

Scientific Opinion

Concerning the academic competition for academic title “Associated Professor” in the field of higher education 7. Medical care and Sports, Professional direction 7.1. Medicine and Scientific speciality Ophthalmology for the needs of branch “Haskovo”, according to the announcement in “Darjaven vestnic” 86/06. 10. 2020 and according to the order of the rector of Tracian University, Stara Zagora- N 3188/01.12. 2020 г.

From: **Prof. Dr. Sylvia Zdravkova Cherninkova, MD, DSc**

There was only one participant at the competition for Associated Professor, announced in “Darjaven vestnic” 86/06. 10. 2020- Dr. Daniela Tosheva Mitova-Guneva,

Education and academic studies:

Dr. Mitova has graduated high school at the English Language School in Varna in 1993. She studied medicine at the Varna Medical University “Paraskev Stoyanov” and graduated in 1999. Postgraduate fellowship in ophthalmology was done in Specialized Eye hospital in Varna and she received her degree in Ophthalmology in 2004.

In 2006 г. Dr Daniela Mitova received her PhD degree after successful acknowledge of her dissertation on Exfoliative syndrome and exfoliative glaucoma (“The impact of exfoliative changes in the eye on the character and clinical course of exfoliative glaucoma”).

In 2013 г. Dr Mitova received her Master’s degree in Health Care management at Varna Medical University “Paraskev Stoyanov”.

Her qualification is supported by numerous specialized courses:

Medical retina and Lasers in Ophthalmology 2001 – 2004 г., Diabetic retinopathy and Laser at Sofia Medical University in 2003. Cataract and refractive surgery 2005 - 2008 г. under the supervision of Ass. Prof. Tosho Mitov, MD PhD; Corneal Cross-linking in Zurich in 2006. She specialized in Glaucoma (Geneva 2009 and 2015 Hong-Kong). Attended Vitroretinal surgery courses in Monaco 2000, Berlin 2008, Nice 2009; ESASO - Medical retina, 2018 г., ESASO – Intermediate and advanced Surgical retina in Lugano, 2019 and 2020. She participated in EULDP – Leadership program in 2012-an international program for education of young leaders in ophthalmology supported by SOE and AAO.

Academic studies:

For the competition Dr Mitova presented a total number of 66 publications. Six of them published in Magazines with impact Factor (IF/IR), 4 of them found in Web of Science and Scopus; 17 publications in peer-reviewed magazines without impact factor and 22 publications in edited but not reviewed editions.

Dr Mitova has published two text-books, one of them a monography as a single author (Diabetic retinopathy, 2014) and the second one with co-authors (Refractive surgery of the eye, 2019), where she takes part in most of the chapters. In the publications with impact factor Dr Mitova is the only author in one of the publications and third, fourth and fifth in the rest of them. In the rest of the publications Dr Mitova is first or the only author in 15 out of 17 publications. Fifteen of the publications are connected with her dissertation.

She is presented in two textbooks of ophthalmology for medical students (7 chapters).

The most prominent publication of all is the one, studying concentration of endothelin-1 in the anterior chamber of the eye in patients with exfoliative syndrome, published in British Journal of Ophthalmology, 2004. Important scientific value have the studies on visual function and micro-saccadic movements related to reading performance in cerebral palsied children (International Journal of Neuroscience, 2006; Ophthalmic and Physiological Optics, 2007), as well as the publication on photorefractive keratectomy for correction of residual refractive errors after radial keratotomies (Klinische Monatsblätter für Augenheilkunde, 2019).

Dr Mitova is the only author in a publication on combined treatment modalities in Wet AMD, published in Medical & Clinical Research, 2020. She introduced a novel innovative therapy for treatment of dry form of AMD and prophylaxis of wet forms (Medical Revue, 2019 and Medinfo, 2019).

Dr Mitova has a profound knowledge of diabetic retinopathy- clinical manifestations and therapeutic perspectives and hence developed an innovative approach for treatment of diabetic macular edema (Authorship monography 2014, Presentation on WOC 2020, Bulgarian Review of Ophthalmology 2020).

The author has participated in numerous national and international forums: 58 presentations (oral) in national and 19 (oral or poster) in international congresses. She has been invited as guest lector in the following symposia: in 2018 in Barcelona, Spain at WOC-World

Ophthalmology Congress, in 2019 in Odessa, Ukraine at Filatov Memorial Lecture and in 2020 in Cape Town, South Africa at WOC.

The total impact factor of dr Mitova according to the academic reference of Central Library of Varna Medical University is **4,533**.

The academic reference for citing of her publications from foreign and Bulgarian authors on the basis of Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar includes **127 citings** in peer-reviewed and edited publications in the world web of science, **79** in cientifically edited non-reviewed editions and two in monographies and edited editions. Total number of citing - **208**.

Besides her scientific, diagnostic and therapeutic work, Dr Mitova is an **academic teacher and mentor**. In the period 2010-2013 she has been an assistant at the Ophthalmology ward in Specialized Eye Hospital in Varna at the Varna Medical University. Since 2010 she is training and supervising residents in ophthalmology in "St. Petka" Eye Clinic Varna (a residency center at Varna Medical University from 2007 till 2019 and at present at Tracian University, Stara Zagora). She has organized qualification courses in ophthalmology and participated in chapters in Ophthalmology Textbooks.

The professional qualities of Dr Mitova are incontestable. She is one of the well-known ophthalmologists in the country with high reputation and high professionalism.

In conclusion Dr Daniela Tosheva Mitova-Guneva, MD has all the qualities and meets all the criteria of the Tracian University, Stara Zagora, branch "Haskovo" to be elected for the academic position "Associated Professor" in Ophthalmology. I give my absolutely convinced positive vote "Yes" Dr Mitova to be elected for the academic title "Associated Professor" in Ophthalmology.

Date: 10.01. 2021 r.

Prof. Dr Sylvia Zdravkova Cherninkova-Gopina, MD, DSc

