

To: Chairman of the scientific jury
Determined with Order No 3188/01.12.2020
Of the Director of the Branch of Haskovo of Trakia University, Stara Zagora

I submit to the Esteemed Jury a review

Related to the competition for the filling of the academic position of **Associate Professor** in the scientific specialty **Ophthalmology**, area of higher education **7. Health care and sport**, professional field **7.1. Medicine** for the needs of the Branch of Haskovo, announced in *State Gazette (Darjaven Vestnik)*, Iss. No 86/06.10.2020.

With the sole participant in the competition: Dr. Daniela Tosheva Mitova MD, PhD

REVIEW

By Prof. Dr. Valentin Kostov Stoyanov, MD, PhD.

Head of the Otolaryngology and Ophthalmology Department in the
Faculty of Medicine in Trakia University, Stara Zagora
Chairman of the scientific jury/ Order No 3188/01.12.2020
Of the Rector of Trakia University, Stara Zagora

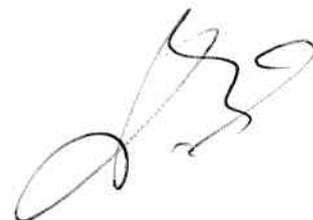
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The review was written adhering to the requirements of the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Section III/Section IV of the Regulations for the Application of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria – Conditions and Order for the filling of the academic position of *Associate Professor* and adhering to the Regulations for the Application of the Act on Development of the Academic Staff of Trakia University.

I. Professional development of the candidate.



Daniela Tosheva Mitova was born on 21.04.1974. She graduated in medicine from the Medical University-Varna Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov in 1999. She specialized Ophthalmology in the Ophthalmology Department in the Specialized Eye Hospital at the MU-Varna in 2000 – 2004. During the same period, she was a full-time post-graduate student of eye diseases and in 2005, she defended a thesis, *The Influence of Exfoliative Changes in the Eye on Character and Course of Exfoliative Glaucoma* and obtained the educational and scientific degree of Ph.D. in the scientific field of Ophthalmology in the professional area of Medicine. In 2004, she was appointed as ophthalmologist in the Eye Clinic “St. Petka” in Varna and she still works there. In 2010 – 2013 she was an assistant in the Ophthalmology and Visual Science Department in the MU-Varna (a part-time assistant for a year and a full-time assistant for two years) Since 2010, she has been teaching post-graduate students. Officially, she has been a scientific supervisor of three post-graduate students (from 2014) who have finished their education and two more who are currently specializing. She has taken part as organizer and lecturer in many qualification courses in ophthalmology (21 total).

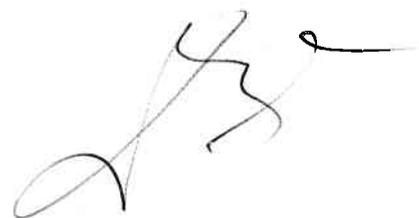
In 2012, she participated in an international program for educating young leaders in ophthalmology – EULPD in Innsbruck, Austria, with the support of ICO (International council of Ophthalmology) and AAO (American Association of Ophthalmology). In 2013, she acquired a Master degree in Health Management. In 2013, she obtained a Master degree in Health Management.

Dr. D. Mitova has many specializations related to highly specialized activities in the specialty of Ophthalmology which becomes clear from the submitted documents for completed qualification courses. She has also participated actively in a number of national, international and world congresses and conferences dedicated to different aspects of eye health.

Dr Daniela Mitova is a fully-formed expert in ophthalmology. She has an excellent grasp of modern diagnostic and surgical methods in the specialty of Ophthalmology. She has the theoretical, methodological and practical skills required for developing modern research activity and she is good at team work. Dr. Daniela Tosheva Mitova is a member of the following international and Bulgarian organizations:

- BMA member
- Bulgarian Society of Ophthalmology (BSO) member
- BACRS (Bulgarian Association of Cataract and Refractive Surgery) member
- ESCRS (European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery) member
- Euretina (European Retina Specialists) member
- EGS (European Glaucoma Society) member

II. **The documents submitted by Dr. Daniela Tosheva Mitova MD, PhD** meet the legal requirements of the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulation of its Application. They are extremely well organized and contain enough data of proof.



