

REWIEV

by Prof. Kiril Vasilev Draganov, MD, PhD

Clinic of Hepato-Biliary, Pancreatic and General Surgery

"Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital"

Subject: Competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Thoracic Surgery" in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports" in the professional field 7.1. "Medicine" for the needs of the Clinic "Thoracic Surgery", "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda" EAD, announced in the State Gazette, No. 35/25.04.2025.

By Order No. 15-03-190#2/24.07.2025. of the Executive Director of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda" Dr. Venelina Mileva and the Procurator of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda" Mr. Bugra Susam and on the basis of Art. 4, para. 2, Art. 25 of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDARB), Art. 2, para 2, Art. 57, para. 1 and para 2 of the Regulations for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Scientific Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria in "Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital" (LDSSRB), Art. 96, para 2 of the Rules of Procedure for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Occupying Academic Positions at Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda (RPASDOAP), as well as on the basis of a Decision of the Scientific Council (Minutes No. 58/05.06.2025), I am appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury for the above-mentioned competition.

The only candidate in the competition is Assoc. Tsvetan Radnev Minchev, MD, PhD

The presented by Assoc. Minchev documents are fully compliant with the regulatory framework. They were considered by a commission appointed by order

of the Executive Director of the hospital and the candidate was admitted to participate in the competition. The deadlines for conducting the competition and the procedure for it have been complied with in accordance with the Law on the Prevention of Fraud and Fraud in the case of Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital and the in RPASDOAP the case of Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital.

At the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, I was assigned to prepare a review.

Short professional biography. Postgraduate qualification.

Ass. Dr. Tsvetan Radnev Minchev, MD graduated in Medicine in 1989. at the Medical Academy (now MU), Sofia. In the period 1989-1990 he was a doctor at an air base, Dobroslavtsi, and from 1990 to 1991. is a postgraduate in surgery at the Military Medical Academy, Sofia. From 1992 to the end of 2006. Ass. Prof. Minchev first specialized in thoracic surgery, and then continued to work at the Clinic of Thoracic Surgery, Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment of Thoracy "St. Sofia" and holds the positions of resident, assistant, senior and chief assistant. Since 2007. So far, Assoc. Dr. Tsvetan Minchev, MD is part of the team of Tokuda Hospital Sofia. Initially, he was a doctor at the Department of General Surgery, and since 2008. after the establishment of the Department of Thoracic Surgery (now the Thoracic Surgery Clinic) and until now he is the head of this structure.

Ass. Minchev, MD has a specialty in General Surgery (1996) and Thoracic Surgery (2000).

In 2018. acquired the academic position of Associate Professor.

The candidate in this competition has conducted numerous postgraduate courses in Bulgaria and abroad, most of which are related to video-assisted (minimally invasive) surgical interventions on the thorax. He is certified as a console surgeon to work with the Da Vinci robotic system.

He is a member of the BMA, BSD, BATH, BPA.

Scientific production. That. Impact Factor.

Ass. Prof. Minchev is enrolled as a doctoral student of independent training at the "Clinic of Thoracic Surgery", Hospital for Active Treatment of Patients "St. Sofia". After a successful public defense of a dissertation on the topic "Surgical technique with pedicular omentum for the treatment of mediastinitis after cardio-surgical operations", he acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (15.11.2017).

The scientific production of the candidate in this competition, in addition to the dissertation and the abstract to it, contains 76 more publications and scientific activities, which can be systematized in the following way:

1. Monograph – 1;
2. Co-authorship in a scientific guide – 1;
3. Full-text articles and abstracts of reports presented at scientific forums, published in peer-reviewed and indexed scientific journals (Scopus, Web of Science) – 12 (of which with IF – 10);
4. Full-text articles and reports with bibliography, presented at scientific forums and published in Bulgarian non-refereed journals or collections with scientific peer review - 18;
5. Publications in international non-refereed journals with scientific peer review - 1.
6. Participation with presentations at international scientific forums – 11;
7. Participation with presentations at national scientific forums, incl. with international participation – 32.

In 18 of the above-mentioned full-text scientific papers (52.9%) Assoc. Prof. Tsvetan Minchev, MD is an independent or first author.

A total of 239 citations were found in the databases from the CMB, MU - Sofia, of which 93 are in Scopus, 79 in Web of Science and 67 in sources from the

library fund of the CMB. The total IF after occupying the Associate Professor Law Firm is 30.817, the individual - 6.11, the h-index is 4 in Scopus and in Web of Science.

