

OPINION

By Prof. Dr. DEYAN EMILOV YORDANOV, PhD

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on the works of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetan Radnev Minchev, PhD

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For participation in a competition for the academic position "PROFESSOR" in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Thoracic Surgery" for the needs of the Clinic of Thoracic Surgery.

In the competition for the award of the scientific title "Professor" in Thoracic Surgery, the only candidate is Assoc. Prof. Tsvetan Minchev.

He was born in Sofia in 1965. He graduated from the Medical Academy - Sofia in 1989.

Work experience:

- from 1989 to 1990 – flight doctor in Dobroslavtsi - Sofia.
- From 1990 to 1991 – specialist in surgery – Military Medical Academy-Sofia.
- From 1992 to 2006 – successively resident, assistant, senior assistant and chief assistant at the Clinic of Thoracic Surgery, SHATPD "St. Sofia" – Sofia,
- From 2007 to the present he is the Head of the Clinic of Thoracic Surgery, Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital – Sofia, Associate Professor.

Assoc. Prof. Minchev has 2 recognized specialties – "General surgery – 1996 and "Thoracic surgery" – 2000. In 2017 he successfully defended his dissertation for the acquisition of the scientific and educational degree "PhD" on the topic "Operative technique with pediculized omentum for the treatment of mediastinitis after cardiac surgeries". Since 2018, he has had the recognized scientific title of "Associate Professor" in Thoracic surgery.

The scientific output of Assoc. Prof. Minchev can be systematized as follows:

1. DISSERTATION THESIS with an abstract and attached publications related to the topic of the dissertation, which are not the subject of this opinion.
2. HABILITATION THESIS – "Robot-assisted surgeries in carcinoma of the esophagus and gastroesophageal junction" – with four positive reviews.

3. TEACHING AID – "Behavior in carcinoma of the esophagus and gastroesophageal junction. Evidence-based clinical guideline".

4. Real publications – 31 pcs.

a. In refereed publications in Scopus and W of Sc– 12 pcs.,

b. In non-refereed journals – 19 issues,

5. Scientific reports presented at Congresses, Conferences and Symposia – total – 43 issues, of which 22 issues in English, and the remaining reports – in Bulgarian.

The scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Minchev have been cited 67 times in Bulgarian and 172 in foreign literary sources, according to a reference from the Central Medical Library of MU-Sofia.

In scientific publications, the candidate is the first author in 52.9%, second – in 23.6%, third and more – in 23.5%.

The total impact factor after acquiring the scientific title of "Associate Professor" is impressive and amounts to 30.817. The individual IF is 6.11

According to the thematic affiliation, the works of Assoc. Prof. Minchev can be grouped as follows:

1. The surgical treatment of purulent-septic complications after cardiac surgical and thoracic surgical interventions.

Considering that this topic is also addressed in the dissertation work, it is quite logical that the scientific research of Assoc. Prof. Minchev should expand in this direction to a significant extent. For a long period of time, an impressive number of patients with this severe and problematic complication have been treated. The applied diagnostic and therapeutic approaches have been described in detail, the results have been analyzed. In several publications, the different surgical techniques have been examined according to the diagnosed pathology.

2. Robotic surgical interventions in oncological and benign diseases of the esophagus and lung.

Assoc. Prof. Minchev is the first thoracic surgeon in Bulgaria certified to work with the "Da Vinci" robot. Therefore, this topic occupies an extensive place in his scientific works, the crown of which is his author's monograph on the topic "Robot-assisted surgeries in carcinoma of the esophagus and gastroesophageal junction". This innovative technology is increasingly being established in almost all surgical areas, and Assoc. Prof. Minchev probably has the greatest thoracic surgical experience in Bulgarian robotic thoracic surgery.

3. Surgical reconstructions and resections of large cervical, mediastinal and other large vessels in oncological intrathoracic diseases.

These publications demonstrate the wide spectrum of surgical skills of the candidate.

4. Tracheal resections and reconstructions in malignant tumors of the trachea.

These interventions are from the group of very large and complex thoracic surgical procedures and once again demonstrate the maximum high level in the work of Assoc. Prof. Minchev.

5. Miscellaneous

The diverse interests in various fields of medicine related to the variety of thoracic surgical pathology motivate the author to have in-depth observations on borderline areas of other specialties. Participating in multidisciplinary teams of cardiac surgeons, anesthesiologists, pediatric surgeons provide the opportunity to perform complex interventions in borderline and advanced diseases.

Summarizing the scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Minchev, we can say that he successfully combines the qualities of a researcher, implementer and popularizer of scientific achievements in the field of thoracic surgery.

The candidate's teaching activities include exercises and lectures on thoracic surgery of students, residents and thoracic surgeons regarding robotic thoracic surgery.

Assoc. Prof. Minchev is a member of:

- o Bulgarian Surgical Society;
- o Bulgarian Pulmonology Association;
- o Bulgarian Association of Thoracic, Cardiac and Vascular Surgery;
- o European Society of Surgeons "Eurosurgery";
- o European Association of Cardiothoracic Surgery;

Assoc. Prof. Minchev's main scientific and scientific-applied contributions can be systematized and summarized as follows:

1. Introduced robotic esophageal surgery into Bulgarian thoracic surgical practice.
2. For the first time in Bulgaria, in combined teams with cardiac surgeons and under ECC, performed extended surgical interventions on the lung and mediastinum in patients with malignant diseases declared primarily inoperable.
3. An original surgical technique for replacing chest wall elements with synthetic flaps and flap omentoplasty in extensive chest wall resections has been applied.
4. The vitality of autologous vascularized skin grafts in tracheal substitution and reconstruction has been proven. The results of 12 years of experience in tracheal

resection for primary adenocarcinoma, including carina resection under the ECC, have been analyzed.

5. A minimally invasive technique for the treatment of Boerhaave syndrome with OVESCO clip and prosthetics combined with video-assisted thoracoscopy for mediastinitis repair has been applied.
6. The diagnostic value of transthoracic and transesophageal biopsy of mediastinal tumors has been analyzed.
7. For the first time in world practice, the candidate reports his own experience of implanting a 3-D printed rib for the repair of a chest wall defect.

CONCLUSION

Assoc. Prof. Dr Tsvetan Minchev, PhD has a total work experience of 36 years, almost all of them in thoracic surgery. During this time, he has already become an established and experienced surgeon with a wide range of capabilities, proven to master all surgical techniques in thoracic surgery, with a strong affinity for innovative approaches. He also has significant teaching experience. I believe that he has the necessary personal, scientific and professional qualities, meeting the requirements of the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and should occupy the academic position of "Professor" in thoracic surgery, for which I call on the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote.

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