III. Evaluation of the scientific works: (Overall evaluation of scientific production and publishing activity.)

Dr. D. Mitova, MD Ph.D. participates in the competition with 65 scientific publications, including two monographs, one of which she authored solo – *Diabetic Retinopathy* (2014) and in the second one - *Refractive Surgery of the Eye* under the editorship of Associated. Professor Dr Tosho Mitov, MD PhD – she is a co-author in 15 out of 27 chapters. She participated in the authorial collectives of 3 Textbooks of Ophthalmology for Medical Students and Dental students (under the editorship of Prof. I. Majdrakova – edition 2008 and 2014) and of Prof. Grupcheva (with five chapters) – edition 2010). She submitted a list issued by the Central University Library of Trakia University – Stara Zagora – with 5, in total, publications in impact factor and impact rank journals. The total impact factor of these articles is 4.533.

Out of the publications submitted in the competition, 15 are related to the candidate's thesis and 21 more were published in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific reviewing or in edited collective volumes. The rest of the publications (18) are from peer-reviewed and indexed in universally known databases with scientific information specialized journals She's a sole or first author in 43 of the publications.

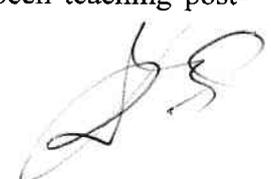
She has a remarkable number of positive citations – 208 total, 127 of which in scientific journals, peer-reviewed and indexed in universally known databases with scientific information, 2 – in monographs and collective works with scientific reviewing, and 79 – in non-reviewed journal with scientific reviewing which is clear from the submitted evidence. (Academic Transcript No 554/25.09.2020 issued by the library of the MU-Varna).

The topics discussed in the scientific production of the candidate are varied and present particular interest for modern researchers.

Dr. Daniela Mitova has some original contribution in complex treatment of retina diseases and kerato-refractive eye surgery. This is the topic that the monographs *Diabetic retinopathy* and *Refractive Eye Surgery* deal with.

She has published numerous works about innovative methods of treatment of diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration (Publications No 6,9,15,16,19,23,37,40,44) which makes her a sought-after lecturer at various scientific forums. She has not overlooked the topic connected with Cross-linking, keratho-refractive eye surgery. She has devoted her attention to it in 15 other publications of her scientific work (Publications No 2,3,7,10,11,12,17,18,28,29,34,38,39,41,43). Her specializations in the field of glaucoma and in particular, the ones related to the problems of exfoliative glaucoma find their expression not just in her thesis but in a few publications that are interesting to experts (No 1, 8, 21, 32, 33, 36, 42, 47-60). She has a marked interest in neuro-ophthalmology – a comparatively new specialty requiring team work skills and interdisciplinary approach. Apart from having organized a course in neuro-ophthalmology, the candidate has devoted to this field a considerable part of her scientific quests (No 4, 5, 17, 21, 60).

Dr. Daniela Mitova has considerable teaching practice. In 2010 – 2013 she taught medical students as an assistant in MU-Varna and since 2010, she has been teaching post-



graduate students, residents in ophthalmology. She has taken part in international research projects as head researcher (11), most of these interventional, directed at treating age-determined macular degeneration and diabetic macular edema. Her participation in various scientific events is enviable. She has made 58 presentations at national ophthalmology forums and 18, at international ones. She has been a guest lecturer at a World Ophthalmology Congress (WOC-2018, 2020) and a Filatov Memorial Lecture (2019). Dr. D. Mitova has been a medical editor of the *Scholarly Bulletin* since February 2012 and since March 2020, a deputy chief editor of the *Bulgarian Review of Ophthalmology*.

