

Statement

From

Prof. Vasil Chervenkov, DSc

Head of Vascular Surgery Clinic, Acibadem CityClinic University Hospital Tokuda

Subject: a competition for the academic position of professor in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports", professional field 7.1 "Medicine" scientific specialty "Neurosurgery" for the needs of Clinic of Neurosurgery at "Acibadem CityClinic University Hospital Tokuda" EAD.

1. Comments on the procedure:

The competition was announced in state journal no. 98 / 24.11.2023. on the basis of Art. 4 para. 2 and Art. 29A of the law and Art. 2 para. 2 of the Regulations for the implementation of the RSARB. The scientific jury was appointed by Order No. 15-05-09 / 30.01.2024 of the Executive Director and Procurator of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD on the proposal of the Scientific Council of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD, approved at a meeting with Protocol No. 49 / 01.11.2023

A single candidate has submitted documents for participation in the competition:

1. Assoc. prof. Vladimir Stefanov Nakov MD

The candidate's documents were examined by a committee that found that he met the conditions and was admitted to the competition.

By the established official way and on time I received a full set of documents in electronic and paper form.

The procedure for conducting the competition so far and the deadlines, the materials provided to me to the candidate Assoc. prof. Vladimir Stefanov Nakov, MD, PhD, as well as the opinion prepared by me are fully consistent with the requirements of the above regulatory framework

2. Brief professional biographical details about the candidate:

- a. Assoc. prof. Vladimir Stefanov Nakov, MD, PhD graduated in medicine in 1992 with excellent grades. During the period 1992-1993 he worked as a district doctor in the village of Kostenets. In the period 1993-1999 he specialized in neurosurgery at the University Hospital St. Anna, Sofia. In the period 1999-2012 she worked in the clinic of neurosurgery at the same hospital, and in the period 2010-2012 she was deputy head of the clinic. From 2012 to 2016 he was Head of the Department of Vascular Neurosurgery at the Military Medical Academy Sofia. In 2015 he successfully defended a dissertation on "Early treatment of ruptured brain aneurysms". Since 2016 he has been working at the Acibadem CityClinic of Tokuda University Hospital, where since 2017 he has held the academic position of Associate Professor and since 2024 the administrative position of Head of Clinic. Throughout his professional experience Assoc. Nakov passed courses in microneurosurgery and bypass techniques, spinal surgery, cranial base surgery, health management, etc.

b.

3. Publication activity, citations and impact factor.

- a. The topic of the dissertation for acquiring NSA "Doctor" developed by Assoc. Vladimir Nakov, MD, is "Early treatment of ruptured brain aneurysms", which reflects an important problem in neurosurgery concerning the time interval for the treatment of this disease. Subsequently, a monograph on the topic was issued.
- b. The candidate provides a list of a total of 39 publications for the period 2017-2024 beyond those used for the academic position "Associate Professor" (reference prepared by NACID) which can be grouped as follows:
 - i. Original articles in refereed and indexed in world-famous databases scientific periodicals: 14 articles
 - ii. Original articles in non-refereed and unindexed in world-famous databases scientific periodicals with scientific review: 13 articles
 - iii. Published chapters of a collective monograph with a state of the university textbook "Neurosurgery" under the editorship of art. Cor. Prof. Dr. N. Gabrovski, 2023 – 12 chapters

Reference in NACID for the period 2017-2024 of the citations of the publications of Assoc. Dr. Vladimir Stefanov Nakov, MD, PhD at WEB OF SCIENCE, SCOPUS and other databases certifies a total of 50 citations

Reference in Scopus for the works of Assoc. prof. Vladimir Nakov shows H-index 3.0. Assoc. prof. Vladimir Nakov has participated in 3 scientific research projects, one of which is international:

"Three-Dimensional Photorealistic Atlas of Neurological Surgery" 2022 г.

To the Research Fund of the European Association of Neurosurgery, and this project has been selected, along with seven others out of a total of 90 applications (<https://www.eans.org/page/RFGGrantWinners>). This is a joint one with the Department of Anatomy and Histology, Pathology and Forensic Medicine University Hospital Lozenets, as well as:

- Clinic of Neurosurgery and Department of Anatomy, University Hospital Düsseldorf, University of Heinrich Heine, Germany
- Clinic of Neurosurgery and Department of Anatomy, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- Laboratory of Neuroanatomy Ibris, Salerno, Italy

All models are uploaded to a publicly accessible site, which was developed specifically for

The aim of the project: <https://3datlasofneurologicalsurgery.org/>

The other two are internal projects at the Department of Anatomy, Physiology, Pathoanatomy and Forensic Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, Sofia University and concern the preparation of photorealistic anatomical 3D models and their application as a means of training medical students.

- c. The candidate provides a list of 37 presented papers at Bulgarian and international neurosurgical conferences for the period 2017-2024.

4. Areas of research.

The scientific and clinical interests and achievements of Assoc. prof. Vladimir Stefanov Nakov are grouped in the following directions:

- a. Surgical and endovascular treatment of bled and non-bled brain aneurysms – dissertation and many years of clinical experience
- b. Extracranial - intracranial brain bypass – highly specialized surgical intervention aimed at preserving or increasing cerebral blood flow; joint activity with the vascular surgery clinic.
- c. Surgical treatment of mesenchymal vascularized tumors and CNS lesions
- d. Surgical treatment of tumors affecting the cranial base – where the candidate applies highly specialized surgical accesses and methods to monitor neurological functions during operations.
- e. Intraoperative real-time functional electrophysiological control – routine introduction of this technology allows tracking of motor, somatosensory evoked potentials, as well as identification and preservation of cranial nerves during surgical interventions. The technique is routinely applied in the clinic and is the subject of successfully defended dissertation of the candidate's doctoral student
- f. Preoperative 3D planning in cranial neurosurgery which includes the development of algorithms for preoperative planning and integration of data into virtual and mixed reality systems allowing preoperative discussion of the stages of the operation, as well as direct superposition in mixed reality of 3D reconstructions on the patient himself during surgery

5. Teaching activities

- a. In all the years of his professional career Assoc. prof. Vladimir Nakov, MD, PhD is engaged in the training of post-graduate students in neurosurgery both at the Military Medical Academy Sofia, Medical University Plovdiv, Department of Neurosurgery Plovdiv, as well as specialists at Tokuda University Hospital, for which the applicant provides the relevant certificates. Under his leadership there are two successfully defended PhD students in January 2023 – Dr. Lili Laleva, MD, PhD in Milko Milev Assoc. Vladimir Nakov, MD, PhD is also a guest lecturer at specialized neurosurgical courses, for which he also provides certificates.

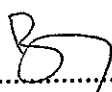
6. Originality and authenticity of the competition documents. Fulfillment of the minimum national criteria for holding the academic position "Professor"

- a. The candidate in this competition has submitted and signed declarations certifying that the results and contributions in their scientific production are original, not plagiarized, and that all documentation provided corresponds to the objective truth.
- b. The references for compliance with the scientific indicators with minimum national criteria for taking the academic position "professor" show that Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Stefanov Nakov MD has a total number of points: **1129.39 pts.**

7. Conclusion

After reviewing all the submitted materials, in my capacity as a member of the scientific jury, I believe that Assoc. prof. Vladimir Stefanov Nakov, MD, PhD, has all the necessary qualities and meets the criteria for holding the academic position "Professor", which gives

me grounds to propose to the members of the honorable jury to award him the title "Professor" by voting "Yes".

Yours Sincerely.....
Prof. Vasil Chervenkov, DSc

20.March.2024