

## **OPINION**

**FROM PROF. DR. MILENA STANEVA STANEVA, PHD  
HEAD OF THE ANGIOLOGY CLINIC  
"ACIBADEM CITY CLINIC TOKUDA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL" SOFIA**

**REGARDING: COMPETITION FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION  
"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 TOKUDA  
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL"**

### **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 Tokuda University Hospital" was announced in the SG, issue 31 of 11.04.2025. By order No. 15-05-141/11.06.2025 of the Executive Director and the Procurator of "Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital", I was 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 - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeri Lyubenov Gelev, PhD, who meets all the requirements of the the Law for development of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at "Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital".

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. Dr. Valeri Gelev graduated from the Medical University of Sofia in 1990. He has acquired specialties in Internal Medicine in 1995 and Cardiology in 2000. Since 2003, he has acquired a certificate for Highly Specialized Activity - Interventional Cardiology, and since 2016 he has a Master's degree in "Health Management" from the Faculty of Public Health of the Medical University of Sofia, Bulgaria.

In 2021, Dr. Gelev was awarded the educational and scientific degree "PhD" based on a defended dissertation on the topic "Retrograde access in recanalization of chronic occlusions of coronary arteries".

Assoc. Prof. Gelev began his career in 1990 as a district physician in Kostenets. He has been working consecutively from 1991 to 2001 as a doctor at the Clinic of Cardiology at the at the Cardiology Clinic of the University Multidisciplinary Hospital for Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine "N.I. Pirogov", from 2001 to 2009 - Department of Invasive Cardiology at the National Hospital of Cardiology in Sofia, from 2009 to 2013 he was Head

of the Department of Invasive Cardiology at the UMHICEM "NI Pirogov ". Since March 2013, he has been working as Deputy Head, and since 01.03.2023, he has been Head of the Cardiology Clinic at the "Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital". Assoc. Prof. Gelev has been a part-time lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine of the 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 University Hospital Tokuda" , Sofia.

Assoc. Prof. Gelev has completed a number of qualification courses and training in interventional cardiology in Paris; Columbia University New York USA; Novosibirsk, Russia.

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

A total of 131 scientific works are presented, 130 of which are after associate professor: one dissertation for the acquisition of the ESD "PhD", a chapter in 1 peer-reviewed scientific book, 50 scientific articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals (29 in refereed and indexed editions in the Scopus and Web of Science databases, of which with IF - 21 and 21 in non-refereed journals with scientific review by the National Research Council) and 79 participations in scientific forums. In 55% of the publications he is the first or last author. The total impact factor amounts to 616.438. Scientific activity includes 79 participations in scientific forums, as an organizer, moderator and with delivered reports and scientific communications, of which 28 are international and 51 national. As a principal investigator, he also participated in over 15 international research projects for testing new medicinal products and therapeutic manipulations.

From the submitted citation report by the Central Medical Library of the Medical University of Sofia, a total of 10,288 citations are documented in the databases, of which 1871 in foreign sources Scopus and 8413 in Web of Science and 4 in Bulgarian. H index 11.

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

Group of indicators

Contents Minimum required points of NACID for "Professor" Presented points by Assoc. Prof. V. Gelev, PhD

Group of indicators	Contents	Minimum required points of NACID for "Professor"	Presented points by Assoc. Prof. V. Gelev, PhD
<b>A</b>	Indicator 1	50	50
<b>B</b>	Indicator 2	-	-
<b>V</b>	Indicators 3 or 4	100	132,53
<b>G</b>	Sum of indicators 5 to 9	200	238
<b>D</b>	Sum of indicators 10 to 12	100	168 920
<b>E</b>	Sum of indicators from 13 to the end	100	260

<b>Total</b>		<b>550</b>	<b>169 600,53 r</b>
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The previous works, publications, citations and other scientific activities fully meet, and in most indicators significantly exceed the current requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports", professional direction 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Cardiology" for holding the academic position "Professor".

#### 4. Main scientific contributions

Assoc. Prof. Gelev's scientific interests are diverse and concern different areas of cardiovascular diseases.