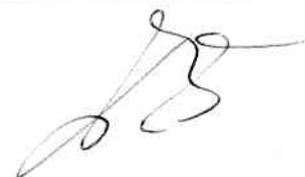
She is famous in expert circles for developing and adopting in practice innovative therapy for age-determined macular degeneration presented at the World Ophthalmology Congress in 2020 (WOC 2020) and Filatov memorial 2019. Summarized results from the suggested innovative therapy were published in *Medical & Clinical Research*, Oct 2020; *Medical Review* 2019; *Medinfo* 2019/3, *Journal of Anatolian Medical Research (under publication)*. Simultaneously, she has developed an innovative therapy for treatment of diabetic macular edema (presented at WOC 2020 and published in *Bulgarian Review of Ophthalmology Journal*, Volume LXIV, 2020, Iss. 2).

The candidate's interest in creating, developing and adopting innovative methods of treatment in daily clinical work has not been limited within the boundaries of the abovementioned therapies. Dr. Daniela Mitova, MD, PhD, has developed an innovative therapy of treatment of degenerative retina diseases, sharing the results of her works at the BSO annual congress in 2019.

IV. Overall evaluation of the conformity of the candidate with the obligatory conditions, quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators according to the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its Application.

Obligatory quantitative scientometric criteria for filling the academic position of *Associate Professor* in Trakia University – Stara Zagora and a check-up under groups of indicators of the criteria the candidate has met:

<i>Group of indicators</i>	<i>Content</i>	<i>Associate Professor</i>	<i>Met by Dr. Daniela Mitova</i>
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-
C	Indicator 3 or 4	100	160
D	Sum of indicators from 5 to 9	200	3170
E	Sum of indicators from 10 and 12	50	226
F	Sum of indicators from 13 to the end	1.15 (obligatory!) – 40	203
TOTAL		440	3809



Dr. Daniela Tosheva Mitova MD, PhD applies with publications in Bulgarian and international journals exceeding the required number (it is also valid for the number of positive citations). She has published two monographs and participated in authorial collectives of 3 textbooks for students. The candidate meets all requirements for participation in the competition and exceeds some of them.

Dr. Daniela Tosheva Mitova MD, PhD, is a researcher and lecturer of proven merit, with a clear view of the new trends in ophthalmology, she never stops improving, can catch the attention of her audience, has the qualities of a leader, can motivate students and young researchers about the new trends in medicine.

Conclusion:

The documents I studied and the data of proof that Dr. Daniela Mitova MD, PhD. submitted for the competition for filling the academic position of *Associate Professor* in the scientific specialty Ophthalmology, announced for the needs of Trakia University, Stara Zagora, Branch of Haskovo under the announced competition in *State Gazette*, Iss. No 86/06.10.2020, fully meet the obligatory conditions, quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators according to the Regulation for Filling Academic Positions in Trakia University, Stara Zagora, and under some indicators they considerably exceed the required minimum which becomes clear from the table for comparison submitted in the documents (particularly under indicators D, E, and F). The scientific works submitted for the competition by Dr. Daniela Mitova MD, PhD., are in the field of the scientific specialty Ophthalmology and fully meet the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Section III/Section IV of the Regulations for the Application of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria – Conditions and Order for filling of the academic position of *Associate Professor/Professor*, as well as the criteria of Trakia University for filling of the academic position of *Associate Professor*. Dr. Daniela Mitova MD, PhD, shows wide contributions in her scientific and teaching activity. My assessment of the overall activity of Dr. Daniela Mitova, is firmly positive and I suggest to the members of the esteemed scientific jury to vote positively for electing her at the academic position *Associate Professor in Ophthalmology*.

11.01.2021

Reviewer and Head of the Scientific Jury

/Prof. Dr. Valentin Stoyanov, MD, PhD/

