

To
Prof. Dr. Lubomir Dimitrov Spasov, MD
Chairman of the Scientific Jury,
determined by order No. RD-38-25/ 19 Jan. 2023
Rector of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"
Prof. Anastas Gerdzhikov, Dr. Habil.

In response to Protocol No. 1/05.01.2023

I present a review to the Honorable Jury
regarding the competition for the academic position " Associate Professor "
in the scientific specialty "ENT Diseases"
of the professional direction "7.1.Medicine",
announced by Sofia University (SU) "St. Kl. Ohridski" and published in State Gazette
No. 92 of 18 Nov. 2022

With only one candidate: Chief Assistant Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva, MD

R E V I E W

by Prof. Dr. Valentin Kostov Stoyanov, MD

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I. Professional development of the candidate.

Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva was born on 11 Aug. 1964. In 1988, she graduated in medicine at the Military Medical Academy - Sofia, and after graduation began working as a resident physician in the Department of Medical Parasitology of the Hygienic-Epidemiological Inspection - Blagoevgrad. On 28 Jan. 1991, after winning a competition, she was appointed as a doctor at the ENT Clinic of the National Multidisciplinary Transport Hospital - Sofia. Immediately after that, she began her specialization and in 1995 she acquired the specialty "ENT Diseases". Later, she also attended postgraduate qualification courses, mainly in the field of audiology and rhinometry. This gives her reason to show interest in scientific research by preparing a Doctoral Thesis on the topic: "Objective diagnosis of hypertrophy of the nasopharyngeal tonsil" and after a successful defense in 2014, she was awarded the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Otorhinolaryngology" from the "Medicine" professional field. In 2010, again after a competition, she was appointed as a full-time assistant in the Department of ENT Diseases of the Faculty of Medicine at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", and two years later (2016) she was elected as the Chief Assistant in the same Department and she occupies this position until now.

Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva is an accomplished specialist in otorhinolaryngology, with an excellent command of modern diagnostic methods in the specialty of Otorhinolaryngology, head and neck surgery, especially in the field of pediatric otorhinolaryngology and rhinology. She possesses the necessary theoretical, methodical and practical skills for the development of modern research activities in the field of otorhinolaryngology. Proof of this is the considerable number of scientific publications in authoritative domestic and foreign specialized medical publications presented in the documentation for the current competition for the award of the "Associate Professor" Academic Degree.

II. The documents of Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva, MD, meet the requirements of the REGULATIONS ON THE CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURE FOR ACQUIRING SCIENTIFIC DEGREES AND HOLDING ACADEMIC POSITIONS IN SU "ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI". They are very well arranged and contain sufficient evidentiary material.

III. Evaluation of scientific works:

(Overall assessment of scientific production and publication activity)

Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva participated in the competition with 54 scientific publications, 51 of which were published in scientific journals (including dissertations, abstracts and monographs) and 3 were published in full text in proceedings of scientific conferences. As can be seen from the evidence presented (reference from the Central Medical Library of the University of Sofia, ex. No. 407/14 Jul. 2022), the candidate has 14 positive citations, 13 of which are in Bulgarian sources and one - in foreign sources. In parallel, there are quite a few participations in our and international scientific forums with reports and announcements (10).

The topics represented in the candidate's scientific output are very diverse and are of legitimate interest to modern researchers.

Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva made an original contribution to the study of one of the most common diseases in children in our country - enlarged adenoid vegetations and their accompanying complications. For the first time in Bulgaria, she conducted a scientific study on the objective examination of the nasopharynx through a comparative evaluation of several methods - acoustic rhinometry, nasal endoscopy, imaging diagnostics. Again, for the first time in our country, a critical assessment of the data from an objective study of adenoid vegetations and the need for surgical treatment is made. Last but not least, I would like to point out Dr. Edreva's efforts in interpreting the acoustic rhinometry data in children with adenoid vegetations and serous otitis media (Otitis Media with Effusion).

Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva presented a considerable number of publications aimed at the problems of enlarged adenoid vegetations in children, their etiology, objective research methods and determination of indications for surgical treatment of patients (25, 31, 32, 40). One of the few studies of its kind in recent decades in our country has been presented on the relationship between acoustic rhinometry and the correct diagnosis of enlarged adenoid vegetations (14, 24, 29, 33, 38, 39).

As we mentioned above, Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva shows a certain interest in the problems of children's otorhinolaryngology. Along with her dissertation, dedicated to the objective diagnosis of hypertrophy of the nasopharyngeal tonsil, she also published a monograph about the diagnostic value of acoustic rhinometry and adenoid vegetations. In addition, in her scientific work she touches on the topic related to acute otitis media in influenza and other respiratory infections (13, 16, 23). She also described in detail some special forms of middle ear diseases (17).

A separate review summarized the possibilities and features of the application of various diagnostic techniques in relation to diseases of the nose and paranasal cavities (43) - an article of certain benefit to a wide range of otorhinolaryngologists.

