

# STANDPOINT

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I am appointed as a MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY, ACCORDING TO ORDER No. 19-843 /30.11.22y, on the basis of art. 4, para. 2 and art. 29a of the ZRASRB art. 2, para. 2, art. 62, para. 1 and para. 2 of PPZRASRB, art. 61 of the Regulations for the development of the academic staff in "Ajibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD and Decision of the Scientific Council (Protocol No. 44/24-11.2022)

Regarding: Competition for the academic position of "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1 medicine, announced in SG no. 82/14.10.2022

All tender documents are submitted according to the requirements of the regulations, with the necessary supporting material.

Dr. Kalin Yordanov Lisichki, PhD, is the only participant in the competition.

He has a total of 72 scientific works: one dissertation work for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", 52 scientific publications (48+4 participation as an independent author in collective monographs) and 19 scientific communications.

He speaks French and Russian language level B2 and English language level A2.

Research activity

Publications

Dr. Kalin Lisicki has published a total of 48 publications - 31 in national plus 2 in international journals, all referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information. Thirteen of the publications are in non-refereed Bulgarian journals and 2 in non-refereed international journals. He has four contributions as an independent author in collective monographs. First author is in 33% of all publications, second author in 19%, third and subsequent author in 35%.

Scientific forums

Dr. Lisicki has participated in 19 scientific forums-congresses and conferences. 18 (95%) of them in the presented reports are the first or only author.

## Quotes/

In the official reference of the CMB, 41 citations were found in the publications of Dr. Lisicki - 23 in Bulgarian sources, 18 - in foreign sources: Scopus (Elsevier) - 15 and Web of Science (Clarivate) - 3.

The calculated h-index is 2.

The number of citations is proof of the significant scientific value of the publications.

## Postgraduate publications

Dr. Lisicki has presented 12 habilitation articles, which are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information.

The habilitation publications included in the list are a major contribution to modern pediatric rheumatology in terms of relevance and presentation of the candidate's clinical experience.

Evaluation of Dr. Lisicki's scientific works for his overall academic development:

Dr. Kalin Lisicki has presented an extended report of his scientific research activity in accordance with the requirements of "Ajibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda EAD" - Sofia, in which his personal contributions are described.

The scientific research activity is structured in four sections dedicated to the most current problems in children's rheumatology and pediatrics:

### I. Macrophage activation syndrome

### II. Arthritis and spondyloarthritis

### III. Systemic connective tissue diseases and vasculitis

### IV. Varia

I. Macrophage activation syndrome in childhood (SMA) – analysis of clinical and laboratory changes, assessment of the diagnostic approach and therapeutic effectiveness" is the topic of Dr. Lisicki's doctoral studies. The presented work is the first systematic analysis in our country of patients with this disease. For the first time in Bulgaria, a description and summary of data on patients diagnosed with the disease in childhood was carried out; data on the age and gender distribution are presented and the provoking factors, clinical manifestations, laboratory changes and their significance are established;

For the first time in our country, biological therapy with anti-IL-1 receptor antagonists was applied, and its good effect was analyzed. The publication dedicated to cases with

allergy to corticosteroids in the treatment of SME, which is rarely differentiated in practice, deserves special attention.(25)

## II. Arthritis and spondyloarthritis

Six of the habilitation-presented publications were devoted to juvenile chronic arthritis (JHA) (according to the classification when the study was conducted). They cover studies in large numbers of patients. These are: 1. Genetic studies on 148 Bulgarians children with JUHA/UAS. After statistical analysis, it was established that predisposing factors for the development of juvenile chronic arthritis are the carrier of HLA antigens DR4, B27, and (CREG – B7, B22, B40) and B18 (42). The recommendation for practice is that the carrier of CREG antigens can be used as an additional diagnostic criterion for JAS(18).

2. Dr. Lisicki published the first study of 17 children (16 boys and 1 girl) with JAS(14). It is worth noting that the carrier of HLA B27 occurs in 9.2% of the population and the indicators male gender and HLA B27 are highly sensitive, but poorly specific.

3. Clinical studies have been published in 39 children with Reiter's syndrome (37) and 24 with isolated enthesopathy (17). Recommendations are given to monitor patients due to the risk of evolution to a disease from the group of spondyloarthropathies.

