

## OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Kiril Vasilev Draganov, DSc.,  
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ASK UMBAL Tokuda EAD

*Regarding: Conducting a competition for the occupation of an academic position "Associate Professor" in the Higher Education Field 7. "Health and Sports", Professional Direction 7.1. "Medicine", Scientific specialty "Obstetrics and gynecology" for the needs of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinic, "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD, announced in the State Gazette No. 98/24.11.2023.*

### 1. Comments on the procedure

By order No. 15-05-09#2/30.01.2024 of the Executive Director and Procurator of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD and on the basis of the current legal framework in the country (Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Scientific Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria at "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" and Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda"), as well as on the basis by Decision of the Scientific Council (protocol No. 49/01.11.2023) I have been appointed as an internal member of the Scientific Jury for the above-mentioned competition for employment at academic position "Associate Professor".

For participation in the document competition, a more distant candidate - Dr. Maria Gicheva Atanasova - Elenkova, PhD.

The applicant's documents have been reviewed by a committee that has determined that they meet the conditions, resp. Dr. Atanasova was admitted to participate in the competition.

At the first absent meeting of the scientific jury and on the basis of Article 56 (Section III) of the "Regulations for the development of the academic staff at "ASK UMBAL Tokuda" EAD, I was appointed to prepare an opinion.

I received a complete set of documents in electronic and paper format by the established official route and on time.

The procedure for conducting the competition up to now and the deadlines, the materials provided to me by the candidate Dr. Maria Gicheva Atanasova – Elenkova, PhD, as well as the opinion prepared by me are fully in accordance with the requirements of the aforementioned regulatory framework.

### 2. Brief professional and biographical data for the candidate

Dr. Maria Gicheva Atanasova - Elenkova, PhD graduated in medicine from the Medical University - Sofia in 2004 with "Golden Hippocrates". He specializes in obstetrics and gynecology at SBALAG "Mother's House" - Sofia. He acquired a specialty in obstetrics and gynecology in 2009. In the period 2010-2018, he was an assistant in obstetrics and gynecology at the the Sofia Medical University. In 2009, she was enrolled as a full-time doctoral student at the Department of OG, SBALAG "Mother's House" - Sofia. The dissertation work she developed was successfully defended in 2014, with which Dr. Atanasova

acquired the PhD. She holds a master's degree in public health and health management (FOS of the MU - Sofia, 2012-2014). From 2018 to 2021, she was an assistant in health care at the Medical Center of the Medical University of Sofia. She has been working at the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinic, "ASK UMBAL Tokuda" since 2018.

### **3. Publication activity. Citations and impact factor. Fields of scientific research activity. Contributions.**

Dr. Maria Atanasova, PhD, is the author of a dissertation work for the acquisition of the PhD on the topic: "Management of epidural anesthetized childbirth".

In addition, the applicant participates in the current competition with a list of 35 written scientific works (full-text publications and printed abstracts of reports presented at national and international scientific forums). One of them is co-authorship in a textbook chapter: "Fetal medicine and prenatal diagnosis. Possibilities for prenatal treatment of the fetus" (Eds. B. Slancheva, M. Krasteva, R. Georgieva, Hr. Mumdzhev. Publish. "Lax book" ECOD . 2018.). The remaining scientific output of Dr. Atanasova can be classified as follows:

- ✓ total number of publications in full text in Bulgarian publications - 24, of which the first author is in 12, second author - in 7, third and subsequent author - in 5;
- ✓ publications in foreign editions in full text - 2, of which 1 is second and 1 third and subsequent author;
- ✓ published abstracts from scientific forums - 9 (3 in Bulgarian and 6 in foreign editions), as the first, second, third and subsequent author Dr. Atanasova is respectively in 1, 3 and 5 of the works.

Of all the candidate's publications, 25 are in refereed publications and 8 are in impact factor journals.

A total of 35 citations in Bulgarian and foreign journals were searched in the databases Scopus, Web of Knowledge, and Google Scholar.

The total IF of the journals in which both full-text articles and report abstracts were published was 15,378.

Dr. Maria Atanasova's research interests are mainly in the field of obstetrics and pregnancy pathology. In particular, studies on high-risk pregnancy, operative obstetrics, labor analgesia, fetal medicine, diabetes mellitus and pregnancy, rare diagnoses and others (eg stem cells) can be mentioned.

Dr. Atanasova participated as a researcher in 2 scientific projects.

### **4. Teaching activity**

Dr. Maria Atanasova-Elenkova, PhD was an assistant in obstetrics and gynecology at the Medical University for 8 years (0.25 staff) and for an additional 3 years she was an assistant at the Health Department of the Sofia University (0.5 staff). According to a certificate issued by "ASK UMBAL Tokuda" EAD (ex. No. 19-666/04.12.2023), Dr. Atanasova has completed a study load of 1079 equivalent hours for the period 2018-2023.

### **5. Originality and authenticity of the tender documents. Fulfillment of the minimum national criteria for holding academic position Associate Professor.**

The candidate in the current competition has submitted and signed a declaration certifying that the results and contributions in her scientific production are original, not plagiarized, and that all the documentation provided corresponds to the objective truth.

The reports on the compliance of the scientometric indicators with the minimum national criteria for filling "Associate Professor" show that Dr. Maria Atanasova, PhD, has a total of 953.17 points, which many times exceeds the set requirements for filling the position.

## 6. Conclusion

After a thorough examination and analysis of the evidentiary materials provided to me in my capacity as a member of the scientific jury, I found no evidence of plagiarism and repetition.

I believe that Dr. Maria Atanasova-Elenkova, PhD, possesses high qualities as a doctor, scientist and teacher to be employed by academic position "Associate Professor". This is also confirmed by the fact that the candidate meets the minimum national criteria for holding this position.

This gives me the reason to recommend to the members of the honorable scientific jury to award academic professor "Associate Professor" to Dr. Maria Gicheva Atanasova - Elenkova, PhD, for which I am convinced to vote "Yes".

Prepared the opinion: .....

  
/prof. Dr. Kiril Draganov DSc/

15.02.2024