

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Lubomir Dimitrov Spassov, MD

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Regarding: the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Otorhinolaryngology", announced by Sofia University (SU) "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the State Gazette, issue 92 / 18 Nov. 2022

Data on the competition procedure

The competition for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" of professional direction 7.1. Medicine (Otolaryngology - one) has been announced for the needs of the Department of Surgical Diseases, Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Faculty of Medicine of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". The competition announcement was published in SG No. 92 / 18 Nov. 2022. The composition of the scientific jury was determined by Rector's Order No. RD 38-25/19 Jan. 2023. on the basis of a decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine (Protocol No. 112/17 Jan. 2023).

One candidate participated in the competition: Chief Assistant Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva, MD

The opinion was drawn up in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of LDASRB and Section IV (Conditions and Procedures for Occupying the Academic Position "Associate Professor") of the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedures for Acquiring Scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The regulatory requirements regarding the competition procedure have been complied with.

The candidate's documents are in full compliance with the regulatory requirements for admission to a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". They are presented in sequence from No.1 to No.18 and include attached evidentiary material: Resume; Higher education diploma; Diploma for educational and scientific degree "Doctor"; Document for scientific title and academic position; Certificate of work experience in the specialty; Documents proving the fulfillment of the requirements under Art. 105, Para. 1, It. 2; Medical certificate certifying mental and physical health; Criminal record certificate; List of publications, including: a) list of all publications, b) list of publications submitted for participation in the competition; List of publications, conferences, generated by the "The Authors" system, due to the fact that the candidate holds an academic position at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"; Sample reference for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for the relevant scientific field and additional requirements of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" with the evidence attached to it, including the Diploma for acquired specialty in Otorhinolaryngology; Reference for citations with a full bibliographic description of the cited and citing publications; A reference to the original scientific contributions with the relevant evidence attached; Reference for the indicators under Art. 112, Para. 2 with the appropriate evidence; Scientific works submitted for participation in the competition, structured and numbered according to the List under Item 10 b; Summaries of peer-reviewed publications in Bulgarian and in one of the languages traditionally used in the relevant scientific field (in English); Copy of the advertisement in the State Gazette.

Biographical data and academic development of the candidate.

Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva was born in 1964 in the town of Elena, Veliko Tarnovo region, in the family of a doctor. She graduated from the Mathematical High School in the town of Montana and was immediately accepted as a medical student at the Medical Academy in Sofia with full honors in 1982. In 1988 she graduated from the Medical Academy - Sofia (Diploma No. 008236, Reg. No. 36585 from 21 Nov. 1988).

The candidate's work experience began in the Hygienic-Epidemiological Inspection of Blagoevgrad, as a resident doctor in the "Medical Parasitology" department. From 28 Jan. 1991 until 01 Jul. 2010 she worked at the "Tsar Boris III" National Multidisciplinary Transport Hospital at 108 "Maria Luiza" Blvd., Sofia, ENT Clinic, as a 1st degree research assistant, doctor. She performed medical activities - consultative and operational.

From 01 Jul. 2010 until now, she has been working at the Lozenets University Hospital, ENT Department as an assistant doctor, and later - as chief assistant. She performs healing and teaching activities - she conducts exercises and lectures for Master's and Bachelor's students at the Faculty of Medicine of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

During her work, she acquired the following qualifications: 1993 – Basic course of ENT diseases, Institute for specialization and improvement of doctors; 1994 - Research associate, ENT at the Transport Medical Institute, Sofia; in 1995 she acquired a specialty in ENT diseases, Institute for specialization and improvement of doctors (ISID) (Diploma No. 44355 dated 27 May 1995). In 2004 she took a course in Acoustic rhinometry; in 2006 – a course in Audiology, ISID. In 2014 she successfully defended a dissertation for the acquisition of the Educational Degree "Doctor" on the topic "Objective diagnostics in hypertrophy of the nasopharyngeal tonsil" at the Medical University.

Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva MD is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Union, the Bulgarian Rhinological Association, the Bulgarian National Society of Head and Neck Surgery. She's fluent in English, Russian, and speaks German. She is the mother of one son, currently a student.

Scientific research activity and scientometric data.

The scientometric data of the candidate are in accordance with the criteria and indicators recommended in the normative documents for assessment by a Scientific Jury when holding a competition for "Associate Professor". The scientific works submitted for review are from the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, Otorhinolaryngology scientific specialty.

Dr. D. Edreva is the author and co-author of a total of 70 scientific papers of a scientific-applied and fundamental contribution nature. The candidate is the sole author of one monograph.

The list of publications submitted for participation in the competition includes:

1. *Dissertation work* for the award of the "Doctor" Scientific Degree in "Otorhinolaryngology" on the topic of Objective diagnosis in hypertrophy of the nasopharyngeal tonsil with supervisor Prof. Dr. Ivan Chalakov, MD. 2. *Monograph*: Adenoid vegetations and acoustic rhinometry, Medical Publishing House: MEDBOOK, Sofia, 2015. 3.

Scientific works submitted for participation in the competition: 51. 4. Articles in collections: 3. 5. Reports from congresses: 10.

Citations: According to the reference provided by the Central Medical Library - Medical University - Sofia, 13 Bulgarian citations and 1 citation in foreign sources were found, IF - 0.198, 2014: IF - 0.211.

Scientific contributions: The most significant contributions from the scientific and creative work of Dr. Edreva are reflected in detail in the "Author's reference for the contribution nature of scientific works". They are well-founded and precisely argued with evidentiary material.

