

**To the Chair of the Scientific Jury,
appointed by order No 19-843 /30.11.22
of the Executive Director and the Prosecutor
of "Ajibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda" EAD.**

REVIEW

By Assoc. Prof. Albena Lyubenova Telcharova-Mihaylovska, MD
Department of Paediatrics, Medical Faculty of Medical University- Sofia
External member for "Ajibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda "EAD
Tel. 0888 511 440 , e-mail- albenatm@gmail.com

MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY, following ORDER No. 19-843 /30.11.22d, based on Article 4, paragraph 2 and Article 29a of the Law on Research and Development, Article 2, paragraph 2, Article 62, paragraph 1 and paragraph 2 of the Law on Research and Development, Article 61 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at "Ajibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital" EAD and the Decision of the Scientific Council (Protocol №44/24-11.2022)

Subject. Health and Sport, professional field 7.1 Medicine, announced in Official Gazette No. 82/14.10.2022.

All competition documents have been submitted following the requirements of the Rules, with the necessary supporting evidence.

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

Biographical data and professional development

Dr Kalin Yordanov Lisicki was born on 11.10.1958 in Sofia. " He graduated from the Frederic Joliot-Curie Secondary School in 1976 and with excellent grades from Medical University, Sofia, in 1984. From 1984 to 1987, he was professionally engaged as a paediatrician at the Regional Hospital - in Sofia. After that, he worked as a paediatrician in Dupnitsa town from 1986 to 1987. After winning a competition in 1987, he was appointed assistant professor at the Pediatric Rheumatology department at the University Children's Hospital. Since then, he has been actively involved in clinical, scientific and teaching duties until he left the hospital in 2007. Dr Lisicki got a speciality in paediatrics in 1991, and six years later, in 1997, he got a diploma in paediatric rheumatology. He was one of the first specialists in a just-created subspecialty. The same year, he spent his specialization in France under the TEMPUS programme (1997). Dr Lisicki has professional skills in joint ultrasonography, joint diagnostic aspirations and intraarticular drug applications.

From 2007 to 2014, he was appointed a doctor at Tokuda Hospital, Pediatrics Clinic. Furthermore, in 2014, he was elected the Head of Pediatrics at the same hospital. He has been in this position until the present.

, He defended his doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Medicine, University, "St. Kliment Ohridski, in September 2022" and obtained the scientific and educational degree "PhD". His thesis topic was "Macrophage activation syndrome in childhood - analysis of clinical and laboratory changes, evaluation of the diagnostic approach and therapeutic effectiveness".

Dr Lisichki is a member of the European League Against Rheumatism, the Organisation for International Studies in Paediatric Rheumatology, the European Society of Paediatric Rheumatology, the Bulgarian Paediatric Association and the Bulgarian Society of Rheumatology.

Dr Lisichki holds a Certificate in Health management (2001) and a Certificate in abdominal ultrasonography (2002).

Dr Lisichki has a total of 72 scientific research: one PhD thesis, 52 publications (48 publications +4 contributions as a single author in collective monographs) and 19 participations in Scientific forums.

He is fluent in French and Russian at the B2 level and in English at the A2 level.

Research activity

Publications

Dr Kalin Lisichki has a total of 48 publications- 31 in national journals plus 2 in international ones, all refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information. Thirteen publications are in non-refereed Bulgarian journals, and 2 in non-refereed international journals. In addition, he has four contributions as a single author in collective monographs. He is the first author in 33% of all publications, the second author in 19%, and 35% the third and subsequent author.

Scientific forums

Dr Lisichki has participated in 19 scientific forums-congresses and conferences. In 18 (95%) of these, he was the first or the only author in the papers presented.

Citations/cited by

In the official reference of the Central Medical Library in Dr Lisichki's publications, 41 citations were found - 23 in Bulgarian sources, 18 - in foreign sources: in Scopus (Elsevier) - 15 and in Web of Science (Clarivate) - 3. Therefore, the calculated h-index is 2.

The numerous citations are proof of the significant scientific value of the publications.

Habilitation publications

Dr Lisichki has submitted 12 habilitation publications that have been referred to and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information.

The listed publications significantly contribute to contemporary pediatric rheumatology in relevance and presentation of the candidate's clinical experience.

An evaluation of Dr Lisichki's scientific publications for his overall academic development:

Dr Kalin Lisicky has submitted an extended summary of his research activities following the requirements of the Adjibadem City Clinic of Tokuda University Hospital - Sofia, in which he describes his contributions.

