

STATEMENT

**BY PROF. DR. MILENA STANEVA STANEVA, PHD
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**REGARDING: COMPETITION FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION OF
"PROFESSOR", IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION 7. HEALTH AND
SPORTS, PROFESSIONAL DIRECTION, 7.1 MEDICINE IN THE SCIENTIFIC
SPECIALTY "CARDIOLOGY" FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CARDIOLOGY CLINIC
OF "ACIBADEM CITY CLINIC UMHAT TOKUDA" EAD**

1. Information about the procedure

The competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field, 7.1 Medicine, in the scientific specialty "Cardiology" for the needs of the Cardiology Clinic of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda" EAD was announced in the State Gazette, issue 54/04.07.2025. By order No. 15-03-215/03.09.2025 of the Executive Director and the Procurator of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda" EAD, I am appointed as an internal member of the Scientific Jury and the decision of the first absentee meeting is to present an opinion.

Only one candidate has submitted documents for participation in the competition – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Borislavov Traykov, PhD, who meets all the requirements of the ADASRB, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the terms and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda EAD.

In connection with the materials provided to me for preparing an opinion, I declare that I have not identified any evidence of plagiarism and I have no conflict of interest.

2. Candidate's professional data

Assoc. Prof. Vasil Traykov graduated from the Medical University of Sofia in 2000. From 2002 to 2008, Dr. Traykov worked at the Sofia University Hospital of Medical Sciences and Cardiology (now "NCH"), successively in the Cardiology Clinic and the Electrophysiology Laboratory. From April 2011 to November 2012, he was the Head of the Department of Invasive Electrophysiology at the Cardiology Clinic of the Tokuda Hospital. From November 2012 to April 2013, he was the Head of the Department of Invasive Electrophysiology and Pacing at the Cardiology Clinic of the Acibadem City Clinic Cardiovascular Center, and from April 2013, he was again the Head of the Department of Invasive Electrophysiology and Pacing at the Cardiology Clinic of the Acibadem City Clinic Cardiovascular Center.

He has acquired a specialty in Cardiology at the University of Szeged, Hungary in 2010, which is recognized in Bulgaria. In 2011, he acquired certificates in "Interventional Electrophysiology of the Heart" (EHRA) and in "Electrocardiostimulation" (EHRA). He acquired the HSA "Cardiac Pacing - Basic and Expert Level" in 2013 and "Invasive Electrophysiology - Basic and Expert Level" in 2014, and since 2016 he has a master's degree in "Public Health and Health Management" at the Medical University of Sofia, Bulgaria. In 2023, he acquired the Diploma of advanced studies in cardiac arrhythmia management European Arrhythmia Association (EHRA).

In 2021, Dr. Traykov defended his dissertation on the topic "Catheter ablation in atrial fibrillation: procedural characteristics and role of structures exhibiting trigger activity in the fibrillatory process", as a result of which he was awarded the ESD "PhD".

Assoc. Prof. Traykov has been a part-time lecturer in cardiology at the Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" since the academic year 2019/2020 and continues to teach medical students. Since 2021, he has been an associate professor of cardiology at the Cardiology Clinic of Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda EAD.

Assoc. Prof. Traykov has completed a number of qualification courses and trainings in electrophysiology and cardiac pacing in Bulgaria and abroad.

3. Assessment of the candidate's quantitative and qualitative indicators

Assoc. Prof. Traykov presents himself at the competition with a total of **87 scientific papers**, of which 86 are after holding the academic position of "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR": one dissertation for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", 37 scientific articles, 2 chapters as an independent author in collective monographs and 47 scientific communications, which are described in the lists (No. 9 and No. 10 of the mandatory documents for entering the competition). Of the 37 scientific papers presented, 26 have been published in international scientific journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science databases and are with IF, such as Europace, European Heart Journal, BMJ Open, Clinical Cardiology, J Arrhythm, Front Cardiovasc Med. and others. In Bulgarian journals that are in the Scopus and Web of Science databases, there are 11. He is an independent, first or last author in almost half of the publications (49% of the publications), and a second author – in 2.5%. The candidate has presented 47 participations in scientific forums, as a participant, organizer, has delivered reports and scientific communications, of which 28 are international and 19 national. In 45 of them (96%) he participated as an independent or first author.

The total impact factor amounts to 272.54, of which IF=187.98 after AP "Associate Professor".

From the submitted citation report by the Central Library of the Medical University of Sofia, **a total of 9530 citations** are documented in the databases, of which in foreign sources **Scopus – 4757 and Web Of Science – 4739**. In Bulgarian sources from the library fund of the Central Library, 34 citations are found. **H index 21.**

The table presents the candidate's correspondence with the minimum required points of "ACC UMHAT Tokuda" EAD for the position of AP "Professor".

Group of indicators	Content	Minimum required points NCID for "Professor"	Points presented by Assoc. Prof. V. Traykov, PhD
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-
V	Indicators 3 or 4	100	129,31
G	Sum of the indicators from 5 to 9	200	281,82
D	Sum of the indicators from 10 to 12	100	142 610
E	Sum of the indicators from 13 to the end	100	220
Total		550	143 291.13 T

The previous works, publications, citations and other scientific activities fully meet, and in most indicators significantly exceed, the current requirements of the RIADASRB in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports", professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Cardiology" for occupying the academic position "Professor".

