

STATEMENT

by Prof. Dr. Atanas Yonkov, MD, Ph.D

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Regarding:

Competition for the academic position of "Professor" in higher education area: 7. Healthcare and sports, Sector 7.1. Medicine, Scientific specialty: "Gastroenterology" for the needs of Gastroenterology Clinic at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University General Hospital, announced in SG at 12/11.02.2025.

The candidate for the position is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petko Karagyozev, MD, PhD. Assoc. Prof. Petko Karagyozev was born in 1979 in the town of Sevlievo. He graduated in Medicine in 2004 at the Medical University of Sofia. He specialized in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology at the Military Medical Academy in Sofia and obtained a specialty in Gastroenterology in 2013. He graduated with a Master's degree in Public Health and Health Management at the Medical University of Plovdiv, and holds all levels of competence in gastrointestinal endoscopy and abdominal ultrasound. He has completed specializations in Japan and Austria, as well as numerous courses in gastroenterology, gastroenterological endoscopy and invasive procedures in Germany, Czech Republic, Netherlands, USA, Israel, etc. From 2006 to 2011 he was a doctor at the Clinic of Gastroenterology and Hepatology of the Military Medical Academy in Sofia, and since 2011 he is part of the team of the Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University General Hospital. From 2015 to 2017 he was the Head of the Interventional Gastroenterology Department, from 2017 he was the Head of the Interventional Gastroenterology Department, and from 2022 he was the Head of the Gastroenterology Clinic at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University General Hospital. In 2020 he defended his dissertation on the topic "Role of Cholangiopancreatography in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Pancreatobiliary Diseases" and from 2022 he held the academic position of "Associate Professor" for the needs of the Gastroenterology Clinic, Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University General Hospital.

The candidate participated in the competition with 90 scientific papers, all of which were published after the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

The scientific output can be grouped as follows:

1. Dissertation for the acquisition of the Scientific Degree 'PhD' with a dissertation abstract - 1;
2. Full-text publications in refereed publications in English - 11;
3. Full-text publications in refereed publications in Bulgarian - 1;
4. Full-text publications in non-refereed publications in English - 1;
5. Full-text publications in non-refereed publications in Bulgarian - 49, including co-authorship in four textbooks;
6. Abstracts of reports presented at international scientific forums, printed in English in refereed publications with IF - 28.

Total impact factor (according to Official Note 161 / 20.02.2025 from the Central Medical Library, Medical University-Sofia): 345.9; INDIVIDUAL IMPACT FACTOR 70.085
Total number of citations in Scopus and Web of Science (2022-2025), according to Reference 160/20.02.2025 from the Central Medical Library, Medical University-Sofia (included only from the last 3 years) - 222

SUBJECTS OF SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION AND CONTRIBUTIONS:

1. Cholangiopancreatography - The candidate is the first in the country to introduce and apply digital cholangiopancreatography. The dissertation covers over 400 procedures, grouped into different groups according to indications, highlights the advantages of the methodology and develops an algorithm for its application in situations such as "difficult" calculi in the bile ducts and unspecified biliary stenoses. The application of the methodology in non-traditional indications such as biliary complications after liver transplantation, foreign bodies in the bile ducts, iatrogenic lesions, etc. is also discussed. The experience is also shared in posters and presentations at prestigious international gastroenterology congresses. The author's activities along with his membership in the European Cholangioscopy Study Group, contribute to the establishment of cholangiopancreatography on a global scale. The publications on the topic in prestigious international publications such as Endoscopy, World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, GIE, as well as the numerous citations of these publications are proof about the abovementioned input.
2. Interventional endoscopic sonography:
 - 2.1. Endosonographically controlled biliary drainage is a new technique in the world the candidate applies for the first time and introduces in the country. He has published several review articles in national journals and has repeatedly presented the technique at national forums on surgery, gastroenterology and sonography. The procedure is critically examined in its full scope of variants, its standardization is attempted as well as its role to be determined in the algorithm when minimally invasive biliary drainage. The accumulated extensive experience from over 200 procedures has been presented several times at leading international congresses. The candidate is the author of a review article on the subject in the prestigious World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. Valuable data have been published on comparisons between the individual techniques, complications, as well as results of a combination between endoscopic retrograde cholangiography and echoendoscopic biliary drainage, and the data contributes to the development of the technique beyond national borders. An example of international contribution is the participation in an international study

on the topic of "Surgery after endosonographic biliary drainage", which is critically important in the field and literally managed to change the perception of these interventions.

