

To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury,
appointed by Order No. 15-03-95#2 of 16.04.2026
of the Scientific Council of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda"

STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Penka Vasileva Petleshkova-Angelova, PhD,

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, MU- Plovdiv. External member of the Scientific Jury, appointed by Order No. 15-03-95#2 of 16.04.2026. of the Scientific Council of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda" .

Regarding: Procedure for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Health Protection and Sports", professional field 7.1. "Medicine", scientific specialty "Neonatology", for the needs of the Neonatology Department "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda", published in the State Gazette No. 18/17.02.2026.

One candidate for the announced position has been admitted and participated in the announced competition,

Dr. Radka Tsokova Maslarska, PhD

The documents provided to me are in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation and meet the requirements of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda . No procedural violations have been established.

I declare that I have no conflict of interest within the meaning of Art. 4, para. 5 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria.

I BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL DATA AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Radka Maslarska graduated from the Medical University of Pleven in 1986. During the period 1987-1992 she worked as a doctor in the Neonatology Department of Lovech Hospital. From 1992 to 1995 she was the Head of the Department for Premature Infants at the Georgi Stranski Hospital, Pleven. During the period 1995 to 2005 she was a doctor in the Neonatology Clinic of the University specialized children's hospital, Sofia. From 2006 to the present she is the Head of the Neonatology Department at Acibadem City Clinic, Tokuda Hospital.

Dr. Maslarska's medical experience is 40 years. She has recognized specialties - Pediatrics in 1992 and Neonatology in 2003. Since 2006, she has been a Master of Public Health and Health Management at the Faculty of Public Health of the Military Medical Academy-Sofia. In 2023, after successfully defending a dissertation on the topic "Hemangiomas in infancy and early childhood - innovative treatment and follow-up", she acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

She has a GCP certificate.

II SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY

For participation in the competition announced in the State Gazette, issue No. 18 of 17.02.2026, for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Neonatology" for the needs of the Neonatology Department "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda", Dr. Radka Maslarska, PhD, applies 1 dissertation, 33 scientific publications and 49 scientific communications. Publications in international and Bulgarian journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information - 16 publications in Bulgarian publications with scientific review - 17. Published in scientific publications, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information (Scopus and Web of Science) and with IF are 4, with their total IF being 10.62. For the period 2020-2023, as a member of the research group has three publications in refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of international journals.

In the 33 publications presented, Dr. Radka Tsokova Maslarska, PhD is the sole author of 6 of them, the first author of 6 and the second author of 8.

The participation of Dr. Radka Tsokova Maslarska, PhD in scientific and professional forums is 49, of which 12 in international congresses and 37 in national congresses and conferences with published abstracts.

III CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

The scientific research activity of Dr. Radka Tsokova Maslarska, PhD, is based on her clinical medical and diagnostic work as a pediatrician and neonatologist, established among the Bulgarian scientific community. The studies conducted are current, original and correspond to the trends in medicine, both in our country and internationally.

The scientific research and applied scientific activity of Dr. Maslarska and the relevant contributions are directed in the following directions:

- 1. Infantile hemangiomas (dissertation and 3 publications):** Of methodological and scientific-applied significance in connection with the proposed multidisciplinary approach, the assessment of the efficacy of Propranolol and the creation of an algorithm for behavior and active treatment of children with infantile hemangiomas.
- 2. Pulmonary ventilation and surfactant therapy (8 publications):** Topics related to pulmonary ventilation occupy a major place in the author's publications. The clinical impact and frequency of complications in premature children of non-invasive ventilation with the use of exogenous surfactant by the LISA method, as well as the frequency and need for hospitalizations due to respiratory infections, were studied. In separate publications, rare clinical cases of congenital Coxsackie virus infection, meconium aspiration and respiratory distress are presented, as well as new trends in behavior in persistent ductus arteriosus in premature infants.
- 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, as well as recommendations for nutrition and feeding of infants.

