

OPINION

by Prof. Kiril Vasilev Draganov, MD, DSc
Clinic for hepatobiliary, pancreatic and general surgery
"Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda"

Regarding: Competition for the occupation of the academic position "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Neurosurgery", field of higher education 7. "Health and sports" in the professional direction 7.1. "Medicine" for the needs of the Neurosurgery Clinic, "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" " EAD, announced in SG no. 98 of 24.11.2023

By Order No. 15-05-09/31.01.2024, based on Art. 4, para. 2 and Art. 29a of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), art. 2, paragraph 2. of the Regulations for the implementation of the RASRB, according to the Regulations for the conditions and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions (PURPNSZAD) in "ASK UMBAL Tokuda" EAD and according to the decision of the Scientific Council of "ASK UMBAL Tokuda" (Protocol No. 49/01.11.2023) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the above competition.

The only candidate in the competition is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Stefanov Nakov, PhD.

The documents presented by Assoc. Prof. Nakov are fully compliant with the above-mentioned regulatory framework. They were examined by a committee appointed by Order of the Executive Director of the hospital and the candidate was allowed to participate in the competition. The terms for holding the competition and the procedure for it are complied with according to the ZRASRB, the Regulations for the implementation of the ZRASRB in "ASK UMBAL Tokuda" and PURPNSZAD in "ASK UMBAL Tokuda".

1. Brief professional and biographical data

The candidate in the current competition is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Stefanov Nakov, PhD graduated in medicine from the Medical University, Sofia in 1992. Immediately after his graduation until 1993, he worked as a doctor at Kostenets Hospital. From 1993 to 2012 was a resident (until 2010) and senior resident (from 2010 to 2012) at the Neurosurgery Clinic, St. Anna UMBAL, Sofia. Since June 2012, Dr. Nakov is the Head of Department at the Neurosurgery Clinic, Medical Academy, Sofia. In April, 2016 he became part of the team of the Neurosurgery Clinic of "ASK UMBAL Tokuda". In 2017, he held the academic position "Assoc. Prof." at the clinic.

Prof. Nakov is a member of the Bulgarian Society of Neurosurgery and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (USA).

2. Postgraduate qualification - specializations and courses

In 1999, after successfully passing the state exam, Dr. Vladimir Nakov acquired a specialty in "Neurosurgery". In October-December 2010, he completed a course in Health Management. Assoc. Prof. Nakov, PhD has conducted a number of postgraduate courses. Reference may be made here to AOSpine: Principles of Spine Trauma Course (2008); Degenerative Disc Disease Treatment Course (2008); Course on treatment of vertebral fractures using minimally invasive techniques EASSME, London, UK (2011); Vascular Microsurgery Course at the Microsurgery Laboratory of the University Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland (2011); Cranial Base Microsurgery Course, Medical University, Copenhagen, Denmark (2015). This proves the candidate's desire for continuous professional theoretical and practical improvement in the field of neurosurgery.

3. Scientific production, citations, IF

Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Nakov, PhD, has a scientific and educational degree "Doctor" since 2015, when he defended his thesis on the topic: "Results of the early surgical treatment of ruptured brain aneurysms".

For his participation in the current competition, the candidate provides a list of a total of 27 original full-text articles. All were published after taking the academic position "Associate Professor". There are 14 published in refereed and indexed journals, and 14 in journals with an Impact factor (Web of Science). Assoc. Prof. Nakov's H-index in Scopus is 3.

In the same period, Assoc. Prof. Nakov participated in 29 national and 8 international scientific forums.

A NACID reference certifies a total of 50 citations of the scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Nakov, PhD, 32 of which are in refereed and indexed editions.

4. Scientific research activity and contributions

The thematic directions studied and discussed in the scientific output of Assoc. Prof. Nakov, PhD are diverse, covering large areas of the domain of neurosurgery, and some of them also have an interdisciplinary character. They are the result of long-term, thorough and dedicated work. The candidate's contributions are both theoretical and scientific-practical and applied in nature and can be summarized as follows: (1.) Surgical and endovascular treatment of bleeding and non-bleeding brain aneurysms; (2.) Extra-intracranial bypass; (3.) Surgical treatment of mesenchymal vascularized tumors and CNS lesions; (4.) Surgery of the skull base; (5.) Intraoperative real-time functional physiological control; (6.) Three-dimensional visualization of normal anatomical structures and pathological processes in neurosurgery.

5. Participation in scientific projects

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Nakov, PhD participated in three scientific projects as a researcher: (1.) "Three-dimensional photorealistic atlas of neurosurgery" (2022) - an international project funded by FSI, EANS; (2.) "Neurovascular layer-by-layer anatomy of the suboccipital fossa in posterior cerebral circulation revascularization" (2022); (3.) "Teaching Anatomy Students Using 3D Photorealistic Direct Models Presented Through Virtual and Augmented Reality" (2023). The second and third projects are focused on teaching activities and were financed by the Fund for Scientific Research of SU "St. Kl. Ohridski". They are characterized by exceptional and original innovation and aim to improve the training of medical students in anatomy.

6. Educational and teaching activity

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Nakov, PhD, was the supervisor of two self-taught doctoral students who successfully defended their dissertations for the acquisition of the Doctorate - PhD in 2023.

He is a member of the Examination Committee for acquiring the specialty "Neurosurgery" since 2018 until now.

After awarding the academic position "Associate Professor" he realized a total teaching load with specialists and continuing education of a total of 1195 equivalent hours at "ASK UMBAL Tokuda", as well as 559 hours of theoretical and practical training of specialists and interns at "St. George" UMBAL (period 2017-2023).

In conclusion and based on the diverse and purposeful diagnostic-treatment, scientific-research and teaching activities, my comprehensive assessment of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Stefanov Nakov, PhD is that he is fully formed as a neurosurgeon, scientist and educator.

The presented evidentiary materials are of an original nature and no plagiarism and repetitions are found. The sum of the points in the respective sections exceeds the set minimum national criteria for awarding the academic position "Professor".

Due to all of the above, I allow myself to recommend to the honorable scientific jury to award to Assoc. Dr. Vladimir Stefanov Nakov, PhD the academic title "Professor", for which I confidently vote "Yes".

Prepared the opinion:

/Prof. Dr. Kiril Vasilev Draganov, DSc/

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Kiril Vasilev Draganov', written vertically over the printed name.

01.04. 2024.