

To the Scientific Jury, appointed by Order
No. 15-03-221#2/03.09.2025 of the
Executive Director and the Procurator of
Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL
"Tokuda", Sofia

REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Vladimir Pavlov Stavrev, DSc

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Subject: Competition for selection to occupy the academic position
"Associate professor" in the field of Higher Education 7. Healthcare and
Sports, Professional Direction 7.1. Medicine and scientific specialty
"Orthopedics and Traumatology" for the needs of the Clinic of Orthopedics
and Traumatology of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Tokuda" EAD,
announced in the "State Gazette", issue 54/04.07.2025.

At a meeting of the Scientific Council of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Tokuda" EAD
held on 05.06.2025 (Protocol No. 58/05.06.2025), I was nominated as a member of the
Scientific Jury, and by order No. 15-03-221#2/03.09.2025 of the Executive Director and the
Procurator of the Hospital, I was approved as a member of the Scientific Jury for the procedure
for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of Higher Education
7. Health and Sports, professional Direction 7.1. Medicine and scientific specialty
"Orthopedics and Traumatology"

At the first remote meeting I was assigned to prepare a review.

Candidate:

Dr. Evgeni Nedev Vlaev, MD, physician at the Clinic of Orthopedics and Traumatology of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Tokuda" EAD, has been admitted to the competition.

I. Brief presentation of the candidate

Dr. Evgeni Nedev Vlaev was born in 1971 in the town of Tryavna. He completed his higher medical education in 1995 at the Medical University - Stara Zagora, where in 2004 he acquired a specialty in Orthopedics and Traumatology.

In 2022, after defending a dissertation on the topic: "Surgical treatment of scoliosis in childhood - methods for assessment and analysis of the achieved results" at "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Tokuda", he obtained the educational and scientific degree "PhD".

The professional experience of Dr. Vlaev includes working as a physician in the Pediatric Department and Emergency Department, city of Chirpan, as well as performing his military service as a physician in a border unit in city of Lyubimets. In the period 1998 - 2006 he worked as an assistant at the Department of General Medicine at the Medical Faculty of the Thracian University - Stara Zagora. Since 2006, he has been appointed as a specialist physician in the Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology at Tokuda Hospital - Sofia, subsequently "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Tokuda" EAD - Sofia. Since 2019 he has been an assistant at the Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Sofia.

During his professional development, he has undergone numerous training courses, both in Bulgaria and abroad (Russia, Austria, Germany, China, USA). He has completed qualification courses in arthroscopy, endoprosthetics and ultrasound diagnostics of joints.

Dr. Evgeni Vlaev demonstrates a striving for knowledge and self-improvement, and in recent years, given his direct professional interest in spinal deformities in children and under the aegis of the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS), he has attended the organization's congresses and specialized courses in the field of spinal surgery.

I know Dr. Evgeni Vlaev as a physician and as a colleague from participation in congresses, our joint research meetings for clinical trials and drug studies. I am familiar with his professional interests and clinical experience, at the defense of his dissertation I gave a statement with a positive evaluation.

II. General description of the submitted materials:

All necessary documents for participation in the competition have been provided by the candidate and are fully compliant with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation. The required diplomas, certificates and references certifying his qualification and the completed teaching and learning activities are available. Lists and copies of scientific publications in specialized scientific publications and participation in scientific forums are attached.

III. Evaluation of the scientific works for the overall academic development of the candidate:

Dr. Evgeni Nedev Vlaev participated in the competition with 32 scientific works: one dissertation for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "PhD", one monograph and 30 scientific publications - 14 in Bulgarian and 16 in international scientific journals, 12 of which are in refereed and indexed in the scientific information database Scopus and Web of Science, and 4 of them have an Impact Factor. In four of the publications he is the first author, and in the rest - second and subsequent. He has participated in 22 scientific forums, of which 16 are in Bulgaria and 6 are international. In $\frac{1}{4}$ of them he is the first author, in $\frac{1}{4}$ he is the second, and in the rest he is the third and subsequent.

53 citations of his scientific works have been established, with 3 in Bulgarian sources and 50 in foreign ones.

The candidate's research and practical-applied activities are in the following areas:

- Introduction into practice of a qualitative indicator for assessment and analysis of surgical treatment of patients with scoliosis.

