

## OPINION

FROM PROF. ASSEN RACHEV GOUDEV, MD,DSc  
HEAD OF CARDIOLOGY CLINIC, UMHAT "QUEEN JOANNA - ISUL" SOFIA

SUBJECT: COMPETITION FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION OF "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" IN THE AREA OF HIGHER EDUCATION 7. HEALTH AND SPORTS, PROFESSIONAL FIELD, 7.1 MEDICINE, IN THE SCIENTIFIC SPECIALTY "CARDIOLOGY" FOR THE NEEDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY, CARDIOLOGY CLINIC OF "ACIBADEM CITY CLINIC UMHAT TOKUDA" EAD, PUBLISHED IN SG ISSUE 27 / 02.04.2021

By order № 243 / 01.06.2021 of the executive director and the procurator of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda" EAD I was appointed an external member of the scientific jury. At the first absentee meeting, I was appointed to deliver an opinion. The opinion has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law for development of academic staff in Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for its application and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and employment to academic positions in Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Tokuda EAD. The conduct of the procedure is in accordance with the above-mentioned regulatory framework.

Only one candidate has submitted documents for participation in the competition – Vassil Borislavov Traykov, M.D., PhD.

I declare that I have no conflict of interest.

### 1. Professional data of the candidate

Dr. Vassil Traykov graduated medicine from the Medical University - Sofia in 2000. He started working in 2002 in the Clinic of Cardiology, and then in the Laboratory of Electrophysiology at SHATCVD Sofia. From 2011 until now, almost all the time he has been the head of the Department of Invasive Electrophysiology at the Cardiology Clinic of Tokuda Hospital, subsequently - Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital EAD. For 5 months in 2013 he was head Department of Invasive Electrophysiology and Cardiac Stimulation at the Clinic of Cardiology Acibadem City Clinic Cardiovascular Center Sofia.

In 2010 he acquired a degree in Cardiology. Acquires certificates in HSA - "Interventional Electrophysiology of the Heart" (EHRA), in "Electrocardiography" (EHRA), as well as in "Invasive Cardiology", "Pacemaking - basic and expert level" and "Invasive Electrophysiology - Basic and Expert level" Sofia. Since 2016 he has a master's degree in Health Management, MU-Sofia, Bulgaria.

In 2021, Dr. Traikov acquired the educational and scientific degree "PhD" after successfully defending a dissertation on "Catheter ablation in atrial fibrillation: procedural characteristics and role of structures exhibiting trigger activity in the fibrillation process."

He has a number of specializations in electrophysiology abroad.

### 2. Evaluation of the quantitative and qualitative indicators of the candidate

Dr. Traikov participated in the competition with a total of 90 scientific papers: 1 dissertation for ESD "PhD", 58 scientific articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals (4 of which related to the dissertation), participation in 14 collective monographs, manuals and teaching aids (6 of which have been published abroad) and 17 scientific reports and communications presented at Bulgarian or international forums (2 of the international ones

are related to the dissertation). 38 of the presented scientific articles have been published in databases with scientific information Scopus and Web of Science, 36 of them are abroad in journals with IF. Magazines not indexed in the indicated databases present 16 publications, of which 15 are Bulgarian and 1 - abroad.

He is an independent author in 21 (23.6%) of all publications and reports, and the first author is in 26 (29.2%).

A report from CML is presented for 315 citations found in the Scopus database and 690 citations in the Web of Knowledge. The report states that the citations in the two databases partially overlap, so the candidate indicates only the number of international citations found in the Web of Knowledge - 690 and 20 citations in Bulgarian scientific journals. Thus, the **total number of citations is 710**.

The **total impact factor** from the scientific works of Dr. Traikov is **84.55**. The calculated **h-index is 10**.

### **3. Main scientific contributions**

Dr. Traikov's scientific production examines a number of topics in the field of modern clinical and invasive electrophysiology, which are of original character and high value and determine significant contributions of research and practical value. The main sections are:

#### ***1) Study of the mechanisms of atrial fibrillation and catheter ablation as a therapeutic approach,***

- The role of trigger structures in maintaining the fibrillation process is clarified (1, 4, 5, 36, 74, 85, 87).
- Good temporal stability of the frequency distribution in the atria has been demonstrated and the role of the pulmonary veins in maintaining the process of AF has been shown (1, 4, 5, 36, 74, 85, 87).

