

OPINION

by Corresponding Member Prof. Dr. Ivo Spasov Petrov, D.M.Sc.,
Head of the Department of Cardiology, Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Vitosha

In relation to the competition for the academic position of “**Professor**” in the field of Higher Education Area 7. Healthcare and Sports, Professional Field 7.1. Medicine, Scientific Specialty *Cardiology*, for the needs of the Department of Cardiology at “Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda” JSC, announced in State Gazette No. 54 of July 4, 2025.

I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury by Order No. 15-05-215/03.09.2025 issued by the Executive Director of “Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda” JSC. I was designated to prepare an opinion as an external member of the scientific jury.

The sole candidate is **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Borislavov Traykov, Ph.D.**

The candidate has submitted all required documentation in accordance with the competition requirements. I hereby declare that I have no conflict of interest regarding the reviewed materials and have found no evidence of plagiarism.

Short Biography

Dr. Vasil Traykov graduated from the First English Language School and in 2000 obtained his medical degree from the Medical University of Sofia. He holds specialties in **Cardiology** (2010, Hungary) and several professional certifications:
– *Interventional Cardiac Electrophysiology*, European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA), 2011;
– *Cardiac Pacing – Basic and Expert Level*, Medical University of Sofia, 2013;
– *Invasive Electrophysiology – Basic and Expert Level*, Medical University of Sofia, 2014;
– *Diploma of Advanced Studies in Cardiac Arrhythmia Management*, EHRA, 2023.
In 2016, he obtained a Master’s degree in Health Management. In 2021, he earned a Ph.D. and was appointed **Associate Professor in Cardiology**. He has participated in numerous European trainings and fellowships in cardiac electrophysiology.

Professional Career

Assoc. Prof. Traykov began his medical career at the National Cardiology Hospital in Sofia (2002–2014). After obtaining his cardiology specialty, he served as Head of the Department of Invasive Electrophysiology at Tokuda Hospital (Apr–Nov 2011), and subsequently at Acibadem City Clinic Cardiovascular Center (Nov 2012–Apr 2013). Since April 2013, he has been Head of the Department of Invasive Electrophysiology at the Department of Cardiology, Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda.

Positions and Professional Activities

Assoc. Prof. Traykov is a **member and current President of the Bulgarian Society of Cardiology (2022–2024)**, leading the initiative for the development and implementation of the **National Plan for Cardiovascular Health**. He is also a **member of the Board of the Bulgarian Society of Cardiac Pacing and Electrophysiology (BSCPE)**, serving as its President for two consecutive terms (2016–2019, 2019–2022). During his tenure, he contributed significantly to improving reimbursement policies in electrophysiology.

Scientific Activity

The candidate has submitted a total of **87 scientific works**, 86 of which were produced after attaining the rank of Associate Professor. These include: one Ph.D. dissertation, **37 articles in peer-reviewed journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science** (26 with impact factor), **2 monographs (one sole-authored)**, and **47 conference participations**. He is the sole, first, or last author in 49% of his publications.

Citation report from the Central Medical Library, MU-Sofia:
 – Total citations: 9,530
 – Scopus: 4,757; Web of Science: 4,739; Bulgarian sources: 34
 – Total Impact Factor: 272.54 (187.98 after attaining Associate Professor rank)
 – H-index: 21

Indicator Group	Description	Minimum Points (NACID)	Points by Assoc. Prof. Traykov
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	–	–
C	Indicators 3 or 4	100	129.31
D	Indicators 5–9	200	281.82
E	Indicators 10–12	100	142,610
F	Indicators 13–end	100	220
Total		550	143,291.13

The comparative assessment confirms that the candidate **meets and significantly exceeds** the national and institutional academic criteria for the rank of Professor.

Main Scientific Contributions

Dr. Traykov's research can be grouped as follows:

1. Mechanisms of atrial fibrillation and catheter ablation as a therapeutic approach; co-author of the latest European Society of Cardiology (ESC) guidelines on atrial fibrillation.
2. Catheter ablation in supraventricular tachycardia, atrial flutter, and vasovagal syncope.
3. Cardiac pacing and infections in implantable electronic rhythm devices.
4. Management of ventricular tachyarrhythmias and prevention of sudden cardiac death.
5. Development of ESC/EHRA consensus documents and position papers on key clinical topics.
6. Participation in national and international arrhythmia registries.
7. Cardiovascular disease prevention and promotion of cardiovascular health – *National Plan for Cardiovascular Health*.

His scientific work demonstrates originality, theoretical depth, and applied clinical value.

Teaching Activity

Assoc. Prof. Traykov teaches cardiology trainees and residents in interventional electrophysiology and cardiac pacing. He is a part-time lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", teaching Internal Medicine and Cardiology. He has conducted **3,792 teaching hours (2020–2024)** and supervises one Ph.D. student and two cardiology residents.

Conclusion

Based on the submitted materials and detailed evaluation of his scientific, teaching, and professional achievements, I conclude that **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Borislavov Traykov, Ph.D.**, fully meets and significantly exceeds the requirements for the academic position of **Professor in Cardiology**.

He is a highly qualified clinician and researcher with extensive experience in invasive electrophysiology, cardiac pacing, and arrhythmia management. His scientific output is substantial, internationally recognized, and of high impact (IF = 272.54, >9,500 citations, H-index = 21). Assoc. Prof. Traykov's contributions encompass key areas of modern cardiology, and his leadership roles in national and European organizations further affirm his academic and professional excellence.

Therefore, I express my **unequivocal support** for the election of **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Borislavov Traykov, Ph.D.**, to the academic position of **Professor in Cardiology** at the Department of Cardiology, Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda JSC.

Assoc. Member Prof. Dr. Ivo Petrov, D.M.Sc.

Sofia, 16 October 2025