1. *The dissertation work* of Dr. Edreva for the award of the "Doctor" Scientific Degree is dedicated to a current and significant problem, namely "Objective diagnosis in hypertrophy of the nasopharyngeal tonsil", with scientific supervisor Prof. Dr. Ivan Chalakov, MD. and official reviewers: Prof. Dr. Diana Popova, MD and Associate Professor Petko Kabakchiev, Ph.D. The dissertation is written on 127 standard pages, contains 7 tables and 44 figures. The bibliography includes 126 titles, of which 27 are in Cyrillic and the remaining 99 are in Latin characters.

The scientific contributions of the dissertation work are:

Methodical:

1. The problem of the need for an objective study of adenoid vegetations is comprehensively considered and a critical overview of modern evaluation methods is made.
2. For the first time, several objective methods (acoustic rhinometry, nasal endoscopy, lateral radiography) are applied and interpreted together in the evaluation of adenoid vegetations.

Scientifically applied:

3. For the first time, with the discussed objective methods for evaluating the hypertrophy of the nasopharyngeal tonsil, the patients are followed dynamically during their treatment until their complete recovery.
4. For the first time, with an objective method of research, attention is drawn to the need for different methods of treatment for the various causes of difficult nasal breathing and hypertrophy of the nasopharyngeal tonsil in childhood.

5. For the first time, with an objective research method - acoustic rhinometry, the results of the surgical treatment - adenoidectomy in children with hypertrophy of the nasopharyngeal tonsils are monitored.

2. *Monographic work: "Adenoid vegetations and acoustic rhinometry"*, Medical publishing house: MEDBOOK, Sofia, 2015, ISSN 1311 - 4727.

For more than 10 years, the author has been dealing with the problems of adenoid vegetations and their operative and non-operative treatment. An objective methodology for research using acoustic rhinometry has been developed.

In the proposed work, a comparison is made with other objective methods (lateral radiography and endoscopy of the nasopharynx) and the safe application, repeated examination and accurate data in determining the hypertrophy of the nasopharyngeal tonsil are emphasized.

The treatment results of adenoid vegetations under the control of acoustic rhinometry are analyzed. The monograph is intended for Otorhinolaryngology specialists, general practitioners and pediatricians.

3. *Other scientific works of the candidate:*

A total of 57 scientific publications are presented. 51 of them are for participation in the current competition (in publications referenced and indexed in world-famous databases). In 31, out of all 57 publications, Dr. Edreva is the first author (54.38%). In 20 (35.08%) she is the second author, and in 6 (10.52%) she is the third and after the third author.

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 in our country, the data from the acoustic rhinometry in children with adenoid vegetations and serous otitis media are considered. Surgical methods in stapes operations and the likelihood 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. Cases with otolichorea in middle ear damage and their surgical treatment are described. Cholesterol granuloma in the middle ear and its development

into cholesteatoma are discussed. The clinico-morphological characteristics of congenital cholesteatoma in the middle ear are presented.

Publications in collections with abstracts are 3, at International Forums, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information. "Audiological screening in newborns" is related to the introduction of the Program for National Hearing Screening of Newborns in "Lozenets" University Hospital, led by Dr. Edreva in 2017. She examined over 160 newborns for 1 year using the otoacoustic emissions method. She trains colleagues from the Neonatology Clinic to carry out the research.

10 reports from congresses and conferences with international participation, held in Bulgaria and abroad, are presented. They describe various cases, diseases, results of operative and conservative treatment in children and adults in Otorhinolaryngology.

The performed comparative analysis of the minimum national requirements under the LDASRB for scientific field 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, with the attached certificate, shows that Dr. Edreva meets the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor". The analysis of the relevant groups of indicators by Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva, MD is the following: Indicators A (50), B(0) and C(100) meet the national requirements. Indicator D exceeds the minimum value of 200 points and is of 720 points. Indicator E is 205 points, with a minimum value of 50 points. Indicator F of the candidate is 100 points, with minimum national requirements for the "Associate Professor" Degree - 0 points. From the analysis, it can be seen that Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva, MD meets the minimum national requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor", and according to indicators D, E, F the values of Dr. Edreva exceed the minimum national requirements.

Teaching and educational activity.

Dr. Edreva is a full-time teaching physician-assistant at the Faculty of Medicine of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the discipline "Otorhinolaryngology" since 2011, and for the last 6 years she has been the main assistant. She leads exercises, lectures and state internship for students in the "Medicine" Master's program and students in the "Nursing" Bachelor's program. To date, she has teaching activity with 2847 hours of classroom employment and 3190,4 hours of total study employment.

Clinical activity and other professional activities:

Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva, MD is a highly qualified otorhinolaryngologist. In her work experience, she has performed over 900 operative interventions and thousands of consultative examinations regarding ENT diseases. Of these, 183 were adenotomies, 126 adenotonsillectomies, 106 tonsillectomies, etc.

Conclusion

Chief Assistant Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva, MD, who participated in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", fully meets the regulatory requirements of the LDASRB and the Regulations for the Terms and Conditions for the Occupancy of Academic Positions at SU "St. Kliment" Ohridski". She is a doctor with extensive clinical experience, respected by colleagues and patients, with original scientific contributions in the field of Otorhinolaryngology. Dr. Edreva shows dedication and responsibility in her clinical, scientific and teaching activities. The scientific data of Dr. Edreva completely cover and exceed the minimum national requirements, the normative criteria and indicators for evaluation when conducting a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

Therefore, I recommend to the Honorable Jury to propose to the Faculty Council of the Medical Faculty at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" to award the candidate Dr. Dimitrina Todorova Edreva, MD the academic position "Associate Professor" according to the indicated professional direction and scientific specialty.

Chairman of the Scientific Jury:.....

(Prof. Dr. Lubomir Dimitrov Spassov, MD)

6 Mar. 2023

Sofia