The scientific pursuits and achievements of Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva are not limited to what has been mentioned here. Several publications devoted to surgical techniques in the field of otosurgery are of particular interest as well. She demonstrated her own results from the application of stapedotomy, tympanoossiculoplasty, restoration of a radically operated ear, etc. (46, 47, 48). The results can be defined as mature and demonstrate advantages in terms of reducing operative trauma in vulnerable patients. Part of the research is dedicated to the frequency of some specific and less common complications in otosurgery, such as cochlear damage in stapes surgery and otoliquorrhoea (44, 45).

Another topic in the scientific work of Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva is related to the surgical treatment of pathological processes of the nose and sinuses. Basic surgical techniques and their results are described (19).

Among the articles presented to me for review are numerous ones dedicated to the problem of the third tonsil, the methods of its diagnosis, the interdisciplinary approach in determining the indications for conservative and operative treatment (24, 25, 28, 31, 32, 33).

Last but not least, I would note those publications that are related to less common but essential topics not only for science, but also for practice. Among the publications presented there are:

- Publications related to risks and behavior in children with foreign bodies in the lower respiratory tract (20).
- Description of a case with the presence of deep lipomas in the neck area (15).
- Representation of a retraction pocket as a special form of chronic otitis media (17).

The publications of Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva do not remain unnoticed by the scientific searches of colleagues, and from the presented reference it is clear that a total of 14 citations of these publications were found, one of which was in an international edition.

Her ability to work in a team is also confirmed by her commitments as a team leader who introduced the Program for National Hearing Screening of Newborns at the "Lozenets" University Multiprofessional Hospital for Active Treatment. As such, she has trained and is training doctors and midwives to carry out the research in the medical facility.

Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva is a member of the following professional and scientific associations:

1. The Bulgarian Medical Union (BMU);
2. The Bulgarian Rhinological Society (BRS);
3. The Bulgarian National Association of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery;
4. The Association of Otorhinolaryngology Doctors "Prof. Dr. Stoyan Belinov - Institute for Specialization and Improvement of Doctors".

Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva has an impressive academic workload - between 360 and 485 hours a year she has been conducting classes in Otorhinolaryngology (ENT-diseases) for medical students, as can be seen from the report presented by the Faculty of Medicine of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Examining the overall activity, scientific development and professional career of Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva, the following conclusions can be drawn regarding her original contributions of a significant scientific and practical nature:

- For the first time in Bulgaria, a scientific study is being carried out for an objective examination of the nasopharynx through a comparative evaluation of several methods (acoustic rhinometry, nasal endoscopy, imaging).

- For the first time, the problem of an objective study of adenoid vegetations is interpreted and a critical assessment of the data on the need for surgical treatment is made.

- For the first time in our country, the data from acoustic rhinometry in children with adenoid vegetations and serous otitis media are considered.

- Objective diagnostic techniques for diseases of the nose and paranasal cavities have been put into practice.

- The frequency of pathological changes in railway workers in the paranasal cavities and the middle ear is examined.

- The surgical techniques of septoplasty for pathological processes in the nose and sinuses in adults and children are discussed.

- Surgical methods in stapes operations and the probability of cochlear damage in some of them are discussed.

- For the first time, with acoustic rhinometry, the results of adenoidectomy in children with hypertrophy of the nasopharyngeal tonsil and the probability of possible recurrences are monitored.

IV. General assessment of the applicant's compliance with the mandatory conditions, quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators, according to the REGULATIONS ON THE CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURE FOR ACQUIRING SCIENTIFIC DEGREES AND HOLDING ACADEMIC POSITIONS IN SU "ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI"

Mandatory quantitative scientometric criteria when assuming the Academic Position of "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" at SU "St. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI" – Sofia.

Indicator groups	Content	Minimal requirements	Rating of the candidate
A	Indicator 1	50 p.	50 p.
C	Indicator 3 or 4	100 p.	100 p.
D	Indicators 5-9	200 p.	1617,5 p.
E	Indicators 10-12	50 p.	205 p.
F	Indicators 13-22	-	100 p.
TOTAL		400 p.	758,48 p.

Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva applied with more than the required number of publications in our and international journals (the same applies to positive citations), she is the author of one monograph. The candidate meets all the criteria for participation in the competition and significantly exceeds all of them (except group indicators A and C).

Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva is a proven scientist and university teacher, with a marked affinity for novelties in otorhinolaryngology, she never stops improving, she knows how to captivate the audience, motivate students and young scientists for achievements in novelties in medicine.

My personal impressions of Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva are: a splendid doctor, an outstanding scientist in her field, a wonderful teacher, master of the youth audience, a leader in the profession. Her ability to work excellently in a team, to successfully lead a team of specialists of different generations, predominantly young people, and fluency in a foreign language only adds to the palette of positive qualities mentioned above.

Conclusion:

The scientific works of Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva, Doctor of Medicine, presented in the competition are in the field of the scientific specialty of otorhinolaryngology and fully meet the criteria of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB and the the Regulations for the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and

Holding Academic Positions at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" University for the Academic Position of "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR"..

Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva shows indisputable breadth in her scientific, clinical and teaching activity.

I grant a categorically positive assessment of the overall activity of Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva and call without reservation the members of the honorable Scientific Jury to vote positively for her to be elected to the Academic Position of "Associate Professor of Otorhinolaryngology".

14 Feb. 2023

Reviewer and member of the Scientific Jury:

/Prof. Dr. Valentin Kostov Stoyanov, MD/

