

To the  
Scientific Committee, appointed by  
Order No. 15-05-98 dated 05.08.2024  
of the Executive Director and  
Procurator of Acibadem City Clinic  
Tokuda University Hospital, Sofia.

**OPINION**

by

Prof. Dr. Vasil Tsankov Yablanski, MD  
Head of the Orthopedics and Traumatology Clinic at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda  
University Hospital, Sofia

**Regarding:**

Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 7.1 Medicine, scientific specialty "Neurosurgery," for the needs of the Neurosurgery Clinic at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital – Sofia (State Gazette – Issue 47 of 04.06.2024).

By Order No. 15-05-98 of 05.08.2024. of the Executive Director and Procurator of Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital – Sofia and at a meeting of the Scientific Council of the same organization (Protocol 53/26.06.2024), I am appointed as a member of the Scientific Committee for the open competition.

At the first remote meeting of the Scientific Committee, a decision was made to prepare an opinion.

**Candidate:**

Dr. Asen Tsekov MD, a physician at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital, Sofia, Bulgaria, in the Neurosurgery Clinic from 2011 until now, is the only candidate who submitted documents for participation in the competition within the legally defined period. He meets the requirements of the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (ASDRBA), the Regulations for its application and the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions in Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital – Sofia. Based on the fulfillment of the necessary requirements, Dr. Tsekov was admitted to participate in the competition and to be evaluated by a Scientific Committee.

**II. Biographical data and career profile of the candidate**

Dr. Tsekov was born in 1985 in Sofia. He graduated from the Spanish language high school in Sofia in 2004. In 2011, he graduated with a master's degree in medicine, and in 2014 with a master's degree in health management at the University of Medicine, Sofia. He defended his specialty in neurosurgery in 2018. The following year, he successfully defended a dissertation in the field of congenital spinal deformities in children on the topic "MODERN TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE TREATMENT OF TETERED CORD SYNDROME" and obtained the scientific title of Doctor of Medical Sciences. He has conducted a number of specializations and participated in courses on various neurosurgical topics (microneurosurgery, diseases and treatment of spinal diseases, trauma, hydrocephalus, etc.) in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Finland, Cyprus, Greece and others. Closely specialized in spinal surgery as well as pediatric neurosurgery.

The candidate practices at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital, Sofia, Bulgaria in the Clinic of Neurosurgery from 2011 until now. He has 13 years of work experience as a doctor, of which 6 as a specialist neurosurgeon. In 2018, he was awarded the “Young Doctor of the Year award by the Bulgarian Medical Association. In 2018, he was awarded “Young Doctor of the Year award by "Acibadem". Since 2019, he has held the position of chief assistant at " Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital, Sofia ". Dr. Asen Tsekov, MD, is a part-time teacher at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Medicine from 2020 until now, as well as at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda University Hospital – Sofia.

**III. Evaluation of the Candidate's Scientific Work**

Dr. Asen Tsekov d.m. participated in the competition with 19 scientific works, including dissertation work, monograph and articles published in full text in scientific journals. Of these three independent articles, he is the first author on nine of them, and second and subsequent author on eight of them. Five of them are indexed and referenced in a scientific database and five of them are with IF. According to a reference provided, the author has been cited 11 times in Web of Science.

The thematic areas in the publications concern current problems in the following areas:

- Surgical treatment and prevention of CNS in early childhood;
- Surgical treatment and prevention of spinal cord diseases;
- Cranio-orbital neurosurgery with suggestions for mini-invasive and classic methods, as well as an algorithm for choosing an appropriate surgical technique;
- Introduction of neuronavigational and neuromonitoring control using pre-made MRI and CT images in brain and spine operations;

#### **IV. Conclusion**

I believe that with his qualifications, research, teaching and diagnostic and treatment activities, Dr. Asen Hristov Tsekov, d.m. fulfills the minimum requirements for holding the competitive position.

This gives me the reason to vote with a positive vote and to suggest to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to support his election as "Associate Professor" in Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL "Tokuda", Sofia, Bulgaria in the Clinic of Neurosurgery.

15.09.2024

Sofia

Prepared by:

  
/Prof. Dr. Vasil Yablanski, MD/