

To  
Chairman of the Scientific Jury  
Determined by order № 667 / 14.12.2021 of  
The Executive Director of ASK UMHAT Tokuda  
Dr. Venelina Atanasova

**OPINION**

**by Prof. Dr. Kiril Vassilev Draganov, MD, DSc**  
**Clinic of Liver, Bile, Pancreatic and General Surgery**  
**Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda, Sofia**

*Subject: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Gastroenterology", for the needs of the Clinic of Gastroenterology, Department of Interventional Gastroenterology of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda", announced in SG, issue. 85 / 12.10.2021*

The opinion was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria (RASRB), the Regulations for its implementation (PPZRASRB) and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions (PURPNSZAD).

The deadlines for the competition have been met and the procedure for it is fully compliant with the above regulatory framework.

The only candidate admitted to participate in the competition is Dr. Petko Ivanov Karagiozov, PhD, Head of the Department of Interventional Gastroenterology at the Clinic of Gastroenterology, Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda, Sofia

**Brief biographical data. Professional Development.**

Dr. Petko Ivanov Karagiozov, PhD graduated from MU - Sofia in 2004. In the period 2006-2011 is a specialist in the Clinic of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Military Medical Academy, Sofia, and since 2011 he has been part of the team of ASK UMBAL Tokuda. From 2015 to 2017 he was Head of the Department, and after 2017 - Head of the Department of Interventional Gastroenterology at the Clinic of Gastroenterology in the same institution. Acquired a degree in Gastroenterology in 2013.

Dr. Petko Karagiozov was enrolled as a doctoral student in self-study in 2017. The topic of the

dissertation is "The place of cholangiopancreatography in the diagnosis and treatment of pancreatic-biliary diseases." After a successful public defense on February 25, 2020, he acquired the ONS PhD in the scientific specialty "Internal Medicine".

In 2016, Dr. Karagiozov graduated with a degree in Public Health and Health Management from the Medical University of Plovdiv with a Master's degree.

The continuous aspiration of the candidate for professional development and improvement is proved by his participation in many postgraduate qualification courses and specializations, most of which in leading and renowned world centers: "Shonan Kamakura" - Okamoto, Kanagawa, Japan; Elizabethan - Linz, Austria; University hospitals in Stuttgart, Hamburg and Dresden, Germany; Rome, Italy; Jablonec, Czech Republic; Shaare Zedek Medical Center - Jerusalem, Israel; AMC, Amsterdam, the Netherlands and others.

Dr. Karagiozov holds certificates in "Interventional Gastrointestinal Endoscopy with Biopsy Level III", "Conventional Ultrasound", "Abdominal Doppler Ultrasound", "Interventional and Endoscopic Abdominal Ultrasound", "ERCP" and related interventional endoscopic procedures - III.

Dr. Karagiozov is a member of ESGE, a privileged member of ASGE, the Board of Directors of BDGE, the European Group for the Study of Cholangioscopy (ECG), EGEUS. He is a representative of BDGE in UEG Meeting of Members since April 2021, teaching cholangiopancreatography with SpyGlass DS system, Boston Scientific for Eastern Europe.

All the above proves both the high professional qualification of the candidate in this competition and his authority as a leading specialist-interventional gastroenterologist, which he uses in the country and abroad.

### **Scientific production. Research activity. Yields.**

According to the documents of this competition Dr. Petko Karagiozov, PhD participates with 83 scientific papers, 6 of which are until the acquisition of ONS "PhD" - one dissertation and five full-text publications related to it (1 in a journal with IF). He is a co-author of one monograph (2 chapters) and one textbook (1 chapter). The remaining scientific papers (74 titles) subject to review can be classified as follows:

I. Full-text publications - a total of 39, of which: in refereed editions in English - 9, (3 with IF); in refereed Bulgarian editions - 3; in unrefereed editions in English - 2; in unrefereed Bulgarian editions - 21;

II. Abstracts from scientific forums - a total of 34, of which: from international congresses in English, published in refereed editions with IF - 19; from participation in scientific conferences in Bulgarian, published in collections and unrefereed editions - 20.

Independent or first, second and third and subsequent author Dr. Karagiozov is respectively in 38,

21 and 17 of the scientific papers.

Summarized research and applied research topics, respectively. contributions from the publications of Dr. Petko Karagiozov, PhD are in the following three directions:

#### I. Digital oral cholangiopancreatography (DOPHPS) in the diagnosis and treatment of pancreatic-biliary diseases

Without going into details, I will only mention the dissertation and related publications presenting the results of an impressive series of 186 patients not only in Bulgaria but also in world literature, in which 208 cholangio-pancreatographies were performed - one innovative and with large diagnostic and therapeutic options procedure.

