



To the Scientific Jury,
Appointed by order
№ RD-257/15.09.2022
of the Rector of the
University "Professor Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas

I present to the honorable Scientific Jury an opinion,
regarding competition for the position of "Associate Professor"
Scientific specialty in Otorhinolaryngology, Code: 03.01.35
Professional area "7.1. Medicine", announced in State Gazette, No. 45/17.06.2022
There is one candidate in the competition: **Dr. Atanas Nachev Vlaykov, PhD**,
Faculty of Medicine, **Trakia University**, Stara Zagora

OPINION

By Assoc. Prof. Doncho Petrov Donchev, PhD

Scientific specialty in Otorhinolaryngology

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1. Career profile and academic development of the candidate:

Dr. Atanas Nachev Vlaykov was born 1986 in Stara Zagora in 1986. He graduated in medicine in 2012 at the Faculty of Medicine, Trakia University - Stara Zagora. After his graduation in 2012, he started specializing in Otorhinolaryngology at University Hospital "Prof. Dr. St. Kirkovich AD - Stara Zagora. Subsequently, in 2013, he started his scientific development as a full-time PhD student at the

Department of Otorhinolaryngology at the Faculty of Medicine, Trakia University - Stara Zagora. Since 2016, he has acquired a specialty in ENT diseases. From the same year until now, he has been successively Assistant and Chief Assistant at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology and ophthalmology at the Faculty of Medicine, Trakia University - Stara Zagora. He is a member of: Bulgarian Medical Union, Association of Otorhinolaryngologists in Southeast Bulgaria, European Rhinologic Society, European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Bulgarian Rhinologic Society.

He is fluent in written and spoken English.

Dr. Atanas Nachev Vlaykov, PhD, has a strong affinity for research and teaching work.

In 2019, Dr. Atanas Vlaykov defended his PhD thesis - "Effect of local and systemic immune response on nasal congestion and quality of life in patients with allergic rhinosinusitis". In the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor", the candidate participate with 16 scientific scientific works, of which:

- 1 monograph - "Allergic rhinitis and quality of life".
- 2 pcs. full-text publications published in scientific journals indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science.
- 13 pcs. published in non-refereed national and international peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Atanas Vlaykov is the lead author in most of the scientific works - 11. His affinity for the scientific career is confirmed by the numerous participations in national and international scientific conferences, seminars and symposia with presentations and scientific announcements - over 20, as well as from the participations in 4 research projects:

- "Dendritic cells and colorectal carcinoma". Research supervisor, Assoc. prof. Maya Gulubova, PhD – 2010.
- "Influence of physiotherapy on local immunity, clinical course and quality of life in patients with allergic rhinosinusitis". Academic supervisor: Associate Professor Valentin Stoyanov, PhD – 2014.
- "Influence of local immunity on the intranasal vascular bed, clinical course and quality of life in patients with allergic rhinosinusitis". Research supervisor: Associate Professor Tanyo Kavrov, PhD - 2014
- Scientific conference with international participation "35 years of academic education in otorhinolaryngology in Stara Zagora" - 2021.

The scientific activity of Dr. Atanas Nachev Vlaykov is noticed by local and international researchers, as evidenced by 13 citations in Bulgarian and foreign journals.

One of the main scientific and research interests of Dr. Atanas Vlaykov are

sinonasal diseases and, in particular, allergic rhinosinusitis. In his scientific works, he works on the detailed study of the immunological regulatory molecules - interleukins IL4, IL5 and IL13 and the effects they have on the degrees of nasal congestion, as well as on the strength of clinical expression of the symptoms of allergic rhinitis under their influence. In-depth study is also noticed on the degree of involvement of the quality of life in patients with this pathology and the most common symptoms and behavioral patterns that have a major impact on their quality of life.

2. **Presented documents:** The documents of Dr. Atanas Vlaykov, PhD are well arranged and contain sufficient validation material for his research activity.

3. **Overall assessment of the academic development of the candidate:**

Dr. Atanas Vlaykov, MD, presents one author's monograph, as well as 16 scientific publications. He presented some of the scientific forums in which he participated – 20. In most of the publications, he is a self-publishing author or first author. He also presents a list of 13 citations. He participated in 4 research projects.

His publications are in various Bulgarian and international scientific journals. A review of Dr. Vlaykov's scientific works shows that he demonstrate exceptional thoroughness and objective analysis in conducting scientific research.

Dr. Atanas Nachev Vlaykov has also published the following monograph: "**Allergic rhinitis and quality of life**" (Monograph, 2022, Monograph, 124 pages, ISBN 978-619-91543-5-9, which is aimed at every specialist in Bulgaria, dealing with the treatment of allergic rhinitis. The author has also shared his clinical experience in this field.

4. **Educational and teaching activity, scientific supervision of students and specialists**

Dr. Atanas Nachev Vlaykov, PhD, teaches students by providing high-quality practical and theoretical training. In the last few years, he has been teaching lectures and practical classes at the Faculty of Medicine of Trakia University and possess the necessary teaching workload.

The candidate meets the University's regulations and has the necessary teaching workload.

5. **Overall assessment of the applicant's compliance with the mandatory conditions, quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators, according to**

the Regulations on the Development of the Academic staff at the University "Professor Asen Zlatarov" – Burgas.

Total points by groups of indicators for the academic position "Associate Professor"

Group of indicators	Doctor	Associate Professor		Minimal Requirements of University "Prof. As. Zlatarov"
		Content	Minimal National Requirements	
A Indicator 1	50	50	50	50
B Indicator 2		-	-	-
C Indicators 3 and 4		100	100	100
D Sum of indicators from 5 to 9		232	200	220
E Sum of indicators from 10 to 12		65	50	60
F Sum of indicators from 13 to the end		100	-	20
Total		547	400	450

CONCLUSION:

Dr. Atanas Vlaykov, PhD is a proven specialist who implements new methods and developments in the field of Otorhinolaryngology, participates in teaching and scientific activities and passes on his knowledge to young doctors and students.

After reviewing the presented documents of Dr. Atanas Nachev Vlaykov, PhD, I believe that they meet and correspond to the National requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for the Implementation of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for the terms and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions in University "Professor Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas.

All of the above gives me a reason to propose **Dr. Atanas Nachev Vlaykov, PhD** to be elected as "Associate Professor" in scientific specialty of

Otorhinolaryngology for the needs of the Faculty of public health and healthcare,
University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" – Burgas.

25.10.2022

Signature: 

(Assoc. Prof. Doncho Donchev, PhD)