

STATEMENT

By Prof. Dr. Milena Staneva Staneva, PhD
Head of the Angiology Clinic, Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda

Subject: Competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field, 7.1 Medicine, in the scientific specialty "Cardiology" for the needs of the Cardiology Clinic of Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda, published in the "Official Gazette" No. 85/14.10.2025

By order No. 15-05-259#1/15.12.2025 of the Executive Director and the Procurator of Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda, I have been appointed as an internal member of the Scientific Jury. At the first absentee meeting, I have been appointed to present a statement. The opinion was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda. The procedure is carried out in accordance with the above-mentioned regulatory framework.

Only one candidate submitted documents for participation in the competition - Dr. Ivayla Zhivkova Zheleva-Kyuchukova, PhD.

I declare that I have no conflict of interest and I do not establish any evidence of plagiarism

1. Candidate's professional data

Dr. Ivayla Zheleva graduated from the Medical University of Sofia in 1999. In 2009, she specialized in Internal Medicine, and in 2012, in Cardiology. She obtained a certificate in Invasive Cardiology in 2010, and since 2020, she has a Master's degree in "Health Management" from the FPH, MU of Sofia, Bulgaria.

In 2021, Dr. Zheleva obtained the educational and scientific degree "PhD" after successfully defending her dissertation on the topic "Interventional treatment in patients with bulging stenosis and accompanying complex coronary pathology".

The candidate has worked successively as a doctor in the Cardiology Clinic of the University Hospital "St. Ekaterina" Sofia (1999-09.2009), in the Department of Invasive Cardiology of the UMHAT "N.I. Pirogov" (10.2009 - 02.2013), and since 02.2013 - in the Cardiology Clinic of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda". She has been a part-time lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" since the academic year 2019/2020 and continues.

2. Evaluation of the quantitative and qualitative indicators of the candidate

Dr. Zheleva participated in the competition with a **total of 94 scientific works**: 1 dissertation for the educational and scientific degree "PhD", **40 scientific articles** in peer-reviewed scientific journals and 53 participations in scientific forums. 16 scientific articles have been published in scientific journals indexed in Scopus / Web of Science, of which 6 are with IF, 23 in Bulgarian journals from the National Research Council and 1 - an international non-indexed journal with scientific review. She is first author in 27.5% of the publications, and second author - in 35%. The analysis of the author's participation shows that in almost 2/3 of the publications the candidate is an independent, first or second author, which testifies to a leading role in scientific research. Scientific activity is represented by 53

scientific reports and communications, of which 15 have printed summaries (5 at international and 10 at national scientific forums), and as a lecturer has been invited to 5 congresses.

A reference from the CML is presented for a **total of 31 registered citations**, of which Scopus and Web of Knowledge - 7, Bulgarian - 18 and other foreign sources - 6. The **total impact factor** of Dr. Zheleva's scientific works is **60.483**, and the **individual - 22.7372**. H-index (Scopus) - 2.

In the table for compliance with the minimum national criteria (NACID), Dr. Zheleva has presented 805.27 points with a minimum required score of 400 points. *This shows that the candidate not only covers the minimum required points of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda" for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor", but for most indicators significantly exceeds them.*

3. Main scientific contributions

The scientific output of Dr. Zheleva is diverse and of original character and high value. A number of significant cardiovascular diseases, their therapy, diagnostics and prophylaxis have been studied, which have proven scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied contributions. The main directions are:

1) Percutaneous interventions in main stenosis. The various aspects of the indications and indications for interventional treatment of the main left coronary artery have been examined, as well as the techniques for achieving optimal results. Clinical, anatomical and procedural predictors of major adverse cardiovascular events have been analyzed. An algorithm for interventional behavior in complex coronary lesions, including Syntax Score ≥ 32 (1,2,27,28,31) has been developed and tested.

2) Complex coronary interventions. Scientific publications have addressed the problems of treating high-risk patients with complex lesions of the coronary arteries. (11,26);

3) Chronic coronary occlusions. (25, 32)

4) Others: Publications related to personal experience in endovascular treatment of lesions of the upper and lower extremities (34,36), of aortic arch vessels (40), in life-threatening conditions in urology (5), contrast-induced nephropathy (6) and contrast-induced encephalopathy (7). Issues of modern treatment of acute coronary syndrome (17,20,33,35), chronic coronary syndrome (21), heart failure (16,23,24.), arterial hypertension (18,19,29), dyslipidemia (15,22), current drug therapy for various heart diseases (3,8,9) are considered.

4. Teaching and learning activities

Certificate No. 19-812/01.12.2025, issued by the Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda certifies a teaching workload from 01.01.2021 to 30.11.2025, a **total of 1,289 equiv. hours**, as a specialization manager for 4 cardiology residents. Since the academic year 2019/2020, Dr. Zheleva has been a part-time lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for 3rd year, 4th year and 6th year medical students in internal medicine - cardiology in Bulgarian and English. Official note No. 282/04.12.2025 from the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" MF certifies the teaching workload as a part-time lecturer at the MF of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for the period **2022-2025 is a total of 594 academic hours** of classroom employment.

5. Expert activity and scientific research

Dr. Zheleva is a member of a number of national and international scientific societies and organizations, and in some of them she holds leadership positions, which is convincing evidence of the authority she enjoys among the guild in our country. She is a member of the Bulgarian Cardiology Association; she is a member of the European Society of Cardiology; the Bulgarian Society of Invasive Cardiology, and for four consecutive terms (a total of 8 years) she was a member of the Management Board.

Dr. Zheleva is a peer reviewer of three scientific manuscripts in peer-reviewed scientific journals, including Bulgarian Cardiology and Pharmacia for the period 2023–2024.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, in the competition, Dr. Ivayla Zheleva, PhD, presents materials that fully meet the requirements of the LDASRB, the Regulations for the implementation of the LDASRB and the Regulations of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda" for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor".

Dr. I. Zheleva is a prominent physician with over 28 years of experience, with extensive clinical, scientific, and teaching experience.

In conclusion, based on the presented scientometric indicators, the overall scientific, public and teaching activities of Dr. Zheleva, I strongly recommend that the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury vote positively for the election of Dr. Ivayla Zhivkova Zheleva-Kyuchukova, PhD. for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Cardiology" for the needs of the Cardiology Clinic of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda".

05.01.2026

Prepared the statement:

City of Sofia

(Prof. Dr. Milena Staneva, PhD)