4. Main scientific contributions

The scientific production of Dr. Traykov examines a number of topics in the field of modern clinical and invasive electrophysiology, which are of original character and high value and determine significant contributions with scientific research and practical-applied value. The main sections are:

1) Study of the mechanisms of atrial fibrillation and catheter ablation as a therapeutic approach,

- The role of trigger structures in maintaining the fibrillatory process has been clarified (1, 6, 7, 12, 13, 17, 27, 33).

- Good temporal stability of the frequency distribution in the atria has been demonstrated and the role of the pulmonary veins in maintaining the AF process has been shown (1, 6, 7, 12, 13, 17, 27, 33).

2) Study of electrophysiological findings in supraventricular tachycardias

Scientific publications in this section include studies on electrophysiological findings in focal atrial tachycardias, supraventricular tachycardias associated with accessory pathways, and AV nodal reentrant tachycardia. (9, 18, 32)

3) Study of electrophysiological findings and results of catheter ablation in atrial fibrillation and vasovagal syncope (16, 31, 32);

They are related to the study of the mechanisms of atrial fibrillation after open-heart surgery, as well as the procedural characteristics and results of catheter ablation in patients with typical atrial fibrillation with or without the use of intracardiac echocardiography.

4) Pacing and infections in implantable electronic devices for heart rhythm control.

Scientific works are aimed at creating recommendations on the behavior of infections in implantable electronic devices and study the practice of prevention and treatment of infections in implantable electronic devices worldwide. (23, 24, 26, 34, 35, 40)

5) Treatment of ventricular tachyarrhythmias and the prevention of sudden cardiac death. (19, 20, 25)

6) Development of consensus documents and documents expressing the position of leading organizations.

Assoc. Prof. Traykov participated in a team developing the current recommendations for behavior in AF from 2024 (6, 7, 13). In a consensus document of EHRA and EACI on periprocedural imaging in electrophysiology (14); a document examining in detail the different methods for selecting patients for mass screening for atrial fibrillation (22); international consensus regarding behavior in Takotsubo syndrome (10,11).

7) Development of recommendations, consensus documents and documents expressing the position of leading organizations: National and international registries

in the field of arrhythmias regarding the organization of care for patients with rhythm and conduction disorders (3, 30, 31, 36-38).

8) Prevention of cardiovascular diseases and promotion of cardiovascular health (28, 15).

The scientific developments of Assoc. Prof. Traykov have proven scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied contributions, have been published in renowned specialized medical journals and the results have been reported at authoritative international congresses. They contribute to optimizing the diagnosis and treatment of rhythm and conduction disorders and the prevention of heart diseases.

5. Teaching and learning activities

The teaching workload of Assoc. Prof. Vasil Traykov for the period 01.01.2020 - 31.12.2024 is excellently presented. It is **a total of 3,792 hours**.

At ACC UMHAT Tokuda EAD, he has completed a **total of 2,817 eq. hours**, which includes active participation in the training of cardiology residents - 714 eq. hours, training in HSA - 441 eq. hours, from modules conducted with external residents 1,312 eq. hours and continuing education - 90 eq. hours. He is the head of the specialization of 2 cardiology residents. He has conducted training for 72 external cardiology residents in the modules "Electrophysiological examination and treatment" and "Electrocardiostimulation" and for 7 doctors of the HSA "Electrophysiological examination" basic and expert level, as well as "Cardiostimulation" - basic level

As a part-time lecturer at the **Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"** for the academic years from 2021/2022 to 2024/2025, he has conducted a **total of 975 teaching hours** for medical students in Bulgarian language IIIrd year "Propaedeutics of internal diseases" - cardiology and for students in Bulgarian and English language IVth and VIth years "Cardiology". Assoc. Prof. V. Traykov is the scientific supervisor of 1 doctoral student in independent training in the scientific specialty "Cardiology".

6. Expert activity and scientific research activity

Assoc. Prof. Traykov is a member of several scientific societies and organizations: Member of the Bulgarian Society of Cardiology - Chairman for the 2022 to 2024 term and actively works on the topic of promoting cardiovascular health and creating a National Plan for Cardiovascular Health; European Society of Cardiology; Association of Cardiac Pacing and Electrophysiology in Bulgaria - Chairman for two terms (2016-2019 and 2019-2022); Member of the Scientific Documents Committee of the EHRA 2016 - 2022; Co-Chair of the Selection Committee of the EHRA 01/10/2022 - 12/10/2024; Member of the Declaration of Interest Committee of the ESC from 09/2024.

CONCLUSION

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Traykov, PhD, fully meets the requirements of the ADASRB, the Regulations for the implementation of the ADASRB and the Regulations of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda" EAD for holding the academic position of "Professor".

Assoc. Prof. V. Traykov is a well-established doctor - cardiologist and specialist in electrophysiology and cardiac pacing, with extensive clinical experience, implementing a full range of complex procedures in electrophysiology and cardiac pacing, with sufficient

volume, high quality indicators and real theoretical and practical contributions to scientific activity. He has a rich and diverse teaching activity. He has extensive organizational experience as chairman of ACPEBulgaria and BSC and a member of international committees in EHRA and ESC.

Considering the above, I strongly recommend that the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury vote positively for the election of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Borislavov Traykov, PhD. for the academic position of "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Cardiology" for the needs of the Cardiology Clinic of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda".

02.10.2025

Sofia

Prepared the statement:


(Prof. Dr. Milena Staneva, PhD)