

## STANDPOINT

**By:** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sirma Mileva Dimitrova, MD, Pediatric Department, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University – Sofia. Member of the scientific jury appointed by Order No. 15-05-31/11.02.2025 according to the Art. 4, para. 2 and Art. 29a of the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and para. 2 of the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff in "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD, Academic Council decision (No. 55/28.11.2024) competition for the position of "Associate Professor".

**Regarding:** Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in professional field 7.1 - Medicine and scientific specialty Pediatrics for the needs of the Pediatrics Clinic of "Acibadem City Clinic, UMBAL TOKUDA" EAD Th procedure has been announced in the State Gazette No. 105/13.12.2024.

All documents with the necessary evidentiary material have been submitted according to the regulation requirements. In the announced competition, the only candidate is Dr. Vesselina Ivanova Kenderova, MD.

### Biographical data and professional development

Dr. Vesselina Kenderova graduated from the Medical University of Sofia in 1997. She worked as a doctor in the Clinic of Pediatric Surgery, UMBALSM "N. Pirogov", Sofia. From 2001 to 2004. was a pediatric resident and a full-time doctoral student at the Medical University of Sofia, based at the University Hospital "Alexandrovska" EAD, Clinic of Pediatrics. In 2005, she received a specialty in Pediatrics, in 2014 in Pediatric Pneumology, and in 2015 she qualified as Master of Public Health and Health Management.

Dr. Kenderova has a scientific and educational degree "Doctor" since 2005, after successfully defending a dissertation on the topic "Clinical and immunological studies in immune thrombocytopenic purpura in childhood". In 2006, she began her work experience at the Clinic of Pediatrics, ASK University Hospital Tokuda, Sofia, where she continues to work.

Dr. Kenderova has participated in numerous postgraduate courses - Certificate in Spirometry, Certificate in Maintaining Basic Vital Functions - basic and advanced level. Fluent in English.

### Evaluation of the candidate

#### I. Basis for evaluation

##### Habilitation Thesis

Dr. Kenderova has presented 10 refereed articles combined as a habilitation thesis in the field of pediatric pulmonology, rheumatology and hematology. The wide range of knowledge and clinical experience are a prerequisite for its high scientific value. Important highlights in the presented habilitation thesis are the in-depth analysis of the topic of macrophage activation syndrome in

childhood - characteristics, diagnostic and therapeutic approach, as well as the interdisciplinary view of the pulmonary manifestations of rheumatic diseases in childhood. Description of rare and difficult diagnostic cases, such as Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada disease and Mucha-Habermann disease are a significant contribution.

Dr. Vesselina Kenderova participated in the competition with 26 scientific articles: 11 of them are in refereed and indexed scientific journals – 10 Bulgarian and 1 international; 15 are in non-refereed and indexed, with 14 being Bulgarian and 1 international.

She is the first author in 38.46% of the presented publications, with a total impact factor of the publications 9.775.

Dr. Kenderova has 27 participations in national and international congresses and conferences– 16 reports and 11 posters, in 40.74% of them as a first author.

The official reference from NACID has identified 396 citations – 18 in Bulgarian sources, 378 – in foreign ones: Scopus (Elsevier) – 151 and Web of Science (Clarivate) – 227. The calculated h-index in Scopus is 2, and for Web of Science – h-index is 3. In this competition, out of all the citations, 7 articles were used, of which 1 article is in the Scopus database, 1 article in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review, and 5 are in non-refereed journals with scientific review in Bulgaria

## **II. Area of scientific interests and contributions**

Apart from her habilitation work, Dr. Kenderova has made an academic contribution with her doctoral studies. The topic of immune thrombocytopenic purpura in childhood has been developed by her for the first time in Bulgaria. The study of fixed antiplatelet autoantibodies in children with immune thrombocytopenic purpura, with the new CELIA method, proved their importance as a diagnostic and prognostic indicator. This innovation is a prerequisite for inclusion in an international group - Intercontinental Childhood ITP Study Group and the long-term follow-ups conducted on over 1340 patients evaluating prognostic factors for remission in immune thrombocytopenic purpura.

## **III. Evaluation of the candidate's teaching activities**

Dr. Vesselina Kenderova has 6 years of teaching experience. She participates in teaching pediatrics residents. She lectures on basic and thematic courses at ASK Tokuda. For 2022/2023. and 2023/2024, she has a total teaching load of 780 hours.

## **IV. Fulfillment of the requirements**

The fulfillment of the minimum requirements according to Appendix 3 of the Regulations on the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at Sofia University for occupying the academic position of "associate professor", are presented in the table:

<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Requirements for "Associate professor"</b>	<b>Candidate indicators</b>
<b>group A</b>	Indicator 1	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>group B</b>	Indicator 2	<b>100</b>	<b>220.7</b>

<b>group C</b>	Indicator 3 or 4	<b>200</b>	<b>235</b>
<b>group D</b>	Sum of indicators from 5 to 9	<b>50</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>group E</b>	Sum of indicators from 10 to 12	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>560.7</b>

## V. Conclusion

Dr. Vesselina Ivanova Kenderova is distinguished by a wide range of medical knowledge in general pediatrics and pediatric pulmonology, a strong interest in pediatric rheumatological diseases, and versatile scientific activity.

Dr. Vesselina Kenderova meets all mandatory conditions, exceeding the minimum requirements for scientific and teaching activities for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Professional Field 7 - "Health and Sports" in Professional Field 7.1 - "Medicine" and scientific specialty "Pediatrics" for the needs of the Pediatrics Clinic of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL TOKUDA" EAD, announced in the Official Gazette No. 105/13.12.2024.

I support the candidacy and will vote positively for the award of the scientific position of "Associate Professor" to Dr. Vesselina Ivanova Kenderova, MD.

04.03.2025

  
Assoc. Prof. Sirma Mileva, MD