4. Studies of interleukin-6 in the serum of children with JHA have been performed (40).

## III. Systemic connective tissue diseases and vasculitis

In the habilitation presented articles, extremely thorough analyzes were made on the topic of Autoimmune thyroiditis in JUHA and SLE (41) and Drug-induced lupus (MIL) in treatment with thyrostatics. The described cases of MIL are indicative with the conclusion that when these patients do not respond to GCS therapy, surgical treatment is needed - thyroidectomy and replacement therapy (2-9). Protein-losing enteropathy (PGE) was the subject of habilitation publications in extraintestinal diseases (33), later also in SLE (11)

Two articles reviewed the localized (12 children) and linear forms of scleroderma (10 children) (34, 36). The main recommendation for practice is that scleroderma is not just a dermatological problem and children should be promptly referred to a rheumatologist.

## IV. Varia

Dr. Lisicki is a clinician with many years of experience and the cases described by him are many and on different topics from pediatrics and pediatric rheumatology. In the last two years, the topic of COVID-19 has been particularly relevant and Dr. Lisicki has had a significant authorial presence in it. In his scientific and media appearances, he covers

the most important issues of the childhood pandemic, such as the problem of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) - a late manifestation of COVID-19 (2) and the therapeutic algorithm for the treatment of COVID-19 in childhood depending on the severity of the disease (8). In two habilitation presented articles, cases of benign acute childhood myositis (BADM) - with enterovirus etiology and extreme rhabdomyolysis (5-23) and with proven SARS COV 2 infection (30) are described.

Of particular interest is the publication with guidelines for immunizations in children with rheumatic diseases (RH) (28). The decision to vaccinate is difficult for doctors, given the autoimmune pathogenesis of the diseases, the ongoing immunosuppressive therapy and the fear of exacerbation of the disease.

#### Teaching and learning activity

Dr. Kalin Lisicki has many years of teaching experience. Until 2007, he was an assistant, successively junior, senior and head in the Department of Pediatrics, MF, MU-Sofia. After moving to UMBAL Tokuda", he was elected Head of Pediatrics Clinic of "Ajibadem City Clinic". As the head of the Clinic, he organizes study visits and lectures every day and thus participates in the teaching of medical students and interns, pediatric rheumatology specialists, pediatric specialists and general practitioners. For the period 2018/2022, there is a total study load with specialists totaling 1520 hours.

#### Therapeutic and diagnostic activity

Dr. Kalin Lisicki is a clinician with over 30 years of experience in the field of pediatrics and pediatric rheumatology. He is a long-established and recognized clinician with great experience, which is also evident in his scientific activity. Works thoroughly, precisely and in detail, with a very good knowledge of clinical and organizational issues. A sought-after specialist by patients and colleagues for consultations in difficult clinical cases. He is an authority and support of his team, who appreciates the qualities of his clinic leader, who knows how to organize them for teamwork.

Dr. Kalin Lisicki fulfills and exceeds the minimum requirements for the scientific activity for holding the academic position "Associate Professor", in accordance with the Report on compliance with the minimum national criteria for holding the academic position "Associate Professor".

Dr. Kalin Lisicki is a well-established pediatrician-rheumatologist and teacher, who has proven himself in his practice. He is a colleague with high morals, diligence, responsibility and collegiality. In his medical and scientific activity, he has a keen sense of the innovations in medicine and the differentiation of complex diseases. His general medical culture and knowledge are at an enviable level. He is highly valued and

respected by his team.

In conclusion: Dr. Kalin Lisicki fully meets all the mandatory conditions, even exceeding the minimum requirements for scientific and teaching activities for holding the academic position "associate professor" indicated in Table 1. Minimum required points by groups of indicators for the various scientific degrees and academic positions for Area 7. Health care and sports, Professional direction 7. 1. Medicine

. On the basis of the above, I strongly recommend to the Members of the Scientific Jury to award Dr. Kalin Yordanov Lisichki d.m., the academic position "associate professor", in District 7. Health Care and Sports, Professional Direction 7. 1. Medicine, Scientific Specialty Pediatrics, for the needs of the Pediatric Clinic of "Ajibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD.

31.01.2023  
Demerdzhieva, PhD

Prepared Standpoint: Prof. Dr. Zdravka