The research activity is described in four sections dedicated to the most topical issues in paediatric rheumatology and paediatrics:

I. Macrophage activation syndrome

II. Arthritis and spondyloarthritis

III. Systemic connective tissue diseases and vasculitis

IV. Varia

" I. Macrophage activation syndrome (MAS) in children - analysis of clinical and laboratory values, evaluation of the diagnostic approach and therapeutic effectiveness" is the topic of Dr Lisichki's PhD thesis. This is , the first systematic analysis of children with MAS in Bulgaria. For the first time, a description and summary of patients' data are performed; data on their age and sex distribution are presented, and the provoking factors, clinical manifestations, laboratory changes and their significance are identified. Analyzing changes in ferritin values in MAS and non-MAS patients is essential for using the ferritin/ESR ratio as a rapid and effective method for differentiating MAS/non-MAS patients. It is very effective for the early diagnosis of subclinical MAS aswell. Furthermore, this scientific work compares the effectiveness of the therapeutic regimens used in MAS. It was the first time in Bulgaria therapy with anti-IL-1-receptor antagonists was introduced , and its beneficiaries analyzed. Of particular note is the publication of cases with corticosteroid allergy in the course of treatment of MAS, a paradoxical manifestation that is rarely recognized in practice (25).

The scientific publications on MAS show the maturity of an outstanding clinical doctor who explores and contributes his experience. In addition, he gives expertise on a challenging condition with multisystem manifestations and the needs of a fast and accurate treatment.

II. Arthritis and spondyloarthritis

Six of the habilitation publications are devoted to juvenile chronic arthritis (JCA) (according to the classification when the study was conducted). They cover studies on a large number of patients. Such papers are 1. Genetic studies in 148 Bulgarian children with JCA/JAS. After statistical analysis, it was found that predisposing factors for developing juvenile chronic arthritis were the carriage of the HLA antigens DR4, B27, and (CREG - B7, B22, B40) and B18 (42). Therefore, the recommendation is that CREG antigen carriage can be used as an additional diagnostic criterion ma JAS (18).

2. Dr Lisichki published the first study of 17 children (16 boys and one girl) with Juvenile Ankylosing Spondylitis (JAS) (14). He pointed out emphatically that the carriage of HLA B27 occurs in 9.2% of the population, and the indicators of male sex and HLA B27 are highly sensitive but poorly specific.

3. Clinical studies have been conducted and published in 39 children with Reiter's syndrome (37) and 24 with isolated enthesopathy (17)., There are recommendations for following the patients for progressing to spondyloarthropathy.

4. Serum interleukin-6 studies have been performed in children with JCA (40).

5. The clinical features of rare forms of arthritis have also been published. Seventeen children with Rubella-associated arthritis (35), Cases of Poststreptococcal reactive arthritis (15), of Arthritis in Coxsackievirus infection (12), and a Case of a child with Common Variable Immunodeficiency Arthritis have been described. These publications represent an analysis of less common conditions for which is a lack of information in the periodicals and are a reason for diagnostic and therapeutic difficulties.

III. Systemic connective tissue diseases and vasculitis

The habilitation papers have valuable conclusions. They report studies on autoimmune thyroiditis in JCA, SLE (10-41) and Medication-Induced Lupus (MIL) on thyrostatic treatment. The MIL's described cases indicate that when these patients do not respond to GCS and surgical treatment as thyroidectomy and substitution therapy are necessary (2-9). Protein-losing enteropathy (PLE) has been a subject of habilitation publications in extrahepatic diseases (8-33) and later in SLE(11). The conditions described are rare and uncommon complications of SLE; therefore, the findings are valuable for rheumatology practice.

The topic of Kawasaki disease (KD) is an essential part of Dr Lisichki's research interest, challenged by his practice. He participated with his patients in a study of 52 children -complete and incomplete KD forms diagnosed in the acute and subacute phases of the disease. He described an atypical case of chronic arthritis in KD and a rare case of KD in a three-month-old infant. The child was in a diagnostic dilemma because of the incomplete clinical presentation that is typical of that age group. The conclusions drawn are very instructive for general pediatric practice. In another two articles, the exciting topic of Scleroderma (Scl) is reviewed. The localized Scl form in 12 children and the linear Scl form in 10 children were presented (34, 36). The main recommendation for practice is that scleroderma is not just a dermatological problem; children should be promptly referred to a rheumatologist.