4. **Echography of the CNS, abdominal and pulmonary echography (3 publications):** The possibilities of echographic diagnostics in newborns and at-risk premature infants are examined by presenting own data, analyses, contributions and possibilities for monitoring the CNS, lungs and abdomen.
5. **Assisted reproductive technologies (4 publications):** The following topics are reviewed: thrombophilia and pregnancy, its prevention, maternal morbidity, risk of congenital anomalies and problems of multiple pregnancy and IGR.
6. **Neonatal infections (6 publications):** Own results and recommendations are presented in neonatal and nosocomial infections, as well as neonatal sepsis. The role and specificity of antibiotic and antifungal therapy in infections in the neonatal period are reviewed.
7. **Retinopathy of prematurity(1 publication):** Own experience is presented, guidelines for prevention, screening and behavior are given.
8. **Rare clinical cases (5 publications):** The diagnostic, therapeutic approach and outcome of rare syndromes are reviewed in detail, which supports their timely diagnosis in clinical practice.
9. **Vaccination in healthy and at-risk newborns. (2 publications):** The issues considered related to vaccination are important and the shared clinical experience once again proves the need for its implementation in healthy and at-risk newborns.
10. **Emergency surgical conditions in newborns. (4 publications):** The emphasis is on the multidisciplinary approach to congenital diaphragmatic hernia, including prenatal diagnosis, fetal surgery, neonatal intensive care and postnatal surgical intervention.

Evidence of the relevance and innovative approach of the topics considered are the reviews and reports made in relation to neonatal pain, the effect of COVID19 on pregnant women and newborns, and improving the quality of care in neonatal intensive care units.

Most of the candidate's works have been presented at our and international conferences as reports or posters. They include results, analyses, and conclusions from their own studies.

IV CITATIONS

The official references of the Central Medical Library, Medical University of Sofia, and the National Center for Scientific Research and Development (NCSR) establish H-index - 1 and 8 citations of the scientific works of Dr. Maslarska, PhD, all in foreign scientific medical literature. The reference of the Central Medical Library also indicates the citations from the scientometric database of Scopus and Web of Science, respectively 967 and 949 for publications of scientific research groups, in the composition of which Dr. Maslarska, PhD is. The total impact factor of the submitted publications of the candidate, Dr. Maslarska, PhD is respectively: IF (Web of Science) = 10.62 and SJR (Scopus) = 5.91.

V EDUCATIONAL AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Dr. Radka Maslarska has five years of experience as a lecturer. Since 1.02.2024, she has held the academic position of "Chief Assistant". The submitted study load report from "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda", Sofia certifies that for the period 1.01.2021 - 31.12.2025, she has implemented a study load with residents (in equivalent hours) in the amount of 1858 hours. She is the supervisor of 6 residents.

VI TREATMENTAL AND DIAGNOSTIC ACTIVITIES

Dr. Maslarska, PhD is an established pediatrician and neonatologist. She leads and actively participates in the treatment, diagnostic and consultative activities of the neonatology department of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda". A prerequisite for this is good theoretical preparation and mastery of all basic diagnostic and treatment methods in neonatology.

VII MEMBERSHIPS IN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Dr. Radka Tsokova Maslarska, PhD, is a member of several scientific societies and organizations: Bulgarian Association of Neonatology, Bulgarian Association of Pediatrics, Association of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Association of Premature Children and Children with Infantile Hemangioma. She participates as an expert: at the Ministry of Health - neonatology, air transport, in the consensus for the treatment of children with Infantile Hemangioma, Vaccine prophylaxis, is a member of the editorial board of the MEDICAL magazine.

Based on the scientific papers provided to me for review and analysis, I believe that Dr. Radka Maslarska, PhD meets all mandatory conditions, exceeding the minimum requirements for scientific and teaching activities for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Professional Field 7 - "Health and Sports" in Professional Field 7.1 - "Medicine" and scientific specialty "Neonatology" for the needs of the Department of Neonatal Medicine of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda", announced in the State Gazette No. 18/17.02.2026.

CONCLUSION

As a member of the Scientific Jury, I express my positive assessment and believe that Dr. Radka Tsokova Maslarska, PhD fully meets the requirements and criteria for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Neonatology" for the needs of the Department of Neonatal Medicine of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda".

05/18/2026

Assoc. Prof. Penka Petleshkova, PhD