The value of Dr. Vlaev's dissertation work lies in the introduction into practice of a qualitatively new indicator for assessment of treatment through surgical intervention in the disease scoliosis. The results of the treatment of operated patients in the clinic are presented, discussed and compared with routine methods of assessment. The advantages and disadvantages of both approaches are described. Algorithms for preoperative preparation and planning of the type and volume of the surgical intervention are proposed, taking into account both the objective findings and the subjective expectations of the patient.

- Creation and development of diagnostic algorithms for the management of children with spinal deformities.

The essence of the candidate's independent monograph is to provide a comprehensive view, summarize modern scientific knowledge and practical approaches in the complex diagnostic process of the scoliosis disease. All possibilities for clinical and instrumental examination of

the patient are described in detail, the reasons for using each of them are explained, as well as guidelines and recommendations for their implementation are given, including the disadvantages and errors in their use. The monograph provides a standardized methodology for diagnosis and approach in each form and at each stage of the development of the disease and is an excellent guide for identifying the managing the disease.

- Introduction and implementation of various surgical techniques in the surgical treatment of severe forms of spinal curvatures in children

Different approaches are possible for the treatment of children, suffering from spinal deformities. The methods used in the clinic where the candidate works are shared. The indications and possibilities for their application, the risks and potential complications that may arise are described.

- Introduction and use of intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring (IONM) and analysis of its effectiveness.

The use of IONM in these surgical interventions on the spine provides continuous monitoring of the neural structures and significantly reduces the risk of neurological damage during the surgical intervention

- Research into the possible mechanisms for the occurrence of the primary form of scoliosis - Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS)

The causes of the development of this disease are still unclear. Worldwide, and already in our country, various genetic studies are being conducted in search of the factors responsible for the occurrence and progression of spinal deformities.

- Study and analysis of the impact of spinal deformities on the function of other organs and systems.

Spinal deformities affect the activity of various organs and systems. Conducting clinical and instrumental studies aimed at these effects will contribute to a clearer assessment and better control of the consequences caused by the disease, as well as the effect of surgical treatment.

- Study of the influence of various factors on indications for surgical treatment of fractures of the lateral tibial plateau.

Data from a study on the various treatment options for lateral tibial plateau fractures are provided. The influence of the factors, such as timing of the surgical intervention and bone quality on the effectiveness of their surgical treatment is examined.

- Introduction of General Medicine training in Bulgaria and development of programs and rules for the work of general practitioners.

As an assistant in General Medicine, the candidate participated in the preparation of medical programs for training students and residents, as well as in the creation of medical rules and standards for the work of general practitioners.

IV. Teaching and study load:

In his career development, Dr. Evgeni Vlaev worked as an assistant in the Department of General Medicine of the Faculty of Medicine at the Trakia University - Stara Zagora for the period 1998 - 2006. And since 2019 he has been an assistant at the Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Sofia.

The teaching workload of Dr. Evgeni Vlaev, according to the attached official reports for the period 01.07.2020 - 31.07.2025 is 606.5 eq. hours, of which 480.5 eq. hours with residents and 126 eq. hours from modules conducted with external residents. He is the head of specialization for two residents.

V. Overall assessment of the candidate's compliance with the mandatory conditions, quantitative criteria and scientific-metric indicators, according to the Regulations for the organization and activities of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Tokuda" EAD - Sofia:

The volume and quality of the scientific activity of Dr. Evgeni Nedev Vlaev, MD, in combination with his clinical and teaching activities meet the requirements and criteria set out in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor", as well as the regulations on the terms and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Tokuda" EAD. According to the reference made, Dr. Vlaev presented 551.88 points, significantly exceeding the minimum national requirements for participation in a competition for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor"

Conclusion:

I believe that Dr. Evgeni Vlaev, MD is a worthy candidate, possesses all the qualities and fully meets the criteria for occupying the academic position of Associate Professor. This gives me grounds and full confidence to vote positively for Dr. Evgeni Nedev Vlaev to obtain the academic position of "Associate Professor".

I propose to the members of the esteemed scientific jury and the Scientific Council of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Tokuda" EAD to support the election for the academic

position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine and scientific specialty "Orthopedics and Traumatology" for the needs of the Clinic of Orthopedics and Traumatology of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Tokuda" EAD of Dr. Evgeni Nedev Vlaev.

21 September 2025
city of Plovdiv

Prepared the review:.....

/Prof. Dr. Vladimir Stavrev, DSc/