

OPINION

Бургаски държавен университет
„Проф. д-р Асен Златаров“
8010 Бургас, бул. „Проф. Якимов“ №1

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by Assoc. Prof. Stoyan Zhelyazkov Hristov, DM

University “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov” – Burgas

regarding the announced competition for occupying the academic position “Associate Professor” at the University “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov” – Burgas.

The competition has been announced in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty Neurosurgery, published in the State Gazette, issue No. 42 of 23 May 2025.

The basis for writing this opinion is Order No. ПД- 265/23.07.2025. for the appointment of the members of the scientific jury and the first meeting of the jury, at which I was assigned to prepare an opinion.

This opinion has been prepared in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the implementation of the Law, and the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedures for acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at the University “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov” – Burgas.

The only candidate in the competition is Dr. Deyan Dimitrov Handzhiev, PhD.

All materials and references required for the academic position “Associate Professor” have been duly submitted.

1. General Information about the Candidate

Dr. Deyan Dimitrov Handzhiev, PhD was born on 24 July 1973.

In 1999, he graduated in Human Medicine from the Medical University – Varna.

In 2008, he obtained a specialization in Neurosurgery from the same university.

In 2013, he completed a Master’s degree in Health Management.

In 2015, he obtained the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in the specialty Neurosurgery, professional field 7.1. Medicine, after defending a dissertation on the topic “Angiogenesis in Glial Brain Tumors.”

His professional career in the specialty began in MBAL – Dobrich in 2000. Since 2002, he has consecutively worked in the Clinic of Neurosurgery at MBAL “St. Anna” – Varna and the Clinic of Neurosurgery at UMHAT “St. Marina” – Varna. Since 2015, he has been a National Consultant in Neurosurgery.

2. General Characteristics of the Scientific and Applied Research Activity and Evaluation of the Candidate’s Personal Contribution

The scientific interests of Dr. Deyan Handzhiev, PhD are related to the fields of neuro-oncology, neurotraumatology, and degenerative diseases of the spine.

He has a total of 63 scientific works and publications, including: 1 book – an abstract based on the defended dissertation; 2 published textbook chapters; 62 publications in refereed and non-refereed journals (including impact factor journals), of which 22 are as first author.

He has participated in more than 35 scientific forums in Bulgaria and abroad, with published abstracts in journals and conference proceedings with ISBN.

According to the reference provided by NACID:

Total IF/SJR from publications and citations: 18.319

From publications – Total IF/SJR: 7.117

Web of Science IF (2014 – 0.608/2.485, 2017 – 1.640): 4.733

Scopus Q4 SJR (2014 – 0.100/1.235/0.382, 2017 – 0.667): 2.384

From citations – Total IF/SJR: 11.202

Web of Science IF (2015 – 2.658, 2019 – 3.267, 2023 – 1.9): 7.852

Scopus SJR (2015 – 0.643, 2019 – 1.228, 2020 – 0.221/0.195, 2021 – 0.229, 2022 – 0.180, 2023 – 0.654): 3.35

h-index: 3 (Google Scholar)

The presented scientific works for participation in the competition have not been used for obtaining the educational and scientific degree “Doctor.”

No plagiarism has been found, and all materials are subject to peer review.

The candidate has numerous specializations related to highly specialized neurosurgical activities, most of which focus on neuro-oncology, neurotraumatology, and degenerative spinal diseases.

He is a regular participant in national and international congresses and conferences dedicated to neurosurgery, all of which further enhance his professional competence.

After a detailed analysis of the submitted scientific works and evidence, I consider that Dr. Deyan Handzhiev, PhD has achieved the following points by indicator groups:

Group A – 50 points

Group B – 164 points

Group C – 474 points (minimum required by the University regulations: 220 points)

Group D – 360 points (minimum required: 60 points)

Group E – 135 points (minimum required: 20 points)

Therefore, Dr. Deyan Handzhiev, PhD fully meets the minimum national requirements as well as the internal requirements of the University “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov” – Burgas for the academic position “Associate Professor” in the professional field 7.1. Medicine.

3. Critical Remarks and Recommendations

I have no significant critical remarks regarding the candidate.

4. Conclusion

After reviewing the materials and scientific works submitted by Dr. Deyan Dimitrov Handzhiev, PhD,

I confirm that the candidate’s results meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), its Implementing Regulations, and the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedures for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at the University “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov” – Burgas, for holding the academic position “Associate Professor” in the professional field 7.1. Medicine.

The candidate fulfills both the minimum national requirements and the additional requirements of the University.

Based on the above, I give a positive evaluation of the candidacy of Dr. Deyan Dimitrov Handzhiev, PhD.

I recommend that the scientific jury vote positively to elect Dr. Deyan Dimitrov Handzhiev, PhD to the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty Neurosurgery.

01 October 2025, Burgas

Signed: Assoc. Prof. Stoyan Hristov, DM**