

To
The Chairperson of the Academic Committee,
Appointed by Order No. RD-205/23.06.2025
of the Rector of “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov” University – Burgas

OPINION

By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nikolay Radoslavov Mirinchev, PhD

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"Anesthesiology, General Medicine, Surgery, Orthopedics,
Traumatology, Urology, Neurosurgery, Emergency and Intensive Care
Medicine"

Subject: Competition for the academic position of “Professor” in the field of Higher Education Area 7. Healthcare and Sports, Professional Field 7.1. Medicine, in the scientific specialty "Oncology", for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine, as announced in the “State Gazette”, Issue 34 of 22.04.2025.

By Order No. RD-205/23.06.2025 of the Rector of “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov” University – Burgas and pursuant to the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), its implementing regulations, and the internal regulations for acquiring academic degrees and occupying academic positions at “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov” University, I was appointed as a member of the academic committee. At its first meeting, I was assigned to prepare an expert

opinion.

Only one candidate has been admitted to the competition – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kiril Georgiev Kirov, PhD.

The documents submitted by the candidate comply with the national legislation and the internal rules of the university. All deadlines for conducting the procedure have been observed.

1. Career and Thematic Development of the Candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kiril Georgiev Kirov, PhD, was born on January 22, 1966. He graduated from the Medical University of Varna in 1993. In 1998, he obtained a specialty in surgery at the Second Surgical Clinic of the Regional Hospital – Varna. Until 2008, he worked at the Department of General and Operative Surgery at University Hospital “St. Marina” – Varna.

His professional path continued as head of the Department of Oncological Surgery at the Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment in Oncology “Dr. M. Markov” – Varna, and later at the Oncosurgical Department of the Comprehensive Cancer Center – Shumen. Since December 2024, he has been part of the surgical team at the Cancer Center – Burgas, and since May 2025, he has been appointed Head of the newly established Clinic of Oncological Surgery at the same institution.

He is fluent in English and Russian.

His postgraduate training includes numerous specialized courses in Bulgaria and abroad, among which:

- Hepatobiliary and transplant surgery (Israel)
- Kidney and pancreas transplantation (USA)
- Diagnostic and operative laparoscopy (Medical University – Pleven)
- Use of surgical staplers (USA)

- Abdominal ultrasound (Medical University – Varna)
- Conventional gastrointestinal endoscopy with biopsy (Medical University – Pleven)
- Open and laparoscopic hernia techniques (Greece)

2. General Characteristics of the Candidate's Scientific, Applied, and Teaching Activities

In 2015, Assoc. Prof. Kirov defended a dissertation entitled: *"Optimization of Outcomes in Conventional and Laparoscopic Colorectal Resections"*, obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor."

In 2017, he was habilitated and awarded the academic position of "Associate Professor."

His scientific output includes over 50 publications in the fields of surgery, oncology, gastroenterology, and coloproctology, published in both Bulgarian and international journals. He is the author of two monographs:

- *"Colorectal Precancerous Lesions"* (2017)
- *"Colorectal Anastomotic Insufficiency: Prevention, Consequences, and Treatment"* (2021) – submitted as his habilitation work in the current competition.

For the competition, Assoc. Prof. Kirov presents a total of 27 scientific works, grouped as follows:

- Habilitation work – monograph
- Publications and papers in peer-reviewed and indexed journals (Scopus and Web of Science) – 12
- Publications and papers in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals or edited collections – 14

In 16 of these, the candidate is the first or sole author.

Assoc. Prof. Kirov has participated in three national scientific and educational projects.

He teaches medical students at Medical University – Pleven and has provided training to residents and interns at the oncology centers where he has worked. He is the scientific advisor of three doctoral students, one of whom successfully defended a dissertation in 2023.

3. Impact of the Candidate's Scientific Publications and Contributions

Since his habilitation, Assoc. Prof. Kirov has achieved a total Impact Factor (IF) of 5.9 and SJR score of 1.82. His publications have been cited 12 times in indexed databases and 27 times in other peer-reviewed sources.

The main thematic areas in his scientific work include:

1. Research in colorectal surgery
2. Improvement of surgical techniques in pancreatic cancer
3. Studies on multi-organ resections in locally advanced carcinomas
4. Rare non-oncological clinical cases
5. Oncological case reports
6. Laparoscopic surgery for hernias
7. Medical scientometrics

Overall, his research demonstrates critical clinical thinking and a commitment to effective interdisciplinary collaboration among surgeons, oncologists, gastroenterologists, pathologists, and radiologists.

The theoretical and practical contributions of his work can be summarized as follows:

1. In-depth investigation of colorectal anastomotic insufficiency, including the development and implementation of a clinical algorithm for prevention, treatment, and outcome improvement.

2. Excellent postoperative results in patients with neoplastic and inflammatory digestive diseases.
3. Confirmation of the advantages of laparoscopic over open hernia repair using self-fixating mesh.
4. Description of several rare oncological cases managed with innovative techniques, with undeniable contribution value.
5. His scientometric studies help increase the international visibility of Bulgarian science and may inform research policy in smaller countries and institutions.

4. Participation in Examination Committees, Reviews, and Professional Organizations

During his teaching career at MU–Varna and MU–Pleven, he has taken part in conducting semester examinations.

He has served as a member of three academic juries for competitions for the position of Associate Professor.

He is a member of:

- The Bulgarian Medical Association
- The Bulgarian Surgical Society
- The International Medical Association “Bulgaria”

5. Fulfillment of Minimum Point Requirements for Academic Degrees and Positions

Assoc. Prof. Kiril Kirov, PhD, meets and exceeds the national minimum requirements (Article 2b, paragraph 5 of DASRBA) for the academic position of “Professor” and complies with the internal regulations of “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov” University – Burgas.

6. Conclusion

Assoc. Prof. Kiril Kirov is an **outstanding professional and surgeon**, whose expertise and reputation are recognized by both patients and colleagues. He has demonstrated **unquestionable achievements in** scientific and teaching activities, placing him among the leading figures in the field of oncological surgery in Bulgaria.

The candidate fully meets the criteria for the academic title of "Professor."

I vote in favor of awarding the title of Professor in the scientific specialty "Oncology" to Assoc. Prof. Kiril Kirov, PhD, and call upon the esteemed members of the academic committee to do the same.

Prepared by