

**TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY  
DETERMINED BY ORDER No. 15-05-99/05.08.2024 OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND  
PROCUREMENT OF "ACIBADEM CITY CLINIC UMBAL TOKUDA" EAD ACCORDING TO THE  
PROCEDURE FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR"**

**STATEMENT**

From

Prof. Dr. Svetoslav Kalchev Kalevski, MD, Ph.D., D<sup>n</sup>Sc, Head of the Neurosurgery Clinic of the  
"St. Anna - Varna"

Regarding: Procedure for the academician position "associate professor" in "Neurosurgery", field of higher education 7. Health care and sports 7.1 Medicine in the discipline "Neurosurgery", according to the decision of the Scientific Council of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD (Protocol no.53/26.06.2024) and promulgated in State Journal No. 47 of 04.06.2024.

One candidate participated in the competition, **Dr. Toma Yuriev Spiriev, MD**

At the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, I am assigned to prepare an opinion. I received from Dr. Toma Yuriev Spiriev, MD all the materials requested by me, necessary for the preparation of the present opinion. My opinion is in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Rules for its Application and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD.

**Brief biographical data:**

Dr. Toma Yuriev Spiriev, MD was born on November 25, 1984 in the city of Sofia. In 2003, he graduated from the French Language High School in Sofia. In 2009, he graduated in medicine from the "Medical University" in Sofia with excellent results. Since 2010, he has been working in the Neurosurgery Clinic of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda" EAD. He is currently working in the academic position chief assistant at the Clinic and has 14 years and 6 months of work experience in the field of neurosurgery. He has a recognized board certification in Neurosurgery since 2016. In 2019, he obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" after defending a dissertation on the topic "Preoperative 3D planning and 3D simulation of neurosurgical approaches in cranial surgical interventions". He has a master's degree in Health Management in 2020 from Sofia Medical University. Laureate is the recipient of numerous awards as a student and neurosurgeon. He also participated in numerous specialized courses, clinical internships and scientific projects at home and abroad. Excellent knowledge of English, and sufficient in French and German languages. He has a very high level of computer competences.

**Evaluation of research activity**

In the current competition, Dr. Spiriev presents 32 publications in scientific journals and one doctoral dissertation. Of these, 29 are in impact factor journals, 30 are indexed in SCOPUS or Web of Science. Two publications are in Bulgarian scientific journals and 30 in foreign scientific collections and magazines. He is the first author on 14 of the publications, and on 18 he is the second author and more. There are 42 participations with posters and reports at scientific forums without printing a full text report. Of them, 29 are abroad and 13 in Bulgaria. In this way, the total number of relevant works of Dr. Spiriev is 74. The

candidate's scientific works have been cited 612 times in the SCOPUS database and in the Web of Science database and 7 citations in Bulgaria.

The scientific-research and practical-applied activities of Dr. Spiriev are directed in the following main areas: Preoperative 3D planning and 3D simulation of neurosurgical accesses, integration of 3D visualization systems (virtual reality, mixed reality) in preoperative planning, 3D printing in neurosurgery as part of preoperative planning, neurosurgical anatomy, use of surface scanning algorithms to create highly specialized photorealistic 3D models of neuroanatomy, use of 3D visualization systems in the training of neurosurgery residents and medical students.

The total Impact factor of the candidate's scientific works is 6.369. 612 citations of his scientific works have been documented in our and international scientific literature. In 4 of the scientific papers the candidate is the first author, in 8 he is the second author and in the rest, he is the third author or more. h-index – 14.

His research interests are mainly in the field of preoperative planning using 3D visualization systems, neuroanatomy, 3D scanning, 3D printing and their application in neurosurgery. I agree with the reference prepared by Dr. Spiriev about the candidate's original scientific contributions. From the scientometric indicators, Dr. Spiriev collects 9598.05 points with a minimum requirement of 400 points for "associate professor". From the facts presented, it can be summarized that Dr. Spiriev is a well-established scientific researcher in the field of neurosurgery, which allows him to occupy the academic position of "associate professor" in the announced competition.

#### **Educational activity**

Dr. Spiriev, in his capacity as a part-time assistant, leads practical exercises in neurosurgery and anatomy for medical students at the Faculty of Medicine of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". According to the attached report from the university, his classroom workload for the last three academic years was 261 hours. He is the co-author of 3 textbooks on neurosurgery.

#### **Assessment of the diagnostic and therapeutic activity**

Dr. Spiriev has a recognized specialty in neurosurgery since 2016. As a specialist neurosurgeon, he worked for more than 8 years in the Neurosurgery Clinic of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda". He is actively involved in the treatment-diagnostic process of the Clinic, perform surgical interventions of large and very large volume and complexity independently and as a member of an operating team. He is respected by both his colleagues and patients.

#### **Conclusion**

Based on the above, I find it reasonable to give my **positive assessment** and I suggest to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the election of Dr. Toma Yuriev Spiriev, MD, to the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports" by professional direction 7.1."Medicine" and scientific specialty "Neurosurgery", for the needs of the Neurosurgery Clinic of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda", announced in State Journal No. 47 of 04.06.2024 and I wish him success.

10.09.2024 year.  
Varna

Prof. dr Svetoslav Kalevski, MD, PhD, DmSc