2.2. Echoendoscopic gastroenteroanastomosis - an innovative technique for minimally invasive treatment of gastric outlet obstruction. The candidate applied and described it for the first time in the country, published several review articles, critically analyzing the procedure. It is part of a collaborative international study, following-up patients for a minimum of 6 months and has been published in a leading international publication. The data are crucial and contribute internationally to the validation of the technique, including in indications of benign origin.

2.3. Echoendoscopic therapy of peripancreatic fluid collections - the methodology has been precisely developed, its place in the therapeutic algorithm has been indicated, drainage using a new metal stent - LAMS has been critically reviewed, the largest own series of patients has been published - almost 40 cases, confirming the effectiveness of the methodology and its advantages over classical surgery.

2.4 Echoendoscopic ablative therapy for pancreatic insulinoma - the candidate is a pioneer in the field, introducing and applying the methodology for the first time. The first Bulgarian cases of pancreatic insulinoma, successfully treated with the technique and followed-up for a period of over 6 months, have been published in prestigious international journals.

2.5. Endohepatology - the concept was introduced for the first time by the candidate. Endosonographic technique for the treatment of gastric varices with endovascular technique and application of coils and glue was presented for the first time. Own series of patients was presented at a prestigious international forum. For the first time in the country, echoendoscopic liver biopsy in diffuse and focal liver diseases was introduced and described. Assoc. Prof. Karagyzov own experience was presented at prestigious international forums as posters and oral presentations.

2.6. Concept for a combination of endoscopic ultrasound and endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography in malignant distal biliary stenosis. A large retrospective study was performed, the results of which were published in international journals.

2.7. Echoendoscopic drainage of the pancreatic duct – pancreatogastro anastomosis - the author is a pioneer in the field, applying the technique for the first time in the country and participating in an international collaborative study, the results of which were presented at a poster session at a prestigious congress in the USA.

3. Iatrogenic lesions of the bile ducts - the author has several publications on the topic, which shows his extensive experience, especially in multimodal drainage techniques and emphasizes the role of the multidisciplinary team in the treatment of such complex cases.

4. Contributions of a didactic nature - numerous review articles on the topic of GERD, diverticulosis, GIT oncological diseases, artificial intelligence in colonoscopy, etc.

Participation in the preparation of 4 teaching aids is highlighted - multidisciplinary consensuses on behavior in carcinoma of the esophagus, stomach, pancreas and intra- and extrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma.

EXPERT ACTIVITY

The candidate is a member of the State Examination Commission in Gastroenterology, Chairman of the Hospital Commission for the Provision of Biological Therapy in Chronic Inflammatory Bowel Diseases, Member of the Operational Council at the Ministry of Health for the Implementation of the National Cancer Plan. Member of the Management Board of the Bulgarian Scientific Society of Gastroenterology, Representative of the Bulgarian Society in the European Society of Gastroenterology (UEG Meeting of Members), Fellow of the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (FASGE). Reviewer for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, Therapeutic advances in gastroenterology, World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.

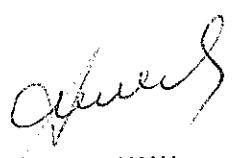
EDUCATIONAL AND TEACHING ACTIVITY

The candidate is a scientific supervisor of two doctoral students. Under his supervision, two postgraduate students have successfully achieved their specialty. Since 2019, he has been a part-time lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. He presents two references for academic workload covering the required minimum.

CONCLUSION

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petko Karagyozev, MD, fully meets the requirements of the ZRASRB, the Regulations for the implementation of the Academic Staff Development Act and the Regulations of Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University General Hospital for the academic position of "Professor". I recommend to the esteemed Scientific Jury to vote "Yes", Assoc. Prof. Petko Karagyozev to be awarded with the academic position of "Professor" for the needs of the Gastroenterology Clinic at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University General Hospital, Sofia.

09.05.2025

Statement author:.....

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