

OPINION

of Assoc. Prof. GEORGI STANEV YANKOV, MD, PhD

Head of the Thoracic Surgery Clinic – St. Ivan Rilski" - Sofia
about the scientific works of Assoc. Prof. TSVETAN RADNEV MINCHEV, MD,
PhD

Head of the Thoracic Surgery Clinic of ACC Tokuda University Hospital - Sofia
For participation in a competition for the academic position of "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, announced in State Gazette No. 35/25.04.2025.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetan Minchev, PhD, is the only candidate in the
announced competition. All necessary documents 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".

Ass. Prof. Minchev gained his initial experience at the Clinic of Thoracic
Surgery, where he defended his specialty in general and thoracic surgery and went
through the teaching degrees from assistant to senior assistant. Since 2006 he has
been working as a thoracic surgeon at Tokuda Hospital. Since 2008 he has been
Head of the Clinic of Thoracic Surgery. He successfully defended his dissertation
for the acquisition of the scientific and educational degree "PhD" on the topic
"Surgical technique with pedicular omentum for the treatment of mediastinitis after
cardio-surgical operations" in 2017. Since 2018 he has been awarded the scientific
title of Associate Professor of Thoracic Surgery.

The scientific output of Assoc. Prof. Tsv. Minchev, with which he
participated in the competition for Professor, is a total of 77 scientific papers - 1
dissertation for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree of PhD and
76 after the acquisition of the Associate Professor. 1 monograph, 1 co-authorship in
a scientific guide and 31 scientific articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals (12
in Scopus/Web of Science, of which with IF – 10; 18 - in the National Reference
List and 1 - international non-refereed journal with scientific review). The congress
participations of Assoc. Prof. Minchev are 43. He is a lecturer at 1 program lecture

at an international congress and author and co-author of 42 scientific reports and communications with published abstracts (11 at international scientific forums, 11 at national scientific forums with international participation and 21 - national scientific forums).

A total of 239 citations are documented in the databases from the presented citation reference from the Central Library of the Medical University of Sofia, of which 79 are in foreign sources Scopus – 93 and Web of Science – 79. Citations in sources from the library fund of the Central Medical University – 67 have been found. *h* index: Scopus – 4 and Web of Science – 4.

Out of all 32 publications, 11 are in English, 21 are in Bulgarian. Of the publications, 12 are in refereed and indexed in the Scopus or Web of Science database, and 10 are with an impact factor. They are in prestigious journals, such as the Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Endoscopy, Biomedical Journal of Scientific & Technical Research, Cureus, PLoS One, Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, Annals of Case Reports and others.

The total impact factor after Associate Professor amounts to 30.817. The individual IF is 6.11.

Analyzing the scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Minchev, it is evident that it contains significant scientific contributions of theoretical and practical nature, and they are concentrated in the fields of robotic surgery, general thoracic surgery (pulmonary, mediastinal, esophageal and tracheal) and oncology.

Thematically, the publications touch on a very wide range of problems and surgical techniques of Thoracic Surgery, with a special emphasis on innovative surgical interventions. Assoc. Prof. Minchev is the first thoracic surgeon in Bulgaria certified to work with the Da Vinci robot with a very large volume of robotic surgical interventions. This topic occupies an extensive place in his scientific developments. His author's monograph on the topic "Robot-assisted operations for carcinoma of the esophagus and gastroesophageal connection" is an emanation of this work. Robotic technology is increasingly established in almost all surgical areas, and Assoc. Prof. Minchev has the greatest experience in Bulgarian robotic thoracic surgery. The candidate has also made a significant contribution to the application of innovative techniques for the treatment of postoperative mediastinitis

from cardiac surgery (dissertation), combined cardiothoracic surgical interventions. Assoc. Prof. Minchev is an innovator and for the first time applied tracheal reconstruction with a vascularized free skin graft in cancer patients. The application of personalized 3D implants for chest wall reconstruction is also an innovation.

Conclusion

The presented by Assoc. Prof. Tsvetan Radnev Minchev, documents, as well as his professional, scientific and academic development, fully meet the requirements of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Tokuda Hospital and the Faculty of Applied Sciences for the Acquisition of the Academic Position of Professor. In view of the above, I propose to the honorable scientific jury to vote for the election of Assoc. Prof. Minchev for the academic position of "professor" in the current competition.

30.07.2025

Assoc. Prof. J. Jankov