

# STATEMENT

FROM

**Prof. Yavor Enchev, MD, PhD.  
Head of the Neurosurgery Clinic,  
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**Member of the Scientific Jury for the procedure  
Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor"**

**Professional field 7.1 Medicine, scientific specialty "Neurosurgery",**

**for the needs of the Neurosurgery Clinic at  
"Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital" – Sofia**

**(State Gazette – issue 47 from 04.06.2024)**

**Regarding the candidacy of  
Asen Cekov, MD, PhD**

## **General Provisions**

Based on Order 15-05-98 Sofia, dated 05.08.2024, and in accordance with Art. 4, Para. 2, and Art. 29a of the Law on Academic Staff Development, Art. 2, Para. 2, and Art. 62, Paras. 1 and 2 of the Regulations for Academic Staff Development, Art. 104, and Art. 61 of the Rules for Academic Staff Development at "Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital" JSC, and the decision of the Scientific Council (Protocol 53/26.06.2024), I hereby present this statement.

All the necessary materials prepared by the candidate are meticulously prepared, fully complying with the requirements of the law and the rules of the academic unit concerning the procedure for selecting an "Associate Professor."

## **Education, Qualifications, and Specializations**

Born in 1985 in Sofia, Asen Cekov graduated from a Spanish Language High School in Sofia in 2004. In 2011, he obtained his Master's degree in Medicine, and in 2014, a Master's degree in Health Management from the Medical University of Sofia. He specialized in neurosurgery in 2018. The following year, he successfully defended his dissertation in the field of congenital spinal deformities in children, titled "Contemporary Trends and Options in the Treatment of Tethered Cord Syndrome," earning the title of Doctor of Medical Sciences. Asen Cekov, MD, has completed courses in Medical Psychology, Modern Pharmacotherapy, as well as numerous others in the field of minimally invasive neurosurgery. He has undergone various specializations and participated in courses on neurosurgical topics (microneurosurgery, spinal diseases, trauma, hydrocephalus, etc.) in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Finland, Cyprus, Greece, and other countries. He is highly specialized in spinal surgery as well as pediatric neurosurgery. He has participated in over 90 Bulgarian and international scientific congresses, studies, and conferences, where he has presented research on the diagnosis and treatment of spinal, brain, tumor, congenital, and traumatic conditions, many of which have received awards. He has also published dozens of articles in global and Bulgarian specialized medical journals, with scientific works featured in over 45 Bulgarian and international journals.

## **Professional Career**

Asen Cekov, MD, PhD, has been practicing at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital, Sofia,

in the Neurosurgery Clinic since 2011. He has 13 years of professional experience as a physician, six of which as a neurosurgical specialist. In 2018, he received the Young Doctor of the Year Award from the Bulgarian Medical Association, and in the same year, he was awarded the Young Doctor of the Year from Acibadem. Since 2019, he has held the position of Senior Assistant at "Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital." Asen Cekov, MD, PhD, has also been a part-time lecturer at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski," Faculty of Medicine, since 2020, as well as at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital, Sofia.

### **Memberships**

He is a member of the Bulgarian Society of Neurosurgery, the Bulgarian Medical Association, and the Bulgarian Spinal Association.

### **Publications and Citations**

Asen Cekov, MD, PhD, presents 19 full-text scientific works for the competition (including his dissertation, monograph, and full-text articles in scientific journals). Of these, three are single-author papers, nine are first-author, and he is the second or subsequent author in eight of them. Five of his works are indexed and referenced in scientific databases, and five are IF-rated. Asen Cekov has been cited 11 times in the Web of Science.

### **Contributions**

Asen Cekov, MD, PhD, has contributed to the surgical treatment and prevention of CNS diseases in early childhood, spinal cord disorders, and cranio-orbital neurosurgery.

**Surgical Treatment and Prevention of CNS Diseases in Early Childhood:** Through historical data, these publications demonstrate how understanding past norms, beliefs, and values broadens our comprehension of current conditions. The work prepares for future treatment advancements and exploration of this pathology, highlighting patterns and trends that may predict and inform future strategies.

**Surgical Treatment and Prevention of Spinal Cord Disorders:** His work highlights the late introduction of minimally invasive techniques in spinal surgery compared to other surgical fields. These publications provide algorithms for their application in modern spinal surgery and outline their future development. They explain the delay in their adoption due to the difficulty in forming proper surgical access and imaging spinal structures during procedures with minimal incisions. Asen Cekov, MD, discusses the benefits of these techniques, emphasizing the broader adoption of micro-surgical procedures in clinical practice.

**Cranio-orbital Neurosurgery:** Proposals are made for both minimally invasive and classical methods, including an algorithm for selecting the appropriate surgical technique. Tumors affecting the orbit are analyzed, with suggestions for early diagnosis and operational treatment methods. The results are compared with leading clinics and specialists, emphasizing the importance of intraoperative neuro-navigation and monitoring for safer surgeries.

### **Personal Impressions**

Asen Cekov, MD, PhD, is an established neurosurgeon with unquestionable personal qualities.

### **CONCLUSION**

**Asen Cekov, MD, PhD's professional qualifications as a neurosurgeon, his teaching activity, and scientific contributions meet the scientometric criteria set by Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital, Sofia. I recommend a positive assessment and propose that the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury vote in favor of awarding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Neurosurgery" to Asen Hristov Cekov, MD, PhD.**

20.08.2024  
Varna

Respectfully,



Prof. Yavor Enehev, MD, PhD