

## **Opinion**

**by Prof. Dr. Dobrin Nikolov Konstantinov, PhD,  
Clinic of Children's Clinical Hematology and Oncology,  
UMBAL "Tsaritsa Joanna-ISUL", Sofia,  
external member of the Scientific Jury**

**Regarding: Competition for filling the academic position, "Associate Professor" – single position, for the needs of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD, Sofia in the field of higher education 7. 3 health and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine and scientific specialty "Pediatrics"**

### **1. DETAILS OF THE PROCEDURE**

The competition for the academic position, "Associate Professor" - single position, for the needs of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD, Sofia in the field of higher education 7.3 health and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine and scientific specialty "Pediatrics" for the needs of the Pediatric Clinic was announced in SG No. 82/14.10.2022.

By Order No. 19-843/30.11.2022, of the Executive Director and the Procurator of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD, I am designated as an external member of the Scientific Jury, and was assigned to prepare an Opinion for the above-mentioned competition at the first meeting of the Jury.

The only candidate in the competition, the documents of one candidate - Dr. Kalin Yordanov Lisichki, Ph.D. .m.

### **2. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA OF THE CANDIDATE**

Dr. Kalin Yordanov Lisichki, PhD graduated with a master's degree in medicine in 1984 at the Medical University, Sofia. In 1991, he obtained a specialty in "Pediatric Diseases", and since 1997 he has been a specialist in "Pediatric Rheumatology".

In the period 1984-1987, he was a doctor in the Children's Department of the Regional Hospital, Dupnitsa. From 1987 to 2007, he was successively an assistant, senior and chief assistant in the Pediatric Rheumatology Clinic at the "Ivan Mitev" Medical Center, Sofia. From 2007, until the date of this competition, he worked at the Pediatric Clinic, Tokuda-Adjabadem Medical Center, Sofia, and since 2014 he has been the head of the same clinic.

In 2022, after defending a thesis, he was awarded the Educational and Scientific Degree "Doctor" (PhD).

He specialized in a qualification program in rheumatology in France (TEMPUS 1997).

Dr. Lisichki holds certificates in Abdominal Ultrasound (since 2002) and in Health Management (since 2001). He is a member of Bulgarian and international professional organizations in pediatrics and pediatric rheumatology.

According to the official record of work experience, Dr. Lisichki has more than 38 years as a doctor.

### **3. ASSESSMENT OF THE QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE INDICATORS OF THE CANDIDATE**

Dr. Kalin Lisichki presents a complete set of the documents according to the Regulations for the conditions and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at UMBAL "Tokuda", Sofia.

In the current competition, Dr. Lisichki participated with a dissertation work and with 52 publications in Bulgarian and foreign scientific publications. Nineteen scientific reports with published abstracts at specialized forums are also presented. Of the publications, 4 are placed in collective monographs. Thirty-one were published in refereed and indexed scientific journals in Bulgarian and two in foreign languages. Thirteen publications in Bulgarian and two in a foreign language have been published in non-refereed scientific journals. The candidate is a single or first author in most of presented scientific works.

According to a reference from the Central Medical Library, MU Sofia, 41 citations have been confirmed - 23 in Bulgarian publications and 18 in foreign ones. In Scopus and Web of Science databases, citations abroad are, respectively, 15 and 3.

The table below presents the Minimum National Requirements adopted by "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD and relevant data of the applicant.

<b>Group of Indicators</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Associate professor required</b>	<b>Associate professor available</b>
A	Indicator 1	50	<b>50</b>
B	NA	-	-
C	Indicators 3 and 4	100	<b>149</b>
D	Sum of indicators from 5 to 9	200	<b>339</b>
E	Sum of indicators from 10 to 12	50	<b>85</b>

F	NA	-	-
<b>Minimum total number of points</b>	<b>Scientific activity</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>623</b>

The comparison of Dr. Lisichki's personal indicators with the national and the hospital scientometric criteria for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" shows full coverage and even exceeding in a number of categories the minimum indicators.

#### 4. MAIN SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

In summary, Dr. Lisichki's scientific output is closely related to his activities in the field of pediatric rheumatology and general pediatrics. The main areas in which the candidate shows a marked interest and has targeted developments are:

- **Macrophage activation syndrome.** In the scientific production of the candidate, this direction is a major topic and a main theme in the successfully defended thesis for the acquisition of the Doctorate. Dr. Lisichki goes into depth, by means of a multifaceted approach in the analysis of the clinical-laboratory characteristics, the diagnosis and the therapeutic behaviour of the still incompletely clarified, but with particular relevance syndrome. The author's scientific and applied contributions are innovative and have the potential for further development and enrichment.

- **Arthritis and spondyloarthritis.** Dr. Lisichki's long-term work in the field of pediatric rheumatology has built him a particularly pronounced scientific interest in disease affected joint apparatus in children. These searches of his have been materialized in large-scale investigations for Bulgaria, such as a study of HLA-antigen affiliation in children with juvenile chronic arthritis, studies in patients with Reiter's syndrome and with isolated enthesiopathy. Dr. Lisichki also publishes descriptions with high practical value of rare forms of arthritis, cases with juvenile ankylosing spondyloarthritis and others.

- **Systemic connective tissue diseases and vasculitis.** The desire to describe and analyze rare clinical manifestations from practice allows the candidate to develop various topics in systemic lupus erythematosus, Kawasaki disease, and scleroderma in children

- **Varia.** Dr. Lisichki has considerable accumulated experience as a pediatrician and a taste for a thorough description of general pediatric topics, realized in a variety of publications in areas such as: therapeutic algorithms for COVID-19 disease in

childhood; vaccines and rheumatic diseases. Dr. Lisichki shares his experience as a doctor, but also as a teacher, in published texts of basic teaching aids for pediatricians and medical students.

## **5. EDUCATIONAL AND TEACHING ACTIVITY**

In terms of direct involvement in teaching activities, Dr. Lisichki is an honorary assistant at the Medical Faculty SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". Documentary reference from ASK UMBAL Tokuda EAD for realized 1520 equivalent hours with interns in the period 01.01.2018 – 30.11.2022 is presented. Dr. Lisicki has gained considerable teaching experience during his residency as an assistant at the Department of Pediatrics at MU-Sofia (1987 - 2007).

## **CONCLUSION**

Dr. Kalin Lisichki, PhD, the only candidate in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor", is a highly qualified pediatrician with many years of experience, an established specialist in pediatric rheumatology, a teacher with considerable experience in the fields of pediatrics and rheumatology. The candidate's scientific production proves his diverse interests and contains high scientific and practical value.

The candidate fully meets the requirements of the The Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" JSC for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor".

**Bearing in mind the above, I strongly recommend to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to vote with a positive vote for the election of Dr. Kalin Yordanov Lisichki, PhD for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Pediatrics" for the needs of the Pediatrics Clinic of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD.**

Sofia, 30 Jan 2023.

Signature: 