

To
The Chairman of the Scientific Jury
Appointed by order No. 15-03-221#2/03.09.2025
of the Executive Director of "Acibadem City Clinic
UMBAL Tokuda" EAD Dr. Venelina Atanasova
and of the Procurator of "Acibadem City Clinic
UMBAL Tokuda" EAD Mr. Bugra Susam

S T A T E M E N T

by Prof. Dr. Kiril Vasilev Draganov, DSc
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Subject: Competition for the academic position of "**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**" in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports" in the professional field 7.1. "Medicine" and the scientific specialty "Orthopedics and traumatology" for the needs of the Clinic of Orthopedics and traumatology of " Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD, announced in the State Gazette, issue 54/04.07.2025.

By order No. 15-03-221#2/03.09.2025 of the Executive Director of " Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda EAD" Dr. Venelina Atanasova and the Procurator of " Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD Mr. Bugra Susam, I have been nominated as a member of the Scientific Jury for the above-mentioned competition.

At the first remote meeting of the jury I was assigned to prepare a statement.
The only candidate in the competition is Dr. Evgeni Nedev Vlaev, PhD

The deadlines for conducting the competition and the procedure for it have been complied with in accordance with the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the implementation of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria in "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD and the Regulations on the terms and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions in "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD.

I received, on time and in accordance with the established procedure, a complete set of documents from Dr. Evgeni Vlaev, PhD, which are fully consistent and comply with the requirements of the regulatory framework in force in the country, specified above.

Brief professional and biographical data

The candidate in this competition Dr. Evgeni Nedev Vlaev, PhD graduated from the Medical University of Stara Zagora (now Trakia University) in 1995. At the beginning of his professional career, Dr. Vlaev was a resident in three structures: Pediatric Department, Municipal Hospital, Chirpan, (1995-1996); Health Service, Border Unit, Lyubimets (1996-1997); Emergency Department, Chirpan (1997-1998). The last two were in connection with completing regular military service. In the period 1998-2006, he worked at the Department of General Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Trakia University, Stara Zagora, holding the positions of assistant, senior assistant and chief assistant respectively. From 2006 to the present, Dr. Vlaev has been part of the team of the Clinic of Orthopedics and Traumatology, "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD.

A good certificate of the scientific interests and authority that the candidate in the competition enjoys is his membership in a number of national and international societies, unions and associations. Here we can mention the Bulgarian Orthopedic and Traumatological Association (BOTA), the Bulgarian

Medical Union, the Bulgarian Association of Spinal Surgeons (BASS), the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria (USB), MENSA.

Postgraduate qualification (specializations and courses)

In 2004, after successfully passing the state exam, Dr. Evgeni Vlaev acquired a specialty in "Orthopedics and traumatology", but his desire for continuous professional development and improvement does not stop there. Proof of the latter are the many (29 in number, listed in the CV!) qualification courses and postgraduate specializations in a number of leading world-renowned centers and institutions: San Diego, USA; Salzburg and Vienna, Austria; Istanbul, Turkey; Mulheim/Ruhr, Germany; Shanghai, China; Prague, Czech Republic; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Exeter, Devon, Great Britain; Moscow Medical Academy and others. It is striking that these specializations are distributed relatively evenly over the years, starting from 2004 and ending in 2023, and are not "campaign". This proves the candidate's aspiration for continuous improvement, for acquiring new knowledge and practical skills in the field of orthopedics and traumatology.

A prerequisite for the postgraduate qualifications, participation in international scientific forums and membership in international organizations is Dr. Vlaev's good language skills. He is fluent in written and spoken English and Russian.

Scientific production. Citations. Impact Factor.

Dr. Evgeni Vlaev obtained the educational and scientific degree "PhD" in 2022, when, as an independent PhD student affiliated with the Clinic of Orthopedics and Traumatology, "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD, he successfully defended his dissertation on the topic: "Surgical treatment of scoliosis in childhood - methods for evaluation and analysis of the achieved results".

