

To
the Scientific Jury, appointed by
Order No. 15-03-60#1/13.02.2024 of
the Executive Director and
Procurator of Acibadem City Clinic
Tokuda University Hospital, Sofia.

REVIEW

by

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Subject: Competition for the Academic Position of "Associate Professor" in the field of Higher Education 7. Health Care and Sports", under Professional Direction 7.1. "Medicine" and Scientific Specialty "Orthopedics and Traumatology" for the needs of the Clinic of Orthopedics and Traumatology at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital, Sofia, announced in the "State Gazette", issue 104/15.12.2023.

By Order No. 15-03-65#1/13.02.2024 of the Executive Director and Procurator of Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital, Sofia, and at a meeting of the Scientific Council of the same organization (Protocol No. 49/01.11.23), I have been appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury for the disclosed competition.

At the first remote meeting of the Scientific Jury, a decision was made for me to prepare a review.

Candidate:

Dr. Adelin Georgiev Ivanov, MD, a physician at the Clinic of Orthopedics and Traumatology at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital, Sofia, is the sole candidate who has submitted documents to participate in the competition within the legally defined deadline. He meets the requirements of the Regulations on Academic Staff of Higher Education Institutions, its Implementing Rules, and the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for Obtaining Scientific Degrees and Occupying Academic Positions at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital, Sofia. Based on meeting the necessary requirements, Dr. Ivanov has been admitted to participate in the competition and to be evaluated by the Scientific Jury.

I. Biographical data and career profile of the candidate

Dr. Adelin Ivanov was born on February 3, 1962. He completed his secondary education at the French Language High School "Romain Rolland" in Stara Zagora. In 1989, he graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Trakia University, Stara Zagora, and in 1995, after successfully passing the exam, he obtained a specialization in orthopedics and traumatology. In 2005, he completed a specialization in health management at the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University, Sofia.

In 2021, after defending a dissertation on the topic "Free-hand Technique for Placing Pedicle Screws in the Surgical Treatment of Idiopathic Scoliosis in Childhood," he obtained the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor."

Throughout his career, he has undergone numerous trainings, among which stand out - surgical treatment of pediatric spinal deformities under the program of the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS), Health Management in Ascona, Switzerland, as well as specializations at the Inter-University Hospital "A. Paré", Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology, Mons, Belgium.

Dr. Ivanov's professional experience began as an assistant at the Clinic of Orthopedics and Traumatology at the University Hospital in Stara Zagora from 1990 to 2004. Following this, until 2006, he served as the head of the operating block in the same organization. From 2006 until the present, he has been a specialist physician at the Clinic of Orthopedics and Traumatology at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital, Sofia.

Since 2019, he has been an assistant at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Dr. Ivanov is a recognized specialist in the field of orthopedics and traumatology, having demonstrated his professional qualities over the years not only to his patients but also to colleagues from various medical fields.

II. Assessment of Teaching and Educational Activities:

Dr. Adelin Ivanov has accumulated over 15 years of experience as an assistant in the field of orthopedics and traumatology. He actively participates in the training of students, residents, and course participants in the clinics where he works. He is actively involved in the preparation and conduct of events, not only with Bulgarian but also with international participation, with scientific and educational purposes held at the Clinic of Orthopedics and Traumatology.

According to official records for the period 2019-2024, the teaching workload amounts to 439 equivalent hours from Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital, Sofia, and 315 equivalent hours from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski," Sofia, totaling 754 equivalent hours.

III. Assessment of the Candidate's Scientific Works:

Dr. Adelin Georgiev Ivanov participates in the competition with a total of 15 scientific works and publications, including 1 monograph and 2 articles referenced and indexed in SCOPUS or Web of Science. Among these, 4 are authored independently, 1 as the first author, and 9 as the second author or subsequent. Additionally, he has presented at 10 congresses and conferences, with 2 being international congresses in Bulgaria and 8 without international participation.

According to records from the National Library "St. St. Cyril and Methodius," Dr. Ivanov has been cited 14 times in visually scientific publications up to 2024.

The thematic directions in the publications address current issues in the following areas:

- Introduction and development of the "Free-hand" surgical technique for placing pedicle screws.

The stages and rules in the application are presented. The placement of pedicle screws through this technique allows for achieving good correction of deformity in all three planes and stable fixation with early patient mobilization, accompanied by low levels of radiation exposure, shortened operative time, minimal levels of infectious complications, blood loss, and neurological complications. At the presentation stage, the technique is extremely unpopular among spinal surgeons in Bulgaria; hence, the contribution on such a topic is of high significance.

- Development of a methodology for assessing the positioning of pedicle screws and protocols for verification.

The topic, which remains debatable to this day, is not only relevant in Bulgarian literature but also in the global discourse.

- Surgical techniques for treating scoliosis in childhood.

Individualized approach to each child suffering from scoliosis is of paramount importance in achieving good results. Both the practical skills and expertise of the surgeon, as well as knowledge in planning and risk assessment for each patient, are crucial.

- Development and improvement of approaches in planning and surgical treatment of neuromuscular scoliosis.

Surgical treatment of neuromuscular scoliosis in children is more than a challenging task. In the past, it was commonly believed that such treatment was impossible for patients with neuromuscular disorders due to the high risk and technical demands on surgical teams. In recent years, thanks to a better understanding of this pathology, surgical treatment has become a standard approach. Dr. Ivanov presents a systematic approach in the diagnosis, evaluation, stages, and specifics of planning, as well as surgical treatment of children with scoliosis based on neuromuscular disorders.

- The implementation and establishment of minimally invasive surgery for corrections of the anterior cervical spine are areas where Dr. Ivanov has made significant contributions.

Minimally invasive surgery of the forefoot offers good opportunities for correcting moderate to moderate deformities of the forefoot with short operative procedures, minimal scars, and risks, early patient mobilization with the possibility of calm independent movement without assistive devices. The technique was introduced in Bulgaria in 2016.

- Introduction of intraoperative neuromonitoring in the surgical treatment of scoliosis (idiopathic and neuromuscular) in childhood age.

Intraoperative neuromonitoring (IONM) is an integral part of the surgical techniques used in the operative treatment of scoliotic deformities in childhood. The likelihood of neurological complications necessitates its use in all patients. The method was fully introduced in Bulgaria in 2008 through collaboration between the Orthopedics and Traumatology Clinic of Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital, Sofia, and the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS).

Upon reviewing the publications in the mentioned thematic areas, I can confirm their significant not only scientifically applicable but also original nature.

Many of them have undoubtedly had a significant impact on the work of other surgeons and treatment centers for diseases not only in the field of the spinal column but also in other areas of the musculoskeletal system.

Upon reviewing the aforementioned facts, in addition to the qualitative contributions of the candidate, a total weight of 459 points is generated across all quantitative criteria. This fulfills the minimum requirements for assuming the academic position of "Associate Professor" according to the Regulations for the Structure and Activities of Research Organizations, their Application Regulations, and the Regulations for the Conditions and Procedure for Obtaining Academic Degrees and Assuming Academic Positions at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital, Sofia.

IV. Conclusion

I believe that with his qualifications, scientific research, teaching, and diagnostic and therapeutic activities, Dr. Adelin Georgiev Ivanov, MD, meets the minimum requirements for the competitive position.

This gives me the grounds to vote positively and recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to support his appointment as an Associate Professor in Orthopedics and

Traumatology for the needs of the Clinic of Orthopedics and Traumatology at Acibadem City
Clinic Tokuda University Hospital, Sofia.

March 18, 2024

Sofia

Prepared by:


/Prof. Dr. Vasil Yablanski, MD/