DPOHPS is the subject of other studies and publications of the candidate, contributing to its validation in clinical practice (scientific papers with № 13, 17, 51, 52, 54, 63). Of contributing nature are: (1) the established lack of negative impact on the quality of the cholangioscopic image from previous stenting; (2) proving the effectiveness and safety of cholangioscopic lithotripsy (DDW poster, 2018); (3) the effective application of endoscopic cholangioscopy in some as yet unconfirmed indications - detection of fluoroscopic stones in the bile ducts and application of cholangioscopy in biliary complications after liver transplantation (poster presentations of ESGE DAYS 2020 and DDW 2020); (4) a two-center study on the efficacy and safety of cholangioscopic laser and electrohydraulic lithotripsy.

Recognition for the professionalism and proof of the international authority of Dr. Karagiozov is the invitation, resp. published literature review in the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy discussing the indications, technical aspects and possible complications of STDs.

#### II. Contributions in other areas of interventional endoscopy

This section includes a large part of the candidate's research, some of which concern methodologies and techniques applied for the first time in the country (scientific papers with №15, 20, 21, 28, 40, 43, 45, 46, 50, 53, 55, 56, 58, 59, 61, 62, 67, 71-73, 75, 77, 79, 80, 82 from the list): (1) echoendoscopic biliary drainage; (2) echoendoscopic pancreatic gastrostomy, incl. and as a method of treating pancreatogenic ascites; (3) endoscopic techniques for the treatment of hemosuccus pancreaticus; (4) a mini-invasive approach in the treatment of late-recognized esophageal perforations; (5) endoscopic techniques for closing iatrogenic perforations of the colon and duodenum; (6) liver biopsy under echoendoscopic control; (7) endoscopic methods for the diagnosis and treatment of iatrogenic lesions of the bile ducts; (8) echoendoscopic-navigated TAB; (9) Oral diverticulostomy techniques in conjunction with a thoracic surgeon; (10) Biliary intervention procedures in pediatric practice; (11) Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy with jejunal extension in patients with Parkinson's disease.

### **III. Contributions of clinical-applied and didactic nature**

The main place here is occupied by the participation of Dr. Petko Karagiozov in writing chapters from the monograph "Chronic pancreatitis" and the guide "Behavior in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma" (SEA 2021).

-Dr. Karagiozov is the author of several panel papers presented at national conferences and congresses, outlining trends, current scientific achievements and current recommendations for behavior in cystic pancreatic lesions, malignant colon polyps, Barrett's esophagus, esophageal pH. (scientific papers with № 66.69, X-3, X-5 from the list).

Live demonstrations of endoscopic procedures have also taken place in national and international forums. (№ X-3, X-4 from the list).

Citation. IMPACT factor

The total IMACT-factor of Dr. Karagiozov, MD is 26,087 (official note T RT 343 / 03.11.2021 from CMB, MU-Sofia).

Another reference from CMB, MU Sofia (official note № 545 / 11.11.2021) found in the databases Scopus, Web of Knowledge, Google Scholar a total of 34 citations, of which 2 citations in Bulgarian journals and 32 citations in foreign journals.

The high IF, as well as the large number of citations prove the high value of the candidate's scientific works.

#### **Teaching activities.**

For the period 2017-2021, Dr. Petko Karagiozov, MD has realized a study load in the amount of 1136 equivalent hours with graduates.

Since 2019, Dr. Karagiozov has been a part-time assistant at the Ministry of Finance, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", and since 28.10.2020 he has the title of "Chief Assistant". For the academic years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 he had employment with students, respectively 506 hours (36 of them classroom employment) and 600 hours (15 of them classroom employment).

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the presented evidence for the overall research activity, the achieved results, the scientific contributions and the workload, I believe that Dr. Petko Ivanov Karagiozov, PhD is a fully qualified specialist, scientist and lecturer.

All his practical activity and scientific production prove an impeccable and in-depth theoretical training, unlimited practical possibilities, a broad clinical worldview and an innovative spirit.

I have known Dr. Karagiozov since his student years, but my more accurate observations on his career development are from his joining the team of ASK UMBAL Tokuda. He is characterized by incredible efficiency, sense of responsibility, dedication to the profession, self-criticism and

objectivity. It also has the extremely important quality of teamwork, incl. and interdisciplinary. The attestation certificate for fulfillment of the national requirements for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" . The scientific production is of an original nature, no repetitions or plagiarism.

That is why I recommend the members of the esteemed Scientific Jury to vote positively for the election of Dr. Petko Ivanov Karagiozov, PhD for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Gastroenterology, for the needs of the Clinic of Gastroenterology, Department of Interventional Gastroenterology Clinic UMBAL Tokuda” for which I confidently give my positive vote.

Prepared the opinion: .....

/ Prof. Dr. Kiril Draganov, DSc /

06.01.2022

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