He pays particular attention to **chronic coronary occlusions**, their epidemiology, anatomical features, as well as the indications and techniques for interventional revascularization. The place and importance of retrograde access for successful recanalization of coronary occlusions are examined, as well as various aspects and trends in recanalization of chronic occlusions. Based on the accumulated data and experience, an algorithm for the indications and method of applying the retrograde approach in recanalization of coronary occlusions has been developed and tested. (dissertation, 1,14,31).

Other areas of Assoc. Prof. Gelev's scientific activity are: **Percutaneous interventions in main artery stenoses** (8,14,23,31); **Complex coronary interventions** (14,23,48,49); **Non-obstructive Coronary Disease** (14,49.); **Lp (a)** its role as a risk factor for cardiovascular diseases (14,34,46,51); **Miscellaneous:** Publications and presentations on topics related to Heart Rate Variability and its changes in patients with CHD before and after revascularization, as well as changes in Heart Rate Variability in patients with degenerative aortic stenosis. (43,44); The challenges in diagnosing and treating HF with preserved LV fraction are analyzed (13,32,33,40); endovascular treatment of life-threatening conditions in urology (28); on contrast-induced neurotoxicity after interventional treatment of cerebral aneurysm (3,10); review of hyperuricemia as a risk factor for contrast-induced nephrotoxicity (30); the manifestation and therapy of arrhythmias in patients with COVID-19 (11); current drug therapy for various heart diseases – ACS (33,36,39,45,47), dyslipidemia (34,41,46), chronic coronary syndrome (13, 35, 48), anticoagulant therapy for atrial fibrillation (15), DAPT after PCI (16,18,19), AH (37,38,42).

The scientific developments of Assoc. Prof. Gelev 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 prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

#### 4. Teaching and learning activities

The teaching workload of Assoc. Prof. Valeri Gelev for the period 01.01.2020 - 31.12.2024 is well presented. It is a total of 2856.5 hours. At "ACC UH Tokuda" he has completed a total of 1896.5 eq. hours, which includes active participation in the training of cardiology residents - 1803.5 eq. hours, training in Interventional Cardiology - 63 eq. hours and continuing education - 30 eq. hours. As a part-time lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine of

Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for the academic years from 2021/2022 to the winter semester 2024/2025, he has conducted a total of 960 hours of medical students in Bulgarian language III course "Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine" - Cardiology and of students in Bulgarian and English language IV and VI course of Internal Medicine - Cardiology. Assoc. Prof. V. Gelev is a scientific supervisor of a doctoral student in independent training in the scientific specialty "Cardiology".

#### **6. Expert activity and scientific research activity**

Assoc. Prof. Gelev is a member of several scientific societies and organizations: Member of the Bulgarian Society of Cardiology - member of the Board from 2020 to 2024; European Society of Cardiology; European Club of Chronic Occlusions; Bulgarian Society of Invasive Cardiology - chairman for two terms (2015-2019) and vice chairman - 2023 to the present; One of the directors of the Bulgarian Bifurcation Course (BBC) 2013-2025.

Member of the Expert Council on Cardiology at the Ministry of Health.

Member of the editorial board of the journal Bulgarian Cardiology

#### **CONCLUSION**

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeri Gelev, PhD, fully meets the requirements of the LDASRB, the Regulations for the implementation of the LDASRB and the Regulations of "Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital" for holding the academic position of "Professor".

Assoc. Prof. V. Gelev is a well-established doctor - internist, cardiologist and specialist in invasive cardiology and endovascular treatment of cardiovascular diseases, with extensive clinical experience, implementing a full range of complex invasive cardiovascular procedures, with sufficient volume, high quality indicators and real theoretical and practical contributions to scientific activity. He has a rich and diverse teaching activity. He possesses a number of personal qualities that make him a worthy member of the national cardiology community. He is responsible and self-critical of everything he does. He has management experience as the head of the Cardiology Clinic of "Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital".

**Considering the above, I strongly recommend that the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury vote in favor of the election of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeri Lyubenov Gelev, PhD, to occupy the academic position of "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Cardiology" for the needs of the Cardiology Clinic of "Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital".**

06/29/2025  
City of Sofia

Prepared the opinion:  
(Prof. Dr. Milena Staneva, PhD)