The large number of citations and the high IF prove the high scientific value of the studies of Assoc. Dr. Tsvetan Minchev.

Research activities and contributions.

The research activity of Assoc. Minchev is extremely rich and diverse. It touches on all significant and debatable problems of thoracic surgery, as well as a number of interdisciplinary topics. The contributions from the analyses are of a scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied nature, which for the needs of the review I group into five directions.

1. One of the main directions in the candidate's research is in the field of *minimally invasive and robotic surgical treatment of carcinomas of the esophagus and gastro-esophageal junction, as well as benign esophageal diseases* (scientific papers No. 2,3,10,15,18-20,22-28,30,33,34 from the list of scientific papers). The basis for this statement is, on the one hand, the large number and volume of studies on the topic, on the other hand, their thoroughness and attempt at comprehensiveness.

The main place here is occupied by the peer-reviewed monograph entitled "Robot-assisted operations in esophageal carcinoma and gastroesophageal connection" (2025). It discusses a number of controversial issues, gives the correct answers to many questions, and creates an opportunity for debates on other of them. A large number of current studies are cited in the work. At the same time, it is based on the extremely rich own institutional experience, including a series of 100 patients

with robot-assisted esophageal surgery, operated at Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda EAD in the period 2019-2024.

His own experience with minimally invasive (laparoscopic and thoracoscopic) and robot-assisted esophageal surgery has been shared at a number of national and international scientific forums. In most of the works in this direction, a thorough review is made of the complications, which, unfortunately, are a "mandatory element" after such aggressive interventions, even in a minimally invasive way.

2. Second main direction in the scientific work of Assoc. Tsvetan Minchev, MD is related to non-small cell lung carcinoma (scientific papers No. 16,17,31 from the list of scientific papers). An article published in Medical Magazine discusses multidisciplinary collaboration to improve prognosis at an early stage of the disease. In two presentations at national congresses of surgery, modern trends and own experience in pulmonary resection surgery are presented.

3. Proof of the high level of competence and expertise, as well as the large volume of surgical activity carried out by Assoc. Prof. Minchev and his team are the publications in the next direction - resections and reconstructions of lung, mediastin, cervical and other large blood vessels in intrathoracic malignant processes, as well as complex resections and reconstructions of pulmonary neoplasms performed with cardiopulmonary bypass (scientific papers No. 4, 5, 12 from the list of scientific papers).

4. Tracheal resections and reconstructions in tracheal malignancies, as well as tracheal resection and reconstructive surgery in children are serious challenges (scientific papers No. 11,13,21). The experience was presented at prestigious

scientific forums with printed abstracts in the Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery, as well as a full-text report in a collection of reports from the XVI National Congress of Surgery.

5. In the fifth direction, I put a number of rare, interesting and useful cases related to Boerhaave syndrome, the treatment of esophageal perforations, robotic intervention after gunshot injury, diagnosis and treatment of mediastinal tumors and vena-cava syndrome (scientific papers respectively No. 3,4,6-8,14).

Teaching activities.

For the period 01.01.2020 - 31.12.2024 Assoc. Minchev has realized a total teaching load of 1016 equivalents. hours in the form of courses in Advanced Educational Activities, training of postgraduate students and students (in Bulgarian and English).


Conclusion

I know Assoc. Tsvetan Minchev, MD since the beginning of our work at Tokuda Hospital Sofia (as the name of the medical institution was originally called) in 2006. In the beginning, he was part of the team of the General Surgery Department. In this aspect, it was very difficult for me, as a member of the scientific jury, not to show subjectivism and bias in the analysis of the diagnostic-medical, research and teaching work of the candidate. I have had the pleasure to use his consulting services many times, as well as to operate together.

From the point of view of time, I can say that Assoc. Minchev is an excellent operator, a responsible doctor and an ethical colleague. He is always open to an objective analysis of the causes of complications, ways to overcome problems and failures and prevention of similar situations in the future.

In conclusion and on the basis of the overall diverse and purposeful diagnostic-medical, research and teaching activities, my comprehensive assessment of Assoc. Dr. Tsvetan Radnev Minchev, MD is that he is a fully built specialist, scientist and lecturer, one of the leading thoracic surgeons in the country and abroad.

I take the liberty of recommending to the honorable scientific jury to award Assoc. Prof. Tsvetan Minchev, PhD, the academic title of "Professor", for which I confidently vote "FOR".

Reviewer:.....

/Prof. Kiril Draganov, MD, PhD/

10.08.2025

Sofia