He is also the author of the peer-reviewed monograph "Diagnostic clarification of scoliosis: possibilities, features, errors" (Sofia, Medic print, 2025 ISBN 978-619-92307-6-3).

In the set of documents, the candidate in this competition presents a list of a total of 32 scientific works (including the dissertation and the monograph, mentioned above), distributed as follows:

- (1.) Refereed and indexed scientific journals - a total of 12, of which:
 - (1.1.) in Bulgarian publications - 4;
 - (1.2.) in international publications - 8 (of which 4 with Impact Factor);
- (2.) Non-refereed scientific journals - a total of 18, of which:
 - (2.1.) in Bulgarian publications - 10;
 - (2.2.) in international publications - 8.

The candidate's scientific activity additionally includes 45 participations with presentations at Bulgarian and international forums and 3 poster presentations.

The official reference of the National Library "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" has established 53 citations - 3 in Bulgarian and 50 in foreign publications. In the Scopus database, the number of citations of Dr. Vlaev's scientific works is 43, and in the Web of Science database, they are 25 with partial overlap. The same number of citations is also found in a NACID report.

According to the profile in Web of Science, the candidate has h index=3, and in Scopus - h-index=4.

The total IF of Dr. Vlaev is 3.234.

Scientific research. Contributions.

The subject matter of the scientific production of Dr. Evgeni Vlaev, PhD in the field of orthopedics and traumatology is diverse. The approaches and analyses in his scientific research are in-depth. They are characterized by

innovation, practical orientation and a desire to consider the issue from different aspects and in sufficient detail.

The main, but not the only, scientific research direction in Dr. Vlaev's research is the diagnosis and surgical treatment of scoliosis. Here the candidate has a number of contributions of a confirmatory and original nature, such as:

(1.) Introduction into practice of a quality indicator for the assessment and analysis of the surgical treatment of patients with scoliosis;

(2.) Creation and further development of diagnostic algorithms of behavior in children with spinal deformities;

(3.) Introduction and implementation of various surgical techniques in the surgical treatment of severe forms of spinal curvatures in children;

(4.) Introduction and use of intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring and analysis of its effectiveness;

(5.) Study of the possible mechanisms for the occurrence of the primary form of scoliosis – Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS);

(6.) Study and analysis of the influence of spinal deformities on the function of other organs and systems.

Other, no less important areas in the scientific research activity of Dr. Vlaev are the studies of the influence of the “urgency” factor in the surgical treatment of fractures of the lateral tibial plateau, as well as a number of studies and publications related to the training in “General Medicine” in Bulgaria, including the development of programs and rules for the work of general practitioners.

Teaching and learning activities

During the period 2019-2025, according to a certificate issued by the Ministry of Education, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Dr. Vlaev, in his capacity as a part-time assistant, has implemented a teaching workload with medical students in the amount of 405 hours. A certificate from "Acibadem

City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" proves a total teaching workload with continuing education specialists in the amount of 606.5 equivalent hours.

CONCLUSION

Dr. Evgeni Nedev Vlaev, PhD is a very good orthopedist-traumatologist, an ethical colleague, a scientist with a truly, real theoretical and practical contributions, responsible and empathetic to the fate of patients and dedicated to his teaching duties.

A certificate for meeting the minimum national requirements shows a total sum for all indicators of 551.88 points with a required 400 points.

Upon reviewing and evaluating the submitted evidence, I did not find any duplications or indications of plagiarism, as assessed according to the established procedures.

In conclusion, and based on the diverse and purposeful diagnostic-therapeutic, scientific-research and teaching activities, my comprehensive assessment of Dr. Evgeni Nedev Vlaev, PhD is that he is a fully developed orthopedic-traumatologist, scientist and teacher.

I would like to recommend to the esteemed scientific jury to award Dr. Evgeni Nedev Vlaev, MD the academic title of "associate professor", for which I confidently vote "FOR".

Prepared by:

/Prof. Dr. Kiril Vassilev Draganov, DSc /

16.10. 2025

Sofia