

**SHORT REVIEW**

Вх. №. 547 / 03.10. 2019.

**By: Associate Prof. Galina Georgieva Dimitrova MD, PhD**  
**Clinic in Ophthalmology, University Alexandrovska Hospital, Sofia**  
**Medical University- Sofia**  
**External Member of a Scientific Jury**

for a competition for an academic position "Associate professor", professional field 7.1. "Medicine", ("Ophthalmology"-one) for the needs of Medical Faculty, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". The competition was published in State Gazette N 59 from 26.07.2019. There is one and only participant - **Dr. Elena Atanasova Mermeklieva – Haralanova, MD.** The review is worked out according to the Order of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Sofia – RD 38-634/31.10.2019

**Short biography and professional experience:** Dr Elena Mermeklieva graduated medicine from the Medical University – Sofia in 1997 with excellence. In 2002 she acquired specialty in ophthalmology. In 2004 she finished a program in Health management at the Medical University -Sofia. In 2018 Dr. Elena Mermeklieva acquired an academic and scientific degree "Doctor" after successful presentation of a dissertation thesis. Same year she published a monograph and a practical handbook on the topic. Dr. Mermeklieva has 20 years of practical experience in ophthalmology. From 2007 to 2019 she has been working in the Clinic of ophthalmology at the University Alexandrovska Hospital, vitreo-retinal department. In 2019 she started also practicing ophthalmology at the University Hospital "Lozenetz".

Dr. Elena Mermeklieva had numerous specializations abroad- in "Moorfield Eye Hospital- London; in New York –USA for oculo-plastics and orbital surgery; in Slovenia- for OCT, FA, lasertherapy, electrophysiology, neuro-ophthalmology, in Austria, India- for cataract surgery, in the Czech republic- for retinal diseases and in Germany- for electrophysiology. She passed overall 39 courses for post-graduate training in ophthalmology and aesthetic medicine.

Dr. Elena Mermeklieva has teaching activities in the basic course of ophthalmology for residents in the Chair of Ophthalmology, Medical University –Sofia and Medical University, Varna, Veliko Turnovo subsidiary.

She is a member of the Bulgarian Ophthalmological Society, The Union of Bulgarian ophthalmologists, Bulgarian glaucoma association, Bulgarian association of clinical



electromyography and evoke potentials. She is a member of the Federation of the syndicate in the public health services.

She is a member of the editorial college of three specialized medical international journals - "International Journal of Ophthalmology & Visual Science", "The Clinical Ophthalmologist Journal", "Diabetes and Islet Biology", as well as of one Bulgarian medical paper- „Medicart”.

Dr. Mermeklieva speaks fluent English, Greek and Russian languages.

**Scientific activity:** Besides dissertation, monograph and practical handbook, Dr. Elena Mermeklieva presents 39 publications, 6 of them in international or Bulgarian journals, referenced in worldwide databases Scopus, Web of science journals with ISI impact factor. **Total ISI impact factor of Dr. Mermeklieva is 5,943, and her personal impact factor is 5,94.** In some of the journals that are very prestigious and with a high impact factor, she is the only one author. She participated three times in international scientific forums abroad, being the first author in 2 of them and took part in 21 national congresses and conferences.

According to the data from NACID, there are 6 citations of Dr. Mermeklieva in Scopus and Web of science. The data from the Central Medical Library of the Medical University found 4 Bulgarian citations.

Her dissertation thesis "Changes in the values of the electrophysiological studies of visual analyzer in patients with diabetes mellitus" is dedicated to the evaluation of the preclinical impairment of visual pathway in patients with diabetes mellitus. The role of the electrophysiological methods for early detection of the functional changes in the visual system is revealed for the early prophylaxis of the disease complications.

The monograph "Electrophysiology of vision- basic principles and clinical application" is the only edition of this kind in Bulgarian, making detailed analysis of all electrophysiological methods used in the diagnosis of diseases of the visual pathway and their importance in ophthalmological and neuro-ophthalmological pathology. Besides, personal experience is shared through some interesting clinical case reports. It is a clinical book for specialists in ophthalmology, neurology, electrophysiology. The practical handbook "Electrophysiological methods in ophthalmological and neuro-ophthalmological practice" gives a detailed description of all electrophysiological methods and their interpretation.

The main contribution of her work is the establishment of pattern electroretinography, also a method for simultaneous registration of pattern electroretinography and visual evoked potentials; the full-field retinography.



The publications of Dr. Mermeklieva are in the fields of electrophysiology, neuro-ophthalmology, retinal diseases, trauma, inflammatory diseases and tumors of the eye and the orbit.

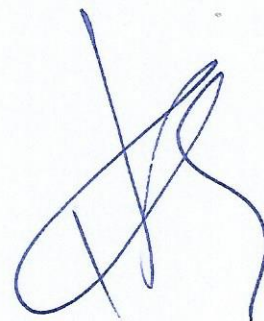
Dr. Elena Mermeklieva participated in **2 scientific projects**, with a financing by the National fund for scientific research and the Medical University-Sofia. She is a co-researcher in 7 clinical trials.

**In conclusion:** Dr. Mermeklieva is a responsible and well-trained doctor and scientist in the field of ophthalmology, electrophysiology and neuro-ophthalmology with significant contributions in the diagnostic and therapeutic methods. She has all the professional skills to meet the qualitative and quantitative criteria of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"- Sofia, to be elected "Associate Professor" for the needs of the Medical Faculty, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Sofia.

**I am giving with confidence a positive vote –“YES” for the election of Dr. Elena Atanasova Mermeklieva- Haralanova, MD, PhD for Associate professor in ophthalmology!**

04.12.2019  
Sofia

Associate Professor Galina Georgieva Dimitrova, MD, PhD

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long vertical stroke, positioned to the right of the text.