138 scientific contributions, including publications, monographs, and participation in scientific forums (87 abroad and 51 in Bulgaria).

- **64 scientific publications** (31 in international journals and 33 in Bulgarian journals). Dr. Kotevska-Trifunova is first or sole author in 24 publications, second author in 32, and third or subsequent author in 8.

- **3 chapters in 3 international monographs.**

- **74 participations in scientific forums** with oral presentations and posters (56 abroad and 18 in Bulgaria).

According to the scientometric report, the candidate's publications have a total impact factor of 19.8. The number of citations indexed in Web of Knowledge and Scopus is 28.

Scientific contributions can be summarized in the following areas:

1. Psoriasis

The disease occupies a significant part of the candidate's scientific activity, with emphasis on studies related to biological therapies, the concept of psoriasis as a systemic disease, and modern treatment approaches. Dr. Kotevska-Trifunova is a member of the specialized committee for treatment of psoriasis with high-cost medications at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital.

2. Dermatoallergology

This topic is represented through participation in the development of a consensus for the treatment of contact dermatitis and review articles on allergic contact

dermatitis in childhood. Her publications and doctoral dissertation focus on identifying the most common contact allergens in childhood. The article "Allergic contact dermatitis caused by homemade slime" addresses a highly relevant topic and is among the first publications on this subject.

3. Case reports in dermatology

Several rare clinical cases have been described, including: fatal outcome after methotrexate overdose; the new homemade hobby – slime; gonococcal pharyngitis in a homosexual patient; generalized extragenital lichen sclerosus, among others.

4. Clinical Biochemistry

The candidate's scientific work also demonstrates significant contributions in the field of clinical biochemistry. Her publications address topics such as frequency and risk factors for chromosomal abnormalities during pregnancy; study of serum levels of hepcidin and ferritin in patients with metabolic syndrome; hematological abnormalities in hospitalized COVID-19 patients; prevalence of chronic hepatitis B and C and their association with vitamin D levels.

The scientific contributions of Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova have original, confirmatory, theoretical and applied scientific significance.

III. TEACHING AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY

Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova has an active role in teaching medical students and residents.

- Practical course in Dermatology and Venereology for 4th-year medical students in the Medicine program (Bulgarian language) at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – **907.8 teaching hours** for the period 2019–2024.

- At Tokuda University Hospital, from 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2025, she has accumulated **1740.5 equivalent** teaching hours supervising residents.

CONCLUSION

Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova is a specialist with extensive experience and expertise in Dermatology and Venereology. As both a researcher and clinical dermatologist, she has made significant contributions to the development of dermatological science in Bulgaria.

The candidate fully meets the national requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor. The documentation provided convincingly demonstrates scientific productivity, initiative, and a creative approach in the professional development of Dr. Kotevska-Trifunova within the field of dermatology.

I strongly vote in favor and recommend that the Honorable Scientific Jury award the academic position of Associate Professor in Dermatology and Venereology,

professional field 7.1 Medicine, field of higher education 7. Health Care and Sports, to Chief Assistant Dr. Bisera Kotevska-Trifunova, PhD.

Date: 12.03.2026

Prof. Miroslava Ivanova Kadurina-Ilieva, MD, PhD, DSc

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MIK', located to the right of the printed name.