

OPINION

From Prof. Valentin Konstantinov Vasilev, PhD, DM
Member of the Scientific Jury under Order № 375 of October 25, 2024,
issued by the Rector of "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University, Burgas

Regarding the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor"
in the field of higher education: 7. Healthcare and Sports,
professional field: 7.1. Medicine,
scientific specialty: "Thoracic Surgery"

The competition was announced in the State Gazette, Issue No. 70, dated August 20, 2024.

The sole candidate in the announced competition is Dr. Tanyo Penev Stefanov, PhD.

This opinion has been prepared in compliance with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDAR), its implementing regulations, and the Rules for the Conditions and Procedures for the Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University – Burgas.

The necessary documents and reports have been submitted in accordance with the University's regulations for acquiring academic degrees and holding academic positions: a detailed CV, copies of diplomas, documents verifying work experience and teaching activities, a report on meeting minimum requirements, lists of publications (complete and for participation in the competition), an author's report and summaries of scientific contributions, a citation report, and copies of scientific works.

I declare that I have no joint publications with the candidate.

1. Biographical Information about the Candidate

Dr. Tanyo Penev Stefanov, PhD, was born in Plovdiv. He graduated from the Medical University of Plovdiv in 1994. In 2010, he earned a Master's degree in Health Management.

He obtained specialties in General Surgery in 2001 and Thoracic Surgery in 2004.

From 1995, he worked at the Emergency Medical Center in Kaloyanovo, a branch of Plovdiv.

Between 1995 and 2006, he was employed at the First Surgical Department of Plovdiv Hospital.

From 2002 to 2003, he worked in the Second Surgical Clinic at St. George University Hospital – Plovdiv.

From 2006 to 2008, he served as the Head of the Thoracic Surgery Sector at the Second Surgery Department of "St. Marina" Hospital, Plovdiv.

From 2008 to 2016, he was the Head of the Second Surgery Department at "St. Marina" Hospital, Plovdiv.

Since 2016, he has been the Head of the Thoracic Surgery Department at Burgasmed Hospital.

In 2015, Dr. Stefanov defended his doctoral dissertation in Thoracic Surgery on the topic: "Surgical Approach to the Parietal Pleura in Patients with Spontaneous Pneumothorax" at the Medical University of Plovdiv.

2. Scientific and Practical Contributions and Assessment of the Candidate's Personal Contribution

In this competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor," the candidate has submitted a complete list of his 15 published articles and one monograph. All works have been published in peer-reviewed journals or collections with scientific editors and publishers, and they comply with the national and university standards for acquiring academic degrees and positions.

The submitted full-text scientific works are entirely consistent with the field of higher education, the professional direction, and the scientific specialty of the announced competition. None of these works have been used in previous procedures.

In the submitted works for this competition, Dr. Tanyo Stefanov is the sole or first author of 13 scientific papers and the second author in only three publications.

The candidate has also presented a list of citations of his works. The total number of citations is 12, which fully meets the requirements of the ASDAR and the implementing rules of "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University.

Dr. Stefanov's scientometric indicators fully comply with the university's quantitative criteria for the academic position of "Associate Professor." According to the university's scientometric requirements, the minimum threshold for candidates for the position of Associate Professor is 450 points. Dr. Tanyo Stefanov has accumulated 505 points:

Indicator A – 50 points;
Indicator B3 – 100 points;
Group G indicators – 255 points;
Group D indicators – 60 points;
Group E indicators – 40 points.

3. Main Directions of the Candidate's Scientific Work

Dr. Stefanov is the author of numerous scientific publications related to surgical management in pneumothorax, as well as the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of lung cancer. He actively combines his scientific interests with practical medical activities, developing and applying innovative therapeutic approaches in clinical practice. This combination of a scientific approach and practical expertise highlights his competence and significant contributions to medical science and healthcare.

The contributions from Dr. Stefanov's scientific work can be grouped into the following main areas:

Spontaneous Pneumothorax
Lung Cancer Prevention
Abdominal Surgery
Emergency Surgery

4. Participation in Projects

Dr. Stefanov has provided evidence of participation in two international research projects.

5. Supervision of Doctoral Students, Trainees, and Graduates

Dr. Stefanov has supervised six trainees specializing in General Surgery during his leadership of the Second Surgical Department at Plovdiv Hospital.

7. Short-Term Specializations and Qualification Courses

Dr. Stefanov has participated as a speaker in national and international forums in General and Thoracic Surgery. He has submitted certificates from various courses, including:

Ultrasound Diagnostics
VATS (Video-Assisted Thoracic Surgery)
Laparoscopic Surgery
TEM (Transanal Endoscopic Microsurgery)
Biliary, Hepatic, Pancreatic, and Oncological Surgery

Conventional Fiberoptic Bronchoscopy

In 2007, he completed a specialization in Thoracic Surgery at KSZ "Otto Wagner-Spital" in Vienna.

Since 2008, he has been a member of the European Association for Thoracic Surgery, as well as the Bulgarian Association for General Surgery and the Bulgarian Association for Thoracic, Cardiac, and Vascular Surgery.

CONCLUSION

Dr. Tanyo Penev Stefanov, PhD, is a dedicated researcher with proven theoretical and practical contributions. He is a scholar with extensive professional expertise and interdisciplinary preparation, enabling him to address various challenges in his daily work. He skillfully integrates clinical, scientific, and creative activities in his practice, earning the respect and trust of his colleagues. He collaborates successfully with researchers from other departments and specialties.

Based on the positive evaluation of his teaching activities, the high scientific significance of his works, the significant practical contributions, and their recognition in the scientific literature, I believe that Dr. Tanyo Stefanov possesses all the qualifications necessary to be awarded the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty of "Thoracic Surgery."

Burgas, November 29, 2024

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