#### ***2) Study of electrophysiological findings in supraventricular tachycardia***

Scientific publications in this section include studies on electrophysiological findings in focal atrial tachycardias, supraventricular tachycardias associated with additional conduction connections, and AV nodal reentry tachycardia.

#### ***3) Study of electrophysiological findings and results of catheter ablation in atrial fibrillation.***

They are related to the study of the mechanisms of atrial fibrillation after open heart surgery, as well as the procedural characteristics and results of catheter ablation in patients with typical atrial fibrillation with or without the use of intracardiac echocardiography.

#### ***4) Study of infections in implantable electronic heart rate monitors.***

The research focuses on making recommendations on the behavior of infections of implantable electronic devices and studies the practice of prevention and treatment of infections on implantable electronic devices worldwide.

#### ***5) Treatment of ventricular tachyarrhythmias and prevention of sudden cardiac death.***

#### ***6) Development of consensus documents and documents expressing the position of leading organizations.***

The author participated in the creation of a consensus document of the European Heart Rhythm Association on the behavior of arrhythmias in emergencies associated with acute coronary syndrome and after revascularization.

Participates in the development of a document expressing the position of the Heart Failure Association, the EHRA and the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging regarding the application of cardiac resynchronizing therapies

Participates in the development of a consensus document, initiated by EHRA, for the prevention and treatment of infections associated with implantable electronic devices.

#### **4. Teaching activity**

Dr. Traikov is a research associate III degree in the Laboratory of Electrophysiology at the Clinic of Cardiology of SHATCVD Sofia for a period of 3 years and 7 months. For the academic year 2019/2020 and for 2020/2021 he is a part-time assistant to medical students in Bulgarian language III course "Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine" at the Medical Faculty of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The candidate submits a document for total study load from 01.01.2016 to 31.05.2021 in Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda EAD for a **total of 4515 eq. hours**, including training of specialists in cardiology - 3945 eq. hours, HSA training - "Pacemaking" and "Electrophysiology" - 482 eq. hours and continuing education - 88 equivalent hours. For the academic years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 as a part-time assistant he conducted a **total of 60 studies hours** of medical students III course "Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine" at the Ministry of Finance of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

#### **5. Expert activity and membership in organizations**

Dr. Traikov is a member of the Society of Cardiologists in Bulgaria, the Professional Association of Cardiac Stimulation and Electrophysiology in Bulgaria, the Hungarian Society of Cardiology, the European Society of Cardiology - FESC, the European Heart Rhythm Association - FEHRA.

Holds elective positions in international and national scientific societies and organizations: Member of the EHRA Scientific Documents Committee - 2017-2020; Member of the EHRA National Societies Committee 2020-2022; Chairman of the Professional Association for Pacemaking and Electrophysiology in Bulgaria - 2 terms 2016-2022; Future chairman of the Society of Cardiologists in Bulgaria - term 2022-2024.

He is a member of the expert council on cardiology at the Ministry of Health.

He is a member of the editorial board of the journal "Bulgarian Cardiology".

#### **CONCLUSION**

Dr. Vasil Traikov is a built doctor with scientific interests in the field of clinical and invasive electrophysiology. He has significant clinical, scientific, teaching and administrative experience. The holding of leading positions by Dr. Traikov in a number of international and national scientific societies and organizations is a convincing proof of the great authority he enjoys among the guild at home and abroad.

I have not found plagiarism.

Based on the analysis and evaluation of the submitted materials in the competition, it can be summarized that the candidate Dr. V. Traikov, PhD, fully meets and exceeds the mandatory conditions, as well as the minimum national required points (total 886.48 points,

with the required 400 points) of LDASRB, the Rules for application of LDASRB and the Rules of Acibadem City Clinic MHAT Tokuda EAD for the academic position "Associate Professor"

In conclusion, based on the presented scientometric indicators, the overall scientific, social and teaching activities of Dr. Traikov, I strongly recommend the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the election of Vassil Borislavov Traykov, MD, PhD, for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Cardiology" for the needs of the Department of Electrophysiology at the Clinic of Cardiology of Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda EAD.

09.08.2021

Sofia

Prepared the opinion:

(Prof. Assen Gerdjev, MD, DSc)