IV. Varia

Dr Lisichki is a clinician with many years of experience, and the interesting cases he has described are many and on a variety of topics in paediatrics and pediatric rheumatology. In the last two years, COVID-19 has been mainly on topic, and here Dr Lisichki has a significant authorial presence. His publication activity concerning COVID-19 is the reason for his presentation in the media-TV and radio programmes. In his scientific and media appearances, he reflects on the most relevant issues of the pandemic and children's health. Such a problem is the Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), a late manifestation of COVID-19 (2); Another problem is the treatment of acute COVID-19 children. Dr Lisichki announced a therapeutic protocol - an algorithm for treating COVID-19 in childhood depending on the severity of the disease (8). Later in his papers, two of the listed habilitation articles describe benign acute childhood myositis cases. The one combined with extreme rhabdomyolysis was provoked by enteroviral infection (5-23), and the other by SARS- COV 2 infection (30). Of particular relevance is the publication of guidelines for immunizations in children with rheumatic diseases (RD) (28). The decision to vaccinate a child with a rheumatological problem is always difficult because of the autoimmune disease, the immunosuppressive therapy, and the fear of disease exacerbation.

Other publications:

Dr Lisichki has published and lectured on "Fever of unknown origin in children ", in which he presents the complex diagnostic problem Fever without any focus of infection. Algorithms for management are essential for practice. The publication on Autoinflammatory diseases through the eyes of the paediatric gastroenterologist is exciting and serves paediatric rheumatologists and gastroenterologists.

The clinical practice was a challenge to Dr Lisichki to diagnose rare diseases through the years., He presents his experience to the pediatric community. Such publications are Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada disease (6), Mucha-Habermann disease with the clinical contribution of describing two patients (19), Primary septic myositis- with the clinical contribution of describing one patient, Amyopathic dermatomyositis-diagnostic and therapeutic problems (20).

Teaching and learning activities

Dr Kalin Lisichki has many years of teaching experience. Until 2007 he was an assistant professor - consecutively junior, senior and chief assistant professor at the Department of Pediatrics, Medical University of Sofia. After his transfer to Tokuda University Hospital in 2013, he was appointed Head of the Pediatrics Clinic. As a Head of the Clinic, he organizes daily teaching rounds and lectures. He lectures medical students, trainees, pediatric rheumatology fellows, pediatric specialists, and general practitioners. For 2018/2022, he has total of 1520 teaching hours with pediatric rheumatology fellows. Dr Lisichki's lectures and teaching rounds are met with interest as he always manages to present up-to-date information on the topics discussed.

Treatment and diagnostic activity

Dr Kalin Lisichki is a doctor with over 30 years of experience in paediatrics and pediatric rheumatology. He is an established and recognized clinician with a lot of experience, which is also evident in his scientific work. His routine is thorough, precise and detailed, combined with perfect knowledge of clinical and organizational skills. He is sought after by patients and colleagues for advice on complex clinical cases. In addition, he is an authority and support to his team.

Summary

Reference for compliance with the minimum national criteria for the academic position of Associate Professor, according to Table 1. Minimum points required for the different degrees and academic positions for Area 7. Health and Sport, Professional field 7. 1. Medicine

Indicator groups provided	Required number of points	Number of points based on evidence
Group A	50	50
Group B	Not applicable indicator	
Group C		
Habilitation thesis 10 articles	100	149
Group D	200	339
Total number of articles	25	48
Group E	50	85

Citations in foreign databases	18
Citations In Bulgarian journals	23
Group F	Specified as Not applicable indicator

Dr Kalin Lisichki meets and exceeds the minimum requirements for scientific research for holding the academic position of Associate Professor, according to the Reference for compliance with the minimum national criteria for the academic position of Associate Professor.

Dr Kalin Lisichki is an established pediatric rheumatologist, tutor and lecturer in paediatrics, proven in his practice. He is a hard-working colleague with high morals, responsibility and collegiality. In his medical and scientific activity, he has a remarkable attitude for new topics in medicine and differentiation of complex diseases. He has profound general paediatric skills and knowledge. Dr Lisichki is an authority in paediatrics with many media appearances on the most vulnerable pediatric and organizational issues. He is highly valued and loved by his team, who trust him.

In conclusion, Dr Kalin Lisichki meets all the mandatory conditions, exceeding the minimum requirements for research and teaching activities for the academic position of Associate professor listed in Table 1. The Minimum points required by groups of indicators for different scientific degrees and academic positions for Area 7. Health and Sport, Professional field 7. 1. Medicine

Based on the above, I recommend the Members of the Scientific Jury, appointed by Order No. 19-843 /30.11.22 of the Executive Director and the Provost of "Ajibadem City Clinic of Tokuda University Hospital" EAD to award to **Dr. Kalin Yordanov Lisichki PhD, the academic position of "Associate Professor"**, in Area 7. Health and Sport, Professional Field 7. 1. Medicine, Scientific specialty Pediatrics, for the needs of the Pediatrics Clinic of "Ajibadem City Clinic of Tokuda University Hospital" EAD.

29.01.2023 r.

Reviewer

Assoc. Prof. Albena Lyubanova Telcharova-Mihaylovska MD

